

Lewis County Planning Commission

Public Meeting

In-Person & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

October 22, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Planning Commissioners Present: Jason Alves, District 1; Gretchen Fritsch, Jeff Skutley, District 2; Lorie Spogen, District 1; Roger Moore, At-Large; Frank Corbin, District 3

Staff Present: Mindy Brooks, Director of Community Development; Katie Johnson, Office Assistant Senior.

Planning Commissioners Excused Absences:

Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Notes – October 8, 2024 *delayed; will be presented at Nov. meeting.
- Comp. Plan Goals & Policies Staff Presentation – October 22, 2024

1. Zoom Guidelines

The clerk dispensed with the Zoom Guidelines.

2. Call to Order

A. Determination of a Quorum

7 Commissioners were present; there was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the agenda for October 22, 2024. Commissioner Spogen made the motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Russell. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the October 8 meeting have been delayed. They will be presented to the Commissioners at the November 12 Planning commission meeting.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Workshop – Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update: results of public engagement

A. Staff Presentation: Mindy Brooks, Lewis County Director of Community Development, shared a presentation as a training for the Commissioners on the Comp Plan Periodic Update. The population and Housing Projections portion of the Comp Plan are completed. Mindy Brooks also shared the results of the public open house meetings that took place on October 10, 11, and 12 to engage the community in the Periodic Update of the Comp Plan. The goal is to move the Comp Plan Periodic Update through the Planning Commission by June 2025. There has been an extension given that extends the deadline to December 2025 that the county will take advantage of.. Mindy Brooks requested the Commissioners be diligent in reading the meeting materials ahead of time to better organize the meeting to use the limited meeting in the most efficient way. Mindy Brooks also requested the Commissioners not wait until each Planning Commission meeting to ask questions or to request information specific to a topic. Mindy Brooks stated she would like to organize each meeting according to the topics the Commissioners are the most interested in.

Commissioner Skutley requested a paper copy of the Comp Plan.

Commissioner Skutley requested clarification on what resiliency means in terms of the Comp Plan. Mindy Brooks explained the resiliency and climate means adding additional measures to be ready for natural disaster. This includes adding metal roofs to resist wildfire fire and adding additional strength measures to bridges to avoid any disasters during flooding. Commissioner Skutley asked how that relates to climate. Mindy responded that summers are becoming hotter and drier, resulting in more frequent wildfires; and winters are becoming warmer and wetter resulting in more frequent and larger flood events. Being resilient means being ready for these events and then recovering from the events. This is something Lewis County already does and has been doing for decades, we are simply now required to included it in the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Russell asked if most of the upcoming changes to the Comp Plan were from the state. Mindy Brooks stated that most of the changes were from the community, BOCC and Planning Commission priorities, Lewis County Department Directors, and/or staff and consultants. While the state does require us to address many issues, the state does not dictate how the county implements the changes. Each jurisdiction will be different. Mindy stated the goals and policies will be tailored to what benefits and fits Lewis County best.

Commissioner Russell stated he is building an ADU on his property. He had a consultant reviewing his septic system and the consultant stated she had heard the county will be using a consultant for Wetland Delineation Reviews. Commissioner Russell asked for further explanation

about this topic. Mindy stated the county will be hiring for an on-call third-party consultant to conduct these reviews because there is not in-house expertise and reviews are currently going to the Department of Ecology as the third-party reviewer. In addition, hiring outside expertise to ensure timeframes for decisions are met is one of the recommendations of SB5290.

7. Good of the Order:

A. Staff: Mindy shared the November 12 meeting is public hearing on SB5290. Mindy advised the Commissioners to read the materials that will be sent ahead of the meeting. Mindy stated the meeting materials have already been posted on the Community Development webpage. Mindy encouraged the Commissioners to preview and read the meeting materials ahead of the next meeting and send questions to her before the meeting.

B. Calendar:

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on November 12, 2024, and the agenda items will be a public hearing on the SB 5290. Mindy reminded the Commissioners there will not be meetings the weeks of Thanksgiving (Nov. 26) and Christmas (Dec. 23).

C. Commissioners: Commissioner Moore stated he has taken the survey and has passed it along to colleagues. He also stated he is continuing with the Fire Wise Assessments. The process is visiting properties in rural areas, evaluating the property, and giving advice on how the homeowners and communities can prepare for the wildfire season to prevent damage as much as they can. Commissioner Moore also mentioned he is working with the Lewis County Emergency Management to conduct these assessments. Communities can also certify under the state to be considered a Fire Wise community. Commissioner Fritsch asked Commissioner Moore to explain how homeowners can become Fire Wise certified. He stated they ask homeowners to go to the Packwood Fire Department as he works in coordination with the fire department.

Commissioner Skutley asked if there are any regulations that can be enforced for homeowners to clean their property. Mindy Brooks stated Lewis County does not have any landscaping regulations.

Commissioner Corbin asked for an update on the Community Development Hearings Room technology. Mindy Brooks stated she does not have an update on when the new Hearings Room will be ready to use.

Adjourn

Commissioner Spogen made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51p.m.