CITY OF SEQUIM
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEQUIM TRANSIT CENTER
190 WEST CEDAR STREET
SEQUIM, WA

JANUARY 31, 2011

5:00 P.M. JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION

Council members present: Laura Dubois, Erik Erichsen, Don Hall, Ken Hays, Bill Huizinga

Planning Commissioners (PC) present: Olaf Protze, Bill Sterhan, Jon Wendt, Barbara Richmond, Julieanna Gardiner

City Staff present: City Manager Steve Burkett, Clerk Karen Kuznek-Reese, Interim Planning Director Joe Irvin, Public Works Director Paul Haines, City Attorney Craig Ritchie, Jeff Edwards, Barbara Hanna, Bobbie Usselman

Gardner indicated the PC looks at ordinances to see if they meet the intent and the accomplish goals of zoning. She feels it is important for the Council to accept their recommendations and not badger them to revisit something and change their mind.

Wendt would like to have feedback if the Council does not follow the PC recommendation.

Hays explained that it is a Council goal to focus the density in the downtown core area. This puts people closer to transportation and services.

There was discussion concerning the City's zoning. Some of the areas, such as the Burrowes property are not compatible with surrounding areas. We need to look at alternative transportation routes to get traffic around the City. Gardiner feels rethinking transportation should be part of the Comp Plan. Huizinga is concerned with the UGA. To extend routes, will require working with the County. Burkett added that the transportation plan would look at all these issues. There is no industrial zoning in the City. Are there appropriate places for that zone?

There was discussion concerning the Comp Plan, zoning, developing an RFP to hire a consultant to work on the Comp Plan, streamlining the Comp Plan, truck traffic, traffic coming to and through the City.

Hays would like to discuss how to make rules and ordinances work for the City? How do we get to where we want to go?

There was discussion concerning the best way for the PC to communicate with the Council. Hays suggested quarterly reporting.

It was agreed the PC would work on the Comp Plan and the zoning code.

The joint meeting with the PC ended at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hays called for a five-minute break.

6:00 P.M. JOINT MEETING WITH DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

Council members present: Laura Dubois, Erik Erichsen, Don Hall, Ken Hays, Bill Huizinga

Design Review Board present: Troye Jarmuth, Colleen McAleer, Doug Jensen

Mayor Hays thanked the DRB for their work. He feels there have been some successes.

Jarmuth stated that some developers take advantage of the code. Staff has worked with developers on issues. They have looked at changes to make things more clear. She thanked the staff for their assistance.

McAleer hopes to leave this meeting with the DRB understanding what Council would like to see with the code. Standards are vague. She would like to see guidelines reduced but would like to see measurable standards. She suggests that staff review the application and the DRB continue to look at the code and make recommendations. There needs to be a method where an applicant can receive an adjustment. Some great plans have been submitted but they do not meet code. There's no way to waive or make adjustments to the standards within 18.24. The DRB's role is to review code, make recommendations to PC on an annual basis and review any adjustments.

Jarmuth feels the DRB is the community voice behind a decision. McAleer suggested that a simple statement of intent would be better than guidelines. She would like to streamline and simplify so there is no confusion down the road.

(Susan Lorenzen arrived at 6:30 p.m.)

Jarmuth would like to submit the DRB's recommended changes to the code. They want to address light industry, sustainability, and look at the Board's membership requirements. They do have changes based on work they've done over the past year.

There was discussion concerning the conflicts in 18.24.039 and 2.34.040.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Mayor Hays called for a five-minute break.

7:00 P.M. JOINT MEETING WITH PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (PAB)

Mayor Hays called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Council members present: Laura Dubois, Erik Erichsen, Don Hall, Ken Hays, Bill Huizinga, Susan Lorenzen

Park Board members present: Liisa Fagerlund, Vincent Shu, Patsy Mattingley, Colleen Robinson, Maria Seabolt, Jeff Edwards, Alan Goff, and Roger Fell

Fagerlund reported on Park Board goals. They have been looking at the organizational structure. The PAB feels there is a need for more organization of recreational activities. Sequim has grown too large to continue the way it has been. Parks and rec should serve the larger community and include the Sequim School District boundaries. Parks and park properties need to be improved and we need to acquire more park land in anticipation of continued growth.

Edwards feels the City has grown and could use a parks and rec department or district. It could be organized so that some money is generated. If there was a department to run these events and leagues, we would get more of them. Huizinga indicated the County has a volunteer coordinator that runs these programs.

There was discussion concerning leases currently held on various City parks. There was discussion concerning establishing a parks and rec department. Some felt this makes sense as a first step to a parks district. It would be a fee based program.

There was discussion concerning the Guy Cole facility. Mattingley provided a sketch of a proposed plan for a multi-purpose facility. It included a concept for a stage, conference center, storage and green room. Sequim City Band also has an interest in this issue. There was Council consensus to proceed with the plan. Mattingley will come back with costs.

Fell reported that Keeler needs trails and parking. Hays expressed his concern about this property. Ritchie responded that there are habitat protection issues. Huizinga suggested talking with Keeler concerning the property. Ritchie cautioned about buffers on wetlands, habitat issues.

Burkett suggested putting together a master plan that looks at restrictions, costs, and what does the community want. Haines added that we need a plan before we start pursuing any uses.

There was Council consensus for Roger Fell and Paul Haines to meet with the Keelers to get their ideas for the property.

There was discussion about becoming a bicycle friendly community. Fagerlund indicated research has been done. Hays asked Fagerlund to provide an outline of what is needed.

Robinson reported that Sequim Family Advocates must break ground by April 1 and complete the playfields by November 1. They just received their 501C3 status and are fundraising. Their goal is $250,000. So far they have $50,000 in goods/services, and $50,000 in cash.

Burkett reported the consultants will be in town March 7 and 8 to discuss the park and rec survey. The consultant will provide survey results in June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kuznek-Reese, MMC
City Clerk

Ken Hays
Mayor

Minutes approved at a regular Council meeting held on February 14, 2011.