

CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
January 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Eric Johnson called the meeting to order at (6:44 pm).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners-Danielle Freiberger, Joe Franett, Joe Fattizzi, Stacy Penno, Silas Maddox and Eric Johnson

ABSENT: Pat Huggins

STAFF: John Coleman, Michelle Grace, Katherine Weir

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/MINUTES: Minutes from November 17, 2020 approved as written.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: There is no comment period during the virtual meeting. Comments must be submitted via email or mail in advance of the hearing to be read into the record. There were no general comments submitted.

PUBLIC HEARING: None on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of and possible amendments to the city regulations for electronic reader boards in the Central Business District.

The Planning Director, John Coleman explained that the City Council Planning Committee requested that the Planning Commission consider changes to allow electronic reader boards in portions of the CBD. In particular, the committee believes that electronic reader boards may not be appropriate in the historic downtown area long Metcalf Street. The committee left the discussion to the Planning Commission as to whether electronic reader boards should be allowed on intersecting streets such as Ferry Street, Woodworth Street and State Street (and how far down each street).

The Planning Committee also discussed the potential for more control over the brightness and animation of electronic reader boards. Mr. Coleman explained that currently there are only minimum requirements in areas where those signs are allowed. Councilmember Kesti provided draft language for Electronic Reader board proposal.

The Chair then asked Commissioners for their input regarding electronic signs. Commissioner Fattizzi recommended that the Commissioners start with creating definitions and proposed locations where electronic signs would fit in.

After discussion, the Commissioners consensus was to create definitions and to make sure that illumination and size is regulated. Planning Commissioners will independently visit the downtown before the next meeting to help determine in which areas they recommend electronic reader boards should be allowed. The Planning Commission will continue its review proposed sign regulations at the next meeting. Staff will research brightness levels and sizes and will report findings back to the Planning Commission.

2. Introduction to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update process.

Assistant Planner, Katherine Weir, gave an overview of the Shoreline Management Program Update Periodic Review. She explained that under the Shoreline Management Act, each city and counties with shorelines of the state must prepare and adopt a Shoreline Master Program that is based on the state laws and rules but is tailored to the specific geographic, economic and environmental needs of the community. The SMP is essentially a combined comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and development permit system for shoreline specific uses. The Skagit River is a shoreline of the state; therefore, the City must have a SMP for the lands adjacent to the Skagit.

Sedro-Woolley last adopted SMP documents in 2016 and is now beginning the Shoreline Master Program update process in accordance with State rules and guidelines for periodic review, which is due on June 30, 2021. Ms. Weir stated that today's hearing is the first step in engaging the community to help understand the current shoreline uses and set goals for future shoreline uses.

With that, the Chair continued this item until the next Planning Commission meeting for further review and to take public comment.

PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Nomination and Election of the 2021 Planning Commission Chairman and Co-Chairman.

After a nominations and a vote, it was decided by the Planning Commission to elect Commissioner Joe Fattizzi as new Chair and Commissioner Eric Johnson will be the Co-Chairman for 2021

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

ADJOURNMENT- (Time:8:09)

PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY

Attendance: 5