

Planning Commission



**501 Delta Ave
Marysville, WA 98270**

**Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024**

ROLL CALL

Present:

Commission: Chair Leifer, Commissioner Kemp, Commissioner Zhu, Commissioner Andes, Vice Chair Whitaker, Commissioner Michal, Commissioner Jordan

Staff: Community Development Director Haylie Miller, Principal Planner Angela Gemmer, Parks & Rec. Director Tara Mizell, Economic Devt. Director Thomas Boydell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 14, 2023)

Motion to approve the November 14, 2023 Planning Commission minutes as presented moved by Commissioner Michal seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

AYES: ALL

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (for topics not on the agenda)

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

Economic Development Manager Introduction with Brief Economic Update

Economic Development Manager Thomas Boydell introduced himself and gave an update on projects he has been working on including the Riverwalk Project; Cascade Industrial Center; Town Center and Downtown; recruitment and support; small business assistance; and the Farmers Market.

Commissioner Whitaker asked if it is the City's intent to sell or lease the properties in the Riverwalk Project. Mr. Boydell explained that the City is doing a boundary line adjustment and filling the site. They anticipate selling the north end of the property for housing development and the south end for a hotel development. The City is keeping options open for the athletic complex. Ebey Park will be a city-owned property.

Commissioner Andes asked if the athletic facility would be run by a private company or by Parks. Mr. Boydell explained the City is still examining options.

Commissioner Jordan asked about parking considerations. Mr. Boydell explained they would all be fully parked at the ratios in the Comprehensive Plan.

Draft Parks Element for 2024 Comprehensive Plan

Principal Planner Gemmer introduced this item. The Parks Element Update would update the Parks Element with an Executive Summary of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2020. She reviewed highlights of the Introduction, Benefits, Public Participation and Department Structure/Budget sections.

Commissioner Zhu asked why Parks has such a low budget allocation compared to other cities. Ms. Gemmer explained that elected officials determine how best to allocate the city's resources.

Ms. Gemmer continued to review sections related to Parklands, Trails, and Facilities; Recreation and Athletics; Service Guidelines; Recommendations & Implementation; Capital Facilities Plan; and Goals & Policies.

Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director Tara Mizell presented an update on some of the major completed Parks projects including: Olympic View Park, Bayview-Centennial Trail connector, Strawberry Fields turf, the pump track, pickleball courts, and the new Community Center. She also reviewed upcoming projects: Mother's Nature Window; expansion of the Bayview Trail towards Lake Stevens; Strawberry Fields playground; Deering Wildflower Acres caretaker home replacement and education facility; Jennings Park inclusive playground; and Twin Lakes park transfer.

Commissioner Kemp asked if Parks will be hiring more people to help handle all the new projects. Director Mizell explained that is likely but they need to examine their needs.

Commissioner Jordan asked about funding for police presence at parks to help people feel safe, especially at Twin Lakes. Director Mizell replied they have had multiple conversations with the police. She thinks it will improve when the park belongs to Marysville. Commissioner Jordan referred to Twin Lakes and asked if they have any plans for stocking the lake. Director Mizell replied that they do and plan to have a fishing derby. There is also a boating group that is very active there. Parks will also be using volunteer efforts to help with the parks and implementing a camera system which has helped with crime in other areas.

Draft Environmental Element for 2024 Comprehensive Plan

Community Development Director Haylie Miller gave an introductory overview of the Environmental Element update. She reviewed layers of the element which include: Fish and Wildlife, Earth Resources, Air Quality, Water Resources, Climate Change, and Vegetation. The layers work together, and the Environmental Element aims to protect all of these. There was not a major rehaul of the Element. Maps were updated and some redundant information was removed. Updated goals and policies from Fish and Wildlife and Puget Sound Regional Council were added.

Chair Leifer asked if staff is automatically accepting what DOE's recommendations are or if these will be examined. Director Miller said they will be looking at the impact of the recommendations. Most of the City's protected streams are already in protected corridors. Staff will overlay the existing regulations with the Fish and Wildlife's recommended buffers to see if it will make a difference. Once they define the impacts, they will know more. The City can deviate from DOE's/Fish and Wildlife's Best Available Science if they have their own. She agrees that this is something they need to look at as they have done in the past. Staff will follow up once they know more.

Chair Leifer asked how many people are actually drawing water out of wells. Director Miller was not sure, but noted the goal was to have everyone on city water.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The Governor awarded Marysville the Smart Communities award for the Cascade Industrial Center. There will be a ceremony on Tuesday, January 16 at 2 p.m.

There will be group and individual photos for the website prior to the next meeting.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS and MINUTES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. moved by Vice Chair Whitaker seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

AYES: ALL

NEXT MEETING – January 23, 2024