



PLANNING COMMISSION

January 22, 2014

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judi Roland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the first floor of Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street, Auburn, WA.

II. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The Planning Secretary took roll call. Planning Commission Members present were: Chair Judi Roland, Commissioner Copple, Commissioner Couture, Commissioner Mason, Commissioner Pondelick, and Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Baggett is excused.

Staff present included: Assistant City Attorney Steven Gross, Senior Planner David Jones, and Planning Secretary Tina Kriss.

Members of the public present: Redman Svedbug, Roger Lee, and Mike Perrin.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 3, 2013

Commissioner Copple moved and Commissioner Smith seconded to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2013 meeting as written.

Motion carried unanimously. 6-0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments on any item not listed on the agenda for discussion or public hearing.

V. PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORT

There was no director's report.

VI. ACTION

A. Election of Planning Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Roland called for nominations for the election of Chairperson for the 2014 year of the City of Auburn Planning Commission. Commissioner Copple nominated Commissioner Roland as the 2014 Chairperson. No other Commissioners were nominated.

By majority vote of Commissioners, 6-0, Chair Roland was re-elected as the Planning Commission Chairperson for 2014.

Motion carried. 6-0.

Chair Roland called for nominations for the election of the Vice-Chairperson for the 2014 year of the City of Auburn Planning Commission. Commissioner Mason nominated Commissioner Copple as Vice-Chairperson. No other Commissioners were nominated.

By majority vote of Commissioners, 6-0, Vice-Chair Copple was elected as the Planning Commission Vice-Chairperson for 2014.

MOTION APPROVED. 6-0

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items brought forward for Public Hearing

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Planning Commission Rules of Procedure

Chair Roland provided a brief review of the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure. No questions were asked by the Planning Commissioners.

B. Recreational Marijuana

Senior Planner David Jones presented the staff report on Recreational Marijuana. At the December 3, 2013 Planning Commission meeting staff presented their research and proposed regulation options in response to the passage of State Initiative 502 (I-502) which allows the State to license and regulate cannabis production, processing, distribution, and possession for persons over 21.

At the December 3, 2013 meeting, the Commission requested staff to bring back further analysis and additional options regarding recreational and medical cannabis.

The Commission and staff discussed wastewater inspections and compostable and non-compostable waste as noted in WAC Section 314-55-097. The Commission asked what the rules and regulations are regarding the storage of cannabis until they get to the 50% non-cannabis waste material level. The Commission also asked staff to inquire if the compostable materials can be disposed of on site. Senior Planner Jones stated he will look into any proposed regulations and report back to the Commission.

The Commission and staff discussed tax revenues, a business and occupation tax, excise fees, and generating revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana. After discussion with Assistant City Attorney Steven Gross, it was determined the City would need to work through several issues in considering excise tax and the Commission can continue discussion at a future meeting. Staff reviewed the Statute Comparison between Medical and Recreational Cannabis.

Staff reviewed the three options, provided in the staff report, for the Commission to consider as approaches to recreational marijuana regulations. The Commission and staff discussed the option of revoking or restricting a license based on the impact to the community. Staff explained that to analyze the impact to the community a license must first be issued and then it would take some time to measure the impacts.

The Commission asked if staff could provide a matrix showing examples of the producer, processor and retailer operating under each of the options provided. Staff will return with a matrix of examples of how each of the options would operate. A discussion was held to determine if the City would have regulation over the producer and processor of recreational marijuana. Staff does not believe the City would be able to regulate the processor or producer of recreational marijuana.

The Commission asked staff to inquire with the Police Department to determine the number of arrests regarding marijuana in the City of Auburn. Commissioner Couture asked if neighborhood shopping areas are restricted within Option 3 and staff responded that the integration of this restriction can be considered within this option.

Staff reviewed the business square footage limitations and explained that there are no current retail size limitations for the use classifications under Auburn City Code. Staff stated a quantifiable basis must be established in order to restrict additional square foot limitations. Staff will check to see if there are options with square foot retail size limitations available. The Commission and staff reviewed the zoning map and the Commission asked staff to check if Thomas Academy in north Auburn would be impacted by the buffer. Staff will check to see if the school is within the 1000 foot buffer.

In response to the question if the Commission would like to continue looking into moving forward with regulatory options, the Commission stated that they would like to continue to learn more about the options available as they work with staff to obtain clarification on issues and concerns to understand more about regulating recreational marijuana.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Planning Commission, Chair Roland adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.