



THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes April 19, 2023

1
2 1. **6:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER**

3 Chair Casino called the Thurston County Planning Commission meeting on April 19th, 2023,
4 to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners provided self-introductions.
5

- 6 2. **Attendance:** Commissioner Eric Casino (Chair), Joel Hansen, Barry Halverson, Jim Sim-
7 mons, Derek Day (Vice Chair), Scott Nelson, Helen Wheatley, Doug Karman, and Kevin
8 Pestinger
9

10 **Staff:** Christina Chaput, Maya Teeple
11

12 3. **6:32 P.M. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
13

14 **MOTION: Commissioner Halverson moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner**
15 **Karman seconded. Motion carried, as amended.**
16
17

18 4. **6:33 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
19

20 **MOTION: Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the minutes from March 15,**
21 **2023 and accept the audio as the official meeting record. Commissioner Karman se-**
22 **conded. Motion carried, as amended.**
23

24 Discussion ensued regarding the minutes. Commissioner Wheatley She has a memory of
25 adding further information after the straw poll to put forth to the board of commissioners
26 expressing what Commissioner Nelson concern that the planning commission is not giving
27 up the opportunity to look at everything. She thought the agreement was made. Chair asked
28 if that was the statement was line 15 on page 4. She is unsure as she did not listen to the
29 full audio again. Commissioner Halverson pointed to the lines. She proposed a statement
30 but was not put in. Nelson did go back and listen to the audio he pointed out that he be-
31 lieves that a statement should be made after the poll that the commission the vote does not
32 indicates a deep dive into each subject rather it's too early in the process to leave anything
33 of the subjects out. Chair Casino asked if we could add that statement to the minutes. Ms.
34 Chaput said she would go back and listen to the audio and add what is needed. Commis-
35 sioner Wheatley pointed out where in the audio the conversation took place.
36

37 **MOTION: Commissioner Pestinger moved to approve the minutes from April 5, 2023**
38 **and accept the audio as the official meeting record. Commissioner Karman seconded.**
39 **Motion carried with 5 yays, and 4 abstained.**
40

41 **The audio recording is the official record of the above-dated meetings. The infor-**
42 **mation herein is provided as an overview of the meeting and a road map to the audio**
43 **recording. Audio is available online on the [Thurston County Planning Commission](#)**

1 website.

2
3 5. 6:37 PM. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Not associated with topics for which public
4 hearings have been held)

- 5 1. John Newman, Olympia, WA
6 2. Lisa Riner, Olympia, WA
7 3. Mike Belly, Olympia, WA
8

9 New Business

10
11 None

12
13 Continued Business

14
15 6. 6:43 P.M. WORK SESSION #4: Thurston 2045- Phase 2 Public Outreach Plan
16 (Staff: Maya Teeple)
17

18 A presentation was provided by Maya Teeple on the Thurston 2045 Comp Plan Periodic
19 Update – Phase 2 Public Outreach Plan. Maya turned the floor to the chair for discussion or
20 questions. Clarification by Chair Casino was made that staff is looking for 3 or more com-
21 missioners to be a part of a subcommittee that would be specific for public outreach.
22

23 Staff responded that the Commissioners on the subcommittee would be tasked with helping
24 hold public listening sessions and receiving feedback from the community. The committee
25 would not be charged with writing or rewriting the outreach plan. They are tasked with asking
26 questions and listening to responses from the community. The outreach plan is designed to
27 be flexible, and staff is happy to take feedback from the Planning Commission.
28

29 Chair Casino stated he believes some of the Planning Commission may have concerns with
30 the current public outreach program and then the subcommittee in general. Commissioner
31 Day mentions hashing out the scope of the subcommittees work prior to thinking about the
32 public participation. Chair Casino states he believes to stand up the subcommittee it needs to
33 be motioned then if voted on choose 3 members of the planning committee to lead. Commis-
34 sioner Day asked if the subcommittee charters itself or given a charge. Ms. Chaput answers
35 given a charge. Commissioner Harmon states it seems the staff is asking for the subcommit-
36 tee to complete the tasks under the Planning Commissions subcommittee task list in the
37 presentation. Ms. Chaput agreed that is the ask from staff. Chair Casino and Commissioner
38 Day speak about first standing up the committee then looking at the scope of work the com-
39 mittee will provide.
40

41 Commissioner Nelson mentioned he is not an efficient note taker and would not be able to
42 bring pages of notes back. He also mentions Commissioners should not be facilitating meet-
43 ings between the public. Commissioner Wheatley is concerned if staff is not available to
44 conduct the public outreach than where are the county resources? Commissioner Day won-
45 ders how the staff is presenting this information to the BoCC. Maya reiterates staff will be
46 working everything else in the phase 2 public participation plan with the exception of topic-
47 based listening sessions, and that the subcommittee will only be responsible for the targeted

1 and topic-based listening sessions. Staff still plan to hold general listening sessions and com-
2 plete all the other portions of the public outreach plans regardless of if a subcommittee is
3 formed. Staff's goal is to complete all the other portions of the public outreach plan, but the
4 topic-based listening sessions would be an additional thing we could complete with a sub-
5 committee. Ms. Chaput reiterates that the staff holds general listening sessions that have
6 stakeholders invited to, these listening sessions include the topics of the targeted sessions
7 with a broader audience.
8

9 Commissioner Day questions why the staff is asking for the Commissioner's time when they
10 first should be asking the BoCC for the capacity to do this work inhouse. Ms. Chaput clarifies
11 that staff did go to the BoCC and ask for funding. When initial budgeting was approved this
12 specific public outreach plan was not fully actualized. Commissioner Pestinger wanted to
13 know what the budget amount will be and what the consultants will be working on specifi-
14 cally. Ms. Chaput explained the staff is finalizing the consultant's scope of work and the
15 plan is to request \$700,000 state commerce and \$210,000 professional dollars during the
16 2023-24 general fund budget on the county budget cycle. Chair Casino clarified the consult-
17 ants will be for the full scope of work on the plan not just the public outreach. Commissioner
18 Halverson asked if the budget will be 2023 or 2024. Ms. Chaput responded 2024. In-audible
19 mumbling. Commissioner Wheatley suggests she would be open to a subcommittee if the
20 committee could define the scope of work.
21

22 Commissioner Halverson asks Maya what does the staff envision the participation to be?
23 Will they be told the logistics of the listening sessions ahead of time? Would they be sitting,
24 listening, and interacting with the public or just sit and listen. Maya explains planning staff
25 would be working with the outreach & education staff to give the public notice and staff
26 would have to be at each event to set up the rooms, make sure zoom is working, take notes,
27 and other logistics for the topic-based sessions. The Planning Commission would ask ques-
28 tions from a set list developed by planning and education and outreach staff and facilitate the
29 listening session and listen to community feedback. If the subcommittee does not actualize,
30 staff will still hold general listening sessions and invite a wide array of community members,
31 but we expect feedback would be more generalized in that platform. The meetings could run
32 longer, and the Planning Commission would be invited to come. Commissioner Halverson
33 asked about what locations the meetings will be held. Maya reiterated that planning the tar-
34 geted listening or general listening sessions has not been planned yet. Commissioner Halver-
35 son recommended having those sessions in different areas of the county to capture all the
36 different groups of people living in Thurston County.
37

38 The Chair clarifies with the Planning Commission what he hears is that they like the idea of
39 the subcommittee. What they don't like is the parameters around the scope of work as the
40 feeling is, that is not what the subcommittee should be doing. The Chair asks for other con-
41 cerns.
42

43 **MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved to recommend the Board of County Commis-**
44 **sioners host a joint work session with the Planning Commission concerning the devel-**
45 **opment of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Pestinger seconded. Motion carried**
46 **unanimously.**

47 Commissioner Pestinger asked to talk about the outreach plan. He mentioned a post card
48 mailer being sent out regarding the Shoreline Master Plan and states that postcards are a

costly thing to utilize for outreach. The question is asked why not use email and wonders if there is an effort to gather data from multiple sources. Further discussion took place regarding where applicable data could be gathered and how it could be utilized. The conversation also included cost effective ads on social media to reach the most people. The Chair asked Maya to explain how the staff is currently reaching out to the public. She states they have a general planning email list that sends out information about what projects are being worked on and are capturing data specifically for Thurston 2045 plan. Maya makes a point to share that whenever she is asked questions or receives comments, she points people to sign up for the Thurston 2045 plan updates. However, she needs explicit consent to add an email to the list herself. She has received consent and has done that; however, she can't add names from a random data source. There is also a short URL setup for people to go to directly and sign up. Commissioner Halverson asks about the logistics of sending out an email to each planning commissioners contacts and ask them to sign up for more info if they are interested, this webpage is where you send them to. She agreed.

Commissioner Pestinger spoke about the groups the staff intend to reach out to and offered further groups to potentially add to the contact list that is started. Commissioner Wheatley mentions the Puget Sound Regional Council and their maps they have just completed wondering how the collected their data as well as talking about how the schools are an untapped resource of data. The chair redirects the conversation away from data back to standing up a subcommittee. Further discussion is had about the logistics of what the subcommittee's charge is and making the first agenda item figuring out what the subcommittees participation will be for public outreach. The chair mentions he would entertain the idea of a motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Pestinger moved to approve the formation of a subcommittee for the public participation plan. Commissioner Wheatley Seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wheatley, Commissioner Day, and Commissioner Pestinger volunteered to participate on the subcommittee.

Other Business

7. 7:47 P.M STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Chaput shared the BoCC will hold a public hearing on the Shoreline Master Program on May 16, 2023 and the materials are online. They also set a public hearing on the Codes and Clarification docket item for May 23rd. The Board has provided staff direction on the Thurston 2045 scope of work update. The board asked staff to include all the optional elements as well as mandated ones to be included in the Comprehensive Plan and will be going to the board for resolution May 2nd. You should have also received a doodle poll for scheduling the Yelm Joint Plan meetings coming up soon so please send in your responses.

8. 7:50 P.M. CALENDAR

May 3, 2023: Public Hearing Open Space, CPA-16 Community Driven Ag. All plan on attending.

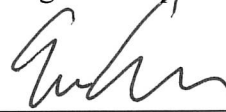
May 17, 2023: Long Term Agriculture Zoning Update, Forest Conversion Code Amendment. All plan on attending.

1
2
3
4 9. 7:55 P.M **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

5 Nothing additional.
6

7 10. 8:01 P.M. **ADJOURN**
8

9 With no further business Chair Casino adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.
10

11
12 

13 _____
14 Eric Casino, Chair
15

Prepared by Tosha Knight

