

THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes November 1, 2023

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

3 Chair Casino called the Thurston County Planning Commission meeting on November 1,
4 2023, to order at 6:30 P.M. Commissioners provided self-introductions.
5

6 **Attendance:** Eric Casino (Chair), Derek Day (Vice Chair), Helen Wheatley, Jim Simmons,
7 Kevin Pestinger, Scott Nelson, Barry Halverson. Joel Hansen
8

9 **Thurston Staff:** Maya Teeple, Dana Bowers, Miriam Villacian, Ashley Arai
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11 2. 6:30 P.M. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
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13 **MOTION: Commissioner Halverson moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner**
14 **Pestinger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
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16 3. 6:32 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
17

18 **MOTION: Commissioner Halverson moved to approve September 20, 2023 & August**
19 **23, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Simmons seconded. The motion passed with**
20 **a vote of 7-1 with one abstaining.**
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22 **MOTION: Commissioner Halverson moved to approve September 27, 2023 meeting**
23 **minutes. Commissioner Simmons seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 7-1 with**
24 **one abstaining.**
25

26 The audio recording is the official record of the above-dated meeting. The infor-
27 mation herein is provided as an overview of the meeting and a road map to the au-
28 dio recording. Audio is available online on the [Thurston County Planning Commis-](#)
29 [sion](#) website.
30

31 4. 6:34 P.M. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Not associated with topics for which
32 public hearings have been held.)
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34 New Business
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36 None
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38 Continued Business
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40 5. 6:38 P.M. WORK SESSION #5: Thurston 2045 Update on Public Outreach
41 *(Staff: Maya Teeple, Miriam Villacian, Dana Bowers)*
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1 Ms. Teeple presented an update on the Thurston 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update,
2 including an update on project timeline, and an outreach update from the main out-
3 reach contacts for Thurston 2045. Commissioner Wheatley was happy to hear the
4 equity index map was being utilized to see the areas in the county that may be un-
5 derrepresented.

6
7 Ms. Villacian who works on Community Planning's education and outreach team re-
8 viewed most of the events that Thurston County participated in to gather surveys
9 and answer questions regarding the comprehensive plan update, including some
10 upcoming events. Miriam provided an overview of the major themes heard from
11 the community at events, which includes concerns over climate, health care access,
12 housing affordability, and more. The Commissioners asked about events they knew
13 of in certain communities as well to ensure the outreach is broad. Miriam also pro-
14 vided an overview of the equity index, primarily being used for stormwater out-
15 reach at this time, and how the equity index relates to and informs some of the out-
16 reach for Thurston 2045.

17
18 Staff is working to build relationships with new partners, particularly underrepre-
19 sented communities and groups related to housing, including ASHHO, Cielo, the
20 LatinX Community, youth groups through schools, the public health and houseless
21 response manager, Regional Housing Council, Lived Experience Housing Steering
22 Committee, and more.

23
24 Ms. Teeple noted that the outreach is structured differently than it was with our
25 last comprehensive plan update, and that this time we are doing broad outreach up
26 front. Additional stakeholder meetings on targeted topics for which groups are in-
27 terested in, as well as surveys, will begin in early 2024 to get feedback on proposed
28 changes before they ever make their way to the Planning Commission for review.
29 Additionally, we have set up an internal cross-departmental team of all staff work-
30 ing on the periodic update, as well as technical experts. Right now this staff is pri-
31 marily CPED staff, but will link in consultants, public works and public health staff,
32 and other key players in the update as time moves forward, with the intent being
33 that the chapters that overlap all connect properly across the whole plan.

34
35 Commissioner Day asked about tribal outreach. Ms. Teeple stated we have con-
36 nected with the Tribes and have a standing monthly meeting to discuss whatever
37 are their highest concerns. The first meeting is next week where we hope to learn
38 more about the Tribes' biggest interests. Commissioner Day asked if staff could re-
39 port back on that, and staff confirmed they would at a future meeting.

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41 At the next meeting a representative from the Department of Commerce will attend
42 to provide an overview of the new housing requirements passed in recent legisla-
43 tion.

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45 A conversation was had regarding BoCC budget meetings and how many staff will
46 be available to work on the comprehensive plan. Ms. Arai mentioned that Commu-
47 nity Planning is applying creative measures to ensure staff are available for a large

1 project like overhauling the Comprehensive Plan. If the remaining funding that was
2 requested for the Comprehensive Plan update from the Board is not allocated dur-
3 ing budget, several of the optional items will fall off, including incorporating the in-
4 dustrial lands study, future land use update, and the economic and health chapters.
5 These items all required additional consultant expertise from the requested fund-
6 ing.

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8 **Other Business**

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10 **6 8:42 P.M. STAFF UPDATES**

11 *(Staff: Ashely Arai)*
12

13 Ms. Arai updated the Planning Commission with staffing updates. Ms. Arai pre-
14 sented an example of a resource binder to cut down on printing cost for mailing
15 materials. The binders would be housed with staff; however, the Commissioners
16 could come in at any time and reserve a breakout room to study the materials in
17 the binder. Interviews for the Ag Planning Manager manager position will be
18 starting in the next few weeks. The contract from the Habitat Strategic Initiative
19 Lead (HSIL) Grant was approved by the state. This grant is the needed funding to
20 study the land conservation incentive programs. The last staff update is the open house
21 for the Beaver Creek Land Use & Rezone Request. Staff is trying a different way to ap-
22 proach the rezone requests. They would like to get public feedback from the community
23 prior to starting at the planning commission and working toward a public hearing to hear
24 community comments. Ms. Arai also explained the new ordinance the BoCC enacted
25 moving from 9 planning commissioners to 10.
26

27 **7. 8:54 P.M. CALENDAR**

28
29 *November 15, 2023: Work Session #6 Thurston 2045 – Commerce Housing Presentation*
30 *December 6, 2023: Work Session #7 Thurston 2045 – Commerce Climate Presentation*
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32 **8. 8:57 P.M. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

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34 **9. 9:04 P.M. ADJOURN**

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36 With no further business, Chair Casino adjourned the meeting at 8:27 P.M.
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Eric Casino, Chair

Prepared by Tosha Knight

