2020-2021 Docketing and Work Plan Development

Growth Management Services
Community Planning Division
February 6, 2020
2020 Docketing process improvements

- Reduced a backlog of 60 proposals down to 40 that are ready for Board consideration
- Created concise summary sheet for each item to track information and decisions
- Established a new internal review process for staff-initiated proposals
- Combined two separate docket briefings (Comp Plan and Development Code) into one BoCC briefing covering all proposed changes
- Defined decision points clearly for BoCC and the public
- Developing new training materials, procedures, and forms for staff to use for docketing
Purpose of this briefing

- Understand the “world” of proposals to amend the County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations - high level
- Direct staff to publish 2020-2021 Preliminary Docket(s) for public comment
- Answer questions about process and next steps
**Preliminary Docket Review**
Board reviews preliminary docket, usually during a briefing

**20-Day Written Comment Period**
Staff makes final edits, publishes the legal notice, notifies interested parties, and analyzes written comments for the Board to review.

**Board Reviews Written Comments**
Typically takes place at a board briefing

**Board Gives Direction on Proposed Docket**
Usually happens at the same time as when the Board reviews written comments

Under state law (RCW 36.70A.470), the purpose of the docketing process is to provide a way for interested parties to suggest Comprehensive Plan and development code amendments to the Board. It is also designed to make the public aware of proposed items that are under consideration.

It is the Board’s discretion to place, or remove, any item on the official docket.

**Develop Final Official Docket**
Can take about one week, depending on staff workload.

**Submit for Adoption**
The docket is adopted at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, which are held on Tuesdays.

**Board adopts Official Docket**
After it has been established, the docket is published on the County’s home page.

Note: All board briefings are open to the public.
Why do we “docket”? 

- Communicate proposals to BoCC 
- GMA requires it 
- TCC 2.05 defines it 
- Informs public of potential amendments 
- Helps build a work plan and budget

The Board has broad discretion on what to put on its docket.
What is the decision?

Set 2020-2021 Preliminary Dockets for public review and comment.

✓ Add items.

✓ Ask to change how proposal is described on the docket.

✓ Combine items (example, TDR and agricultural policy review).

≠ Remove items? Not new proposals. Items can be removed only after 20-day comment period.
Haven’t we already received a lot of comment?

- Yes, for some items. Draft dockets are maintained on the Thurston County web page year round, and staff fields inquiries and comments throughout the year.
- One proposal, Northpoint/Maytown, has received thousands of comments thus far— even though there has not been an official, advertised comment period for this item.
- Any comments received to date will be provided to the Board for consideration in setting the Official Docket.
What’s the next decision point after 20-day formal public comment?

- Select proposal for the Official 2020-2021 Docket
- Keep proposal on Preliminary Docket for possible future work
- Drop proposal from further consideration
So... what’s proposed?

- Binder has one-pagers with who/what/where
- Staff has some additional information to answer questions on any specific proposal
- Total proposals under consideration for Preliminary Docket: 27 code, 13 Comp Plan = 40 proposals
Can all **40** be finished in 2 years?

- No. Not with current staffing (about 6 FTEs).

- 1-3 proposals per calendar year per FTE

- 6 FTEs x 1-3 = 6-18 proposals per year

- “Big ticket items” take bulk of staff time and Planning Commission review time

Likely **10-30** can be finished in 2 years.
What’s new for 2020?

- Of the 40 items, only 8 are new - the rest are carryovers from previous dockets/Board direction

- Community-driven review of agricultural policies and programs
- Northpoint/Maytown land use amendment/rezone
- Enclave at Deschutes River land use amendment/rezone
- UP Castle land use amendment/rezone
- Revise RUE process to include administrative option
- Allow smokehouses as special use in RRR 1/5 (Johnson Smokehouse)
- Amend District Use Standards for Places of Worship in Title 23 (Peace Lutheran)
- Amend Chapter 20.07 to add setbacks from utility corridors

**Comprehensive Plan Amendments:**
CPA-1: Comp Plan Continuing Items: Mineral lands, Long-term forestry, Health Chapter, Parks
CPA-4: Capital Improvement Plan (annual item)
CPA-7a: Grand Mound Subarea Plan
CPA-7b: Rochester Subarea Plan
CPA-11: Recycled Asphalt Policy

**Development Code Amendments:**
A-7: Low Impact Development code review
A-9: Special use code to allow correctional facilities in PID zone
A-13: Miscellaneous clerical errors
A-15: Change name of 20.60
A-16: Permit vesting (critical area determinations)
A-18: Voluntary stewardship program code updates
A-19: Wireless code
A-20: Childcare centers
A-21: Rural Accessory Dwelling Units
A-23: Rural water availability
What’s next? Direct staff to set the 20-day comment period on the Preliminary Dockets, then staff will:

- Publish a Notice of Docket Availability
- Widely distribute the Preliminary Dockets for written public comment
- Collect all comments and provide to Board
- Update the project summaries to reflect public comment and provide additional analysis

March:

- Follow-up work session to go over public comment, revise docket, prioritize work plan for 2020-2021
- BoCC adopts Official Dockets at Tuesday meeting
- Staff gets to work!