MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston County Planning Commission

FROM: Shannon Shula, Associate Planner

DATE: March 18, 2020


This work session will focus on the poster and presentation given at the community meeting and a summary of the comments received from the public.

Background
At the meeting held on January 8th, 2020, the Planning Commission recommended staff conduct an open house with community residents prior to requesting a public hearing. Staff included this item at the Open House held on March 7th, 2020 at Rochester High School which also included information on the Grand Mound Subarea Plan and Transportation Study.

Open House and Public Comment
There were approximately 110 people in attendance at the open house event held on Saturday March 7th, 2020. The community meeting had three areas of focus: Grand Mound Transportation Study, Grand Mound Subarea Plan, and the Development Code Amendment for the Planned Industrial Zoning District. There were several posters with staff at each to answer any questions and a 30-minute presentation was given by staff and the consultant regarding the projects.

Staff received 43 comments regarding the amendment. All comments received were opposed to the proposed amendment and prisons in general. Some comments noted concern about the proximity to schools and a there were a few permit and logistical related questions. Two letters were received in opposition to incarceration facilities in Thurston County and Washington State. A flyer with information about the Maple Lane facility and general opposition to Women’s Prisons was also attached to the comment board. All comments are summarized and included in the attachment.

Attachment A: Grand Mound Open House Public Comments 03/07/2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unique ID</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Commenter Name</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Formal Comment Period?</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Type of Comment</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>County Response</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Proximity to schools is a concern off (?) prison/prerelease</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Explore and put money toward restorative options and mental health support rather than increasing incarceration.</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>For Prison not in my neighborhood</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>No prison in Grand Mound</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Is the PID zone in the Dept. of Commerce &quot;opportunity zone&quot;</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Think more creatively than a prison to solve the root causes if our community issues. Prisons for not support rehabilitation.</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Maple Lane was initially a school, this does not translate to zoning for a prison.</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>As a Thurston County resident, I want resources put into social services, health care and housing for low income people instead of prisons! Deal with the root causes of incarceration!</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>No new women's prison. End the mass incarceration of human beings.</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Policy Question</td>
<td>State law adjacent to elementary school? Minimum Distance?</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>No on prison/prerelease. Where would these people go after release?</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Policy Question</td>
<td>Isn't Maple Lane within 2 miles of the Rochester Primary/Elementary &amp; possibly HS. (prerelease facility)</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>The proposed code change to 20.27.5 to allow less distance from schools and residences for prisons etc. - is sneaky and disingenuous. Such facilities should not be in a dense growth area. The community is opposed.</td>
<td>Comment received and recorded.</td>
<td>Public Participation/Engagement</td>
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<td>Comment ID</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Type</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>We don’t want a prison so close to a school.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Building a prison will not benefit the local community or economy. Research has shown that prisons become a source of cheap local labor.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Why are we investing in a new prison when incarceration has not proven effective at addressing the underlying trauma that leads to most crimes by women?</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Opposed to prisons near many schools, 3 adjacent. Maple Lane used to be a school.</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>This prison will harm women and trans folks and stifle economic development in Thurston County.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>DOC have budget to transport people? People released may not get picked up, walk down road and close to school.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>No. I oppose the plan to build a new prison - that $ could be used for something else.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Prisons will only turn away economic growth.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Policy Question</td>
<td>When at end of sentence, where are they released from? Do they have the option to release here in Rochester?</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Let’s dream bigger than a prison, support our local community, keep us safe in a way that prisons never can. No prison at Maple Lane.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>More rehabilitation - community involvement to come up with creative solutions for rehabilitation. Opposed to prison.</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Adult prison is very different juvenile facility.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>No state prison permitting (or amending the language).</td>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>No new women's prison! Incarceration is inhumane and unhealthy for communities. Invest in our people, don't lock them up!</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>The prison project violates the school proximity requirement. Additionally expanding prisons is cruel. We don't need more prisons. The project will destroy the lives of the prisoners and hurt the Grand Mound community.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Changed use of prison for the type of prisoners. Danger to the community and kids.</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>I understand that this presentation was a way to get community feedback. However, are you presenting this information to the women in the prisons they will be greatly affected to and deserve a say. I personally oppose the prison.</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Very opposed to Maple Lane correctional facility expansion. It would be nice to see alternative options such as early prison release programs for inmates, investing in currently existing facilities to more accommodating to inmates. I see this expansion proposal meeting a lot of resistance with our community.</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Not in a residential areas (prisons).</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>I oppose this prison. We voted and 19 people raised their voices against the prison. Only 3 want it.</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>I opposed the Maple Lane prison expansion. This is bad for our county and please expect a lot of resistance. Stop now and save money. No more prisons.</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>If Washington used a gender-responsive classification tool, we would not need another medium security prison. Our current toll over classifies women.</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>New prison is a multimillion dollar project to solve problems that can be solved by just changing DOC policy. Expensive and inhumane.</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Stop caging women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>This facility ensures that more women will be locked up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Vote</td>
<td>Amendment</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>3/7/2020</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PID Amendment</td>
<td>Against I oppose the plan to create a new women's prison. I hope Maple Lane can be used for something else that has a greater benefits for the community.</td>
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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of the land in Thurston County for an incarcerating facility of any kind. This use of land would not only be fiscally irresponsible, but also throwing money at increasing incarceration when there are far better and more effective ways of solving this problem. As a Thurston County resident, I strongly oppose this land use.

(Flyer) Stop Maple Lane! Did you know that Washington wants to open a New Women’s Prison? We won’t let them open it. The women’s prison is being framed as a “humane”, re-entry-focused facility that will solve the cruel practice of overcrowding women’s prisons. But we know that caging humans is inherently inhumane. The solution to overcrowding is releasing prisoners and investing in transformative justice, not building more prisons. If they build more beds then they will fill more beds. We must seize all opportunities to disrupt the opening of the prison, beginning with blocking the DOC’s attempt to change Thurston County’s zoning laws. Please like our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/stopmaplelane/) in order to receive updates and join us in our work.

(Letter) We strongly oppose this proposal. We are committees to working with communities to end mass incarceration in our State, which has for decades been particularly devastating to low-income communities of color. One of the primary ways we can work together to reduce mass incarceration in Washington is by restricting the building or expansion of prisons. Not only are these institutions a costly expenditure of scarce state and community resources, but they are also ineffective at reducing recidivism, rehabilitating persons who are confined there, or improving community safety. Approval of zoning amendments to allow for creation of a new prison in Grand Mound are not likely to yield different results; they will only serve to increase incarceration and further remove the people housed there from their communities. We recognize the importance that land use decisions play in shaping the state prison system, as they are one of the first dominos that must fall for a prison to be constructed. This is particularly true in this instance. We understand that, while the state has approved in its capital budget approximately $4.3 million for the proposed Maple Lane Corrections Center, complications in securing building and occupancy permits have created a delay. Furthermore, we understand that Thurston County needs to change the zoning ordinance to allow for the facility to be zoned as a prison and allow for an increased occupancy rate at the facility. Accordingly, we believe there is an opportunity for the Commission to take a step back and consider the broader implications of this proposal before deciding whether to include it in your agenda. In taking account of these implications, we would ask that you seek input from a more comprehensive cross-section of stakeholders and communities that will be impacted by this decision, including people in prisons and their family members. Moreover, we ask that you take time to more closely examine the impacts that the construction of a prison has on the local community and the communities of those who are housed in prisons. In summary, we ask that you choose not to add the DOC zoning request to your 2020 agenda. Thank you in advance for consideration of our request.