YAKIMA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 5:30 PM
First Street Conference Room
223 N. First Street, Yakima, WA

I. Call to Order: Ashley (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

A. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
   1. Commissioners Present: Ashley Garza, Doug Mayo, Jerry Mellen, Doug
      Miller, and Jerry Craig. Jerry C. joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.
   2. Commissioners Absent: Mike Shuttleworth and Joe Walsh. (Both had
      provided prior advance notice to the Planning Commission Coordinator of
      their anticipated absences.)
   3. Yakima County Planning Staff Present: Lisa Freund, Tommy Carroll, Noelle
      Madera, Phil Hoge, Jacob Clay, Bridget Pechtel, and Nate Pars.

II. Old Business: None.

III. New Business:
   A. Introduction of Lisa Freund – Public Services Director.
      Tommy introduced Lisa Freund. Lisa spoke of her experience working in Yakima
      County Planning, appreciation and support for the planning commission.
   B. Introduction of Jacob Clay, Bridget Pechtel, and Nate Paris – New Planning
      Employees.
      Tommy introduced Jacob, Bridget, and Nate. Each of them spoke about their
      current job experience and education.
   C. Coordination of meeting between Yakima County and City of Yakima Planning
      Commissions.
      Tommy informed the planning commission (PC) that Yakima County got a request
      from the City Yakima’s Planning Commission for a joint meeting with the county
      planning commission, to discuss the city of Yakima’s Urban Growth Area
      development. Tommy told the city’s planning manager that he would ask the
      county planning commission if there was any interest. Jerry M. brought up a
      comment made by the city planning commission chair, from the previous night’s
      city council meeting, about a collaborative effort on H-2A housing issues and
      concerns. Ashley commented on the agenda behind the joint meeting and that
      the PC should not lose focus or get distracted from mission as determined by the
      Board of Yakima County Commissioners (BOCC).
Discussion among the group concluded that H-2A housing issues in the city are not the same as the county’s issues. The PC agreed that Tommy could schedule a possible joint evening meeting with the city at the First Street Conference Room.

D. PC Officer Elections.
Nominations for chair were opened. Ashley motioned to nominate Doug Mayo as the chair and Jerry M. seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and there was no further discussion. The chair called for the vote to elect Doug Mayo, with four in favor, no one opposed, and Doug Mayo abstained from the vote. Doug Mayo was elected Chair, 4-0 in favor and 1 abstained.

Nominations for vice-chair were opened. Doug Mayo nominated Doug Miller as the vice-chair and Jerry C. seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and there was no further discussion. The chair called for the vote to elect Doug Miller, with five in favor and no one opposed. Doug Miller was elected Vice-Chair, 5-0.

Tommy informed the PC about the layout of the work plan for the year. The work will be staggered, and paperwork provided to the PC in binders. Ashley suggested addressing the most critical and pending issues first. Tommy said the work entails all that has been decided to bring forward but pending full approval. Doug Mayo proposes to spend time on having longer, two to three-hour meetings, instead of short half hour/hourly meetings in the summer.

IV. Communications:
A. Reports of subcommittees and study groups. None.
B. Status report of cases before the BOCC – Ordinance No. 6-2018. Staff informed the planning commission that all of the 2018 biennial amendments were adopted and approved by the BOCC. Doug Mayo asked if there were any questions or concerns? Noelle mentioned that the only concern was the PC’s recommendation for the Williamson/Miocene Mineral Resource Overlay. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitted a letter with the main concern of applying the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) on the entire 610-acre parcel instead of the proposed 186 acres. WDFW felt that the SEPA review did not adequately covered the entire parcel and interfered with their valuation on the land exchange, if the entire parcel was in the MRO. They recommended that staff move forward with the original proposal and staff took WDFW’s recommendations to the BOCC. At the board hearing, staff recommended to apply the MRO only on the 186 acres and WDFW got up and spoke in favor of supporting the proposal. All of the PC’s recommendations were carried forward. The amendments will not be effective until February 23, 2019 due to the 60-day appeal period.
C. Secretary's report. More discussion about this year’s staff proposed text amendments for code fixes occurred. The Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) two-year timeline (deadline of 2021), process, community participation plan, dedicated website, and Water Resource mapping were also discussed.

Doug Miller asked about the county’s well program. Tommy provided details about the water rights program and procedural clarification. Doug Miller spoke about his main concern with having to get his water metered for replacing an existing residence. Planning staff informed the PC that county code exempts and grandfathered in existing residences without having to get their water metered.

V. Adjournment or continuance to a date, place, and time: The next meeting to be held on February 13, 2019, 5:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes approved by the Planning Commission on 3/13/19.

Signed: [Signature]  
Planning Commission, Chair