



"The purpose of the Eastsound Planning Review Committee is to advise the planning department, the planning commission and the County Council on land use and development matters affecting Eastsound."

EASTSOUND PLANNING AND REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Orcas Island Senior Center Multipurpose Room

November 8, 2023

3:00 pm

The meeting was held in person at the Orcas Island Senior Center Multi-purpose Room and online through Teams and recorded through the SJC website.

Due to a network problem the meeting was called to order by Charles Toxey, Chair at 3:12pm.

Committee Members present at the Senior Center were Brian Wiese, Jason Bradshaw and Charles Toxey. Scott Lancaster and Leith Templin had excused absences. Cindy Wolf, SJCC Chair and Liaison was present in person. Sophia Cassam, DCD Planner III and DCD Liaison was present online and recorded the meeting. Community members were present in person and online.

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment - none

Council Update with Cindy Wolf – LTAC recommendations go to Council in late November. Funding for the Eastsound Parking consultant will be rolled over if Council approves. Note: EPRC to write a letter to Council asking for the Parking funds to be rolled over. Norm Gollub's last day is Dec. 2nd. There is no replacement at this time. Two candidates were offered a position, but neither worked out because of fit and lack of housing. Other candidates refused because the salary was not high enough to accommodate high cost of living here. Brian asked what they are looking for as a good fit for a candidate. Cindy did not want to posit a guess. She explained that HR and the County Manager would interview before a candidate was brought to Council. She said they hope to find candidates that are familiar with Washington State's codes, the WA State Growth Management Act/Plan, Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Plan. There will be an interim director appointed after Norm leaves. The flood maps have not been made available to the public yet by the Environmental Management office. However, Cindy shared that land 15' or less above sea level is in questionable territory for inundation. Previously, events that were considered 100-year events are happening yearly now. Aquifer recharge rates have been determined by a USGS study, but the baseline of depth have not been determined. Cindy said an additional study may need to be hired out by the county to determine this. Related to sea level rise Jason clarified points about the risk to the aquifer from septic tanks on the north shore.

Driftwood Condominium Property Owners Association – Amy Carson, President of the Driftwood HOA, proposed the sale to the County of a parcel owned but not used by the HOA, but which is regularly used

by the public as trail access between Lovers' Lane and the Town. The parcel is located behind, to the East of, the Condos, and adjoins County (Public Works) land on its east side. The trail runs from Lovers' Lane eastward across the parcel where the condos are located, then across the vacant parcel and the County parcel, ending at the parking lot of the Athletic Center, where it offers a connection to the existing trail running north on Orion Street, connecting with the Lavender apartments and the Christian School. The parcel is also part of the Eastsound swale, and largely unbuildable. The Driftwood HOA proposes selling it to the county for the remaining mortgage amount, which is considerably below the assessed value of the property.

Brian made a motion that EPRC recommend that County Council consider acquiring the parcel being offered by the Driftwood Condominium Property Owners Association for the purpose of acquiring and improving the existing trail which is part of the trail system EPRC has recently recommended, protecting public right-of-way, protecting a portion of the Eastsound swale for aquifer recharge, and for whatever other uses the County might find for it. Jason seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Heather Oakson was present from the Orcas Island Trails Committee, The committee will also recommend that the County acquire the Driftwood parcel to preserve the trail and that portion of the Eastsound Swale.

No Permits

Meeting adjourned at 4:11pm

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Toxey, Chair

NEXT REGULAR MEETING December 7th, 2023, at the Orcas Senior Center Multipurpose Room