



"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

October 5, 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.

Meeting was called to order by, Charles Toxey, Chair at 3:01pm

Committee Members present at the Senior Center were Charles Toxey, Leith Templin, Brian Wiese, Scott Lancaster, Jason Bradshaw was absent. Cindy Wolf, SJCC Chair and EPRC's Council liaison attended part of the meeting in person. Sophia Cassam Planner III, EPRC's DCD liaison, attended via Teams and recorded the meeting. Community members were present in person and online.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was adjusted to allow Cindy Wolf to give her Council update early so she could attend a budget meeting.

Council Update with Cindy Wolf

Sales tax increase of 1/10th of 1% was approved to put funds toward affordable housing. This will produce around 800K per year. Interviews for the Director of DCD positions has narrowed down the choices to two candidates. Brian asked that the process of selection be made as publicly as possible and noted that residents have a major stake in the process and ongoing relations with the department. He would like for the public to be able to see and meet those candidates. Cindy said she would let HR know about Brian's requests. The sea level maps have not been made public yet. A sustainable climate element will be put forth as part of the Comp Plan. A 300K grant would be awarded to the County for implementing it. Sophia added that it would be a goals and policies document. Leith asked if we have to do sustainable climate plans or if it was elective because she worried that once we take the money we might have to do much more than the state mandates for those Counties who have one. She said we could implement the functions of a climate plan on our own and have more freedom potentially in the future. Sophia checked with Angela in that committee to see how mandatory this program is. Cindy found the details that we must participate in the sustainable climate element part of the program. What is elective and what we would receive the 300K for is whether or not we participate in a carbon neutral program. Cindy and Sophia will seek more clarification on what accepting the funds would mean for any obligations down the line.

Public Comment

- Judy Watson shared information of a geologic anomaly along a fault line whereby the sea floor continues to rise between Parker Reef and the North Shore and that this data should be shared with whatever group is making decisions about future building on the North Shore of Orcas. Charles asked to see any data she could share.
- Bonnie Morris the Museum Board President and Nancy Stillger Executive Director of the Orcas Historical Society/Museum came to listen but clarified what the museum's concerns are. They said the museum is not seeking for parking be built, but rather just wants to be granted legal access to their property. They were merely granted 11 parking credits. They are more concerned with legal access. There are currently no ADA parking places on the street in front of the museum. Bonnie and Nancy referred to the document Resolution# 181-1993 Index# 93191440 for the County to review and mentioned that they might consider consulting an attorney if the legal access can't otherwise be resolved.
- Bob Eagan plans to communicate to the County Parks teams about the Museum's parking credits/legal access issue. Bob reiterated his concern that the ADA space on the Village Green has been abandoned/not maintained and that no one knows there is an ADA space available there.

Parking Recommendation Document Finalization

The three documents were edited. Charles will email out EPRC's recommendations in separate emails to County Council to inform the scope of work for the Eastsound Parking Consultant, for DCD regarding missed opportunities to update required parking needs with recent permit applications and changes of use, and a request to engage the Chamber of Commerce on addressing parking behavior by businesses and employees.

Permit Review

BUILD-23-0356 Burke SFR no comments

Sophia's Update

Both of EPRC's docket submissions for Eastsound External Lighting and the other list of Eastsound Subarea Plan updates are on the work plan for the next Comp Plan update. The Comp Plan is due by June of 2025. Brian asked if the County was going to change code to meet new state downzoning laws recently passed. Sophia will send us the state's handbook on this matter to Charles to distribute to committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Toxey, Chair

Note: The Next Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday November 8, 2023, at the Orcas Senior Center Multipurpose Room instead of the first Thursday.