

EPRC Minutes 9.5.24

Meeting opened at 3:02 pm

In attendance: Jason Bradshaw, April Duke, Cindy Wolf, Sophia Cassam, Mia Kartinger

Public: Brian Wiese, Charles Troxey, Bob Eagan

Agenda modification: Consultant for Land Capacity Analysis has to cancel, and we need to re-schedule

Minutes of August 8, 2024, meeting approved without modifications

Public comment: none

EPRC recruitment plan: Jason reached out with advertisement to the county to post on the county website

We need more people to help better support the Housing Needs Assessment process

The new chamber of commerce is growing membership – suggested to announce that there, Cindy will be going to the next one

Could have a volunteer team of community members, they don't necessarily need to be on the EPRC

Sophia – Consultants plan on community outreach the end of October – EPRC should help advertise this meeting - broad public engagement plan meetings, want to work with the EPRC meetings

Charles – new people should be told about the EPRC in general plus should be informed about the Housing Needs Assessment

Cindy – should check in with Aaron in the county to make sure that we are communicating it properly

Land Capacity Analysis:

Sophia: Consultants range on study and methodology on the new update

LVPRC (Lopez Village Planning Review Committee) met with them for about an hour.

Charles: Can the consultants look at the previous Land Capacity Analysis and compare the methodology between the previous and current studies?

Sophia: they have looked at the previous and should be prepared to walk us through the differences.

Brian: Consultant's memo shows a big difference because of new state laws, including the 2 ADU's per lot

Sophia: New draft on planning commission site at their next meeting

Meeting with the consultants the 18th at 3 pm to be scheduled with the EPRC for groundwork

October meeting with the consultants would be workshop style

LIGHTING ORDINANCE:

Amy Vira – prosecuting attorney – need code update changes to make it more streamlined and simplified – want to table any code change projects at the moment until the codes have been

Charles: EPRC was given the task to have a lighting plan in Eastsound as available lighting changed (LED) which led to more glaring light. Many years and meetings later a plan had finally been submitted but nothing has been done and lighting problem has gotten worse. This was a last-ditch effort and was tailored on the Lopez plan. Concerned that the issue is again being tabled. This is a sub-area plan, supposed to supersede the county code as distinct and separate. The sub-area should be the plan of record. How quickly can a lighting plan/code be done in the county? Since 2017 this need to codify the lighting plan has not been done and it's only getting worse.

Jason – we need to figure out a different way to ask for what we want, not giving up.

Amy- up to the council. They need to go through all the codes to simplify and streamline them. The council needs to spend their time and commitment resources carefully.

codeupdate@sanjuancountywashington.com for comments

Council update:

Cindy Wolf – Big discussion point was the lighting ordinance

Marine resource committee meeting with new county manager joined them to help her get the overview of what's going on in the county.

San Juan county has a new planning manager starting September 16th who will oversee the planning department. Darcy Nielsen, (planner in DCD in the 1990's, then a SJ county council person for a while and has moved back to SJI.)

Mark Hopkins is still the "acting" DCD director.

As of December 31, Cindy will not be on the county council.

Sophia: we haven't had a long-range planning person in about 4 years, she (Sophia) is our contact for the comp plan

Committee Member questions: none

Charles – history of the creation of a sub-area plan. The reason for it is to keep the government small. It's so that the people can plan for their needs then handed over to the council and the county to execute the plan. Should be codified in the sub-area plan and should override the county plan.

Bob- Neither Amy or Sophia want to deal with the lighting plan right now because they are busy with the comprehensive plan update priority.

Sophia – she is busy with the comp plan update, but the code revision is up to the Prosecuting Attorney's office

Charles – 3 touches and update plans, every year for the county, list of changes, public comments – done every year

Brian – waiting for 7 years because we wait for the comp plan

Bob – EPRC is a paper tiger, everything just gets tabled, hard to get recruits if nothing comes from someone's efforts

Charles – always another comp plan update to wait for until EPRC's things are addressed

Sophia – Amy said that it's in the council hands so the EPRC should communicate the council and the PA, write to the secretary/council/PA or show up the meetings. Process to revisit comp/subarea plans takes a lot of staff time. Who is going to do it? We don't have the people to process it.

Charles – can we use some of the retired planners, architects, etc to help with the process?

Consultants are hired to replace the people who were let go are doing current planning only

Jason – disagrees with the council and PA to table the lighting plan, we would like to see it enacted and amended as necessary.

Next county council meeting September 10 – 9 am – public comment sign up by noon the day before – Sept 9

Sophia – MRSC website

Bob- Create a membership-style list to send out to folks to let them know about the EPRC meetings

Charles – EDRC does have teeth about recommendations that need to be followed. When they are building the food storage area for Pea Patch, they want maximum interior space but they might seek an exemption. WE need to have EPRC member to be a member of EDRC – They might not even have one member!

Agenda items for next meeting – Sept 18th meet with consultants to understand better the Land Capacity Analysis and Housing Needs Assessment study

Next regular meeting October 3 – consultant ongoing

Meeting adjourned at 4:28

Minutes by April Duke, secretary