

ELLENSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**January 19, 2022 Regular Meeting
(5:15 p.m. to 6:49 p.m.)
Hybrid Meeting In-Person and Zoom**

Members Present: Christina Wollman, Kristine Steinkoenig, Steve Luten, Andrea Sledge, Daphne Condon, and Ravin Harlin

Members Absent:

Also present: Nancy Lillquist, Council Liaison; Council Member Winn; Monica Miller; and Laura Wilson, Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was acknowledged with no changes.

ELECT CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. Wilson explained ECC 1.60.240 Election of Officers and if Commissioner Wollman served as chairperson for another year, the commission would need to elect a vice-chair. If another commission member was voted in as chairperson, Commissioner Wollman would assume the vice-chair role.

Commissioner Wollman stated she would be willing to continue as the Environmental Commission chairperson unless another commissioner wanted the position. Commissioner Sledge nominated Commissioner Wollman for Environmental Commission Chairperson. The commission voted in favor of the nomination.

Commissioner Luten nominated Commissioner Condon as vice-chairperson. Commissioner Condon informed the group she would be moving out of Ellensburg in a couple of months and didn't feel it would be appropriate to accept the nomination. Commissioner Sledge nominated Commissioner Luten for vice-chairperson. Commissioner Luten accepted the nomination. The commission members voted in favor of the nomination.

NEW BUSINESS

P21-131 N Airport Road Rezone and Development-SEPA

Council Members Lillquist and Winn recused themselves and left the discussion.

Mrs. Wilson presented the Airport Road Rezone and Development SEPA. The project is located at 2307 N Airport Road. It involves a rezone from R-S to R-H, construction of two apartment buildings with a total of 73 units, and approximately 100 parking spaces. The applicant will be required to extend and connect the eastern portion of E Idaho Street to the western portion of E Idaho Street. This connection will cross over Mercer Creek and the critical areas associated with the creek. The applicant will not be placing any buildings or parking areas within the creek buffer or wetland area.

There was a brief discussion on the difference between recommendations that mitigated the environmental impact of a development and recommendations that would be considered environmentally friendly but not necessarily mitigated a direct impact.

Motion

Commissioner Wollman moved the Environmental Commission recommend the city require no net loss of floodplain storage. Commissioner Sledge seconded the motion. Commissioner Wollman explained the

meaning of no net loss. The motion passed with all in favor.

Motion

Commissioner Sledge moved the Environmental Commission recommend the applicant install Level 2 car charging stations or contract with a private provider to provide Level 2 or fast charging car charging stations. Commissioner Condon seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Motion

Commissioner Sledge moved the Environmental Commission recommend the applicant consider installing infrastructure which would later allow the addition of solar panels and/or rooftop wind turbines to supplement the city's electrical service. Commissioner Condon seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Motion

Commissioner Wollman moved that the Environmental Commission recommend the city require the applicant prepare a long-term management plan for the streams, wetland, and associated buffers. Commissioner Sledge seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

BICYCLE ADVISORY

Council Member Lillquist reported on the progress regarding Bike Month in May. She spoke with several groups and organizations. Some ideas included a group ride to Renslow Trestle from downtown Ellensburg; information displays about the reconnection of the Palouse to Cascade trail on Alder Street; and a social media 'Bike to Work' competition. She reported the Chamber of Commerce was interested in hosting a breakfast in their parking lot on 'Bike to Work' day. The Evergreen Bike Club was interested in hosting a bike rodeo. Commissioner Condon also provided updates that Recycle Bike Shop was interested and had ideas about a group ride on 7th Avenue, hosting a bicycle maintenance station, or hosting a bike-in outdoor movie night. Commissioner Harlin offered to contact Internal Order of Oddfellows for support. Their organization often has free repaired bicycles that may be available at the Bike Rodeo. Council Member Lillquist stated there would be a planning meeting on January 24th and anyone interested can attend.

STAFF UPDATE/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Wilson explained that in March 2018, the EC discussed developing education material that explained sustainable building practices. Commissioners determined priorities at that time which were energy, water, natural resources, transportation, plants/vegetation, light/glare, animals, and air, however the materials were not developed. Staff would like to revisit the EC commissioner's priorities to determine the needs and goals of the commission members and how they might be accomplished. She asked if the commission would like to know more about various city code sections to have a better understanding of what items are already required in city code, state code, or building code. There was consensus to begin with having various staff provide explanation on the code requirements that is within their purview.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Laura Wilson
Recording Secretary (Drafted 2/9/2022)