



Minutes

DESCHUTES COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
DESCHUTES SERVICES CENTER
1300 NW WALL STREET, BEND, OREGON, 97703
APRIL 14TH, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN PERSON, ELECTRONICALLY, AND BY PHONE. IT WAS AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDED AND CAN BE ACCESSED AT THE DESCHUTES COUNTY MEETING PORTAL WEBSITE WWW.DESCHUTES.ORG/MEETINGS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Kieras in-person. Commissioners present in-person: Susan Altman, Steve Swisher, Dale Crawford, Nathan Hovekamp, Toni Williams. Staff present in person: Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director. Kyle Collins, Associate Planner.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- Commissioner Altman moved to approve previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Swisher seconded.
- Unanimous vote in favor of approval of three previous meeting minutes.
- Minutes of February 24th and March 10th 2022 approved. Minutes of March 24th approved with corrections.

III. Public Comment

Paul Lipscomb from Sisters, OR appeared via zoom to offer public comment regarding the Work Plan but was informed by Chair Kieras that the period for public comment has closed.

IV. Action Items

1. Water Resource Discussion Panel #2 (Kyle Collins, Associate Planner)
 - Kyle Collins introduced the four panelists; Kate Fitzpatrick (Director of Deschutes River Conservancy), Michael Buettner (City of Bend Utilities manager), Matt Cyrus (President of Deschutes County Farm Bureau), Craig Horrell (Central Oregon Irrigation District Managing Director).
2. Planning Division Work Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 / Deliberations (Peter Gutowsky, Director; Will Groves, Planning Manager)
 - Peter Gutowsky asked the Planning Commission (PC) to consider what projects they may want prioritized if staffing issues prevent the county from addressing all aspects of the work plan.
 - The following project highlights were provided.

- ❖ The county is anticipating hiring a consultant for the Comprehensive Plan by late April/Early-Mid May and will then be able to provide more information regarding project timelines and scope of work.
- ❖ Sisters Country Trails and Tumalo Community Plan are set to kick off soon.
- ❖ The City of Bend Urban Growth Boundary Affordable Housing Project has the first hearing scheduled for May 10th to allow for an expedited urban growth boundary amendment. This is a joint hearing for both the City and County applications and it's anticipated it will be adopted by end of summer.

MOTION:

- Vice Chair Altman motioned to endorse Table 1 in the provided packets, the projects listed under Priority Discretionary and Non-Discretionary Projects. Commissioner Swisher seconded the motion.
 - Vice chair Altman shared that she endorses staff continuing on in their efforts with these projects.
 - Commissioner Swisher shared that he highly respects Peter and Will's ability to synthesize information regarding these projects. He encouraged commissioners to share projects they feel strongly about and allow Peter and Will to process and internalize that information.
 - Commissioner Hovekamp commented that in regard to the Comprehensive Plan, he hopes the PC can be of substantive help. The Wildlife Inventory work is exciting and notes that the Mule Deer populations are in crisis and as an umbrella species will have an impact on their environments and habitats as well.
 - Chair Kieras agrees with comments from Commissioner Swisher and Hovekamp and also feels strongly about continuing to work on those projects currently underway. She also noted that the outdoor lighting initiative is of particular interest because it has an impact on various species and hopes it can be taken very seriously as it relates to land use planning goals.
 - Vice Chair Altman inquired about the possibility of creating a second motion which highlights text amendments of particular interest to the commission, such as code related to destination resorts and water protection concerns.
 - Commissioner Crawford highlighted the importance of maintaining the livability of the area as well as concerns surrounding overnight lodging issues.
 - Commissioner Williams feels the Wildlife inventory is extremely important as well as outdoor and greenhouse lighting control and preventing future destination resorts. She also noted wireless telecommunication amendments and the importance of getting wireless communication to rural areas, particularly as an educational need.

VOTE:

- Unanimous vote to endorse Table 1-Priority Discretionary and Non-discretionary Projects.

MOTION:

- Commissioner Crawford moved that staff compile a list of comments made in regard to the primary motion. Commissioner Swisher seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Crawford shared that the projects that were discussed are viable and important to the county and it is imperative to get the issues before the BOCC.
- Chair Kieras added that she would like to highlight issues surrounding temporary use permits and recreational vehicles and the importance of addressing it at some point.

VOTE:

- Unanimous vote in favor of compiling a list of comments made and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that they be addressed at some point.

V. PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS

- Peter Gutowsky shared that the BOCC announced the COLA increase of 5.5% will be given to all county employees.
- Adam Smith has resigned as county legal counsel. The county is actively recruiting for a land use attorney.
- The vacancy for Commissioner Swisher's position will be open for recruitment until June 29th, 2022.
- Kyle Collins is going to be participating in the SB762 rule making regarding Wildfire mitigation and will provide updates to the PC as this process moves forward.
- There are no agenda items for the meeting on April 28th so there will be no meeting.
- Will Groves shared that regarding the Dark Skies the BOCC felt there could be a private citizen group that encourages education and grant seeking. The BOCC also felt the initiative should be carried into the Comprehensive Plan.
- In regard to the Comprehensive Plan, the county is currently in negotiation phase with the consultant group who was the preferred choice. The next step is to move forward to the Board and ask if they would like to move forward with a Notice of Intent to award a contract.
- The consultant group would be interested in using the PC as a citizen engagement board.
- Commissioner Altman shared that she has volunteered to participate in the Tumalo Community Bike/Ped Committee but has not heard about an upcoming meeting.
- Commissioner Hovekamp appreciated the advocacy tonight about river usage but noted it seemed to lack information on what's best for the river.
- Commissioner Swisher shared information regarding the recruitment for his upcoming vacancy. There hasn't been a great response but he is hopeful that they can fill that position soon with an individual who has expressed interest and been previously discussed. He shared that his first interaction with the county was back in the 1990's regarding land use for the school district and the Safe Schools Alliance in response to school shootings and safety efforts with the Sheriff Department, the District Attorney, the Health Department and Mental Health Services and served in an advisory capacity. He then went to the Mental Health Advisory Committee and then the Health Department Advisory Committee and then the Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families and served for a term there and was the strategic planning chair when those services were shut down before finally moving to his Planning Commission appointment. He wanted to share what an absolute pleasure it was to serve in various capacities for this county and feels they are in good hands now in the direction they are headed.

VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Brooke Clark, Administrative Assistant

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