

APPROVED MINUTES

Agenda

Planning Commission Committee of the Whole Meeting

CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

Erik Pedersen, Vice-Chair

March 12, 2024

I. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Ms. Keller

We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!

II. ROLL CALL

Erik Pedersen, Vice-Chair, called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Planning Commission (PC), held in Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, virtually via Zoom Webinar, and telephonically, to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Commissioners present in Chambers –Erik Pedersen; Matthew Bell; Adam Brown; Nina Keller; David Epstein; Lacey Derr; Jessalynn Rintala;

Commissioners present via video conferencing – None

Commissioners absent: Mandy Cole; Travis Arndt

Staff present: Jill Lawhorne, CDD Director; Scott Ciambor, CDD Planning Manager; Irene Gallion, Senior Planner; Lily Hagerup, CDD Administrative Assistant; Nicolette Chappell, CDD Administrative Coordinator; Sherri Layne, Law Assistant Municipal Attorney

Assembly members: Paul Kelly

III. REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA - None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

V. REGULAR AGENDA

1. MEMO – Blueprint Downtown Area Plan

STAFF PRESENTATION –Mr. Ciambor presented the Blueprint Downtown Memo is the result of the work of the Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee appointed in 2019. It is ready for public review and will be before the PC for public hearing at the April 23 Regular meeting.

Blueprint Downtown is a long-term area plan for the downtown Juneau area from the Rock Dump to Harris Harbor.

QUESTIONS FOR STAFF

Ms. Keller asked what is the plan for keeping the downtown area active year-round. Strategic programs like the Main Street program and having a downtown point person are expected to help achieve this goal. Mr. Epstein asked whether the downtown point person would be a CBJ employee or someone from a partner agency or local nonprofit agency. Mr. Ciambor was not sure but said it would not be a CBJ employee.

Ms. Rintala asked how the PC might be able to facilitate some of the goals in the street reconstruction section. Mr. Ciambor explained part of the PC role is to highlight the items important to the Commission.

Ms. Keller mentioned an upcoming AK Department of Transportation project and asked if the department is coordinating projects with the state. When putting together project packets for the PC, the department routinely reaches out to agencies (AKDOT and others) for comments. Information on projects would be expected to be included in the comments in the packet that comes before the full committee.

Ms. Derr asked what methods of input the community will have to submit comments and questions. Mr. Ciambor said the department will follow normal public outreach methods, including radio spots.

Mr. Pedersen asked how this plan works with prior plans. Is it an overlay to the older plans? Mr. Ciambor said the department would bring an answer back to the PC. Overall, this plan was developed with the other plans in mind and ideally, they will work together.

Ms. Keller asked if a case comes before the PC that involves different uses, could the PC point to the plan to support one use over the other if one conformed to the plan and another did not fit as well. Ms. Lawhorne said if one use is favored over another then the best way to enforce that would be to ensure the zoning codes support those uses as well.

Mr. Pedersen asked what prompted CDD to create this plan. The assembly recommended a list of area plans they wanted to see. Those were Auke Bay, Lemon Creek, Downtown and then South Douglas/West Juneau.

Ms. Keller asked if there are particular sections where they expect more public interest or controversy. Mr. Ciambor said not so far but staff will monitor public comment and let them know if anything stands out.

The plan will have a public hearing at the April 23 Regular Planning Commission meeting.

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

VII. **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by *Kathleen Jorgensen Business Assists* (907)723-6134 