



# PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

## CALL TO ORDER

At 6 PM, Chair Murphy opened the meeting.

## ROLL CALL

Chair Michael Murphy, Vice Chair Adam Ragheb and Commissioners Kate Akyuz, Angela Battazzo, Carolyn Boatsman, Chris Goelz, and Victor Raisys were present remotely.

## Staff Participation:

Alison Van Gorp, Deputy Director, Adam Zack, Senior Planner, and Deborah Estrada, Deputy City Clerk

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

### 1. 2024 Annual Docket: Review Proposed Amendment 18 – Land use map amendment and rezone of the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) property.

#### A. Appearance of Fairness Questions

Assistant City Attorney Keiffer asked appearance of fairness questions of all Commission members.

Commissioner Battazzo - Deputy City Clerk Estrada confirmed that she received a written disclosure of appearance of conflict from Commission Battazzo.

Commissioner Raisys – Deputy City Clerk Estrada confirmed that she received a written disclosure of appearance of conflict from Commissioner Raisys.

#### i. Opportunity for Challenges – There were no challenges raised.

#### B. Public comment

The following individuals spoke in support of Amendment 18:

Alex Gamoran	Julie Chivo	Sam Blum	Gary Mirkin
Jay Behar	Paul Burstein	Denise Joffe	Abe Willner-Martin
Amy Lavin	Ian Morris	Michele Kohorn	Robin Medin
Elaine Kraft	Hart Cole	Aaron Goldfeder	Lisa Fain
Jake Pruchno	David Shujman	Jeremy Locke	
Jon Newman	Adam Atkins	William Gerdes	

The following individuals spoke in opposition to Amendment 18:

- Dan Thompson
- Matt Goldbach
- John Hall

#### C. Presentation from Proposal Proponents

Jessica Clawson spoke to Proposed Amendment 18 on behalf of the Stroum Jewish Community Center.

#### D. Presentation from City

Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director, presented on behalf of the City of Mercer Island.

#### E. Planning Commission Deliberations

F. Adopt Findings on Docketing Criteria

A motion was made by Boatsman; seconded by Akyuz to  
**concur with the staff's conclusion that Criteria 1, 3, and 5 are met.**  
Approved 7-0

A motion was made by Akyuz; seconded by Boatsman  
**that Docket Proposal 18 passes Criterion 2**  
Approved 6-0-1 (Raisys)

A motion was made by Boatsman; seconded by Goelz  
**that Criterion 4 is met.**  
Approved 7-0

G. Recommendation

**Recommended Action:** Make a recommendation to the City Council on whether to include Proposed Amendment 18 in the final docket.

A motion was made by Boatsman; seconded by Akyuz to  
**recommend to the City Council that Proposed Amendment 18 be docketed for the 2024 Workplan.**  
Passed 6-0-1 (Raisys)

**APPEARANCES**

- Kristen Orndorff, spoke in support of the Mercer Island County Club's proposal 15.
- Jacquie Hartmann, spoke in support of the Mercer Island County Club's proposal 15.
- Dan Thompson, briefly addressed the City's proposals and Proposals 15, 16, and 17.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**2. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2023:**

A motion was made by Raisys; seconded by Ragheb to:  
**Approve the October 25, 2023, minutes.**  
Approved 7-0

**3. 2024 Annual Docket: Review Proposed Amendments 1-10 and 12-17**

A. Presentations from Proposal Proponents

- Dan Thompson addressed the Commission on Proposed Amendments 1 through 5, 12, and 13
- Dan Nordale addressed the Commission on Proposed Amendment 15
- Mike Murphy addressed the Commission on Proposed Amendment 16
- Adam Ragheb addressed the Commission on Proposed Amendment 17

B. Presentation from City

Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director, presented on behalf of the City of Mercer Island.

C. Planning Commission Deliberations

D. Recommendation

A motion was made by Boatsman; seconded by Raisys to  
**Recommend Amendments 1-5 be included on the final 2024 Docket.**  
Failed 4-3

A motion was made by Goelz; seconded by Akyuz to  
**Recommend that Amendments 1-5 NOT be added to the docket, because they fail to meet all five criteria.**  
Passed 4-3

The Commission agreed to continue deliberations at a special meeting on November 20, 2023.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**4. Deputy Director's Report**

Deputy Director Alison Van Gorp discussed upcoming meetings.

**5. Planned Absences for Future Meetings - None**

**ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah Estrada", is written over a horizontal line.

Deborah Estrada, MMC, Deputy City Clerk