
Joint Meeting Planning Commission Regular Meeting And Economic Development Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday,
June 1, 2016
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Note: The Action Minutes represent a summary of presentations given and actions taken. For a more detailed record, the audio recording of the meeting can be accessed through the City Clerk's Office, City of University Place. Contact Emy Genetia at (253) 460-2511.

- 1. Call to Order** Planning Commission Chair Quisenberry called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **(7:02)**
- 2. Roll Call (7:02)**

Planning Commission Members Present

Mr. Cliff Quisenberry – Chair
Mr. Steve Smith – Co Vice Chair (arrived 7:17)
Mr. Chris Barrett
Mr. David Graybill
Mr. Ken Campbell

Planning Commission Members Excused

Mr. Frank Boykin – Co Vice Chair
Mr. Tony Paulson

Staff Present

David Swindale, Director, Planning and
Development Services
Becky Metcalf, Project Assistant

Econ Dvlp Commission Members Present

Mr. Ron Kent – Chair
Mr. Chuck Foster –Vice Chair
Mr. Chris Platt
Mr. John Siridakis
Mr. Rick Larson

Econ Dvlp Commission Members Excused

Mr. Jason Light

Econ Dvlp Commission Members Absent

Ms. Peggy Rose Webster

3. Approval of Minutes (7:02)

MOTION: by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Barrett to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016 Planning Commission meeting as submitted. The motion passed.

Chair Quisenberry stated that, in the written comments he submitted for the May 18 meeting, he forgot to mention and wants to clarify that his comments referred to feather signs within the banners definition, not banners in general. The minutes are correct as recorded.

4. Public Comment (7:03)

There being no public comment on any item not appearing on the agenda, Chair Quisenberry closed the Public Comment section of the meeting.

5. Discussion – Sign Code Amendments (7:03)

Director Swindale reviewed the staff report and attachments for this item as found in the agenda packet.

Commission discussion covered the following topics:

- For Open Houses in a development, there needs to be an agent at the site, and if there is an agent at every house, the full number of signs per house can be allowed.
- Commissioners discussed the necessity of a deposit for temporary sign permits. Is it even needed? What is the purpose of the deposit? The deposit is an encouragement for signs to be taken down when the permit is concluded.
- Consensus is to take feather signs out of the definition of banner signs, and restrict feather signs to 10 feet in height.

Changing Message signs:

- The only restriction on the size of a changing message sign is the same size restrictions on free standing permanent signs.
- In order to address the issue of sign proliferation, perhaps allow changing message signs if they are shared among several businesses, and are allowed only if the use of other types of signs by those businesses is restricted and provides a net reduction in signage.
- We are in a society that is more digital. The changing message signs fit into this digital age.
- If changing message signs are allowed, restrictions such as brightness, dwell time, etc. should be stated from the beginning and make them acceptable to the community.
- The consensus among the Economic Development Commissioners is that changing message signs be allowed. The Planning Commissioners are split regarding this issue.
- Planning Commissioner Graybill asked is there a real demand or interest in these signs from the business community? Is the fact that they are not allowed throughout the City driving business away? He expressed his concern about the look of the community.
- Economic Development Commissioner Foster stated that what he hears from business owners is that University Place has so many regulations that it is not an easy place to do business.

- If the City were allowed a changing message sign for community messaging, it would be difficult to deny changing message signs to the business community.
- If changing message signs are allowed everywhere, the concern is proliferation and the regulation of them.
- Allowing changing message signs might result in the less frequent use of A-board, banner or feather signs.
- Economic Development Commissioner Platt stated that the ideas of proximity and shared use are themes that are recurring in this discussion.
- Perhaps changing message signs are only feasible for shopping centers. Maybe this is a place to start.
- The opposition to the use of changing message signs are concerns for safety and aesthetics.
- It would be interesting to hear feedback from the business community regarding the changing message sign issue. Perhaps the Economic Development Commissioners can get some feedback from business owners.
- The main question is, should these signs be allowed in all commercial zones? If so, then the details need to be addressed. It seems wasteful to spend time developing detailed restrictions until it is known if the City Council will actually approve the allowance of signs in other commercial zones.

6. Staff Comments (8:57)

Director Swindale reported that the first open house for the Chambers Creek Master Site Plan process was a success.

7. Commission and Liaison Comments (8:58)

Economic Development Commissioner Platt reported that there will be a ribbon cutting for Summit Floral on June 7 at 4:30 p.m. The address is 1905 Bridgeport, Suite 106.

Planning Commission Chair Quisenberry thanked Planning Commissioner Smith for chairing the May 18 meeting.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. (9:00)

Submitted by:

Becky Metcalf, Project Assistant
Community and Economic Development

Approved as amended: June 15, 2016