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# SKAMANIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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## MINUTES

**Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 6:15 PM**

SKAMANIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX, LOWER MEETING ROOM

170 NW VANCOUVER AVENUE, STEVENSON, WA 98648

REMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM MEETING TELEPHONE AND VIDEO CONFERENCE

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Sue Davis, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sue Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

Planning Commissioners Present: Sue Davis, Anita Gahimer Crow, Ken Bajema (remote),  
Mat Joy (remote)

Absent: Cyndi Soliz

Staff Present: Mike Beck, Andrew Lembrick

### **4. AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Approval of minutes from the September 21, 2021, Planning Commission Meeting.

Ken Bajema moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021, Planning Commission Meeting as presented. Anita Gahimer Crow seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

- b. Public Hearing, Consideration, and Vote on proposed amendments to Title 21 (Zoning) to expand the number of zones where recreation uses are allowed.

Acting Chair Sue Davis opened the public hearing.

Staff presented background on the process leading up to the public hearing and summarized the proposed recreation use changes to Title 21. Staff recommended the Planning Commission forward a positive recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Anita Gahimer Crow identified minor discrepancies between the meeting packet summary and redline copy of the recreation use changes to Title 21. Staff confirmed that the changes as presented in the summary were correct and noted the errors in the redline copy.



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There were no public comments.

Anita Gahimer Crow moved to recommend approval of the proposed text amendments as presented in the meeting packet summary to the Board of County Commissioners. Ken Bajema seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Sue Davis closed the public hearing.

- c. Discussion of upcoming public hearing to consider amendments to Title 22, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Ordinance.

Staff presented background on the regulatory framework of the Columbia Gorge Management Plan, its relationship to Title 22, consistency requirement, and the process staff has taken in response to the Gorge 2020 Management Plan updates. Staff forecast the timeline and scheduled November 16, 2021 public hearing on this matter.

Staff provided additional details on the regulatory framework of the management plan, its provisions for protecting the cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources in the Gorge, and described some of the more substantial changes made in the 2020 management plan update. Staff informed the planning commission that scenic area counties may adopt changes that vary from the management plan, provided the changes provide greater protections than the management plan.

Staff mentioned that the changes to the regulations are required and reiterated some of the benefits to scenic area property owners when development reviews are conducted under Skamania County's purview.

Discussion ensued between the planning commissioners on this topic. Several planning commissioners expressed their concerns about the proposed changes, when the materials would be available for their review, and whether there could be additional opportunities to discuss the proposed changes to Title 22 in advance of the Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Staff considered the scheduling and timeline constraints on the adoption of the management plan updates, and proposed a public workshop on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting date. The planning commissioners also considered the possibility of convening a subcommittee in addition to the public workshop. Staff conferred and determined that a subcommittee comprised of three planning commissioners would not constitute a quorum and that these subcommittee meetings would not be subject to the



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Open Public Meetings Act notice or public participation requirements. Planning commissioners Mat Joy, Sue Davis, and Ken Bajema volunteered for the Title 22 Planning Commission subcommittee. The subcommittee members agreed to discuss mutual meeting times and locations in the coming days. The planning commissioners unanimously supported convening a public workshop on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> and inviting Skamania County Gorge Commissioner Tamara Kaufman to the public workshop.

Staff committed to providing planning commissioners with a link to the Gorge 2020 management plan the next day, printing out a hard copy of the cleaned version of the Gorge 2020 management plan for Anita Gahimer Crow, and providing a redline copy of the Title 22 updates to the planning commissioners as soon as it can be prepared and in advance of the Nov. 2 public workshop.

There were no public comments.

### **5. PLANNING COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Staff summarized the upcoming Planning Commission schedule for the remainder of the year and reiterated the dates for the Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> public workshop and Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> public hearing on Title 22.

Staff updated the Planning Commission on interviews conducted by the Board of County Commissioners interviews of applicants for the District 3 Planning Commissioner position.

Sue Davis requested that the mailed PC packets be printed double-sided.

### **6. ADJOURN**

Sue Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.