

Observed Meeting: Ellensburg Planning Commission Date: 9-28-23
 LWV Observer: Rosemary Meyer Time: 5:45 pm

	Yes	No	Comments
Members			
All members present?		x	Quorum present-4
Members attentive & involved?	x		
Members courteous to each other and public?	x		
Any members recuse themselves?		x	
Agenda			
Agenda available prior to and during meeting?	x		
Agenda followed?	x		
Agenda amended?		x	
Non-agenda items discussed?		x	
Was time given to public input?	x		

Action:

Please provide a brief, impartial summary of the meeting, including key issues discussed, significant actions taken, and other observations: Land development codes amendments were presented by Jeremy Johnson, Planning Manager and then open to public comment.

1. Shared driveways-currently may access up to 5 lots-speaking for change Steve Willard wanting access to more depending on structure (house, condo, etc). Remanded back to staff by commission for collaborative meeting with fire marshal, public works, planning and Mr. Willard.
2. Expiration of subdivisions-currently if 9 lots or less plans expire in one year-state code allows 5 years to complete. Mr. Willard spoke in favor of change. Approved by commission
3. Residential office zone-currently this mixed use zone does not allow for a gym use. Ms. Savage owns 1 acre on S. Chestnut and requests to build an indoor fitness/PT facility. There is still a conditional use permit process to go through. Approved by commission.
4. Change street eating requirements for tables/chairs. Currently 2 chairs per table are allowed. There must always be a 5 foot pedestrian walkway available and the tables.chairs must be visible from the business. Mr. Ritter did not appear to speak for his request. Commission approved request to increase chairs at the few locations that have a wide enough sidewalk.
5. Code Clean up-minor language/format clean up of 7 codes. All approved by commission.
6. Off premise information signs-not currently allowed where they often would be the most seen (ie. "811 before you dig"). The sign still needs to be approved for

size and is only for government entities. Approved by commission with one no vote (already have too many signs)

7. Annual docket timelines-currently requests for change due by April 1 must be evaluated by staff and presented to commission and council in a tight timeframe which ends up not being followed. Staff suggests change to all requests by March 31 will complete process by Dec. 31-the same deadline but a more realistic schedule. Approved by commission.
8. RVs for habitation purposes- currently code enforcement and the police are noting more people living in RVs. Staff proposing a change to allow living in RV in mobile home parks or RV parks in city limits. Discussed RV use in backyard as AirBnB, RV on street while owners getting ready to use or RV in backyard for family members. Commission voted to amend the wording but approved the use only in RV parks or mobile home parks.
9. Street design standards- in pre-existing neighborhoods where a new street needs to connect it is proposed by staff to allow the standards used when the original streets were put in (Greenfield St.) There must still be a request to public works for departure from current code. This mainly pertains to street width (sidewalk to sidewalk). Approved by commission.

No Old Business

No citizen comment

Staff Update- there is no meeting in October but staff would like to set a study session with the planning commission on the November meeting items-Housing and Shelter ordinance and Historic preservation demolition ordinance. Members agree to a study session on Oct 26

If minutes were posted online, please provide a link:

<https://ci.ellensburg.wa.us/1039/Affordable-Housing-Commission>

If a vote on an ordinance will be taken later, please provide the name or number of the ordinance and the date of the vote: Not sure

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? Monitoring housing and shelter ordinance

What action do you recommend, i.e., support, oppose, study, inform the community, other (please specify):

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Observed Meeting: Ellensburg Planning commission Date: 9-14-2023
 LWV Observer: Rosemary Meyer Time: _____

	Yes	No	Comments
Members			
All members present?		x	Quorum of 4
Members attentive & involved?	x		
Members courteous to each other and public?	x		
Any members recuse themselves?		x	
Agenda			
Agenda available prior to and during meeting?	x		
Agenda followed?	x		
Agenda amended?		x	
Non-agenda items discussed?		x	
Was time given to public input?			

Action:

Please provide a brief, impartial summary of the meeting, including key issues discussed, significant actions taken, and other observations: Only issue on the agenda was to review and have the commission make recommendations to the City Council on 5 proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The City Community Planning Manager presented each recommendation, followed by citizen comment (there was only one on item 4) and then commissioner discussion and vote. 1. Update the 6 year Capital improvement plans (budget) for Community Development, Parks and Rec, Public Works and Utilities. Discussion centered on Natural Gas dept budget and need for upgrading infrastructure when natural gas needs are planned to be flat, Vote 3 approve and 1 not approve. 2. Request from Mayor for a conversion table describing each land use section in the comprehensive plan. This has been completed and now there is consistency between the CP and development guidelines. Minimal discussion and Approved by all commissioners. 3. Update to Roadway Functional Classification Map to eliminate a road through private property near N Potts Rd. Minimal discussion and approved by all commissioners. 4. Proposed amendment to Future Land Use Map on property on Vantage Hwy (b/w Vet clinic and fire station) to Heavy Industrial (from Community Mixed Use). Staff recommended not approving this request. Attorney for the property owners spoke on Zoom explaining why this is needed for their construction business. Discussion of impact on this type of zoning on this parcel by commissioners (traffic through town, impact on residential neighbors). Commissioners voted to agree with staff and not approve the zoning change. 5. Updates to the Economic Chapter of CP addressing grammatical issues, general updates, Covid-19 impact, expanding Arts and Culture-Business Development sections and updating Demographic and Household Income data. After no discussion this was approved by commissioners. There was no Old Business nor Citizen Comment.

Staff has requested a special meeting Sept 28, 2023 and commissioners agreed if there would be a quorum. If this meeting occurs, there will not be an October meeting.

If minutes were posted online, please provide a link:

<https://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/95/Planning-Commission>

If a vote on an ordinance will be taken later, please provide the name or number of the ordinance and the date of the vote:

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? No

What action do you recommend, i.e., support, oppose, study, inform the community, other (please specify):



Observed Meeting: Ellensburg Planning Commission Date: 7/13/2023
 LWV Observer: Rosemary Meyer Time: 5:45 pm

	Yes	No	Comments
Members			
All members present?	x		some on Zoom
Members attentive & involved?	x		
Members courteous to each other and public?	x		
Any members recuse themselves?		x	
Agenda			
Agenda available prior to and during meeting?	Y		
Agenda followed?	Y		
Agenda amended?		x	
Non-agenda items discussed?		x	
Was time given to public input?	x		

Action:

Please provide a brief, impartial summary of the meeting, including key issues discussed, significant actions taken, and other observations: This was a meeting in conjunction with the Affordable Housing Commission to discuss (1) zoning and regulation of emergency shelters and (2) affordable housing in the city. 1. There was a recent court case out of Boise and subsequent state laws re: arresting a homeless person for sleeping on public property if there are no shelter beds available. The city is looking at where to provide this emergency shelter, for other than cold weather situations. Consensus given to staff was to pursue areas zoned for hotels (4 of them) even though they may not be closest to other support services (food bank, DSHS) and with consideration as to proximity to schools and parks. Any agency wanting to open a shelter would need to go through a conditional use permit process. We are looking at a shelter for up to 25 though the cold weather shelter usually has between 8-17 per night. 2. Staff looking for direction to write regulations for affordable housing development in city. It appears that “bonuses” for developers are not working and “mandates” may be the way to go. For example, for every # of units built, 10% would need to be for low income (varying AMIs). We are supposed to be identifying 288 units of low income housing per year and are only at 100. One idea for single family homes is to use pre-approved plans to reduce the cost of permitting, construction, etc. Also, important to get county into low income housing planning process too.

If minutes were posted online, please provide a link:

<https://ci.ellensburg.wa.us/1039/Affordable-Housing-Commission>

If a vote on an ordinance will be taken later, please provide the name or number of the ordinance and the date of the vote: Not yet

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? Monitoring

What action do you recommend, i.e., support, oppose, study, inform the community, other (please specify):

Additional info: Significant interaction with Community Development Director and Planning Manager from city as well attendance by City Manager and City Attorney for input as needed.