

*City of Burien*

BURIEN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

March 24, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Shared Conference Room, Burien City Hall

MINUTES

**Planning Commission Members Present:**

Janet Shull, Stacie Grage, Jim Clingan, Brian Bennett; Rebecca McInteer, Rachel Pizarro

**Absent:** Joe Fitzgibbon

**Others Present:**

Scott Greenberg, Community Development Department director; Jeremy Hammar, planning intern

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**Roll Call**

Chair Shull called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. At the call of the roll all commissioners were present except Commissioner Fitzgibbon, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner McInteer. Commissioners Bennett and McInteer arrived at 7:05 p.m.

**Agenda Confirmation**

Motion to approve the agenda as printed was made by Commissioner Clingan. Second was by Commissioner Grage and the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2009, and March 10, 2009, was made by Commissioner Clingan; second was by Commissioner Grage. The motion carried unanimously.

Newly appointed Commissioner Rachel Pizarro was introduced.

**Old Business**

A. Continuing discussion on sustainability strategy

Jeremy Hammar, planning intern, briefly reviewed the work the commission has done thus far and asked for commissioners' input as he led them through a preliminary outline of a sustainability strategy based upon that work.

Commissioner McInteer asked if water issues would fall under the area of resource conservation. He confirmed that it would. Commissioner Bennett asked why there is a "protection of ecosystems" goal but not an area of focus. Mr. Hammar said he thought it could fall under resource conservation, but it could become an area of focus. Scott Greenberg, Community Development Department director, suggested adding "Environmental Protection and Preservation" to the areas of focus. Going back to the stated purpose, "To ensure that the social, environmental and economic systems that make up the city are

providing a healthy and meaningful life for residents and visitors alike,” Mr. Bennett asked if, in situations where there is a conflict between, for instance, environmental and economic priorities, there should be an emphasis put on environmental, rather than allowing critical areas and resources to be chipped away in the name of economic need. He said he would like to see an emphasis on preserving the environmental habitats and ecosystems that the city has; he wonders if an emphasis needs to be put in writing in case there is a conflict.

Commissioner Clingan said he suspects it is better to wait until a conflict occurs, since it is nearly impossible to plan for every possibility, and let the City Council or hearing examiner resolve it.

Commissioner Pizarro said she agreed that there should be something about environmental protection in the areas of focus. She said she believed the economic vs. environmental issues would be addressed sufficiently during the land use approval process as long as the goals for environmental protection are well-established and the City stands its ground.

Mr. Greenberg asked the commissioners if the term “environmental stewardship” is an acceptable replacement for “environmental protection and preservation” as he thinks it is a broader concept. Chair Shull said she prefers “environmental stewardship” because it sounds more all-encompassing and less regulatory than “environmental protection and preservation.” However, she said she is not sure how she feels about giving more weight to one area, allowing that communities often give more weight to the economic system; she likes the concept of the three-legged stool, having all areas of focus balanced. But the question of whether to give more weight to one area is a valid one, she said. Mr. Greenberg offered to bring more information to the commission at a future meeting on whether other cities have worked toward or achieved balance in their sustainability programs and whether any of them have given more weight to one area of focus over others. The commissioners agreed that they would like to explore that question more extensively.

Chair Shull said she wondered if the language “residents and visitors alike” was inclusive enough, incorporating the daytime population that may work in Burien but not live in the city. Mr. Greenberg said staff would work on crafting language inclusive of people who live in, work in and visit Burien.

Mr. Hammar continued reviewing the draft strategy outline. In reference to developing the strategy, Mr. Hammar noted that for each area of focus four things need to be considered: why is it important; what already is being done; what should be done; and how to measure that progress is being made.

He noted that as the strategy is being developed the City should focus on executable tasks, i.e. “low-hanging fruit,” that will let the community see that progress is being made, which in turn can build community involvement.

Mr. Greenberg explained that staff will begin converting the outline into a text format, bringing sections back to the Planning Commission for review. He encouraged the commissioners to contact Jeremy Hammar if they have additional thoughts and ideas.

### **New Business**

None

### **Planning Commission Communications**

Commissioner Grage shared that her husband recently received a publication from a company called Osborne Woodworking that included an article about the company’s sustainability program. She thought it was interesting that companies, as well as municipalities, are developing and publicizing sustainability strategies.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Greenberg announced that the new City Hall will open on Tuesday, May 19. The grand opening celebration will be Saturday, June 13.

He said the Business and Economic Partnership (BEDP) has been working on an economic vision for Burien and soon will be soliciting ideas from the community; there will be something on the City's website. If the BEDP develops a vision it is satisfied with, the vision will be submitted to the Planning Commission as part of this year's Comprehensive Plan amendment process.

Mr. Greenberg announced that the Boundary Review Board's hearing on Burien's proposed annexation would be Monday, March 30, at the Tukwila Residence Inn. The board's decision would be issued a couple of weeks later.

Finally, he noted that the City Council has changed its meeting schedule from the first four Mondays of every month to the first, second and fourth Monday, taking the third Monday off. During the summer, the council will meet the first and second Mondays of the month. All meetings will be City Council meetings featuring discussion items, business items and a public comment period on the same agenda instead of being broken into business meetings and study sessions.

Chair Shull asked how the proposed Commute Trip Reduction ordinance fared before the City Council the night before. Mr. Greenberg said he heard planner Liz Ockwell did a very good job presenting it to the council and that it is on the council's consent agenda for its April 6 meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grage. Chair Shull adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

/s/ Janet Shull, chair