

**MINUTES OF THE
SPOKANE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
November 14, 2019**

A meeting of the Spokane County Planning Commission was called to order by Stephen Pohl, at 9:00 a.m. on November 14, 2019 in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, Lower Level, Public Works Building, Spokane, WA.

Present

Stephen Pohl, Chair Deacon Band
Pete Rayner, Vice Chair
Clyde Haase
Jim Carollo

Staff

Steve Davenport, Senior Planner, Spokane County Department of Building and Planning
Saegen Neiman, Associate Planner, Spokane County Department of Building and Planning
Paul Knowles, Parks Special Projects Manager, Spokane County Parks and Recreation
Jane Farstrider, Clerk of the Planning Commission, Spokane County Department of Building and Planning

Interested parties show on the attached copy of the Sign-In Sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Stephen Pohl called the meeting to order.
2. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.
3. **Briefing:** 2020 Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan ("Park Plan"). Paul Knowles gave presentation on the Park Plan, and indicated that it was last revisited in 2013, and approved in 2014. In addition to plans for maintaining existing parks and adding new parks to areas without them, Mr. Knowles noted that trail maintenance and development are currently a major focus of the department, and that the regional trail plan would be updated in the next year.

There was a five-minute recess.

4. **Public Hearing:** Spokane County Comprehensive Plan Update. Steve Davenport gave a review of the 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Update and summarized the requirements under the Growth Management Act, which included compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act, agency review, public participation, and Spokane Regional Transportation review and certification. He explained how proposed changes would remedy inconsistencies with the Zoning Code and adjust the timeframe for submitting requests for Comprehensive Plan Amendments. In addition to reviewing material from the previous briefings, Mr. Davenport shared data from the housing Affordability Index, which placed Spokane at 172.6, as well as the Mineral Lands Inventory. He added that Spokane County is currently only using 1,000 out of 3,000 acres of mineral lands for mining, and that over 5,000 were allotted in the Comprehensive Plan.

Public comment was opened regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update. Paul Kropp commended the Parks Department on the Park Plan and stated his position on the process for Comprehensive Plan Amendments; urging the County to make public participation early and continuous. Debra Rauen echoed Mr. Kropp's sentiments about earlier input in the Comprehensive Plan amendment process, stating that there is a steep learning curve for private citizens, and that they are at a disadvantage compared to developers. Kitty Klitzky mentioned that Mike Cummings is still listed among the Planning Commission members on the website and stated her support of earlier involvement in the Comprehensive Plan amendment process. She also requested clarification on page 5 of the

Draft Comprehensive Plan Update and said that the document does not include a concurrency analysis. Greg Figg expressed the opinion that the transportation element should be included in both the Capital Facilities Plan and the Comprehensive Plan Update. Darin Watkins spoke briefly regarding the housing crisis in Spokane, saying that as of 2019, we are at 57% homeownership, and that there is currently a 5-week supply of housing. He added that we are at risk of stifling economic growth because of the housing crisis, which is affecting people at all levels.

Clyde Haase moved to keep the record open for additional comment and continue the hearing to December 12th, Pete Rayner seconded the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Action on Minutes of: September 26, 2019. Jim Carollo moved to approve the minutes. Clyde Haase seconded the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Staff Report: None.

9. Planning Commission Issues: There was some brief discussion regarding term expiration/reapplication dates for Planning Commission members.

10. Set Next Agenda. The next hearing date was set for December 12th. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.



Stephen Pohl, Chair

Approved

12/12/19