

**Full CBJ Assembly Sitting as the Human Resources Committee
Planning Commission
Advanced Interview Questions-2024**

Applicant Name: Hans Erik Pedersen —

1. What about your life experiences and/or interests makes you want to be a Planning Commissioner?

Experience in Land Surveying, Land Use Planning, Engineering and Materials Testing. Skilled in interpretation of Land Use Codes and Statutes.

2. What do you think is the fundamental role of the Planning Commission?

The Planning Commission reviews and updates the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Program, as well as City projects. The Commission also reviews private and public development plans for compliance with adopted City plans such as Title 49 Land Use Code. The Commission also functions as the Board of Adjustment in reviewing Variances and Code interpretations.

3. What are your thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan and its updating process?

Given that the plan is intended to provide a guide for development it is important to have realistic expectations with regards to population growth. The intent of the Comprehensive Plan does not seem to be reflected in the Land Use Code. Updates to Comprehensive Plan and/or Land Use Code should be done in a way that brings the two into harmony with each other.

4. Do you have any interests that would pose a potential conflict of interest on matters coming before the Planning Commission?

I am an employee of the State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities. I would have to recuse myself on certain matters if serving on the Planning Commission.

5. Describe your experiences in the areas of land use, construction, and/or transportation.

I have extensive experience in land use planning including preparing zoning maps and utility master plans for small communities. Through working as a Professional Land Surveyor of many residential, commercial, municipal, state and federal construction projects I have developed great working knowledge of different types of construction practices and methods. Currently I am employed at Alaska DOT&PF and have experience in transportation projects including difference aspects as they pertain to obtaining funding for transportation related projects.

6. What do you think is the role of the Planning Commission in economic development and community building?

The Planning Commission has influence on the development and implementation of regulations that can promote or stifle economic development. It is important to find right sized solutions that fit community needs and create economic growth. Zoning is an opportunity to build well rounded community's that can promote a sense of pride to the residents that live within them. CBJ has many separated community areas that could benefit from well thought out zoning practices.

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7. Please describe the appropriate relationship between the Planning Commission and the Assembly.

The Planning Commission reviews the comprehensive plan, capital improvements program, CBJ land disposals and makes recommendations to the Assembly. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Assembly on proposed amendments to Title 49, zonings and rezoning's.

8. What role should sustainability concerns play in Planning Commission decisions?

The Planning Commission's decisions should not disregard the needs of future generations to fulfill the needs or wants of today's citizens. It is important to look at sustainability indicators to determine if infrastructure is being over or under built and to make sure that it meets current and future needs.

9. Describe how you have helped to resolve conflicts while working in groups with members who disagree.

Conflict and disagreement are an important part of being part of a working group. It is important to understand opposite points of view and to not dismiss them. In the end, with a little collaboration a solution may become evident that has more promise than any of the initial ideas expressed by individuals or groups.

10. The Planning Commission requires a significant investment of your time. Twice monthly meetings (from 2-10 hours). Committee meetings and prep time (equal to meeting time or more). Are you committed to be at all the meetings as required?

Yes