



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, March 25, 2024

Subject: Planning Commission Appointment Confirmation

Category: Consent

Staff Contact: Aimee Kellerman, CMC, City Clerk on behalf of the Personnel Committee

Summary

Planning Commission Position No. 6 is currently vacant due to the resignation of Commissioner David Langworthy, whose work commitments interfered with his ability to take on the extra meetings necessary to complete the Comprehensive Plan. Many thanks to Mr. Langworthy for his thoughtful contributions over the years.

The City received three applications to fill Position No. 6. All candidates were interviewed on March 12th by Council Personnel Committee member Mac Johnston, Planning Commission Chair Laura Bustamante, and Mayor Jessica Rossman. Also present were City Manager Steve Burns and Planning Manager Jonathan Kesler, along with Deputy Clerk Dawn Nations. The applications are attached.

The interview panel unanimously recommends appointment of Julie Barrett to Position No. 6 on the Planning Commission.

This was an impressive applicant pool, and each candidate brought strengths that could benefit Medina. What made Ms. Barrett stand out was her enthusiastic focus on community as a common theme in how she thinks about a variety of city issues, the relevant work and neighborhood conversations she has already begun, and her explanation of how her experience is currently under-represented on Planning Commission (and Council).

Ms. Barrett is a retired teacher and school counselor who has lived in Medina for over 40 years, and described feeling “very impacted” by the changes in Medina and the greater region. She spoke extensively about the importance of rebuilding a sense of community, including that theme in many of her responses to our questions. For example, when asked about her concerns for Medina moving forward, her answer included that she would like to see future development encourage connectedness and green spaces, ensuring there are places for people to come together. Later in the interview, she talked about efforts she’s made to collaborate with other Medina residents and other members of St. Thomas Church to identify ways for people to stay in their home communities despite rising costs; she would like to find more ways to collaborate and problem-solve on that subject. The interview panel agrees with Ms. Barrett that potential displacement is an important concern within the City, and deserves informed representation on Planning Commission – especially as we specifically focus on housing issues. The panel also appreciated that Ms. Barrett connected community with cost-of-living concerns.

Ms. Barrett came to the interview having already researched and read about the state's recent housing mandates, and she is enthusiastic about being involved in envisioning how things could be. Ms. Barrett's genuine interest in learning about development codes and land use was apparent, and her discussion was energetic.

Pursuant to RCW 35.63.020 and MMC 2.28.010 regarding processes for Planning Commission appointments, and Council Guidelines 3.5.2 regarding criteria for appointments, the Mayor requests Council's confirmation of Julie Barrett's appointment to Planning Commission Position No. 6, effective immediately.

This meets and supports Council's priorities 3 and 5.

Council Priorities:

1. Financial Stability and Accountability
2. Quality Infrastructure
3. Efficient and Effective Government
4. Public Safety and Health
5. Neighborhood Character and Community Building

Attachment

Application of Julie Barrett

Budget/Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Approve.

City Manager Approval: 

Proposed Council Motion: "I move to appoint Julie Barrett to Position No. 6 on the Medina Planning Commission for the remainder of the term."