

Chapter 3.46 - PLANNING COMMISSION

3.46.010 - Established.

There is established pursuant to chapter 35A.63 RCW a commission to be known as the "planning commission."

3.46.020 - Purpose—Function and jurisdiction.

The planning commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the city council and have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Review and make recommendations on amendments to the comprehensive plan;
- B. Review and make recommendations on amendments to development regulations;
- C. Hold public hearings in the exercise of its duties and responsibilities;
- D. Such other duties as may be assigned by the city council or established by local ordinance or state statute; and
- E. When applicable, complete tasks in subsections A through D within the timeframe established by city council.

3.46.030 - Membership.

A. *Qualifications.*

1. Paid Practitioner Non-Resident: An individual not affiliated with Mercer Island entities or interests with a minimum of five years of experience in land use planning in the State of Washington. Examples of qualifying positions include land use / municipal attorney, hearing examiner, urban planner, or architect, engineer or builder with land use experience. Demonstrated experience in public service, working with the Growth Management Act (GMA), Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) as well as the drafting of land use policies and codes preferred. This position will be compensated.
2. Lay Person Resident: An individual with general interest in land use planning, environmental affairs, and/or economic development. Demonstrated experience in public service and land use planning preferred. Proof of Mercer Island residency required. This position will not be compensated.
3. Paid Practitioner Resident: An individual with a minimum of three years of experience in land use planning in the State of Washington. Examples of qualifying positions include land use / municipal attorney, hearing examiner, urban planner, or architect, engineer or builder with land use experience. Demonstrated experience in public service, working with the Growth Management Act (GMA), Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) as well as the drafting of land use policies and codes preferred. Proof of Mercer Island residency required. This position will be compensated.

4. Any vacancy may be filled by a resident lay person if unable to find a qualified paid practitioner. If two resident paid practitioners apply, the council should give preference to appointing resident paid practitioner applicants for any open non-resident practitioner positions.

~~1. Applicants who have an interest in environmental affairs, planning, land use, property development, and/or economic development as evidenced by training, experience, or actions will be given preference for appointment; however, a broad mix of occupational backgrounds is desired.~~

~~2. An intent of the appointment process shall be to evenly represent the areas of interest as stated above and reflect the city's diverse community. Appointed members shall represent the public interest and not specific interest groups.~~

B. *Members.*

1. *Number.* The planning commission shall consist of five members, serving in nonpartisan positions: as follows:

a. Two Paid Practitioner Non-Resident.

b. Two Lay Person Resident.

c. One Paid Practitioner Resident.

~~2. *Residency.* City residency is required.~~

~~3. *Terms.* The term of each member is four years and expires on May 31 of the last year of the term or until the member's successor is appointed. The year of expiration of the terms of the positions shall be staggered with the following groups of positions expiring in successive years: positions 1 and 2; positions 3 and 4-5; positions ~~5-6 and 7.~~ Except, to stagger the expiration of the terms, the initial term for position 5 shall be two years, and for positions 3 and 4 they shall be three years – all expiring on May 31 after the second and third anniversaries of their initial appointments, respectively.~~

~~4. *Term limits.* No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. If a member is appointed to a vacancy with two or more years remaining on the term, that term will be deemed a full term. If a member is appointed to a vacancy with less than two years remaining in the term, that term will not count toward the two-consecutive-term limit.~~

~~5. *Staff liaison.* The city manager shall appoint a staff liaison to assist with support services for the planning commission. Such staff support shall include, but not be limited to, the development of work plans and schedules, guidelines and procedures, correspondence, and agenda preparation and distribution.~~

C. *Appointment.* Appointments to the planning commission will be made by a vote of the city council during a ~~regularly~~ scheduled open meeting. ~~Members shall serve without compensation.~~

D. *Removal.* Members may be removed by the mayor and deputy mayor, with the concurrence of the city council, for neglect of duty, conflict of interest, malfeasance in office, or other just cause, or for unexcused absences from more than three consecutive regular meetings. The decision of the city council shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom. Members finding themselves unable to regularly attend meetings are expected to resign and notify the chair and staff liaison.

E. *Compensation.* Paid practitioners shall be compensated five hundred dollars (\$500) per meeting of the planning commission **attended** (Regular or Special).

3.46.040 - Meetings—Organization.

The planning commission shall not meet more than a total of 11 Regular meetings and up to 10 Special meetings each calendar year. The time and place of meetings and other rules and regulations shall be determined by the planning commission, which shall be on file with the City Clerk.~~The planning commission shall determine the time and place of its meetings and other rules and regulations, which shall be on file with the city clerk.~~

3.46.050 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. 19C-01 repealed § 3.46.050 which pertained to the instruction of members.

3.46.060 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. 19C-01 repealed § 3.46.060 which pertained to vacancy filling for unexpired terms.

3.46.070 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. 19C-01 repealed § 3.46.070 which pertained to removal and vacancies on the planning commission.

3.46.080 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. 19C-01 repealed § 3.46.080 which pertained to comprehensive plan responsibilities.