



# PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

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## CALL TO ORDER

The Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Murphy at 6:00 pm.

Chair Michael Murphy, Vice Chair Adam Ragheb, and Commissioners Kate Akyuz, Angela Battazzo, and Victor Raisys, were present remotely.

## Staff Remote Participation:

Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director, Adam Zack, Senior Planner, and Deb Estrada, Deputy City Clerk

**APPEARANCES.** There were no public appearances.

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

### 1. **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes** of the May 15, 2024, Special Meeting:

A motion was made by Battazzo; seconded by Akyuz to:

**Approve the minutes.**

Approved 5-0

### 2. **PCB 24-14: Planning Commission Administration – Elections, Bylaws, Housing Work Group Appointment**

Deputy City Clerk Estrada opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Vice Chair Ragheb nominated Chair Murphy for Chair. Murphy declined the nomination.

Chair Murphy nominated Commissioner Battazzo for Chair.

There being no other nominations. Deputy City Clerk Estrada called for a motion.

A motion was made by Ragheb; seconded by Akyuz to:

**Elect Angela Battazzo as Chair**

Approved 5-0

Deputy City Clerk Estrada opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Chair Battazzo nominated Commissioner Murphy for Vice Chair.

There being no other nominations. Deputy City Clerk Estrada called for a motion.

A motion was made by Akyuz; seconded by Raisys to:

**Elect Michael Murphy as Vice Chair**

Approved 5-0

Deputy Director Van Gorp reported that the Planning Commission bylaws would be updated to incorporate City Code amendments made by Council.

Deputy Director Van Gorp explained that Commissioner Boatsman's departure left a vacancy on the Housing Work Group, which Council intended to reconvene. Vice Chair Murphy asked for a motion to appoint a volunteer from the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Akyuz; seconded by Murphy to:  
**Appoint Angela Battazzo to serve on the Housing Work Group**  
Approved 5-0

### 3. PCB 24-15: Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review – Deliberations

**Consensus** – There was consensus that the next iteration of the comment table be grouped by topic, provide analysis on the alignment of each comment with Commerce Guidance, MPPs and CPPs, as well as a staff response and recommended amendments, where appropriate.

A motion was made by Ragheb; seconded by Raisys to:  
**Add to the Planning Commission findings: “Transportation Element Policy Goal 4.9 received two strong public comments. During a brief discussion, it was brought up that key definitions related to this goal are not currently contained within the Comprehensive Plan document.”**

A motion was made by Akyuz; seconded by Murphy to:  
**Table the motion to be considered with the revised table that includes all the public comments.**  
Approved 3-2

A motion was made by Ragheb; seconded by Murphy that:  
**The Planning Commission add to its findings: “Transportation Element Policy Goal 4.10 received six public comments asking that we note that off-street parking is important to families and those who are handicapped.”**  
Approved: 5-0

A motion was made by Ragheb; seconded by Akyuz to:  
**Correct the phrase on Page 2, third paragraph from “The regional Mountains-to-Sound Trail runs along the I 90 corridor providing a convenient connection to Seattle and Bellevue for pedestrians and bicyclists.” to “The regional Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail runs along the I 90 corridor providing a convenient connection to Seattle and Bellevue for pedestrians and bicyclists.”**  
Approved: 5-0

A motion was made by Ragheb; seconded by Murphy to:  
**Amend Transportation Element Policy 3.3 on Page 4 to add “and retain trees” per public comment. It currently reads “Construct transportation improvements with sensitivity to existing trees and vegetation. Encourage programs that plant trees in unused portions of public rights-of-way.” And as amended would read, “Construct transportation improvements with sensitivity to existing trees and vegetation. Encourage programs that plant trees and retain trees in unused portions of public rights-of-way.”**  
Approved: 4-1

A motion was made by Ragheb; seconded by Raisys to:

- 1) Revise the second to last paragraph on Page 19 from **“Link light rail runs through Mercer Island along the median of I-90 with a station located north of the Town Center, between 77th Avenue SE and 80th Avenue SE. The light rail provides frequent connections to Seattle, Bellevue, and other regional destinations.”** to **“Link light rail is planned to run through Mercer Island along the median of I-90 with a station located north of the Town Center, between 77th Avenue SE and 80th Avenue SE. It is planned for the light rail to provide frequent connections to Seattle, Bellevue, and other regional destinations.”**
- 2) Revise the second paragraph of Page 23 from **“The opening of the East Link light rail line provides an additional travel option between the Town Center and regional destinations.”** to **“The analysis assumes the opening of the East Link light rail line in 2023, which will result in an additional travel option between the Town Center and regional destinations.”**

Failed: 3-2

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**4. Deputy Director's Report** – No report provided.

**5. Planned Absences for Future Meetings.**

**ADJOURNED** - The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

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Deborah Estrada, Deputy City Clerk