

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Stevenson Planning Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, April 10, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

**Planning Commission Chair Breckel** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**                      **Commissioners Jeff Breckel, Auguste Zettler, Anne Keesee, Davy Ray. Commissioner Hales was absent.**

**STAFF PRESENT**                      **Community Development Director Ben Shumaker, Planning & Public Works Assistant Tiffany Andersen**

**GUESTS PRESENT**                      Marina French DCG/The Watershed Company

**PUBLIC PRESENT**                      Mary Repar, Bernard Versari, Pat Rice, Paul Lee.

**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. **Public Comment Expectations** **Shumaker** provided information on tools to use for remote participants: \*6 to mute/unmute & \*9 to raise hand. Commenters must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair. Individual comments may be limited to 3 minutes. Disruptive individuals may be required to leave the meeting. Persistent disruptions may result in the meeting being recessed and continued at a later date.

2. **Public Comment Period** (For items not located elsewhere on the agenda)

>Mary Repar spoke about the city’s street tree program and care and maintenance of street trees. She also urged the city to take care of existing programs and services.

Her comments prompted a short discussion among Commissioners on street tree selection and care.

No further comments were provided.

3. **May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes** Approval of the minutes as presented from the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Planning Commission was unanimous.

**B. New Business**                      No new business was introduced.

**C. Old Business**

4. **Shoreline Public Access:**                      **Presentation from DCG/The Watershed Company/Marina French**

Marina French, Landscape Architect with DCG/Watershed provided information and details on the various Shoreline Access projects under consideration. The information will also be presented at the City Council meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Topics discussed included the scoring methodology used, determination and definition of risk factors within the scoring matrix, potential parking conflicts at

Waterfront sites, and sidewalk placements. Public comments on the project were also reviewed.

Several community members spoke regarding Waterfront usage and design proposals for pathways and sidewalks.

>Paul Lee questioned the value of creating a loop trail by Bob's Beach. He commented that a sidewalk from Teo Park would not be used much, would obstruct traffic flow, and reduce parking options in an area already heavily used. He also suggested sidewalks up past the Port Building would not be in keeping with what most people want to use when enjoying the Waterfront.

>Pat Rice spoke in agreement with Paul Lee about a sidewalk, and highlighted the scenic viewpoints along the Waterfront trail as a valuable asset for tourists and residents.

With the grant deadline approaching, Commission members expressed a desire to present the SPA plan at a 'big picture' or conceptual level, with opportunities built in for additional community input, involvement and support as project designs are further evaluated. **Commission Chair Breckel** advised the overall intent is to develop better shoreline access within the city. **Shumaker** noted the plan will likely be incorporated into the Shoreline Management Plan and possibly the Capital Improvement Plan.

## 5. Subcommittee Reports

### Downtown Parking

**Commissioner Keese** reported on Downtown Parking. A further parking study/survey will take place on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to gather additional data on parking needs during high usage times in order to prioritize parking improvement projects and policies. Volunteers are requested to help assist.

### Annexation

Work on annexation will resume following the return of **Commissioner Hales**. Staff changes within the county planning departments have also delayed the Committee's work. Data sets comparing building density on city and county lands are being reviewed.

### Discussion

## 6. Thought of the Month Earthquake Aftermath

<https://www.reuters.com/graphics/TURKEY-QUAKE/TOXINS/zvnbmyrzvl/>

Who are streets for?

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2023/5/22/silly-rabbit-streets-are-for-kids?>

7. **Staff & Commission Reports** Shumaker presented brief updates on the following items:

**Broadband**

Separate projects are being funded through Washington State and the federal government to determine best ways to provide services through local providers. Skamania County, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and Washington State University are serving as partners.

**Iman Cemetery Road Sewer**

The project has been slowed due to numerous rocks within the site.

Stevenson's Public Works Director, Carolyn Sourek will be approaching the city council regarding their view on the initiation of Urban Reserves as a way to increase sewer connections.

*From Stevenson's Comprehensive Plan, pg. 53:*

*URBAN RESERVE: An area within which future development and extension of public services are contemplated but not imminent. Existing uses, particularly vacant lands and very low density single-family housing, coexist with uses otherwise characteristic of more rural areas. Further development within an Urban Reserve is discouraged until public services can be provided and urban level densities and intensities of land use can occur.*

**First Street Overlook**

The city has received a \$663K grant via the Transportation Alternative Program funds for use on the project.

**Columbia Street Realignment**

The final evaluation of brownfield contamination at the site has just been received. Realignment feasibility for the above ground portion of the project should be reported soon.

**8. Adjournment**

Adjournment at 7:46 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Minutes recorded by  
Johanna Roe