



Planning Commission Meeting

433 Cherry Street, Sumas
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

Ex-Officio Josh Clawson
Carson Cortez, City Planner
Michelle Quinn, City Clerk

Present

Jacob Williams
Helen Solem
Teresa Josephson
Lizette Custer
Absent
John VanWingerden

Lizette Custer made a motion to approve January 21, 2025, Minutes, Helen Solem seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Carson Cortez, City Planner started with the 2016 community vision and goals and asked the commissioners if they have produced any additions or changes for the community vision plan.

Teresa Josephson has presented the ideas she would like to see in the Sumas Vision statement in the new comprehensive plan update. Helen Solem suggested using the 2016 community vision with a few updates. Discussion on different ideas to create a more updated vision statement for the comprehensive plan.

Carson will update the vision statement with all the suggestions and recommendations and bring it back to the next meeting.

Carson asked if anyone has any changes or suggestions that they would like to see with these goals. The commissioners would like to remove objective 2.1 for a park to be placed in the Garfield Street subdivision. There is no place to put a park. Carson also recommended to remove objective 5.2 regarding a youth center and change the statement to support and enhance the historical society programs. Teresa would like to see a group of volunteers to help with a youth center in the future or any event that would need volunteers.

Carson is going to go over the goals and objectives removing anything that no longer applies and updating the current goals.

Carson started with the transportation element goals and policies this is lengthy section to go over. The Transportation Element covers most of the city's goals and policies. Lizette and Helen would like to see the truck traffic on Cherry Street start using the heavy haul road.

Carson went over the goal and policies for the utilities element, everyone agreed the goals and policies look good as currently listed.

Teresa asked about the policy for moving businesses to Sumas Avenue, Carson would like to see some businesses move to Sumas Avenue with low traffic and residents. Helen and Lizette do not like the idea of businesses on Sumas Avenue causing traffic and large trucks to drive down the road. Teresa is in favor also of leaving Sumas Avenue residential and removing that from our goals and policies.

The rest of Economic Development Element policies and goals will stay the same.

Carson advised there is a new state law requiring a climate change element to be part of our comprehensive plan. The planning commission will have to come up with goals and policies for this new section to include in our comprehensive plan.

Mayor Bosch re-appointed Jacob Williams and John VanWingerden to the Planning Commission for a term of three years.

Next meeting will be March 17, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Jacob Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lizette Custer seconded; all were in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Josh Clawson, Ex Officio

City Clerk