

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LAND USE PLANNING DIVISION
MULTNOMAH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2023
Virtual Meeting/Zoom

This is not a full transcript. Time indicators reference the meeting recording, which is accessible at the following Dropbox link:

https://www.dropbox.com/home/LUP%20Public%20Records%20Request?di=left_nav_browse&preview=May+1+2023+Planning+Commission+Zoom+Recording.mp4

1. Call to Order

(00:00:01) Chair John Ingle calls the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. on May 1, 2023.

2. Roll Call

(00:00:30) Chair Ingle conducts a role call and declares a quorum present.

- Present –John Ingle, Chris Foster, Stephanie Nystrom, Victoria Purvine, Barbara Alexander, Kari Egger, Tim Wood
- Absent – Alicia Denney, Bill Kabeiseman

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

(00:00:45) Minutes from the April 3, 2023 meeting are presented for adoption.

(00:00:49) A motion to approve is made by Commissioner Nystrom.

(00:00:57) The motion is seconded by Commissioner Foster.

(00:01:12) A roll call vote is held. The motion to approve minutes is passed unanimously.

4. Opportunity for Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(00:02:33) Chair Ingle asks to see if there is anyone from the public joining the meeting wanted to give public comment on non-agenda items. Scott Robison, Recording Secretary, lets him know that two members of the public have joined the meeting, but do not want to offer public testimony.

5. Introduction to Planning Director Scot Siegel

(00:02:55) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, introduces Scot Siegel who is the newest Planning Director of the Land Use Department. Scot comes with three decades of experience in both the public and private sector. He has experience on the technical side, as well as the program management side for land use planning for code enforcement, community development, and building safety.

(00:05:43) Scot Siegel, Planning Director, thanks Adam for the wonderful introduction and for serving as interim director while the position was being filled. Scot was drawn the job to be able to work with the planning commission, and to the county's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. He enjoys

process improvement, and sees opportunity to have better outcomes for the community.

(00:09:45) Chair Ingle tells Scot about this background and how he arrived as chair of the commission. The rest of the commissioners do the same about how they arrived to their current station.

6. 2023 Planning Commission Recruitment – 3 seats

(00:19:49) Kevin Cook, Senior Planner, discusses the planning commission recruitment for three open seats and informs the commission that the recruitment finishes May 18th. The seats that are up right now are for Commissioners Denny, Nystrom, and Egger, and they are encouraged to apply for the next term. A new question around diversity, equity, and inclusion has been added on the application to become a commissioner.

(00:021:53) Scot Siegel, Planning Director, explains that they are looking for a planning commissioner to volunteer if anyone is interested in helping to review applications.

(00:22:57) Commissioner Foster indicates his willingness to help review applications.

7. Briefing – Land Use Planning Activities

(00:25:23) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, gives a presentation to report out on land use planning activities from the last calendar year. There is currently 12 staff total that is divided up into three sections including: current planning, long range planning, and code compliance / solid waste & recycling. Adam shows a slide showing general customer inquiries from CY2022. We have very few counter walk-ins compared to past years, and the vast majority prefer to interact virtually.

(00:39:43) Commissioner Purvine has had feedback from others hoping that in person operations would resume. Commissioner Egger agreed with Commissioner Purvine, and believes the people want to come in and feel like the county is reachable.

(00:43:59) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, thanks the commissioners for their feedback, and would like to speak with them more in depth offline. He says it would be great to have the commissioners be a part of the design of the new permitting system. Adam continues his presentation and a slide shows the land use approvals over the last ten years. Typically, there are three denials a year, and it's clear that land use staff is working with the public to get to a yes. The average processing days of type 2 and type 3 cases has risen in the last few years, most of this is due to the added complexity of these cases that are coming in. For code compliance, the compliance office is receiving about 25 new complaints a year, and resolving about 25 compliance cases a year, but there is still a larger backlog of compliance cases beyond that to deal with. There will be two new compliance performance measures that will be included this year in the proposed budget if the board approves them. One deals with the number of calendar days to investigate high priority complaints, and the other is the percentage of compliance cases resolved through voluntary compliance measures. We were allocated money to audit our zoning code, but this Equity Audit was not able to get off the ground. There was a recruitment to find a planner who may be the right fit to help with the audit, but that right candidate never appeared, and there had been some general staff turnover as well. There is a proposal that has been offered in the proposed budget to continue the project and the funding of the project to next year.

(01:25:17) Commissioner Wood wants to get an idea where current staffing levels are for the land use group.

(01:27:08) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, says Land Use is fully staffed, and there are no vacant positions. He does not anticipate staffing will increase next year. There was a consultant that gave an organizational assessment, and the recommendation was to simplify the code, and then it would take a shorter time for staff to process applications. The code is complicated, and any new hires take some time to get up to speed to understand and work with it.

(01:32:04) Commissioner Egger asks Adam to identify what the word equity means in the title of the code Equity Audit.

(01:32:011) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, says the key question is the code resulting in equitable outcomes. There is often the same process cost and time for a small project as a big project. Another example is that we send notice of proposals to property owners, yet we're not required to send notices to renters. The Equity Audit's purpose is to address these inequities.

8. Work Session – Annual Election of Planning Commission Officers pursuant to Multnomah County Code 39.1620

(01:36:33) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, says that every year the Commission elect from among its members a chair and vice chair, and there's an opportunity to elect a second vice chair as well. Adam read the nominations that were emailed to him earlier. John Ingle was nominated for Chair, and Bill Kabeiseman and Victoria Purvine for Vice Chair. Adam opens the floor for discussion among the commissioners.

(01:41:33) Scott Robison, Recording Secretary, performs a roll call vote to confirm John Ingle as Chair, and Victoria Purvine as Vice Chair for the next year. The roll call vote is unanimously approved.

9. Management and Schedule Updates

(01:42:45) Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, and Scot Siegel, Planning Director, have no management or schedule updates to give at this time.

(01:43:15) The meeting is adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Scott Robison