

Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

1:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Jon Scanlon

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee member Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Jon Scanlon

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Kaylee Galloway, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Special Order of Business

1. [AB2025-007](#) Nomination and appointment of Committee Chair

Donovan moved and Scanlon seconded to appoint Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Scanlon, Donovan, and Elenbaas

Nay: 0

Elenbaas was APPOINTED.

Appointed Elenbaas as Chair

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2025-019](#) Resolution approving recommendations on Open Space applications

Alexander Harris, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the councilmembers and stated the file that staff put forward for action in November (**AB2024-785**) was not noted with the correct file type (it needed to be a resolution, as required by the Revised Code of Washington) in the system, but Council agreed with the recommendations to approve the two applications.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, stated the file in November was a “Request for Motion” file type and a motion was approved, but the resolution itself was not approved.

Donovan stated he remembers one of the proposals that did not meet the required score on the public benefit rating system and Council wanted to schedule a discussion about re-examining the metrics and how they work.

Councilmembers and Harris discussed that proposal, the discussion that

Donovan referred to, and that changes to the rating system might have to be at a State level.

Donovan moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Elenbaas, and Scanlon

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Ben Elenbaas-via email 1/28/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

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