

# **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 23, 2024**

**1:55 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:25 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY  
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Jon Scanlon

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Committee member Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 1:55 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 Stremmer

## Announcements

### Committee Discussion

1. [AB2024-089](#) Discussion of proposed ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Titles 2 and 3 regarding certain Advisory Committees and abolishing the Appeals Board

*Clerk's note:* There was originally one ordinance associated with this discussion and then after the agenda was published, it was determined that it needed to actually be two separate ordinances. So, Planning staff created two separate ordinances (**AB2024-088** and **AB2024-100**) and the latter was added to the Council's Introduction by an agenda revision. This discussion, however, covers both ordinances.

Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department, spoke about splitting the original ordinance into two and stated he would discuss each of them one at a time.

#### AB2024-088 regarding advisory committees

Strong read from the Staff Memo (on file) and described the proposed amendments submitted by the noted advisory boards. He stated that Council staff, Jill Nixon, provided a few more edits this morning regarding getting rid of the language requiring an applicant to be a qualified registered voter.

Lauren Templeton, Planning and Development Services Department, answered how many people on the Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee who actually participate in the program will be affected by these changes. She stated they do not currently have any members who also participate in the program.

Byrd asked about the proposed amendment regarding applicant qualifications and stated he thought, when this was discussed before, that the Council voted to adopt an ordinance (**AB2023-775; Ord 2023-082**) to

change that requirement for all committees, but Strong stated that ordinance states, “The requirements of this chapter shall not supersede the requirements specified in the enabling ordinance, resolution, or interlocal agreement for any advisory group.”

**AB2024-100** regarding abolishing the County Appeals Board

Strong read from the Staff Memo (on file) on the proposed amendments.

Curtis Metz, Planning and Development Services Department, answered who the one member in active status is and stated he does not know their name off-hand, but they are in the last year of their term. He answered whether the Hearing Examiner's Office concurs that this would not have much of an impact on their workload, budget, or staffing levels, and stated the Hearing Examiner's Office is in agreement with the proposed ordinance. He answered what kinds of things would have gone to the County Appeals Board and stated the board makes determination on decisions of the Building Official and/or Fire Marshall on the building codes.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Ben Elenbaas-via email 3/1/2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE