

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, December 5, 2023

1:55 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:15 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee member Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 2:23 in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2023-750](#) Resolution approving recommendations on applications for open space current use assessment

Priscilla Drewry, Planning and Development Services Department, read from a presentation (on file) and answered questions about the program and consistency of evaluations, whether people go into the program knowing how much they will be taxed (one acre of their property will be taxed at its highest and best value) and that it may not be the same as before, whether the properties that were not recommended for the program would have been eligible if they would have been clustered into one and considered as a unit, why those properties are referred to as the "RJ Group" and whether they all represent the same property owner, and whether there are signs or a map of open space properties to show they are open space and that people have access.

Councilmembers discussed with Drewry and Steve Roberge, Planning and Development Services Department, that some properties in open space do not have the stipulation for public access, and how to make sure open space properties are in compliance and that the public knows (with signage, a list, a map) which properties are in the open space program and which have the requirement of public access.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Galloway

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 2:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Ben Elenbaas-via email 12/19/2023

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE