CITY OF REDMOND PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES

September 25, 2019

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair Nichols, Commissioners East, Kritzer, Rajpathak, and Varadharajan

STAFF PRESENT: Judy Fani, PC Liaison; Kim Dietz, Senior Planner, and Sarah Pyle, Manager of Land Use and Strategic Initiatives Division, Department of Planning and Community Development

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Chairman Captain

RECORDING SECRETARY: Carolyn Garza, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Nichols.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION to approve the Agenda for September 25, 2019 by Commissioner East. MOTION seconded by Commissioner Varadharajan. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Nichols stated that Commissioner Rodriguez had resigned from the Commission and thanked the Commissioner for her service.

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

Continued Public Hearing for Testimony and Written Comments, and Study Session for Development of Redmond Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP), Kim Dietz, Senior Planner

Ms. Dietz gave a brief presentation describing the CRMP to introduce the second Public Hearing.

Public Hearing

Ms. Kerry Kriner representing Puget Sound Energy, P. O. Box 97034, East Four West, Bellevue, 98009 thanked Ms. Dietz for thoughtful responses to comments. Puget Sound Energy’s interest is in repairing and maintaining the utility system as efficiently as possible, responding to emergencies such as outages, and vegetation management activities. Flexibility and exemptions are appreciated so that these can be accomplished. Individual customers are also a priority and
documentation should not cost more than the actual service. The CRMP is a living document and Puget Sound Energy looks forward to using and also revisiting the CRMP with the City on an annual basis, if needed.

Mr. Brian Rich, Principal with RICHAVEN Architecture and Preservation and a new member of the Redmond Landmark Commission, thanked Ms. Dietz for all her efforts and had questions for consideration. First, Mr. Rich suggested that a definition regarding low- and medium-probability could be added on page 50 to the term high-probability for cultural resources. Second, on page 51, the term historic period is defined as the period in which Americans first visited or settled the area, but there is no ending definition of that time period. In archaeological terms, there is not only historic but also pre-historic and pre-European contact and Mr. Rich asked if there might need to be more definition included.

Vice-Chair Nichols closed the verbal portion of the Public Hearing.

Study Session

Vice-Chair Nichols introduced Issue number one on the Issues Matrix regarding how often WIZZARD data is updated. Commissioner Varadharajan was satisfied with the staff response, had no further questions and agreed to close the Issue.

Issue number two was regarding what would take place when a project is proposed in a location with high-probability; i.e., what steps would be followed when a site is discovered, if an easement would be recorded to protect the resources, and also a request for the number of projects which have required evaluation during 2019. Commissioner East stated having been satisfied with the staff response provided. Commissioner Rajpathak and Commissioner Varadharajan agreed. The issue was closed.

Issue number three regarded activities considered ground-disturbing. Commissioner Rajpathak asked for clarification on the phrase, remove any archaeological object from such site except for Indian graves, cairns, or glyphic or painted records, or specifically what the reason is for exclusions. Ms. Dietz agreed that the sentence is long, copied from the RCW — Revised Code of Washington, and that the item goes on to reference another portion of the code that addresses Indian graves, cairns and so forth. If an object of this nature is unearthed, the section would be referred to and engagement would occur with locally affected Indian tribes and with the State in a different capacity. Commissioner Rajpathak was satisfied with the staff response and agreed to close the Issue.

Commissioner Captain had informed Vice-Chair Nichols of being satisfied with the City response to Issue number four and stated the Issue could be closed.

Issue number five involved mechanisms available to offset costs. Commissioner Rajpathak thanked staff for research regarding community resources and the interest in protecting and maintaining archaeological resources and was willing to close the issue. Commissioner East had been concerned about out-of-pocket expenses to typical homeowners and was satisfied with closing the issue.

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Issue number six, the questions raised by Ms. Kriner, had been addressed. Commissioner Rajpathak asked for clarification regarding the testimony by Ms. Kriner at this meeting; if Exhibit G had been updated. Ms. Dietz replied yes and that more questions had been received after the Issues Matrix had been posted to the webpage. The previous version of the Matrix would remain available through the Commission’s webpage. The updated issues matrix had been distributed in printed form and labeled “amended September 20, 2019”. The updates provide several refinements to Exhibit G related to comments from Puget Sound Energy. Those pages with revisions had been provided in printed form and displayed in slides for the Commission’s consideration of the following issues:

First was an issue to include a citation to help provide additional definition to ground-disturbance. Staff provided a citation to the Revised Code of Washington, calling out a variety of activities during which archaeology would be a concern.

Second, at the bottom of page 50, is the addition of a definition for the term high-probability. Commissioner Kritzer asked to address a Public Comment regarding the addition of a definition for low-probability, and Ms. Dietz replied that there is currently a section in the new Appendix 9 regarding the probability map. The next revision would address the definitions.

Page 51 contains two items; first, clarifying the definition for historic period. Staff will add to the definition. Second, to include a citation to describe pre-contact or pre-historic; consistency is with State and Federal codes.

Next was an introduction of narrative for the Table of Contents for Appendix Nine. Page 129 also had a portion of narrative missing before a series of bullet points and a narrative has been incorporated.

Finally, pages 148 and 149 are a proposed new addition of acronyms and abbreviations to Appendix Nine. Commissioner Kritzer asked about exemptions mentioned in the testimony of Ms. Kriner and Ms. Dietz replied that Appendices Nine C includes a list of exemptions that have been reviewed by Tribes and other agencies. Existing exemptions from State code are comprise the majority of exemption though the list also includes exemptions that would be applied only at a local level. If staff receives an application for an activity which is already exempt, staff would not address cultural resources in the way a project would otherwise. Most emergencies must be dealt with immediately and cultural resources handled later. Maintenance such as working in an existing trench is also exempt when the work area is limited to soil which has already been disturbed. Ms. Pyle added that process, policy and regulations currently being considered for adoption mirror what have been executed over the last five years in a temporary process and that there should be no change following adoption. Restrictions are only what is required by State and Federal agencies. Commissioner Kritzer asked if delineation between historic and pre-historic periods is typical terminology and Ms. Dietz replied that State and Federal standards were borrowed from to define the terms The delineation describes a general time period during which Euro-Americans arrived in the area and has been provided for consistency with the State terminology. Commissioner Kritzer suggested that an acknowledgement that history did not begin at that point could be made as there had been people in the area for many years prior, to be

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respective cultures. Ms. Dietz replied that the CRMP is meant to be respectful of all people who have lived here. Commissioner Varadharajan asked how the protocol for major emergencies would change in a catastrophe such as an earthquake. Ms. Dietz replied that direction regarding natural disasters stems from the Federal level and has been developed with cultural resources also in mind. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, regarding the Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, coordinated with FEMA in the development of disaster response procedures.

Vice-Chair Nichols suggested closing written testimony and the Commission agreed unanimously. Ms. Dietz stated that while the Issues Matrix items online had been addressed, the printed handout provided to the Commission this evening included recently added questions.

Vice-Chair Nichols continued with Issue number seven regarding what happens when archaeological resources are discovered at a development site. Ms. Dietz replied that no incidents have occurred on private development. If a significant discovery could be damaged, the State would request that the resources be excavated and researched or curated. Every site is different. A plan would be developed with the best approach moving forward in partnership with the applicant or property owner. Commissioner Varadharajan was satisfied with the staff response and closed the issue.

Issue number eight asked what occurs when an archaeological survey determines a significant portion of a project has artifacts. Commissioner Varadharajan stated that the question had been answered in the previous reply and closed the issue.

Issue number nine asked at what depth artifacts are expected and how depth of resources corresponds to depth of permitted disturbances. Ms. Dietz replied that depth varies across the region depending on location such as proximity to water, glaciation and weather events. The project would move forward but in a variety of potential ways such as with an Inadvertent Discovery Plan, a phasing of the project to include some professional archaeological monitoring, or with an Archaeologist present during all ground-disturbing activities. Commissioner Varadharajan was satisfied with the staff response, had no further questions, and closed the issue.

Vice-Chair Nichols stated that all Issues listed on the CRMP Issues Matrix had been closed.

MOTION to recommend that Staff produce the Planning Commission Report with additional items to be added by Ms. Dietz for Planning Commission approval, by Commissioner East. MOTION seconded by Commissioner Kritzer. MOTION passed unanimously.

The Commissioners agreed not to take a break as indicated on the Agenda.


Ms. Dietz stated that one response to an earlier comment had been received from Mr. Hinman and the response was read.

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Public Hearing

Vice-Chair Nichols asked the Commission if the Public Hearing for written testimony could be closed and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Study Session

Ms. Dietz addressed Issue number one and stated that Staff had originally submitted a proposed change to the code regarding the items sent to residents in proximity to a proposed development project as well as to parties of record during the Notice of Application. The original recommendation involved removing Item number ten from the code list, and Mr. Hinman was concerned about the removal. A recommendation had been made at the last meeting to move the Tree Preservation Plan into Item four, as part of other environmental documents. An example of a Tree Preservation Plan was described. Ms. Pyle stated that descriptions sent out in the past had been confusing but the new packet would be more inviting with a link to a very clear conceptual and preliminary plan. The community would be able to track a development application’s progress including comments addressed by staff prior to a decision. Commissioner Kritzer stated that the transparency would be helpful. Vice-Chair Nichols closed the Issue.

Commissioner Kritzer also asked for clarification regarding a definition of woonerf streets. Ms. Dietz replied that Staff had been careful in their research and development of the proposal to avoid changing the intent when shared streets would be applied in the code. Commissioner Kritzer was satisfied with staff response and agreed to close the Issue.

Commissioner Kritzer asked about the inclusion of composting specifically. Ms. Pyle replied that composting had not been called out specifically; typically, there is a requirement for composting in many areas and composting is encouraged. The requirements would be covered within garbage and recycling. Commissioner Kritzer suggested that all types of waste generated could be comprehensive and Ms. Pyle replied that language would be refined and that composting is not referred to in the zoning code in context to garbage facilities, enclosures or requirements; only referred to regarding rain gardens and amended soil. Ms. Pyle stated that there may be multiple areas of the code which could be addressed regarding composting and preferred making the change in the 2020 code revision rather than now. Commissioner Kritzer agreed and that taking time to develop clear guidelines was good.

Ms. Dietz asked if the question regarding woonerfs or shared streets was being added to the Issues Matrix and Commissioner Kritzer stated being satisfied with the answer. Ms. Dietz asked if the composting question should be added to the Issues Matrix, and Commissioner Kritzer that both composting and the woonerf could be put into the Matrix with staff responses for the Public Record. Ms. Fani stated working on composting with a staff team and that a zoning code amendment would be brought to the Planning Commission in the future. Vice-Chair Nichols asked for clarification that the two Issues would be added to the Issues Matrix as closed and Ms. Dietz replied yes.
MOTION that Staff produce the Planning Commission Report recommending the Redmond Zoning Code updates for Planning Commission approval, by Commissioner East. MOTION seconded by Commissioner Rajpathak. MOTION passed unanimously.

Reports/Scheduling/Topics for Next Meeting(s)

Ms. Fani reported that on October 9, 2019, the Department of Commerce Growth Management staff would present the Short Course on Local Government Planning in the Council Chambers from 6:15 – 9:30 p.m. open to the public. Registration is online. Commissioner Varadharajan asked if there would be an age limit and Ms. Fani replied 11 and above.

Ms. Fani stated there would be no meeting on October 2, 2019 and that Reports would be brought to the Commission for Approval following the Short Course on October 9, 2019. Four Commissioners would be needed for a quorum.

Commissioner Rajpathak asked if the Commissioners would need to be present prior to the Short Course and Ms. Fani replied no.

Communication with Staff

There were no comments or questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn by Commissioner East. MOTION seconded by Commissioner Rajpathak. MOTION passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes Approved On: 10-9-2019

Planning Commission Chair

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