

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

From: Judy Fani, Principal Planner; 425-556-2406, jfani@redmond.gov

Date: May 8, 2020

Subject: Docketing Process Code Rewrite

Application of Governor's order related to the Open Meetings Act (OPMA)

Staff has provided written information regarding the Docketing Process Code Rewrite for the Commission's review. The attachments provide the Commission with background information along with a request for Commissioners to begin its review of proposed code revisions. As this agenda item is informational only, it does not meet the requirements for a Planning Commission meeting under the Governor's order suspending certain provisions of the OPMA. This order requires that an item be "necessary and routine"; Attorney General guidance suggests that a report on prior activity or an update on the status of a project is an example of an item that is not "necessary" and could be provided to the governing body in writing instead.

Background

On July 24, 2019, the Planning Commission met and reviewed zoning code regulations that apply to annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan ("the docketing process") codified in RZC 21.76.070.J Concerns focused on the lack of clarity and understandability of current zoning code language and the lack of consistency and predictability in the annual docketing process. At the meeting, Commissioners expressed an interest in updating the regulations and asked staff to research and suggest potential code revisions.

On October 23, 2019 Beverly Mesa-Zendt, Planning Manager, followed up with a staff presentation to the Planning Commission. At that meeting, Commissioners provided staff guidance to ensure that proposed amendments would improve implementation and predictability of the docketing process and that the resulting process is compliant with the Growth Management Act (GMA). Ms. Mesa-Zendt provided a *Docket Study – White Paper* and a presentation that included issues and concerns shared at the July 2019 meeting, an overview of the state and regulatory context, a benchmark comparative study of the following jurisdictions - Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, and Sammamish – and initial suggestions for potential new code language. The Commission discussion resulted in additional ideas for staff consideration while developing the scope for the code rewrite.

Under the research and fact-finding roles of the Planning Commission afforded under RCW 35.63.060, staff has scheduled three initial study sessions for the Commissioners to help inform the scope of the code rewrite and identify preferred language or, in some instances, options for code revisions. Once

accomplished, staff will seek input and a recommendation from the Technical Committee to bring to the Planning Commission for their formal review and recommendation to City Council.

Preparation for upcoming Study Sessions

In preparation for the next meeting when staff and Commissioners are able to discuss this topic together (possibly, May 27 or June 10th), please review the summary meeting notes, the staff presentation, and the *Docket Study - White Paper* all from the October 23, 2019 meeting. Please contact Judy Fani with any questions you may have.

NEXT STEP

The Planning Commission's next study sessions are scheduled for May 27 and June 10. The Technical Committee recommendation is anticipated to be ready for Commission review in July followed by study sessions and a public hearing. City Council review is anticipated to occur during Sept – Oct 2020.

ENCLOSURES

Meeting summary – July 24, 2019
Meeting Summary – October 23, 2019
Docket Study – White Paper
Staff Presentation – October 23, 2019
Current Code RZC 21.76.070.J