



**CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, February 25, 2016
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
280 MADISON AVE N
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON**

CALL TO ORDER - Call to Order, Agenda Review, Conflict Disclosure
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 19 and December 10, 2015 Planning
Commission Meetings

PUBLIC COMMENT - Accept public comment on off agenda items

PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

- *Revised Climate Change Guiding Principle*
- *Water Resources Element*

GENERAL LTD. SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM AMENDMENT - Study Session

AQUACULTURE LTD. SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM AMENDMENT – Study Session

PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURN

CALL TO ORDER - Call to Order, Agenda Review, Conflict Disclosure

Vice Chair William Chester called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Commissioners Macchio, Killion, Quitslund, Gale and Lewars were all in attendance while Chair Mack Pearl was absent and excused. City Staff in attendance were Interim Planning Director Joe Tovar, Senior Planner Jennifer Sutton, Senior Planner Christy Carr and Administrative Specialist Jane Rasely who monitored recording and prepared minutes. The agenda was reviewed. Regarding conflict disclosure, Commissioners Gale and Macchio said they would be making statements at the appropriate time.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19 and December 10, 2015 Planning
Commission Meetings**

Motion: I move adoption of the minutes for November 19, 2015 as distributed.

Quitslund/Lewars: Passed Unanimously

Commissioner Gale suggested one sentence on page 2 of the December 10, 2016 minutes needed completing. Ms. Rasely agreed to fix that based on the meeting tape.

Motion: I move the minutes for December 10, 2016 be adopted as corrected.

Gale/Killion: Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT - Accept public comment on off agenda items

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt – Stated she had been working on incorporation of climate change into the Comprehensive Plan for a while. She referred the Commissioners to the second version she had submitted saying she thought the scope of what they were working on was fantastic and having a Guiding Principle on climate change was really par for the course now in Comprehensive Plan updates if they were to be effective going into the future. She recommended they refocus the Guiding Principle to maximize the effectiveness of it throughout the Comprehensive Plan. She proposed a slight modification of the overall Goal (which she felt laid out some really good pieces but did not encompass both issues of shifting condition and the effects that are caused. She highlighted three Policies coming off that Goal:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Climate resilience;
3. Framework policy.

Dr. Hansen continued saying if there was a Guiding Principle with those three parts, it would be extremely valuable to all decision making across the Comprehensive Plan as well as highly applicable to the day to day work of people working for the City. She stated she was available to answer any questions about this and gave a litany of her qualifications including that she had been working on issues relating to adaptation and how to develop plans around climate change for over 20 years helping people around the globe do this, had a PhD in climate related work and was a member of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

Commissioner Macchio asked Dr. Hansen to condense Policy 7.3 into a shorter sentence. Dr. Hansen stated there needed to be two components; vulnerability assessment and mitigation of vulnerability.

2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Interim Director Joe Tovar gave comments on the proposed changes to Guiding Principle #7 and its corresponding Policies ultimately recommending from City Staff the Commission adopt the changes. Commissioner Macchio asked for help in re-wording part of Guiding Policy 7.3 seeking to specifically substitute a different word for “likelihood.” Discussion ensued with the final Policy 7.3 reading, “Evaluate the climate vulnerabilities and implications of city actions and identify *policies* that alleviate those vulnerabilities.”

Motion: I move we do it.

Gale/Lewars: Passed Unanimously 6-0

Planner Sutton gave an introduction to the Water Resources Element saying it was the first of 2-3 study sessions on the Element. She reminded the Commission that the Utilities related Policies had been removed from the Water Resources Element to the Utility Element.

Commissioner Killion opened discussion on the Water Resources Element by referencing Melanie Keenan's letter to the Commissioners asking about the long term vision for plentiful water for the future and whether they should separate out other sources of water besides the aquifers. Commissioner Macchio stated if drinking water and stormwater were going to be taken out of the Water Resources Element, perhaps it should be renamed the Groundwater Element. The Commissioners concluded that all water policies should be combined into the Water Resources Element and the utilities should all be contained in the Utility Element.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt – Stated that given Commissioner Macchio's astute assessment of how water works on the Island, she was a little worried about the separation of the Utility piece of the water from the rest of the conversation about the water, since the importance of thinking about water and water resources has to do with both supply and demand and de-coupling those has some danger inherent in it. Dr. Hansen also stated the role of water in the Environmental Element was important. The first time she looked at the Environmental Element and didn't realize there was also a Water Resources Element, she thought they apparently did not care about water. What she thought the Water Resources Element could potentially do for them (clear recognition of the water utility component in the Utilities chapter being important to holistic thought on utilities) was to figure out what the various connections between the various aspects of water on the Island were. Dr. Hansen felt it would give one comprehensive overview of how to think about and plan for the use of water on the Island going forward.

Ron Peltier, City Council – Stated he was listening with great interest to the conversation about where things about water should be located in the Comprehensive Plan. His feeling was it would not hurt to have some redundancy. He was beginning to understand why some of the Commissioners wanted to put it all in one Element so that it could all fit together as one Element. Mr. Peltier was personally hesitant to move everything about water out of the Environmental Element. Redundancy was not a problem to him as long as there is the one Element where everything resided and then could also be repeated in the other Elements. He stated they had done that in the past with things like Overriding Principles and other ideas that run through the Comprehensive Plan. He said he would not be so concerned with making the Comprehensive Plan so concise as to be overly concerned about a few redundancies.

GENERAL LTD. SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM AMENDMENT

Planner Christy Carr presented an update on the limited amendment occurring with the Shoreline Master Program stating why the City had a good, flexible and innovative document that just needed a little fix to make it more understandable. She presented topics for future discussion including:

1. Consolidate and simplify regulations related to shoreline buffer.
2. Vegetation Alteration and Maintenance
3. Alterations to Existing Structures
4. Mitigation Requirements
5. Geologically Hazardous Areas
6. General Clean-up

7. Other
8. Permit Assistance

Commissioner Gale asked how this limited amendment affected the overall protection of the shoreline. Ms. Carr stated the intent of a limited amendment was not to change regulations or policies, but to clarify intent. Commissioner Lewars asked if this limited amendment was to correct inconsistencies. Ms. Carr stated that was part of it and that inconsistency was a sort of umbrella over the whole document.

AQUACULTURE LTD. SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM AMENDMENT

Commissioner Gale recused herself from discussion of the Aquaculture Limited Amendment stating:

“I am recusing myself from the discussion of the limited amendment regarding industrial aquaculture and I want you to know the background of my action tonight.

When the City Council adopted the Shoreline Master Program update in July, 2014, on which several members of this current Planning Commission worked, the City was basically forced by the Department of Ecology to accept extensive industrial aquaculture development of our shorelines. At that time, the City was told if they wanted to object to the changes demanded by DOE, it could be a battle of several years (8 years was mentioned in the discussion). Given that, the City Council agreed to adopt the required amendments while stating that they were in principle opposed to DOE’s actions in this particular matter.

After attending a Salish Sea Conference that same spring, I had become much more aware of the extent of the habitat destruction caused by the aquaculture industry, so it bothered me greatly when DOE erased the work of the SMP teams of the City and substituted their own language for our regulations. At that point, I decided to hire an attorney and file an appeal with the Growth Management Hearings Board on the aquaculture issues alone. I sought support in this effort from several organizations both on the island and within the Puget Sound region to help me with this appeal.

My reasons for filing this appeal and arguing for stronger regulations of this industry stem from my desire to continue to have critical habitat for forage fish and for salmon smolt to hangout around our shoreline (and BI is blessed with habitat which is very important for these species.) I grew up in this area and I want to see the Orcas continue to survive in the Salish Sea. Without forage fish there will be no salmon. Without salmon, there will be no Southern Resident Orcas.

Because I needed to intervene to help the City bring better controls to our shorelines in this aquaculture matter, I am now precluded from participating in the discussion as a member of the Planning Commission. If there is conflict of interest here, it is an ethical one in that I am fighting for the long-term health of Puget Sound and the species which live there. Other than spending my own funds to pay our attorney, I have no financial stake in any part of this matter.”

Commissioner Macchio: "I am a member of the Bainbridge Alliance for Puget Sound which is a group on the Island that I believe in with my heart and soul because they want the best for our island environment. But they are also the group that helped bring the challenge on this aquaculture SMP. I am a member of that group. I am not involved with the litigation. I do not follow it and am not intimately working on the settlement agreement. I come from a place of a government agency that has a very strong ethics policy and the policy about recusal is about if there is even a perception that someone thinks you have a conflict of interest even though you don't, it's best to recuse yourself. So in the interest of not having the Planning Commission or City come under fire because I am voting on this (even though I feel very passionate about it), I am going to choose to step down and not be a part of the Planning Commission as you think about moving forward on this. I just want to say that these kinds of things, these kinds of perceptions of whether there is a financial benefit or whether you have a bias or anything like that, I just don't want this Commission to come under attack for any kind of reason so I am happy to step down and be on the other side and be the public listening to you deliberate about this. "

In discussion of the Aquaculture Limited Amendment, Ms. Carr stated the City essentially wanted to bring a limited amendment forward and process it so that after local process and adoption, it would be approved by the Department of Ecology. She also explained that the separate limited amendments were to keep all the separate parties on track. Conversation continued around private and public ownership of tidelands, who could lease their tidelands and commercial aquaculture operations of which there was only one on Bainbridge Island located at Bloedel Reserve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elise Wright, Bainbridge Alliance for Puget Sound – Stated that earlier in the day she had sent the Commissioners information via e-mail with links to a slideshow prepared two years ago by Bainbridge citizens when they first became concerned about the potential effects of industrial level aquaculture on the Island shorelines. She wanted be sure the Commissioners had the opportunity to research and learn about what their concerns were before their discussion in March. Ms. Wright brought copies of her e-mail that were distributed to the individual Commissioners.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

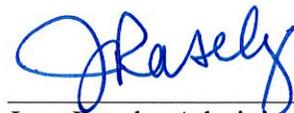
None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Accepted by:


William Chester, Vice Chair


Jane Rasely, Administrative Specialist

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Bainbridge Alliance for Puget Sound

February 25, 2016

To the Planning Commission:

Regarding your upcoming discussions of a limited amendment to the SMP regarding Aquaculture regulations, attached is a link to a power point presentation prepared two years ago by Bainbridge citizens concerned about the potential effects of industrial aquaculture on the shores of Bainbridge Island. While some of the sites no longer look as they did in these photographs, the practices shown are still used throughout South Puget Sound and Willapa Bay.

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?Bsrc=Share&Bpub=SDX.SkyDrive&resid=72B074B650A56812!112&cid=72b074b650a56812&app=PowerPoint&authkey=!AjY7sJLvKlingDk>

I have also individually sent an email attachment of a recent article regarding shellfish harvest as practiced in Samish Bay. Both links are to afford you the opportunity of learning the reasons for our concerns in advance of your discussions next month.

Thank you for your attention to this significant issue.

Elise Wright
10799 Bill Point View NE