



Approved as submitted at the April 16, 2021 PC Meeting.

SAN JUAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2021 MEETING

The meeting of the San Juan County Planning Commission was called to order by Chair, Camille Uhler, at 8:38 a.m. in the County Council hearing room, Legislative Building, 55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, and San Juan Island.

Planning Commission

Members Present:

By Microsoft Teams: Camille Uhler, Michael Pickett, David Kane, Steve Rubey, Sheila Gaquin, Dale Roundy, Steve Smith, Nick Knoellinger, and Matt Ellingson.

Department of Community Development (DCD) Staff

Present:

Present in person: Lynda Guernsey, AS II.
By Microsoft Teams: Erika Shook, Director; Adam Zack, Planner III; and Sophia Cassam, Planner I.

Administrative Items

- Confirm Agenda – An addition to the agenda was the introduction of Matt Ellingson as the new Planning Commissioner San Juan Island, Position #4.
- Minutes of February 19, 2021
Moved by David Kane, seconded by Steve Rubey, to approve the minutes as submitted. Steve Rubey– yes, Michael Pickett–yes, David Kane–yes, Sheila Gaquin–yes, Dale Roundy–yes, Steve Smith–yes, Camille Uhler–yes, Nick Knoellinger–yes, and Matt Ellingson–abstain. Motion passed with eight yes votes and one abstention (Ellingson).
- DCD Update – Erika Shook, Director
 1. The County Council had continued the hearing on the vacation rental moratorium to March 9th. They decided to reduce the scope of the moratorium to Urban Growth Areas, Activity Centers and Hamlets. The County Council did not extend the moratorium so it will be up in six months. They are looking into a cap. Erika shared on screen where the vacation rental and moratorium information can be found on the County’s website. Erika will send various links to information on the website to the Planning Commission.
 2. Erika did a presentation to the Charter Review Committee on climate change and will send a link to that presentation to the Planning Commission.

Erika Shook responded to questions and comments from the Planning Commission.

Public Access Time – The following spoke:

Brent Lyles, Executive Director for Friends of the San Juans

Public access time was closed with the option to reopen.

Briefings about the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan 2036 Update Project:

Element B.2, Land Use and Rural, Official Map Public Participation Plan Addendum - Adam Zack, Planner III

Adam Zack briefed the Planning Commission on the plan for public outreach for the Comprehensive Plan official maps and responded to questions and comments from the Planning Commission.

Element B.2, Land Use and Rural, Land Use Mechanics – Adam Zack, Planner III

Adam Zack briefed the Planning Commission on the mechanics involved in moving through the land use process as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update and responded to questions and comments from the Planning Commission.

Element B.2, Land Use and Rural, Climate Change Goals and Policies – Sophia Cassam, Planner I

Sophia Cassam gave a briefing to the Planning Commission on the preliminary draft of the climate change goals and policies.

Staff Report dated March 4, 2021, Page 2, 2.2.0 Climate Change

By Consensus, to go through and discuss the 2.2.0 Climate Change goals and policies as presented in the staff report dated March 4, 2021 and decide, after the discussion is completed, whether to make a decision on accepting the changes if any today or at next month's meeting.

Moved by David Kane, seconded by Nick Knoellinger, that the Planning Commission ask the San Juan County Council to form a Climate Change Advisory Committee to inform the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Friendly amendment motion – Moved by Steve Smith, seconded by Steve Rubey - Proposed amendment and replacement language of the motion:

1. Request that the County Council to appoint a climate advisory committee to report to the Planning commission. The committee will consist of no more than 9 members. The advisory committee will work with Planning staff to review the climate policy regulations of other counties and advocacy groups and make suggestions to the Planning Commission for suggested language to the Comprehensive Plan and for consideration by the Planning Commission for advancement to County Council. This would be a permanent advisory committee. In order to minimize the workload on the Planning Department staff, all coordination with the climate advisory committee is at the discretion of the Planning department staff.
2. Encourage the public to engage with the Planning Commission via comments and workshops to make suggestions regarding climate regulatory language.

The friendly amendment was withdrawn by the motion maker and second.

Return to original motion with a modification approved by the motion maker and second – the modification was to delete the phrase “to inform the Comprehensive Plan Update.” Steve Rubey–yes, Michael Pickett–yes, David Kane–yes, Sheila Gaquin–yes, Dale Roundy–yes, Steve Smith–yes, Camille Uhlir–yes, Nick Knoellinger–yes, and Matt Ellingson–yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Michael Pickett, seconded by Camille Uhlir, that the Planning Commission and staff establish two or three town hall meetings to hear public input on climate change. Steve Rubey–yes, Michael Pickett–yes, David Kane–yes, Sheila Gaquin–yes, Dale Roundy–yes, Steve Smith–yes, Camille Uhlir–yes, Nick Knoellinger–yes, and Matt Ellingson–yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Nick Knoellinger, seconded by Michael Pickett, to have subcommittee look into having zoom

meetings. Motion withdrawn by motion maker and second.

By Consensus, that Climate Change goals and policies brought forward today by Sophia Cassam be put on hold until after public meetings.

Adjournment

Moved by Michael Pickett, seconded Nick Knoellinger, and unanimously agreed upon by the Planning Commission to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 p.m. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in the County Council hearing room, Legislative Building, 55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, San Juan Island.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynda Guernsey