

**ELLENSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**February 19, 2020 Regular Meeting  
(5:15 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.)  
Council Conference Room – 501 North Anderson Street**

Members Present: Andrea Sledge, Christina Wollman, Emily Jacobs, and PJ MacPhaiden

Members Absent: James Rivard (excused), Laura Busby (excused), Annie Schlanger (excused)

Also present: Nancy Lillquist, Council Liaison; Kirsten Sackett, Community Development Director; Stacey Henderson, Senior Planner; Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager; and Laura Wilson, Associate Planner (Recording Secretary)

Chairperson Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Community Development Director Sackett requested to discuss Staff Update/Discussion Items 7a after item 7b. Commissioner MacPhaiden moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner MacPhaiden moved to approve the January 15, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Sledge seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Director Sackett introduced Stacey Henderson, Senior Planner, and Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager. Mrs. Sackett wanted to ensure that all the changes to the Landscape Code Purpose Statements had been made. She said to inform Mr. Ayling of any changes they wanted made and they would be incorporated into the code.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

There were no citizen comments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**P19-137 ESD #401 New School SEPA**

Council Liaison Lillquist stated for the record that she was recusing herself from this discussion and left the meeting.

Stacey Henderson, Senior Planner – Historic Preservation presented the Ellensburg School District Elementary School SEPA checklist to the commission. She briefly reviewed the previous SEPA and noted that it was withdrawn. She explained the current SEPA was in the first comment period. The second comment period would begin after the school responds to the comments from the first comment period. Mrs. Henderson explained the proposal, location, and plans for access. She also explained the applicants were proposing moving the wetland and extending Cora Street across the Cascade to Palouse Trail. She stated the project would involve the creation of wetland, wetland enhancement, and wetland buffer enhancement. A joint aquatic resource permit application (JARPA) was submitted with the Army Corps of Engineers. The critical area report had the wetland mitigation plan partially planned. The exact reconstruction location and plan would be provided in more detail with the JARPA. She noted the school district would need to work with Department of Ecology and the Army Corps of Engineers. Mrs. Henderson spoke with staff at Department of Ecology and noted they had not begun reviewing the JARPA. The mitigation plan would need to be determined before any work proceeds. The school proposed adding striped and signed crossing across the Cascade to Palouse Trail. Mrs. Henderson stated the State Parks Department's concern was regarding safety. The school district would need to apply for a permit from the State Parks Department for permission to cross the trail. She anticipated details of the project would be figured out as a result of submitted comments. She briefly shared comments from Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, and several citizen comments.

Commissioner Wollman reviewed the minutes from the July 17, 2019 Environmental Commission meeting when the previous SEPA was presented. She noted the differences between applications that included the wetland mitigation was addressed in the current SEPA. She commented that the Cora Street extension was a requirement of Public Works Department. Mrs. Henderson said a preliminary threshold determination would be issued and comments could be submitted on that determination. Commissioner Jacobs noted there were several recommendations made on the previous SEPA which were not addressed on the current SEPA. Commissioner Wollman reviewed the motions from July 17, 2019 meeting.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Sledge motioned that the Environmental Commission recommends that a school vegetable garden be included as part of a science program and that an additional Central Transit stop be added close to the school. Commissioner MacPhaiden seconded the motion. Commissioner Wollman called for discussion. Commissioner Jacobs recommended the motion be amended and remove the vegetable garden because it pertained to curriculum and was not in their purview. There was a brief discussion on the location of central transit stops. Commissioner MacPhaiden seconded the amended motion that the Environmental Commission recommend an additional Central Transit bus stop be added closer to the new school. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Jacobs moved the Environmental Commission would like to resubmit original motions from the July 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner MacPhaiden seconded the motion. Commissioner Wollman called for discussion. She recommended the motion be amended because original motion to ask for additional wetland information had been addressed in the current SEPA checklist and the motion regarding student input on the building construction site layout was not in their purview. Commissioner MacPhaiden seconded the amended motion that the Environmental Commission recommend the following motions from the July 17, 2019 Environmental Commission meeting:

1. The Environmental Commission recommend the applicant attempt a strategy to achieve net zero energy and implement alternative energy sources.
2. The Environmental Commission recommend the applicant consider water conservation measures including the use of gray water and that water conservation measures also be reflected in the landscaping and use of xeriscaping where possible.
3. The Environmental Commission recommend the building material and methods of construction have a low environmental impact while meeting the requirements of durability.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Council Member Lillquist rejoined the meeting.

### **BICYCLE ADVISORY**

Council Member Lillquist provided an update on the draft Active Transportation Plan. The consultants finished the revision and the draft plan was being reviewed by staff. The Environmental Commission will be given a link to review the draft when it is available. She updated the commission on several grant projects the city was applying for and which active transportation plan projects they would affect. The Environmental Commission did not want to review the plan again before submitting to City Council.

### **STAFF UPDATE/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Ayling asked if the commission would like staff to draft the Landscape Code language or if the Commission would like to be directly involved with drafting the language. The commission commented they preferred that staff draft the language and the Commission would provide comments. There was a brief discussion on what prompted the changes to the landscape code.

Mrs. Wilson updated the Commission on the Water Quality Grant approval process. She said that staff involved with other Council Funded grants discussed options to streamline the process and have consistent reporting requirements throughout all of the grants. Some options included changing the due date for the end of year report to October. This would allow the commissions to review any budget changes prior to recommending funding to the same grant recipient for an upcoming grant cycle. Commissioner Jacobs clarified if these changes would also include language on amount of allowed budgetary changes without commission approval. Mrs. Wilson confirmed those requirements could be included in an agreement.

Council Member Lillquist provided an update on recycling discussions between the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County. Brett Wachsmith, County Commissioner; Patti Johnson, Solid Waste Director; Bruce Tabb, City of Ellensburg Mayor; and Council Member Lillquist met to discuss glass recycling options. She said it would be significantly more expensive for the county to include glass recycling rather than eliminating the program. The county is sending out a Request for Proposal for the hauling and processing of recyclables. Mrs. Johnson looked for available grants to purchase a glass crusher, but none were available. They would wait for the RFP process to determine possible options.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Laura Wilson  
Recording Secretary (Drafted 2/20/20)