

**CITY OF SEATAC
PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of May 20, 2014
Regular Meeting**

Members Present: Joe Adamack, Roxie Chapin, Tom Dantzer, Robert Scully, Jim Todd
Members Absent: None

Staff present: Steve Pilcher, Planning Manager; Al Torrico, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order

Chairman Adamack called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Approve minutes of April 15 and May 6, 2014 Meetings

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes of both meetings as written. **Passed 5-0.**

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Continued Discussion on Recreational Marijuana (I-502)

Senior Planner Al Torrico reminded the Commission of the need to formulate a recommendation this evening, as the City Council is scheduled to consider that at their May 27th regular meeting. He presented an updated map depicting “exclusion areas” in which, according to Washington State Liquor Board rules, a recreational marijuana business could not locate. He pointed out that the map is still a draft, as staff is still collecting information from adjacent jurisdictions concerning the location of day cares and other uses that require a 1,000 ft. separation per LCB rules.

Mr. Torrico also handed out a matrix that staff developed, intended to assist the Commission in arriving at a decision at this meeting. He pointed out that since the recreational marijuana industry is just beginning in Washington State, there isn't any data available for consideration.

The Commission noted there is potentially a lot of money to be made by these businesses, but relatively little tax benefit to local jurisdictions. Some members questioned the benefit of allowing a retail store. (There are two potential retail businesses in the LCB's lottery system for awarding these licenses).

Doris Casand, a member of the public in attendance, expressed that car rental businesses are opposed to allowing recreational marijuana and, should it be allowed, then revenues should be directed to a special account to fund enforcement efforts.

The Commission noted that 56% of SeaTac voters voted in favor of I-502, indicating this is a business the community supports. The adjacent jurisdictions of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park and Tukwila have already amended their codes to accommodate the industry. It was also noted that people are using marijuana today, even before retail stores become operational.

Concerning medical marijuana, Mr. Torrico reminded the Commission that in the recent Kent case, the State Court of Appeals ruled these are not legal activities, due to the lack of a state registry. Currently, staff is unaware of any medical marijuana outlets in the city limits.

The Commission then used the matrix developed by staff to guide their decision-making. The consensus was to not continue the current code language, which does not allow for any type of marijuana-related business. The City should explore the possibility of enacting taxes or other fees that might apply only to marijuana businesses, as a way of raising revenues to mitigate potential impacts.

The Commission agreed that both marijuana producers and processors should be allowed, assuming they are limited to industrial or other appropriate zones and they comply with the LCB rules (which are tightly written). There should be no cap on the number of these businesses; the market should be allowed to decide.

Regarding retail marijuana businesses, the Commission concluded these not be allowed at this time. Rather, the City should wait approximately one year after retail stores open in other jurisdictions, so the true impacts can be evaluated. In addition, the City should conduct a special public input process when evaluating potential zones where these businesses might be located in the future.

It was agreed that the Chair will review the staff's written statements of these decisions before the decision matrix is presented to the City Council.

5. CED Director's Report

Mr. Pilcher reminded the Commission that Sound Transit is hosting a public meeting concerning the Angle Lake Station this Thursday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Madonna Elementary School. Next Thursday, May 29th, the staff will be hosting another public workshop on the Angle Lake Station Area Plan, also at Madonna Elementary, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

6. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Dantzler noted that a proposal to locate the new FAA office facility on his partnerships property has been submitted to the agency.

7. Adjournment

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

.....