



TREE & LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT
AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016
3:00 – 4:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
280 MADISON AVE N
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

Committee Members in Attendance: Jon Quitslund, Kol Medina, Sarah Blossom, Ron Peltier

COBI Staff: Jennifer Sutton, Marilyn Guthrie, Janelle Hitch

Public: Charles Schmid, Olaf Ribeiro, Ann Wilson, Ginny Brewer, Crystal Rich, Mike Juneau

Item 1: Notes from the meetings of October 12 and October 26 were approved. Item 2: There were no additions or objections to the Agenda as distributed.

Item 3: In public comment, Ginny Brewer (President of Friends of the Farms) said that the Municipal Code should provide more definition of agriculture as a land use – both on existing farms and acreage that is not now being farmed. She noted that among the Purposes in the partial draft of the new BIMC Chapter 16.22, agriculture is only mentioned in passing (015.E). Crystal Rich also spoke, mentioning the need for continuing maintenance (of orchard trees, for instance) on farm properties.

Ann Wilson also spoke briefly of the problems created by clearing and subsequent erosion; litigation is now pending.

Item 4: Marilyn and Janelle described progress in Phase I of the LID work, referring to the draft Ordinance scheduled for discussion in the Planning Commission on Nov. 10th. Jon had some questions, and suggestions for changes in the language.

Item 5: The first parts of a tentative and incomplete draft of a New BIMC Chapter 16.22 were discussed, working with several pages prepared by Jon and subsequently augmented by Kol after the Committee's discussion on October 12.

BIMC 16.22 will bring together, with modifications, the regulations now presented separately in BIMC 16.18 (Land Clearing) and 16.22 (Vegetation Management), developing policies that are consistent with LID objectives and standards. Discussion focused on the Findings and Purposes sections (010 A through I and 015.A through I).

Kol stressed that an ample account of Findings is essential to establishing regulations that will withstand legal challenges. Within the framework of the Municipal Code, how much verbiage is appropriate, and how many specifics describing the ecological services and other benefits of trees and forested areas will suffice?

Jon commented that in the Purposes section, he had adopted some language more or less verbatim from the Land Clearing chapter, and had added an emphasis on stewardship; he welcomed Kol's additions. Jon and Ron will meet before the next meeting to discuss next steps.

For special accommodations, please contact Jane Rasely, Planning & Community Development 206-780-3758 or at jrasely@bainbridgewa.gov

Item 6: As arranged in advance of the meeting, Mike Juneau, a professional arborist working on the Island and elsewhere in Kitsap County, made a very informative power point presentation, describing common problems involving trees and the remedies that a professional arborist can provide. He also spoke of glitches in the Code that are not consistent with common sense and best practices, or involve costs that many homeowners are unwilling or unable to bear. He presented the Committee with a 16-page document – a work in progress – that offers a critique of some current regulations (especially in the SMP area) and makes many practical recommendations.

Item 7: For the good of the order, Kol referred to code enforcement policies as an important topic for discussion in a future meeting.

Item 7: For the good of the order, Kol referred to code enforcement policies as an important topic for discussion in a future meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 30, from 3:00 to 4:30 p. m.

Notes Approved: November 30, 2016