

## City of Stevenson

Phone (509) 427-5970 Fax (509) 427-8202 7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371 Stevenson, Washington 98648

#### **July 2022 Planning Commission**

Monday, July 11, 2022

#### 6:00 PM

#### **A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Public Comment Expectations:

In Person: Attendees at City Hall should follow current CDC and State guidance regarding use of masks, social distancing, and attendance.

Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/s/85637388112 Conference Call: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 ID #: 856 3738 8112

Commenters must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair. Individual comments may be cut off after 3 mins.

Tools: \*6 to mute/unmute & \*9 to raise hand

- **2. Public Comment Period:** (For items not located elsewhere on the agenda)
- **Minutes:** June 13th, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
- **B. New Business**
- 4. Short Plat Review: SP2022-03 Standridge Short Plat Planning Commission Optional Review

#### **C. Old Business**

- Planning Commission Vacancy: Review Statement of Interest, Interview Candidates,& Recommend City Council Action
- D. Discussion

- 6. Thought of the Month: The 15-Minute
  City https://www.cnu.org/publicsquare/2021/02/08/defining-15-minute-city
- **7. Staff & Commission Reports:** Downtown Planning, Parking, City Council Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Plan Workshop

## E. Adjournment

## Stevenson Planning Commission Meeting DRAFT Minutes

### Monday, June 13, 2022 6:00 PM

Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/s/85637388112
Conference Call: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 ID #: 856 3738 8112
In Person attendees at City Hall followed current CDC and State guidance regarding use of masks, social distancing, and attendance.

In attendance: Community Development Director Ben Shumaker; Commissioners Jeff Breckel, Auguste Zettler, Davy Ray, Anne Keesee.

Public attendees: Mary Repar, Tony Lawson, Pat Rice, and other unidentified participants.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by **Planning Commission Chair Jeff Breckel**. Those present introduced themselves.

#### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Public Comment Expectations:

**Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** advised commenters must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair. Individual comments may be cut off after 3 minutes. Tools to use for remote participants: \*6 to mute/unmute & \*9 to raise hand.

- 2. Public Comment Period: (For items not located elsewhere on the agenda)
- >Mary Repar offered general comments about development and expected services.
- >Commissioner Davy Ray provided comments on his candidacy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.
- 3. Minutes: Approval of May 9th, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes **MOTION** to approve minutes from the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Planning Commission meeting was made by **Commissioner Zettler**, seconded by **Commissioner Ray.** 
  - Voting aye: Commissioners Zettler, Ray, Keesee.
  - Commissioner Breckel abstained.

#### **B. New Business**

4. Planning Commission Vacancy: Review Statement of Interest, Interview Candidates, & Recommend City Council Action. **Agenda Note:** Only one interviewee was in attendance at the start of the meeting and the interviews were moved down the agenda.

**Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** explained the interview and recommendation process. He introduced applicant Anthony Lawson.

The Commissioners proceeded to interview Mr. Lawson. No recommendation was made, and Commissioners opted to schedule an interview with the candidate Charles Hale at the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Planning Commission meeting unless they learn his application is withdrawn.

**Commissioner Ray** commented both resumes appeared impeccable. **Commissioner Breckel** stated he didn't want to omit Charles Hale as an applicant.

5. Short Plat Review: Short Plat Planning Commission Optional Review

Community Development Director Ben Shumaker provided background information on two proposed short plats. The Planning Department has received 2 complete short plat applications for division of property on Vancouver Avenue. The tax lot numbers for the properties are 03-07-36-4-3-2201-00 and -2202-00. Three residential units are currently under construction on the properties. The proposal would be divided such that each unit is on its own lot, leaving one additional lot vacant. The proposal is served by City water and sewer and is located in the R3 Multi-Family Residential District

**Shumaker** recommended the Planning Commission bypass its review of the short plat and entrust the decision on the application to the Short Plat Administrator. Preliminary questions followed and involved a cursory discussion by the Commission.

**MOTION** to have **Community Development Director Shumaker** continue the administrative approach to the proposed short plats was made by **Commissioner Zettler**, seconded by **Commissioner Keesee**.

Voting aye: Commissioners Breckel, Zettler, Keesee, and Ray.

#### C. Old Business

7. Comprehensive Plan Amendment\*: Finalize Public Release Draft and Establish Public Involvement Expectations for Proposed Capital Improvement Plan Amendment.

**Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** and the Commissioners held a discussion on the Public Involvement portion of the proposed amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan.

They reviewed goal statements on pages 45/47 of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposal would add two subgoals concerning level of service and services planning. It was noted most of the text struck out was added in other areas. **Shumaker** explained much of the intent is to provide for an integrated approach to facilities planning within the Comprehensive Plan. Included is project coordination with non-city utilities such as the P.U.D. and telecom service providers.

In response to questions and comments regarding rights-of-way and surveys, **Shumaker** pointed to language that will address establishing a city-wide inventory/survey of existing city ROW's. A discussion followed on establishing a GIS database of existing surveys and the inclusion of new ones to help ensure awareness of property boundaries.

To build public awareness, it was agreed by the Planning Commission to hold a public workshop concerning the Comprehensive Plan changes in July of 2022, with a public hearing on the changes scheduled for August 2022. No dates were set.

To generate public interest, an informational flyer will be developed by **City Development Director Shumaker** and other city staff and reviewed by **Planning Commission Chair Breckel** prior to distribution. Media announcements will be sent as well. Commission members were encouraged to spread the word to maximize attendance and participation by the public.

The City Council will receive the public input regarding the changes from the Planning Commission's workshop and hearing and will conduct a public hearing as well.

6. Conditional Use Permit Review\*: (CUP2022-01 54.40 Sign of Outstanding Design) Ratifying Permit Document

**Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** provided an explanation and answered questions regarding the application for a blade sign at the 54:40 Beer Lodge in Stevenson. The application was initially presented to the Planning Commission at the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Planning Commission meeting. Following a cursory discussion, it was determined to make a condition of the permit be removal of the sign upon closure of the business. It was also noted that Brian Adams is not the applicant, so his name is to be removed from the Conditional Use Permit application.

**MOTION** to ratify Conditional Use Permit (CUP2022-01 54.40 Sign of Outstanding Design) and remove Brian Adams' name from the CUP application was made by **Commissioner Zettler**, seconded by **Commissioner Keesee**.

Voting aye: Commissioners Breckel, Ray, Keesee, Zettler.

#### D. Discussion

>Mary Repar noted a number of programs and films being sponsored by the Stevenson Grange in June and July and commented on deeds that limit profits when selling a home as one way to preserve affordable housing.

#### 8. Thought of the Month:

None

#### 9. Staff & Commission Reports:

**Community Development Director Ben Shumaker** updated the Commission on the following areas:

- **Floodplains** FEMA is conducting studies and surveys to update their floodplain maps. Washington's Department of Ecology is also involved in the process. Once the draft maps are approved, a floodplain policy amendment will likely come before the Planning Commission.
- **Gateway Signs** The original gateway and informational signs installed in the Gorge by the US Forest Service 25 years ago are being replaced. There will now be maintenance agreements in place for the signs and the City Council will be addressing them. The City is proposing to change the design of the Stevenson to one with a masonry base.
- City Council Retreat A number of priorities were established at the recent retreat, including governmental health (outreach and internal structures), long term land use planning (including housing) and infrastructure. Shumaker anticipates the City Council will involve the Planning Commission in developing solutions to the housing issues.
- Murals Shumaker explained a mural request has been made by the local pot shop. The request has been endorsed by the Stevenson Downtown Association, which provides an opportunity for city staff to review the proposal rather than have it come before the Planning Commission.
- **Shoreline Access** The grant with DOE has been signed. This will allow the city to release a Request for Proposals from consultants to proactively develop plans for public shoreline access. An inventory of existing sites will be conducted.

#### E. Adjournment

Planning Commission Chair Breckel declared the meeting adjourned at @ 8:01

Minutes recorded by Johanna Roe



(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371 Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Ben Shumaker, Short Plat Administrator

**DATE:** July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Short Plat (SP2022-03)

#### **Introduction**

The Planning Department has received a complete short plat application for division of property on East Loop Road. The property is currently vacant and has no address. The tax lot number for the property is 03-75-36-3-0-0202-00.

The property is located in the R1 Single-Family Residential District. The proposal would divide the property into 2 lots of 15,001 and 22,524 square feet. The lots would be served by public water and onsite septic systems.

#### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review a neighbor's concern and provide a recommendation on the project.

#### **Relevant City Policies**

<u>SMC 16.02.110(C)</u>: After the short plat administrator determines that the proposed short plat application and map contain the required information and data, the short plat administrator shall distribute copies of the short plat application and map to the following as is necessary:...

4. City Planning Commission.

<u>SMC 16.02.120(F):</u> The Planning Commission may submit any findings and recommendations to the administrator for any short plat applications it has decided to review.

#### **Public Comments**

ISSUE: Groundwater quality.

REPORT: Staff received verbal comments from Gerald Larsen, an adjacent landowner. The property is located immediately south and down-gradient from the proposal. The comments related to the proposed use of septic systems and the subsurface flow of water which is believed to be very shallow. Colorful parts of the description involve water coming out of mole hills. He relayed multiple times his desire not to derail the project. He also supplied the attached map showing where there is a shallow well and where groundwater interacts with the foundation of the home.

INVESTIGATION: Staff investigated this issue by calling the Skamania County Environmental Health Department responsible for septic reviews. Nikki Rohan, the health officer described the septic permitting process and the approval issued for this proposal. Details discussed included the water percolation tests performed, the lack of standing water in the test holes, and water's general tendency to go downward, not laterally. The health officer also discussed the project with Mr. Larsen but saw insufficient reason to reconsider the approval.

OPTIONS: The Planning Commission should evaluate the comment and decide whether to make a

recommendation on this application. Amongst the range of recommendations, staff highlights the four below in order from least restrictive to most restrictive:

- 1- Make no recommendation on the proposal and entrust the decision to the administrative officials.
- 2- Recommend including a requirement to connect to City sewer when available.
- 3- Recommend including a requirement to connect to City sewer when available and a requirement to participate in the cost of the extension.
- 4- Recommend immediate extension and connection to the City sewer system.

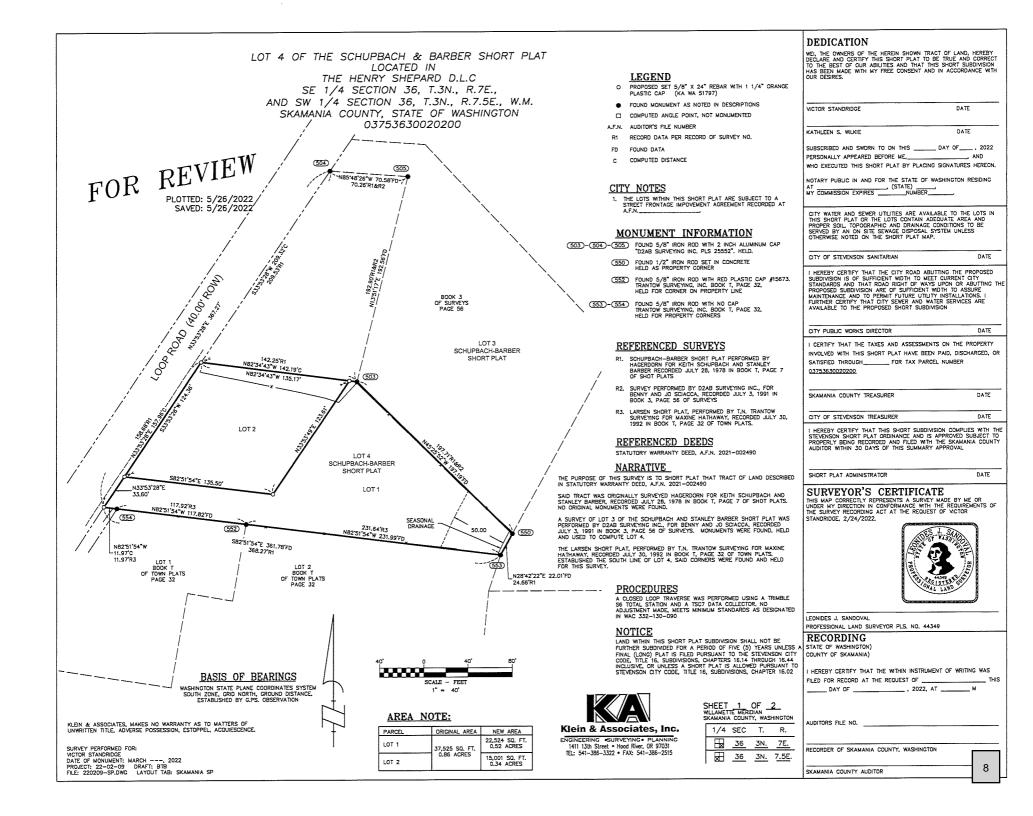
Staff can offer no professional guidance on this issue.

Thank you,

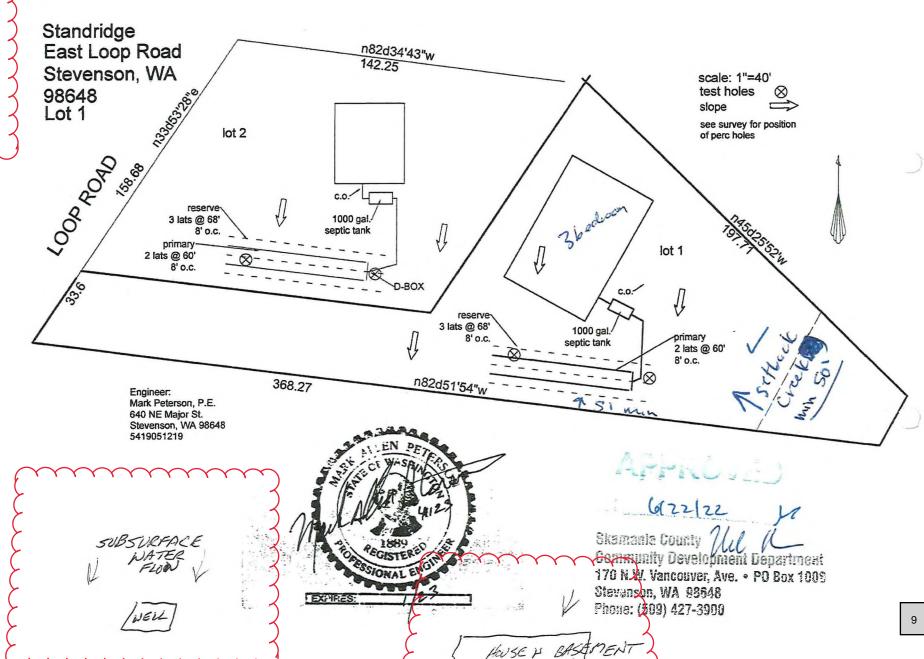
Ben Shumaker

#### Attachments

- Proposed plat map
- Map submitted by adjacent landowner



From GERALD Unises



July 10, 2022

Planning Commission City of Stevenson 7121 E Loop Road PO Box 371 Stevenson, WA 98648

Subject: Proposed Short Plat (SP2022-03)

Dear Member of the Planning Commission,

Victor Standridge and I are co-owners of the property under your review for approval. We submitted the Short Plat application after consulting with Ben Shumaker, Short Plat Administrator. At our first meeting Mr. Shumaker informed us that the City would be extending the sewer system up Loop Road but would stop at Frank John Road. Frank John Road is approximately 625 feet from our property. He estimated it would cost us approximately \$300,000 to extend the sewer line to our property and the financial burden would have to be born by us. All the properties adjacent to ours have existing septic systems. Therefore we believe our proposal to install septic systems on both parcels is consistent with the current neighborhood. Our long term plans include connecting to the City sewer once it is extended to our property on Loop Road.

As part of our due diligence, we contracted with Mark Peterson, Civil Engineer, to design septic systems for both proposed parcels as shown on our Short Plat plan. The plans were submitted to Skamania County Environmental Health for review. Nikki Rohan, Environmental Health Specialist II, inspected our soil test pits and approved our application. Requirements of the permit include installing all parts of the septic system 100' from wells and surface water. Our engineer made sure our plans complied with all conditions of the permit.

Gerald Larsen's property is to the south of ours and also has a septic system. His property is adjacent to a year round stream and across the street from a pond, both of which may contribute to his observation of water coming out of mole hills on his property. We have not observed water coming out of mole hills on our property and there are many! The proposed septic systems are approximately 280 feet from his well and over 135 feet from his house. Mr. Larson's property also has a row of well-established pine trees along our shared property line with a root system that naturally provides a barrier/filtration system for any water that that might flow laterally subsurface.

Mr. Standridge and I are optimistic that the Planning Commission will approve our Short Plat based on our due diligence in meeting all the requirements of the City of Stevenson and Skamania County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wilkie Director of Public Works, Retired (509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371 Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Ben Shumaker

**SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Vacancy

#### **Introduction**

The Stevenson Planning Commission is given the opportunity to interview individuals interested in filling the current vacancy on the Planning Commission and recommend one individual for appointment by the City Council.

#### **Selection Process**

<u>Interview Process:</u> The Planning Commission should gauge potential members according to the answers the candidate gives on the statement of interest form, the interview questions, and/or any other factor about the candidate's suitability. The preliminary set of questions below help to guide the meeting process. The Planning Commission should feel free to deviate from the suggested questions.

- 1. Why do you want to be on the Planning Commission?
- 2. Will you be able to devote sufficient time to your duties as Planning Commissioner?
- 3. Is there anything about you or your activities in the City that is likely to cause conflicts of interest in the future?

<u>Deliberation Process:</u> After the interviews, the Planning Commission may ask the members to voluntarily leave the Planning Commission chambers to have frank discussions. Despite such a request, the candidates are not obligated to exit. However, if they do, they will be invited back into the session prior to any decision.

Recommendation Process: After deliberation, the Chair may call for or make a motion "to recommend the City Council appointment of \_\_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the Stevenson Planning Commission." If a motion carries, the Chair can move on to the next agenda item. If the Planning Commission is unable to agree on a recommendation, it can request further recruitment, or it can recommend the City Council hold its own interview process.

#### Attachments

Statements of interest

# **ANTHONY LAWSON**

722 NW ANGEL HEIGHTS ROAD, STEVENSON, WA 98648 tlawson517@gmail.com / 503-481-3796

## City of Stevenson Planning Commission

Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director 7121 East Loop Road Stevenson, WA 98648

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am interested in being considered to fill the vacant City of Stevenson Planning Commissioner position. I am providing this letter so that you might get to know me a bit better.

I am a retired, 67-year-old father of two. My wife and I moved to Stevenson from Hillsboro, Oregon almost 3 years ago. I was born in Mt. Vernon, Washington and resided in Hillsboro, Oregon for 28 years prior to moving to Stevenson.

My work experience has been:

- Construction Contractor in California
- Field Service Engineer, IBM
- Computer Operations Manager. Syntex Corporation
- National Service Manager, Syva Medical Diagnostics
- Stay at Home Dad, 12 years
- Field Service Engineer, Agilent Technologies, Cancer Diagnostics
- I have managed large groups of people and multimillion dollar budgets.

I have worked on four different nonprofit boards.

- Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum (Current Treasurer)
- Bethany Village HOA
- South Redwood City Residents Association
- Frithwood School Board of Governors

My work on the various boards included budgetary oversight, arbitration with residents, lobbying the City Council, presenting capital improvement requests to the Borough Council and various management oversight.

I would be quite happy to fill the position of Planning Commissioner if you so desire.

March 31, 2022

#### **Anthony Lawson (Tony)**

722 NW Angel Heights Rd Stevenson, WA 98648 503-481-3796 tlawson517@gmail.com

#### **Ben Shumaker**

Community Development Director City of Stevenson 7121 East Loop Road Stevenson, WA 98648 509-427-5970 ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us

Dear Ben,

I am interested in being considered to fill the vacant position on the City of Stevenson Planning Commission.

I have a keen interest in seeing Stevenson grow and improve in such a way that enhances the quality of life, provides opportunity for local businesses, keeps Stevenson as Green as possible and continues to be a wonderful place to call home.

I have attached a brief description of my skills and experience so that you can evaluate whether I might be a good addition to the Planning Commission.

All the Best,

Tony Lawson

(509)427-5970 ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us 7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371 Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO:	Individuals Interested in the Stevenson Planning Commission
FROM:	Ben Shumaker, Planning Director
SUBJECT:	Statement of Interest
Thank You fo	or Your Interest!
	orief moment to fill in the forms on this sheet. This will give us an idea of who you are and be able to help contribute to our Planning Commission.  It is Hales  Email Address: charles.hales@hdrinc.com
	5 NW Chesser Rd. Stevenson, WA 98648
	one: 971-401-3481 <u>Alternate Phone:</u> n/a
Availability:	
•	to attend meetings on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 6:00pm?
Residency/C	<u> </u>
Are you a resi	dent of Stevenson?
Are you a citiz	zen of the United States?
Your Age:	□-25 or younger □-26-35 □-36-45 □-46-55 □-56-65 <b>□</b> -66 or older
Areas of Inte	<u>rest</u>
Please place a	mark next to the topics that interest you (please limit your response to three (3) topics):
✓ Land	Use (Subdivision/Zoning Controls)    Housing
<b>✓</b> Capita	al Facilities (Water/Sewer/Stormwater) 🔽 Transportation (Auto/Bike/Pedestrian/Parking)
<b>✓</b> Econ	omic Development (Industry/Tourism) 🔽 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space
Scene	ery & Aesthetics (Signage/Architecture)   Environment & Sustainability
Other	r (please specify):
Background	/ Statement of Interest
involved with I've been involved construction dealing with led the Plan	space below to provide us with a brief statement about yourself and why you want to be the Planning Commission (attach additional sheets as necessary):  volved in planning, transportation and public works for all of my career. I did summer work in high school and college. Then worked for the Home Builders Association, land use, building codes, etc. I was elected as a City Commissioner in Portland, and ning, Transportation and Parks Bureaus over a ten-year period. Later, I ran for and ortland's Mayor.
Now living in	n Stevenson, I work for a large architecture and engineering company on planning
-projects in v	various locations. I have no current clients or projects in Skamania County. My wife own our home her, but have no other property or conflicts of interest.
	s a wonderful small city, facing the pressures of growth and change. I would like to the City's discussions about these issues and choices.