TOWN OF YARROW POINT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2018

The following is a condensation of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript.

CALL TO ORDER:
Amy Pellegrini, Planning Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Amy Pellegrini

Commissioners: Trevor Dash
Chuck Hirsch
Carl Hellings
Jennifer Whittier

Staff: Town Deputy Clerk Austen Wilcox
Town Planner Mona Green

Guests: Dicker Cahill - Resident
Stephan Lagerholm - Councilmember
Robert Afzal – Resident
Cheryl Pietromonaco – Resident
Jackie Shaw – Resident
Michael Lawler - Resident
Janet Lawler – Resident
Dan – Resident
Wendy Hawley – Resident
Jay Crowell – Resident
Jennifer Crowell – Resident
Homa Shirazi - Resident

APPEARANCES:
Robert Afzal, resident at 9075 NE 40th Pl, discussed an issue regarding a hedge complaint he has with a neighbor and requested the Commission review the Town’s code definition of hedges. Mr. Afzal stated that some hedges have grown into trees making them a nonconformance issue. Mr. Afzal provided suggestions on potential code revisions for hedges.
Town Planner Green gave an overview of the review process from Town staff and the governing body after the public makes appearances at board meetings.

**MINUTES:**
March 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** Commissioner Dash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting. Commissioner Hirsch seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** 4 For, 0 Against. Motion carried.

**STAFF REPORTS:**
Town Planner Green reviewed topics discussed at the May Council meeting.
- A series of stormwater repair projects will be performed starting in late May.
- The Mayor reported that he's creating a job description and interviewing candidates for the Clerk-Treasurer position.
- Decision making for wireless facilities. Council is requesting input from the Planning Commission for this process.

Commissionwoman Pellegrini asked if the Tree Ordinance will be brought to the Planning Commission to review. Town Planner Green stated that Council is interested in the topic and will give direction to the Commission should they want them to move forward with the research on potential revisions of the Tree Code.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**
**PCAB 18-05** Town Decision Making Regarding Wireless Facility Permits and Future Projects, *for Recommendation*

Town Planner Green stated that the Council discussed the topic of Town decision making regarding wireless facility permits and future projects at the May Council meeting. Ms. Green explained the current Yarrow Point Municipal Code at 17.30.120 assigns responsibility for decisions regarding wireless facilities (i.e. cell towers and associated equipment) to the Planning Commission. The Council has requested input from the Planning Commission to weight their input on whether or not the decision-making process should be turned over to a hearing examiner or continued to be heard by the Commission.

Town Planner Green shared that there is not a process for the appeal of wireless facility permits.
Town Planner Green specified that there are three items the Planning Commission needs to consider:

1. Who should be the decision maker for wireless facility permits
2. Seek a recommendation on the appeal process for wireless facility special use permits
3. Policy discussion about the future of high speed internet access within the Town and noted that experts may need to be brought in to educate the commissioners.

Mayor and resident Dicker Cahill shared the context of what the Council has asked the Planning Commission to look into at a policy level. There is no application related to the discussion.

Public Comment:

Janet Lawler, resident at 3625 92nd Ave NE, discussed negative principles around the aesthetics of cell towers and how they can diminish home values. Ms. Lawler also stated the importance of monitoring cell sites.

Cheryl Pietromonaco, resident at 3445 92nd Ave NE, stated that she has been researching cellular towers and 5G Network. Ms. Pietromonaco provided examples of negative effects of having cell towers located near housing and recommended the importance of education on cellular equipment. Ms. Pietromonaco stated risks to exposure to cell companies.

Jackie Shaw, resident at 8910 NE 33rd St, was surprised that a cell tower went up and was also not aware of it going up. Ms. Shaw applauds the creation of an appeal process the Commission is considering.

Dan, resident on 92nd Ave NE, applauded Ms. Pietromonaco's efforts in creating awareness of the cell tower and stated that he is not in favor of new cellular equipment installed in the Town.

Wendy Holly, resident at 3123 94th Ave NE, shared that she is on Ms. Pietromonaco’s side and expresses concern regarding cell towers and potential health effects related to them.

Homa Shirazi, resident at 8911 NE 33rd St, stated that she had contacted an attorney to review an appeal process of the cell tower and stated negative aesthetics of them. Ms. Shirazi stated the concerns of the close proximity of the cell tower to the residents and health concerns.
Ms. Shirazi stated that Town codes are old and need to be reviewed.

Jennifer Crowell, 3624 92nd Ave NE, has concerns regarding radiation health effects due to cell towers. Ms. Crowell referenced health effects found from 5G in Europe.

Mike Lawler, resident at 3625 92nd Ave NE, has concerns regarding reproductive risk and health hazards from cell towers found in some European studies. Mr. Lawler shared difficulties working with cellular company lawyers. Mr. Lawler recommended that it would be best to have the Planning Commission review wireless facility permits over a hearing examiner. Mr. Lawler suggested getting signatures from residents in opposition of cell towers for Council review.

Jay Crowell, resident at 3624 92nd Ave NE, believes that additional cell data does not need to be brought into the town.

Dicker Cahill, resident at 4024 94th Ave NE, shared his appreciation for resident input and the importance for addressing their concerns.

Town Planner Green stated that staff will provide the Commission with further research and information on cellular sites. Professionals can be brought in to allow the Commission to be as educated as possible on cellular sites. The Town attorney can draft a decision.

Town Planner Green also stated the importance of receiving resident input on the topic.

The Commission discussed the ability to appeal hearing examiners decisions.

Monitoring of the cell site was asked. The Town does not monitor cell site activity.

Commissioner Whittier requested the tree code to be tasked to the Commission's agenda for research on.

Public Comment:

Mike Lawler, resident at 3625 92nd Ave NE, stated that he believes many residents are not aware of tree code regulations and hedge height allowance and recommended the Town remind residents of these regulations.
Town Planner Green discussed the Town code, hedge heights, language, and explained the process for appeal.

Homa Shirazi, resident at 8911 NE 33rd St, shared the negative aesthetic appearance of trees that have had ivy sprayed with pesticides and asked how this can be stopped.

Stephan Lagerholm, resident at 9039 NE 33rd St, commented on Town Municipal Code regarding herbicides. Mr. Lagerholm suggested reviewing this code language.

ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION**: Commissioner Dash moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. Commissioner Whittier seconded the motion.

**VOTE**: 4 For, 0 Against. Motion carried.

APPROVED:

Amy Pellegrini, Chair

ATTEST:

Anastasiya Warhol, Clerk-Treasurer