

**MINUTES OF THE SANDPOINT  
PLANNING COMMISSION/CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND  
PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 22, 2002, AT CITY HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Logan called the joint workshop portion of the Planning Commission's meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** In attendance were Planning Commission members Christine Kester, Carrie Logan Michael Dougherty, Raffat Saied, Chuck Spickelmire, Alice Vroman, Planning Director Jeff Jones, and Associate Planner Joan Bramblee. Commission member Jeff Dishaw was absent.

Also in attendance for the joint workshop with City Council were council members Ray Miller, Sue Haynes, Michael Boge, Alison Burgstahler, Mayor Paul Graves, and City Clerk Helen Newton.

**WORKSHOP WITH  
COUNCIL:**

**Discussion regarding Public  
Art**

Staff presented a videotape provided by Councilwoman Elliot of a sculpture park in Colorado. Mrs. Bramblee summarized some of the issues that need to be considered when considering public art policy, such as the scope of the policy, funding, and responsibility for decision-making and maintenance.

Councilwoman Haynes indicated it is important for the City to have such a policy in place. She believes the City should be encouraging area artists and actively seeking out public art. Councilwoman Burgstahler stated she liked the idea of having an Arts Council to consider and make decisions to Council regarding proposals. Commissioner Vroman stated there are two avenues for acquiring art: that which is presented/offered to the City, and that which the City would pursue.

Discussion followed on how such a policy should be developed. Councilmen Miller and Boge agreed they do not like the idea of such regulations being applied to private property. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to move the provisions regarding murals from the current Sign Code to an art policy. Further discussion followed on funding for such a program, and how such a program has been utilized in the City of Coeur d'Alene. Councilman Miller also expressed concern about the budget implications, stating it may be more appropriate to just look at setting some standards.

Commissioner Dougherty stated the Byway project is a good example where public art could have been incorporated into a project and the City lost out on the opportunity because there were no provisions in place. Commissioner Spickelmire indicated the State Transportation Department has involved an artist in the development of the Byway plans.

The consensus of the Council was that the Planning Commission be given the task of putting together a proposal for the public art policy. Commission Chairman Logan indicated the Commission could look at the provisions of other jurisdictions, take public comment, and pass their recommendations on to City Council in a six-month time frame.

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David Kraisler is a local artist. He noted there are many communities that have adopted an art policy, in some cases for both the public and private sectors. There are many ways to fund such an effort, including grants. He declared it is important to have a mechanism in place to facilitate public art.

Chris Kraisler is a member of the Pend Oreille Arts Council. She is very much in support of the City adopting such a policy, and indicated the Council would like the opportunity to participate in the public comment process while the policy is being developed.

Constance Buxton is the Executive Director of the Downtown Association. She declared the Association strongly supports the adoption of an Art policy by the City. She pointed out the City has already been listed as one of the top 100 art communities in the country. That is something the City should take advantage of, and the adoption of such a policy will help accomplish that.

**Discussion regarding the  
roles of City Council and  
Planning Commission in  
the planning process**

Discussion followed on the respective roles and viewpoints of the Commission and Council. Chairman Logan stated there was a time when the City Council would meet with the Planning Commission if there was an issue where the Council was going to overturn a unanimous recommendation. With the Council's recent reversal of the Commission's recommendation on the rules applicable to public parks, it gave the impression that the Council didn't give a lot of thought to their recommendation.

Councilman Miller noted the Council's decisions on an issue are more likely to be more politically minded than those of the Commission's. That is part of the reason for having the Commission in place. The Mayor indicated he would like to follow that previous policy regarding meeting with Commission members. Mr. Jones stated that type of meeting would be allowed regarding legislative items, but not quasi-judicial applications.

Councilman Boge said he would like to see more research done of how planning issues are being dealt with in other communities. Public Art would only be one such subject

Chairman Logan said other issues she would like to see addressed include historic preservation, design stands, and temporary uses. Mr. Jones gave a brief update on the status of those projects.

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**Moorage Dock Phase II  
Discussion and Update**

Mr. Jones explained the City's Project Coordinator is working on a grant for Phase II of the Moorage Project to extend the dock from the south side of Bridge Street to the end of the Eagles Lodge property. They are looking at eventually extending the dock to the Cedar Street Bridge, although the funding for that is not available at this time. One of the requirements of the grant application is to provide this opportunity for public comment. The Downtown Association supports this project. The Commission and Council both indicated their support of the project.

The workshop portion was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. A break was taken and the Planning Commission reconvened in their regular meeting.

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR:**

**Commissioner Kester moved** to approve the Consent Calendar, which included the December 18, 2001, special meeting minutes and the January 8, 2002, workshop minutes. **Commissioner Dougherty seconded**; the motion passed unanimously.

**MATTERS FROM THE  
PUBLIC:**

*None.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*None.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**File ZC02-01 - An  
amendment to Sandpoint  
City Code Title 9, Zoning,  
providing that public or  
private schools be a  
permitted use in the  
Commercial "D" zone.**

Mrs. Bramblee reviewed the Staff Report, noting a recent incident with a school in a residential zone prompted some research into how schools in general have been handled in the City. Currently a use listed as a Conditional Use in the Professional Office or Commercial Neighborhood zones would also be allowed in the Commercial zone through the same permit process. The current location of the senior and junior high schools are in the Commercial zone

Commissioner Dougherty asked about the pros and cons of allowing this revision. Mrs. Bramblee said that even without a hearing process, either a new building or an existing building that is converted would be required to meet the Building Code requirements for that type of use. This amendment would not remove the conditional use permit requirement for that type of use in either the residential or Professional Office zones

Chairman Logan expressed concern about the proposed change and disagreed with the interpretation that the language in the Commercial zone allows any of the Conditional Uses in the lesser commercial zones. If this is allowed as a permitted use in the Commercial zone, that would also make it a permitted use in the Light Industrial zone and that was not appropriate in her opinion. Discussion followed on the types of uses currently allowed as permitted in the Commercial zone and that some of those uses, such as a gas station, should not be next to a school.

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**Commissioner Spickelmire moved** that this item be continued till the end of February and Staff be instructed to prepare verbiage regarding the conditional use permit provision in the Commercial "D" and correct the language in the Light Industrial "ER" zone. **Commissioner Vroman seconded**; the motion passed without opposition.

**MATTERS FROM THE STAFF:**

Mr. Jones presented the idea of using the short plat process to reconfigure long, narrow nonconforming lots by reorienting the lot lines without changing the size. After discussion, the Commission indicated that is a precedent they would not want be to setting.

Mr. Jones advised the Commission that Staff was prepared to make an interpretation that group homes for non-handicapped or non-elderly persons was an appropriate permitted use in a Residence C zone, which permits multi-family, units and clubs, lodges and fraternal organizations by right and daycare centers and group daycare facilities as conditional uses. After discussion, the Commission agreed that 4 units for group housing would be appropriate in the Residence C zone.

Staff presented information for a decreased setback at the corner of Michigan and Boyer as allowed by Code. The Commission asked that the matter be brought back with a drawing.

**MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Logan inquired about the relocation of the NICE/White Tail Transportation business to a site on North Boyer Avenue. Staff indicated the site is zoned Light Industrial and the use is permitted in that zone.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Logan adjourned the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie Logan, Chairman