

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
PIERCE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**
Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 9:30 A.M.
Public Meeting Room, 2401 So. 35th St., Tacoma

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon Benson, Chair
Jeff Brown
Kevin Rau
Sharon Hanek
Jon Higley
Kathryn Jerkovich

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Williams, excused

Clerk: Danica Williams, PPW-PALS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Copies of all staff reports and related documents under review were made available.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made (Brown/Rau) to adopt the minutes of September 24, 2019, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously.

Development Regulations Amendments – Exterior Lighting Standards

Staff presented on amendments to Pierce County Code Chapter 18B.20 “Countywide Sign Design Regulations” and Chapter 18J.15 “Countywide Design Standards and Guidelines” to adopt enhanced exterior lighting standards based on International Dark-Sky Association best practices in order to reduce the incidence of light pollution from new development and its associated interference with night-time military training operations.

Contact: Erik Jaszewski, Associate Planner, 253-798-3752

DISCUSSION

- Studies regarding financial impact to businesses
- Impact to property owners with existing light conditions verses new development
- Studies on the wildlife actually being impacted on lighting system and how it effects animals
- Impacts and requirements to existing businesses looking to expand
- Why the County exempt from regulations
 - Development regulations apply to private businesses, but the County does seek to comply with development standards that everyone else does.
 - Street lighting along Canyon Road will eventually be replaced with compliant lighting.
- Concerns regarding street lighting and entering into resident homes

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Roxy Giddings, Parkland—This seems like a good idea, but Ms. Giddings does not see where it says that it will prevent light pollution to the sky. It is also hard for the public to understand what the exterior light standards are. Concerns regarding how much lighting it actually is. She questioned if there were any regulations saying that you will not shine bright lights onto neighbor’s property. There have been issues with light coming from adjacent properties.

William Giddings, Parkland— Mr. Giddings has seen that blinking and/or flashing rolling signs were prohibited, but they do still exist on the Garfield Street and are a nuisance.

- Follow up from staff: In the model lighting ordinance provided by the report, there was a way to deal with preexisting lighting conditions, but the County felt it was too extreme and did not recommend implementation of these policies.

Nicole Weber, 17928 97th Ln E—Inquiring more specifically about schools. Ms. Weber had concerns about lighting regulations violating the placing of safety signs for students to make sure drivers slow down near schools.

- Follow up from staff: Health and safety are exempt from proposed amendments and also these chapters are not applicable to public roads. The County Engineer is interested in using best practices as applicable.

MOTION

A motion was made (Brown/Rau) to approve the proposed amendments to chapter 18B.20 “Countywide Sign Design Regulations” and chapter 18J.15 “Countywide Design Standards and Guidelines” as presented. **Motion passed 5-1.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion on agenda packet printing moving forward

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.