

ELLENSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**September 21, 2016 Regular Meeting (5:17 p.m. to 6:12 p.m.)
Council Conference Room – 501 North Anderson**

Members Present: PJ MacPhaiden, Howard Lyman, Matt Willard, James Rivard, and Miranda Nover.

Members Absent: Seth Mills

Also present: Nancy Lillquist, Council Liaison, Angela San Filippo, Long Range Planner; and Laura Wilson, Associate Planner (Recording Secretary)

Chairman MacPhaiden called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioner Lyman moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Willard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

DISCUSSION

Comprehensive Plan – Environmental Chapter

Angela San Filippo, Long Range Planner, explained the Comprehensive Plan update process and the role of the Environmental Commission to provide input on the Environmental Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. She explained the timeline and the June 30, 2017 deadline of the update. She explained the population projection and allocation, the employment projection and allocation, the public participation plan, the housing and transportation study, and the individual element review. Ms. San Filippo clarified the Council of Governments had not approved the population projections or allocations but had been discussing the topic and planned on voting in September or October 2016. The individual elements listed were land use, housing, capital facilities, transportation, and the environmental element.

She noted the environmental chapter was an optional element in terms of the Growth Management Act and optional for the City of Ellensburg to address it. She stated the City of Ellensburg has already addressed several components of the Environmental Chapter even though they were not specified in the current comprehensive plan. Some of the components were the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, the Non-Motorized Bike and Pedestrian Plan, land use policies that addressed a mix of different uses, and a Renewable Energy Program. She noted Critical Areas and the Shoreline Master Program could be additional environmental elements that could be included into the Environmental chapter or the Land Use section of the comprehensive plan. She requested feedback from the Environmental Commission on these topics. She also provided several different resources and examples for information.

Commissioner Willard asked about the timeline of Environmental Commission's feedback. Ms. San Filippo said she would attend the next Environmental Commission meeting on October 19, 2016, for discussion but that it may need a couple of work sessions to work through all topics. She said she would collect information from the current comprehensive plan and compile them into goals and policy statements for them to review. She also requested the commissioners look at the example communities' goals and policies.

Commissioner Lyman expressed strong interest in seeing the environmental issue in the comprehensive plan. He wanted to know what the other communities were doing and how successful the ideas were. Commissioner Rivard questioned if woodstoves were addressed in Ellensburg's comprehensive plan. Ms. San Filippo noted the comprehensive plan did not address woodstoves as that would be on a regulatory level, but could address air quality in the

comprehensive plan. She also clarified the Critical Areas information would be written as goals and policies.

COUNCIL FUNDED COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

Chair MacPhaiden noted that the grant application stated the maximum amount to request was limited to \$2000 although the applicants requested more than \$2000 and the commission was allotted \$10,000. She stated she had no authority other than to suggest that since the \$2000 maximum was stated on the application, that the Environmental Commission keep their recommendations to \$2000. Laura Wilson, Recording Secretary, provided the history of the \$2000 maximum limit and also noted that the recommendations could be conditioned to specific projects within the applications. She also informed the commission of specific city code requirements that would need to be met and any recommendations could be conditioned to meet those requirements. Council Member Lillquist recalled the intent of the \$2000 cap was to allow micro grants, but this Environmental Commission could review the application for next year's grant cycle. She also clarified that the Adopt a Stream was originally submitted to the Community Grants program, but was passed to the Environmental Commission as it fitted the intent of the Water Quality grant program.

Mid Columbia Fisheries

The Environmental Commission discussed the Mid-Columbia Fisheries application. Commissioner Lyman stated he had been involved in stream cleanup and signage would be the most important to provide awareness. The Environmental Commission discussed the budget provided in the application and which projects could be funded and the stipulation that the signage meet all requirements of the city code and installation and maintenance not be assigned to city crews.

Motion:

Commissioner Lyman moved that the Environmental Commission recommend to Council that the full \$2000 be granted to Mid Columbia Fisheries for the Adopt a Stream program and it go toward the installation of signage, meeting city codes and the applicant accept responsibility for maintenance. Commissioner Willard seconded the motion for sake of discussion.

There was a brief discussion on conditioning the money. They also discussed the application requirements of turning in receipts for reimbursement.

The motion passed with all in favor.

KEEN

The Environmental Commission reviewed the Kittitas Environmental Education Network application. The commission discussed the Wet Water Education Classroom Kits and the cost of the kits. They noted the kits seemed to most directly fit the mandate of clean water maintenance and education.

Motion:

Commissioner Lyman moved that the Environmental Commission recommend to Council the full \$2000 be granted to KEEN with the intention of providing Wet Water Education Kits for the education classroom. Commissioner Willard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

BICYCLE ADVISORY

Nancy Lillquist, Council Liaison, updated the commission on various activities. She reported that Sunday was The Mountain Bike Skills course grand opening. The morning rotary was moving forward with the Circle the City project. She said it would provide enhancement to the trails. She also provided an update on the plastic bag ban. She said Council did not make a decision, but will discuss it when all Council Members would be present. She also reminded them of the October 12, speaker who will discuss the John Wayne Trail.

Commissioner Lyman moved to adjourn. Commissioner Rivard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Laura Wilson
Recording Secretary (Drafted 10/12/16)