
**PLUMAS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of December 16, 2010

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mark Dotta, *Chair* (District 1) **Larry Williams**, *Commissioner* (District 4)
Betsy Schramel, *Vice Chair* (District 2) **John Olofson**, *Commissioner* (District 5)
Richard Rydell, *Commissioner* (District 3)



The Plumas County Planning Commission (*the Commission*) convenes in a Meeting on December 16, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair Mark Dotta presiding.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Schramel, Olofson, Dotta
 Rydell - *Attends the meeting telephonically at 7310 Winding Oaks Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, a public place where other members of the public can participate in the meeting*

Commissioners Absent: Williams

County Supervisors, County Staff, and General Plan Update Consultants Attending:

Randy Wilson, Planning Director Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary
Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner

IV. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA

Dotta asks the Commissioners if there are any items to be continued or withdrawn from the agenda. Wilson asks if he can present and discuss *Item VIII-A-1, the CEQA Checklist*, directly following *Item VI, Public Comment Opportunity*. Dotta calls for a motion to approve the agenda with that change made. Olofson makes the motion, Schramel seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 17, 2010, Meeting

Schramel points out a word change to make on Page 2 as follows:

- Last line on the page – change Basis to Basin.

Dotta calls for a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2010, with the corrections noted. Motion is made by Olofson, Schramel seconds the motion, and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS / COMMENTS

Dotta reminds the Commission that according to the *Rules of Conduct of the Planning Commission*, election of officers will take place in January.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – *No members of the public are in attendance at this meeting.*

Transcriber's Note: Per Commission approval in Item IV-A, Item VIII-A-1 CEQA Checklist, is presented and discussed at this point in the meeting.

VII. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

A. CONSULTANT TEAM'S REPORT - *Wilson announces that the Consultant will not be in attendance at this meeting.*

1. STATUS ON CONSULTANT PRODUCTS – *No report*

B. PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY – *No members of the public are in attendance at this meeting.*

C. DRAFT GENERAL PLAN POLICIES AND MAPS –

Commissioners and Staff discuss how to proceed with the review of the *Draft Goals and Policies* document, particularly whether there is a need to schedule longer Planning Commission meetings and/or extra meetings in order to keep on schedule. The decision is made to extend this meeting and set up future meetings in the following fashion:

- Work for several hours;
- Take a lunch break around Noon or 1:00 p.m.; and
- Work in the afternoon for a length of time decided by the Commission.

Olofson expresses his concern that there are not sufficient benchmarks for monitoring progress in the *Draft Goals and Policies* document. Discussion among Commissioners and Staff follows with no decision made on the matter.

Dotta states that the review today will begin with *Element 4 – Circulation and Transportation (Item 4.1)*. Main points of discussion by Commissioners and Staff are focused on the following:

- Level of Service standard is explained (*Item 4.1.1*);
- Question: What has happened to ARTA (*Almanor Regional Transportation Assessment*)?
- Suggestion that use of “roundabouts” should be encouraged;
- It is important to have alternate transportation routes in county;
- There should be multi-modal use of the highway systems throughout all of Plumas County, not just Quincy;
- There is a need to look at climate changes in our region;
- There is a need to support food industry in Plumas County via transportation of product;
- Suggestion to remove the word “aggressively” in *Item 4.5.4*;
- Need for a roadside rest area in Indian Valley; and
- Suggestion to strike the word “hiring” in *Item 4.5.7*; and
- Suggestion to use the wording “will support” throughout *Items 4.5.7 - 4.5.10*.

Transcriber’s Note: Attached you will find the Draft Goals, Policies document. This material can also be located on the Plumas County Website (www.plumascounty.us).

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. **CEQA CHECKLIST (HANDOUT TITLED “INITIAL STUDY”) –** *Per Commission approval in Item IV-A, Item VIII-A-1 is presented and discussed directly after Item VI.*

Wilson states that going over the CEQA Checklist is useful because you get an understanding of what we look at from the CEQA standpoint. Wilson continues that eventually the Commission is going to have a need to make a recommendation on the EIR for the General Plan Update; and after the first of the year, I will go to the Board to get authorization for the Commission to have CEQA authority which you presently do not have.

Wilson begins review of the CEQA checklist entitled, *Initial Study*, by reading the Introduction which states:

This checklist is to be completed for all projects that are not exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The information, analysis and conclusions contained in the checklist are the basis for deciding whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is to be prepared. Additionally, if an EIR is prepared, the checklist shall be used to focus the EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant.

Wilson reads the following language pertaining to the *Determination*:

On the Basis of this initial evaluation: I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment,

there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

Wilson continues his presentation by touching briefly on each environmental factor that could potentially be affected by a project. The factors are listed as follows:

Aesthetics; Agriculture/Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards & Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use/Planning; Mineral Resources; Noise; Population/Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation/Traffic; Utilities/Service Systems; and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

Wilson also mentions the following four options that can be considered and checked off when using the checklist:

- *Potentially Significant Impact*
- *Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation*
- *Less Than Significant Impact*
- *No Impact*

During the presentation, Wilson, Commissioners, and Staff exchange comments on the material. Wilson points out that the checklist items are provided by the State and cannot be added to or changed by the Planning Commission or County.

2. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT – *No report given*

3. ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES

a.) *Zoning Administrator – No update given*

b.) *Current Planning - No update given*

4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY THE PLANNING DIRECTOR

- Wilson reports that the current OPR Extension will run out in April, 2011; however, a one year extension can be obtained.
- Wilson states he will prepare an annual report regarding the Housing Element before the end of the year.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - *None*

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- *Election of Officers*
- *Comments regarding the draft General Plan Policies & Maps*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dotta adjourns the meeting of December 16, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for January 6, 2011, in the Planning & Building Services Conference Room.



Mark Dotta, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary
Plumas County Planning Department