

  
**COUNTY OF PLUMAS**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE:** February 16, 2023

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Plumas County Courthouse Building  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
Room 308  
520 Main Street  
Quincy, CA 95971

**STANDING ORDERS**

Due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency, dated March 16, 2020, the County of Plumas is making several changes related to meetings to protect the public's health and prevent the disease from spreading locally. The Plumas County Health Officer Recommendation Regarding Teleconferencing, issued on September 30, 2021, recommends local legislative bodies, such as commissions, committees, boards, and councils, hold public meetings with teleconferencing as authorized by Government Code section 54953 (e).

Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (e) and to maintain the orderly conduct of the meeting, the County of Plumas members of the Planning Commission may attend the meeting via teleconference or phone conference and participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were physically present. Due to Government Code section 54953(e), the Board of Supervisors Chambers, where the Planning Commission meets, will be open to the public but subject to state or federal social distancing or masking requirements, if applicable. It is strongly recommended that individuals attending meetings wear masks.

**THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY AS FOLLOWS**

**Zoom Meeting / View and Verbal Public Comment Opportunity:**

Members of the public who wish to watch live and provide public comment on any item on the agenda can join via the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92668567598?pwd=T21qNFFGem1PWXBIUFFZSnJwZEIKdz09>

Call: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 926 6856 7598

Passcode: 461910

**Written Public Comment Opportunity:**

Members of the public may submit written comments on any matter within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction (Plumas County Code Title 2, Chapter 2, Article 1, Sec. 2-2.107 – Duties), regardless of whether the matter is on the agenda for Commission consideration or action. Comments will be entered into the administrative record of the meeting. Members of the public are strongly encouraged to submit their comments on agenda and non-agenda items before and/or during the Planning Commission meeting, using e-mail address [publicplanningcommission@countyofplumas.com](mailto:publicplanningcommission@countyofplumas.com)

[www.countyofplumas.com](http://www.countyofplumas.com) ]

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**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**



*In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Planning Commission Clerk at 530-283-6207. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility. Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities.*

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***Note: A majority of the Board of Supervisors may be present and may participate in discussion.***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

Chris Spencer	(District 1)
Jack Montgomery	(District 3)
Charles Leonhardt	(District 4)
Harvey West	(District 5)



**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

*At this time, the public has the opportunity to address the Commission concerning any item of interest not listed on this agenda. The Commission may not discuss or take any action on any item presented during the public comment period that is not on the agenda. The Commission may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by members of the public. Upon recognition by the Chairman, please state your name, county of residence, and subject matter. Discussion of any non-agenda items will be limited to three (3) minutes or such reasonable time as is granted by the majority of the Commission.*

None

**V. CONSENT ITEMS**

*A. Items to be continued or withdrawn from the agenda*

None

*B. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2023 (Note, the regularly scheduled meeting of February 2, 2023 was cancelled)*

***Motion:*** Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2023

***Moved by*** Harvey West, ***Seconded by*** Chris Spencer

***Vote:*** Motion carried.

***Yes:*** Spencer, Leonhardt, West

***Abstain:*** Montgomery

**VI. 2021 WILDFIRES LONG-TERM RECOVERY PLAN STANDING UPDATE**

Tracey Ferguson, Planning Director, gave an update on the Dixie and Beckwourth Complex Fires recovery phase and stated the following:

- The Long-Term Recovery Plan is being developed and there are five (5) working groups: Economic, Infrastructure, Health and Human Services, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Housing and Commercial Buildings.
- Each working group has their own draft projects that are being proposed as part of the Long-Term Recovery Plan.
- The total number of draft projects is between fifty (50) and fifty-five (55) projects.
- Plumas County in collaboration with the Dixie Fire Collaborative is holding four (4) community meetings throughout the County to receive public input on the projects as well as the vision and values for the Long-Term Recovery Plan.
- The first meeting is Saturday, February 18, at Greenville Elementary from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

## **VII. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Commissioner Chris Spencer gave an update on the fire district consolidation in the eastern portion of the County stating that board meetings are being held this week – Sierra Valley Fire Protection District was on Tuesday, Beckwourth Fire Protection District on Wednesday, Gold Mountain Community Services District on Friday, and next week is the City of Portola meeting. Commissioner Chris Spencer noted that she will be attending the Institute for Local Government Training in Redding, California, on February 24, 2023.

Commissioner Jack Montgomery stated he worked for over thirty (30) years in agriculture in the valley, was a Planning Commissioner in Paradise, is currently involved with Fire Wise, is working on the recreation trails within District 3, and is planning to go to the Local Government Training in Redding, California, on February 24, 2023.

Commissioner Charles Leonhardt explained that he attended the Fire Wise meeting in which Tracey Ferguson, Planning Director, presented on the updated State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map and he will be attending the Institute for Local Government Training in Redding, California, on February 24, 2023.

Commissioner Harvey West stated he looks forward to being updated on what the other commissioners learn from the Local Government Training in Redding, California, on February 24, 2023 as he will not be able to attend the training.

## **VIII. WORKSHOP #2: PLUMAS COUNTY CODE, TITLE 9 PLANNING AND ZONING, DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO CAMPING ORDINANCE AND PRIME OPPORTUNITY AREAS DEFINITION (Tim Evans, Senior Planner)**

Tim Evans, Senior Planner, presented the draft amendments to the Camping Ordinance and Prime Opportunity Areas Definition as presented in the Staff Report.

Discussion amongst the Commission ensued after the presentation by staff and three (3) major questions that arose from the Planning Commission were:

1. Should the 120-day time limit and number of camping spaces currently set forth in Plumas County Code Sec. 9-2.405 – Camping be increased?

Ferguson explained the Plumas County Housing Element contains a program for the County to investigate increasing the camping time limit to 365 days per year.

Evans stated that our 120-day time limit is, based on the research into how other counties have addressed camping, is similar to other counties. Evans went on further to explain that staff reviewed other counties' camping ordinances and found the time limit varies and can be anything from 120 days, 180 days, or 365 days a year.

2. Should a permit be required to register the recreational vehicle or tent being used for camping on a property?

Jennifer Langston, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Plumas County Code Enforcement, explained that requiring registration of the camping spaces would be beneficial for Code Enforcement as it would help with determining who is not compliant with the County Code. Langston went on further to explain that she has fifty (50) cases alone in relation to camping.

Evans explained some other jurisdictions have a registration requirement for camping on a property and staff would provide information concerning other jurisdictions to the Commission for review at the next workshop.

3. Should there be seasonal camping requirements?

Planning staff explained additional information concerning how other jurisdictions have addressed camping would be provided to the Commission for review at the next workshop.

**IX. REVIEW OF 2035 GENERAL PLAN (Tracey Ferguson, AICP, Planning Director)**

A. Circulation Element Goals and Policies, and Implementation Measures

Ferguson read aloud Goal 4.5 Aviation and Rail, Policies 4.5.1 through 4.5.2, Goal 4.6. Environmental Enhancements/Climate Change, and Policies 4.6.1 through 4.6.3, with the following comments by Planning staff:

- *Policy 4.5.1 Compatibility of Airports with Adjacent Land Uses:* Plumas County has three (3) airports, each airport has an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, and the Airport Land Use Commission reviews projects within each airports area of influence for land use compatibility.
- *Policy 4.5.2 Encouragement of Maintenance, Improvement and Use of Railroad Facilities:* Gave examples of the abandoned railroad becoming part of “Rails to Trails” for a recreation trail and the passenger rail from eastern Plumas County to Reno, Nevada.
- *Policy 4.6.1 Minimizing of Environmental Impacts:* Gave example of Plumas County Public Works implementing mitigations during bridge projects to protect the environment.
- *Policy 4.6.2 Paving Additional Roadways to Improve Environmental Quality:* Noted that we have classes of roads, specifically Classes 1 through 11, with the roads being either paved or gravel, with pavement being tied to reducing air quality impacts from dust.
- *Policy 4.6.3 GHG Reductions:* Capital transportation improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are under the purview of the Plumas County Transportation Commission and Public Works. There has been discussion to have the County fleet of vehicles, including the transit buses, be electric to reduce the GHG emissions.

**X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES**

A. February 14, 2023 Board of Supervisors consideration of appointment to the Planning Commission, District 3

Ferguson noted that Commissioner Jack Montgomery was confirmed by the Board of Supervisors on February 14, 2023, and welcomed him to the Planning Commission.

Ferguson stated there is still a vacancy for District 2 of the Planning Commission and Supervisor Goss is working filling the vacancy.

Sara James, Deputy County Counsel, explained that the Brown Act rules will be changing and the requirements surrounding attending the meetings remotely will be provided prior to the next Planning Commission meeting.

*Ferguson stated the comment period has been extended for the update of the State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, the joint comment letter between the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors is being drafted by staff, and will go before the Board of Supervisors in March.*

*Ferguson explained that Planning staff is very busy with mergers, special use permits, etc., as well as public inquiries. Ferguson went on further to note that the open positions within the Planning Department remain vacant and an extra-help position has been added, with the goal to help staff with the volume of building permits.*

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*None*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT to the regular meeting scheduled on March 2, 2023**

***Motion:*** Adjourn to the regular meeting scheduled on March 2, 2023

***Moved by Harvey West, Seconded by Jack Montgomery***

***Vote:*** Motion carried.

***Yes:*** Spencer, Montgomery, Leonhardt, West