

PLANNING COMMISSION

March 12, 2014

7:00 P.M. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, in the Council Room at City Hall. Chairperson Jody Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jody Hoffman, Russ Larsen, Brenda Buckner, and Dee Hokom. MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Bedford and Terry Cripps. One vacancy exists. STAFF PRESENT: Director of Building & Planning Jim Lapinski, Recreation Coordinator Jake Wilson, and Recording Secretary Susan Davis. OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Terry Foster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of February 12, 2014 had been distributed prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen moved that the minutes be approved as written. Brenda Buckner seconded. Voice vote showed all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business to be presented.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business to be presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- A. Status report on Colville Mountain Preservation Committee by Recreation Coordinator Jake Wilson.

Recreation Coordinator Jake Wilson explained that about a year ago the City Council had discussions and took public input on possible uses for or the sale/lease of city owned land on Colville Mountain. He stated the City owns approximately 250 acres on the face of Colville Mountain and presented a map illustrating the boundaries of the property. As a result of the discussions and public input, Jake stated the Council authorized the formation of the Colville Mountain Preservation Committee to come up with a management plan, appointing him as Chairman. With the City Council's support, the Committee has met on several occasions and is moving forward with a conceptual plan to build a recreation trail system on Colville Mountain for public use. Jake advised that this is all very preliminary and he is working with Dr. Gregg Dohrn, a professor at Eastern Washington University (EWU). The students attached to their capstone class (a requirement for graduation) will assist the City in establishing a Master Plan for management of the property. The students would act as free consultants and perform tasks including project mobilization, site assessment, needs assessment, the master plan and implementation strategy, and funding. Upon completion of the project, a final presentation will be made to the City Council. Jake advised that he hopes to present the proposal for approval at the March 25th City Council meeting. If approved, the students would start on the capstone project the second week of April.

DRAFT

PLANNING COMMISSION

March 12, 2014

Page 2

Jake stated currently there is no public access to the city owned property. In order to develop a trail system, it will be necessary to obtain an access easement from at least one adjacent property owner. There are six properties with potential access points that are immediately adjacent to the city property. Twelve letters were sent to all adjoining properties regarding the preliminary direction of the Committee and seeking input. Jake indicated that he has been doing some follow ups and so far responses have not been too receptive. The Commissioners encouraged Jake to continue dialog with the property owners and invite them to the public presentation to become more informed about the concept.

The Planning Commission members expressed strong support for the development of a trail system on Colville Mountain and indicated a desire to do whatever they can to help. It was pointed out as a result of public input during the 2011 Comprehensive Plan update, the Commission recommended goals and policies to promote and encourage facilities to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Jake pointed out the city owned property is under the jurisdiction of Stevens County because it is not in the city limits. It was questioned whether the County had been approached about the proposed land use on Colville Mountain. Jake responded that after the EWU students put something together he intends to talk to the County Commissioners. He noted that County Commissioner Steve Parker is aware of the concept based on previous conversations. At this time, the Planning Commissioners indicated how much they liked idea of promoting Colville as a recreation destination area and encouraged efforts to pursue the project. In response to a question about future funding, Jake advised that grant opportunities would need to be explored to develop things like trailheads at access points.

Some discussion followed concerning the way the public currently uses Colville Mountain. It was pointed out that runners, hikers, and motorized vehicles are observed regularly on the mountain, which is accessed through private property. A concern was expressed regarding the use of motorized vehicles and the damage they do to the environment. One suggestion made was to request the City Council to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on city property. Jake noted the Committee has concerns about these types of issues as well.

The Planning Commissioners requested to be put on the Colville Mountain Preservation Committee mailing list for future meeting announcements. Jake offered to provide them with the Committee's concept plan as well for further information.

The Commission thanked Jake for his informative presentation.

Terry Foster, City Councilmember and member of the Colville Mountain Preservation Committee, expressed his support for the trail system concept.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Dee Hokom moved and Brenda Buckner seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.