

**CITY OF BLAINE  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
Thursday, January 12, 2017  
7:00 PM  
Calvin Armerding - Chair**

**A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM**

**B. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Calvin Armerding, Richard May, Kevin Owens, John LeBrun

**ABSENT:** Sue Sturgill

**STAFF:** Community Development Director, Michael Jones  
Community Planner II, Alex Wenger  
Community Planner I, Madeline Ottley

Commissioner Sturgill asked to be excused prior to the meeting.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEBRUN TO EXCUSE COMMISSIONER STURGILL, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0).**

**C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OWENS TO ELECT COMMISSIONER ARMERDING CHAIRPERSON, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0). COMMISSIONER ARMERDING ACCEPTS.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OWENS TO TABLE THE ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR UNTIL THE JANUARY 27, 2017 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0).**

**D. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None**

**E. PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. All Hazards Alert Broadcast System Shoreline CUP, Substantial Development & Zoning CUP Applications.

Mr. Wenger presented the staff report detailing the different elements of the project.

Mr. Wenger highlighted the three permits associated with this proposal; Shoreline Conditional Use, Shoreline Substantial Development, and Conditional Use.

Mr. Wenger noted that while the Planning Commission develops the record for the Shoreline Conditional Use Permit application, Washington State Department of Ecology makes the final decision on the permit.

Mr. Wenger stated that the facility is to be located at Marine Park, specifically at the rear of the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility, and described how the AHAB unit would function.

Mr. Wenger also noted the two largest impacts of the AHAB unit; height and monthly testing for a 30 second period.

Mr. Wenger also stated that the proposal was presented to the Park and Cemetery Board, who recommended approval of the project with planting of evergreens around the base of the facility.

Mr. Wenger then spoke to how the proposal meets the approval criteria for the three associated permits.

Commissioner Owens inquired if the location of the facility would best benefit the community, specifically asking if the school complex would be able to hear the announcements.

Commissioner Lebrun inquired about locating the facility on Semiahmoo spit since that location would be most affected by a tsunami event.

Chairperson Armerding asked about the location requirement for facility and if information could be brought back about how far the announcements could reach.

Mr. Wenger responded, stating that he would look into how far away the announcements would be heard and if the grant requires the facility to be located on the shoreline.

Commissioner May highlighted that the impacts of the facility which include the height and sound are under the Planning Commission purview, and asked for more information on the effectiveness of AHAB facilities in general.

Chairperson Armerding inquired about who would have access to make announcements on the facility.

Mr. Wenger stated that it was his belief that Washington State Emergency Management can directly broadcast to the device and the Police Chief would have access.

Chairperson Armerding inquired if there was a warning prior to the monthly testing.

Mr. Wenger stated that he believed there was a short warning and a recording of the West Minister Chimes would play before the testing.

Chairperson Armerding inquired about direct costs to the City including maintenance requirements.

Mr. Wenger stated that he would look into those questions and report back.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LEBRUN TO CONDITIONALLY APPROVE THE MARINE PARK AHAB SHORELINE CONDITIONAL USE (SCUP-1-16), SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT (SMP-4-16), AND CONDITIONAL USE (CUP-3-16) PERMITS BASED ON FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL AS CITED IN THE STAFF REPORT.**

No second was made and motion died.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OWENS, TO KEEP THE PUBLIC HEARING OPEN UNTIL THE NEXT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING ON JANUARY 26, 2017, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0).**

**F. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Planning for Joint Study Session w/City Council

Mr. Jones stated that a joint study session between City Council and the Planning Commission is planned, and inquired about topic areas the Planning Commission would like to discuss with Council.

Chairperson Armerding requested time for the Commission to think of topics of discuss, and to report back at the January 26, 2017 meeting.

**G. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None**

**H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OWENS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2016 AS AMENDED, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (2-0-2), LEBRUN AND OWENS ABSTAINED.**

**I. ADJOURNMENT 8:15 PM.**



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Calvin Armerding, Chair



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Michael Jones, Staff

Planning Commission minutes of January 12, 2017, to be approved at the January 26, 2017  
Planning Commission meeting.