

DRAFT
CITY OF SHORELINE

SHORELINE PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
(Via Zoom)

December 16, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present

Chair Mork
Vice Chair Sager
Commissioner Malek
Commissioner Callahan
Commissioner Galuska
Commissioner Lin
Commissioner Rwamashongye

Staff Present

Andrew Bauer, Planning Manager
Cate Lee, Senior Planner
Julie Ainsworth-Taylor, Assistant City Attorney
Carla Hoekzema, Planning Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mork called the regular meeting of the Shoreline Planning Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Hoekzema called the roll.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 2, 2021 were accepted as presented.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Morris, resident of Shoreline, expressed concern about climate change and encouraged the Planning Commission to support the proposed regulations to protect mature trees and the tree canopy as recommended by the Tree Preservation Code Team.

Kathleen Russell, Shoreline, Tree Preservation Code Team, spoke regarding proposed Tree Code Amendment No. 6 which extends protection to trees that are located on new multifamily MUR35 and

MUR45 construction zones, not just critical areas. This code provides stop work orders and penalties if there is injury to retained trees. She clarified this does not refer to a typical single-family lot and would not apply to every property in Shoreline.

STUDY ITEM: OUTDOOR SEATING DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT

Senior Planner Cate Lee prepared a PowerPoint presentation including background, the research staff has conducted, public engagement so far, Planning Commission feedback, and next steps. Several types of outdoor dining were described. Interim regulations were first adopted in July of 2020 and have been extended three times. Staff compared outdoor dining regulations from cities around the United States as well as Paris, France. Ms. Lee gave an overview of these regulations including typical provisions and best practices. Public engagement to date has included providing information and reaching out to local restaurants and bars for feedback. Staff is exploring other ideas for community engagement. Next steps include research, outreach, and draft regulations in January 2022 with Planning Commission study sessions and a public hearing in February-April 2022. Staff intends to get this to the City Council by May or June 2022.

Ms. Lee solicited feedback on the following questions:

- Is there additional research you would like to see?
- What other types of community engagement would you like to see?
- What requirements do you see as essential in having a successful outdoor use code?
- What ways do you want the city to engage and help small businesses on providing these spaces?
- What are your thoughts on reducing or eliminating surface parking on private property to establish these outdoor spaces?

Commissioner Lin asked staff to provide an aerial map of the possible business areas for outdoor dining. She agreed with staff that using parking lots makes sense as an option in Shoreline. Ms. Lee explained that these would probably be allowed in eating and drinking establishments which are allowed all along the Aurora corridor, North City, some areas of Ridgecrest and Ballinger. She indicated she could come back with a map showing the different areas.

Commissioner Rwamashongye expressed support for allowing this as a way of fostering livability in Shoreline. He brought up a part of Bellingham where they have allowed some businesses (not just restaurants and bars) to extend out to the street. He asked staff to research more opportunities where they can find similar opportunities and assist the City with making things look presentable via design regulations. He commented that parking challenges encourage him to walk more which isn't always a bad thing.

Commissioner Callahan was very interested in what this could mean for the future, especially 145th and 185th. She wondered about the potential for sidewalk cafes along these two corridors in the future. She also asked about the safety aspect with traffic.

Commissioner Galuska suggested researching types of weather protection or covers that would be allowed from a design and fire safety perspective. He was not a big fan of the streeteries idea due to proximity to cars and safety issues, but it could be possible in the right location.

Commissioner Malek expressed support for these outdoor uses. He wondered how this could be a lead-in to minimizing unnecessary and reclaiming it for other uses. He agreed with the importance of considering safety concerns. He suggested developing metrics for how much street parking they really need.

Vice Chair Sager commented that safety of all kinds was the most important consideration for her. In addition to traffic safety, she is also concerned about things like wheelchair access, curbs, curb cuts, lighting, and extension cords. She also wondered how food carts might fit into this code.

Chair Mork was very happy to be discussing this topic. She agreed with the other commissioners that they should think about this in broader ways. She suggested pilot programs to see how it might go. She thought this all worked to create a more walkable, livable city. She agreed that there are many aspects of safety that need to be considered and noted that ecology blocks, as used in St. Petersburg, might be a solution for traffic safety. She agreed with Commissioner Malek about the need to collect more data.

Ms. Lee asked for feedback about community engagement.

Commissioner Lin asked what type of community engagement is the most responsive in general. Ms. Lee explained that it is a combination of online, farmers market booth, public forums and meetings, and brochures and other resources provided by the City.

Commissioner Malek suggested starting with doing a presentation to the stakeholders through the Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Neighborhoods.

Vice Chair Sager spoke in support of engaging primarily with the businesses. She wondered about having the eating and drinking establishments engage with their clientele to get more input, but acknowledged that this would create more work for the business owners.

Commissioner Rwamashongye asked for more clarification about street design regulations. He also noted there might be opportunities for businesses to partner with complementary businesses such as a brewery and a food truck.

Commissioner Lin commented on the noise of cars which can be disturbing for outdoor seating. She also spoke to the importance of safe walking routes.

Chair Mork suggested looking at this in a way that isn't necessarily permanent and removing roadblocks to allow businesses to proceed with creative and possibly temporary opportunities.

Commissioner Lin asked for more information about food truck regulations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Malek asked if there was a report from the King County Superior Court. Ms. Ainsworth-Taylor replied that they had not provided it yet. She explained that the judge had asked for more time.

Chair Mork announced this was her last Planning Commission meeting. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time on the Commission and thanked everyone for the honor of working together.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2022 where they will discuss the second batch of the Development Code Amendments. A new Vice Chair will also need to be selected since Chair Mork will be moving on to the Council and her position will be filled by Vice Chair Sager.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Laura Mork
Chair, Planning Commission

Carla Hoekzema
Clerk, Planning Commission