



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
April 25th, 2024**

Public Hearing and Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission Chair,
3 Kelvin Barton at 6:32 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Kelvin Barton, Daniel Dahlquist, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson, Frank James

6 Atul Deshmane left meeting early

7 **Absent:** Scott Van Dalen, Dominic Mocerri, Julie Jefferson

8 **Staff Present:** Steve Roberge, Lucas Clark, Rod Lamb, Rob Ney, Bennett Knox and
9 Aileen Kogut-Aguon

10 **Department Update**

11 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS),
12 provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan and what Planning Commission will be
13 seeing on the docket within the upcoming weeks, such as the Public Participation Plan
14 and the Population Employment Projections and Allocation.

15 **Open Session Public Comment**

16 Rosemary Van Beek provided a public comment regarding Accessory Dwelling Units

17 Kathleen Greenbaum provided public comment regarding the requested stop-work
18 order for the ranch mine quarry.

19 Dave Widner provided public comment regarding his property on Sunset Drive.

20 **Commissioner Comments**

21 Commissioner Chair Barton provided comments about Petro Gas being bought out by
22 Alta Gas.

23 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

24 **Timestamp: 6:47p**

25 **1 Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the meeting minutes from.**

26 **Commissioner Dahlquist seconded.**

27 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Dahlquist, Hansen, Jackson, Barton**

28 **Abstain- Frank James**

29 **(Ayes-4; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

30 **Capital Improvement Program**

31 **Timestamp: 6:50p**

32 Lucas Clark, PDS Planner, presented the proposed revisions of the six-year Capital
33 Improvement Program (CIP) 2023 to 2028. Mr. Clark stated that the Whatcom County
34 Comprehensive Plan indicates updates are required for CIP every two years. The last
35 update was in 2023, however; the county has identified park and government facility



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1 projects to start and/or be completed in 2024. In order to use real estate excise tax
2 dollars projects need to be within the six-year CIP. Therefore, the County is proposing
3 to amend the Parks, Trails and Activity Centers and Government Buildings and cites
4 chapters in the CIP, which will also modify the total cost chapter.

5 Mr. Clark outlined what is being amended in chapter 2 of the CIP regarding the Parks,
6 Trails and Activity Center which includes; the Parks inventory, adding 642.5 acres to
7 the county parks inventory; clarifying language to the future needs and proposed
8 improvement projects; language for funding cleanup efforts associated with lead
9 contamination at Plantation Rifle Range; and improve shower and restroom facilities at
10 Silver Lake Park Trail. Mr. Clark added that the restroom facilities at Birch Bay Park is
11 being added back into the text and the name "Birch Bay Community Park" will be
12 renamed Birch Bay Beach Park" for consistency throughout the CIP update.

13 County facilities is proposing to add four projects to the CIP which will include;
14 surveillance equipment project for the main jail, jail work center and juvenile detention
15 center; the addition of a new generator for the Whatcom Unified Emergency
16 Coordination Center; a remodel for the fifth Superior Court and IT tenant
17 improvement; and construction of 23-hour Crisis Relief Center.

18 Mr. Clark concluded the presentation by stating that with these Park amendments the
19 project costs would increase from about \$30 million to \$39 million over the six-year
20 planning period of the CIP. The Government facility projects cost would increase from
21 \$69 million to roughly \$86 million.

22 Commissioner Hansen asked about the lead remediation at the Plantation Rifle Range
23 and if the use of lead bullets would not be allowed anymore.

24 Rod Lamb, Parks and Design Manager, responded by stating the lead cleanup will be
25 focusing on the past 40 years of lead contamination, and working with the Department
26 of Ecology on preventing any lead contamination after the cleanup going forward.

27 **a) Public Hearing and Work Session Regarding Capital Improvement Program**

28 **Timestamp: 7p**

29 Danielle Gaughen, Executive Director at the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce,
30 provided public comment regarding getting a bathroom facility for Birch Bay Park.

31 Rosemary Van Beek provided public comment regarding the tax cost for all of the
32 projects being planned.

33 Doralee Booth, County Liaison for Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce provided public
34 comment regarding the port-o-potties and advocating for bathroom facilities for Birch
35 Bay Beach Park.

36 Heather Lindsey, Director for the Birch Bay Park and Rec District, provided public
37 comment regarding the facilities at Birch Bay Beach Park and needing to update and
38 build bathrooms before the camps come in during the summer.

39 **Capital Improvement Program Work Session**

40 **Timestamp: 7:08p**



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1 **2Commissioner James moved** to adopt the changes to the six-year CIP plan
2 presented to the Commission tonight.

3 **Commissioner Hansen seconded.**

4 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- James, Hansen, Dahlquist, Barton, Jackson**

5 **(Ayes-5; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

6 **Timestamp: 7:10**


7 **Adjournment**

8 **Timestamp: 7:11**

9 The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

10 Minutes prepared by Aileen Kogut-Aguon.

11 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

12 

13 Kelvin Barton, Chair



Aileen Kogut-Aguon, Secretary