

MINUTES

**Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**January 23, 2019
12:00 p.m.**

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Jennifer Yeh, Alan Zelenka, Mike Clark. Chris Pryor, Betty Taylor, Claire Syrett

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the January 23, 2019, Work Session of the Eugene City Council.

1. WORK SESSION: Clear & Objective Housing – Approval Criteria Update

Senior Planner Jenessa Dragovich and Principal Planner Alissa Hansen provided a project update of the Clear & Objective Housing: Approval Criteria Update, including the Draft Preferred Concepts Report.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Taylor – asked questions about the legal process for revising or dismantling a refinement plan, and outreach to and involvement of residents; expressed concern that the proposal represented a drastic change to adopted plans.
- Councilor Clark – suggested that analysis should happen earlier in the process and include information in the Buildable Lands Inventory; supported listing the constraints upfront.
- Councilor Syrett – noted that mitigation was required for other building process, similar to the tree preservation component.
- Councilor Zelenka – said he was challenged by the open space proposal; seems like a weakening of existing requirements.
- Councilor Semple – expressed concern about the tree preservation proposal; asked questions about the data around current practices and how the parameters/scale will be determined under the proposal.
- Councilor Pryor – acknowledged the in-depth work of the Planning Commission on this issue, in an effort to bring the Clear & Objective standards into alignment with what is being developed.
- Councilor Yeh – said the Planning Commission did a good job of vetting the proposals; findings will be needed to adopt the Planning Commission recommendation on the open space requirement.
- Councilor Clark – said more time is needed for council to think about and deliberate on the recommendations, which represents a significant change in policy.
- Councilor Zelenka – requested clarification on several of the recommendations.
- Councilor Taylor – said the setback requirement is important and that it is impossible to mitigate the removal of mature trees.
- Councilor Semple – expressed her general support for the recommendation; asked questions about the proposed setback proposal.
- Councilor Clark – asked if future comprehensive lands assessments will be done on a lot-specific basis; still has significant concerns and questions about the overall policy direction.
- Councilor Zelenka – said streamlining development in thoughtful manner is good; there is still ample time to hear testimony and consider and revise the proposal.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to advance the preferred concepts identified in Attachment B to this AIS, as supported by Planning Commission, to the draft land use code writing phase. **PASSED 6:1**

2. **WORK SESSION: Rest Stop Program Update and Siting Policy Discussion**

Policy Analyst Jason Dedrick presented options for amending or revising the rest stop program.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Semple – expressed concern that work isn’t happening quickly enough to expand rest stop opportunities; supported allowing rest stops for homeless families near schools, eliminating the prohibition of rest stops in residential areas, and lifting the requirement of council approval for every new rest stop; supported maintaining operator contracts, consideration of using private lands, and allocating additional funding where appropriate; encouraged the use of incentives to make rest stops in neighborhoods more acceptable.
- Councilor Syrett – supported making outreach efforts to neighborhoods and businesses more robust; supported amending the limitations on rest stops and car camps near schools with appropriate screening; supported amending the ordinance to allow more siting opportunities in or near residential neighborhoods; supported expansion of program to include land owned by other jurisdictions, more freedom with funding.
- Councilor Clark – conveyed anecdotal information about the threat many residents feel from siting homeless camps near residential neighborhoods; opposed the proposal to eliminate the prohibition on camps in neighborhoods.
- Councilor Pryor – agreed with ownership and funding proposals; expressed some ambiguity about proposal to eliminate the requirement for council approval, noting that councilors representing the wards in which a rest stop may be sited should be involved in the decision-making process; supported maintaining the operating provisions of the ordinance; said it is important to communicate with residents that these facilities are safe and pose no public safety threat; encouraged council to act in the best interests of the whole community.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. **PASSED 6:1**

- Councilor Zelenka – supported maintaining requirement for council support and accountability; said the overriding issue the program faces is the lack of sites due to neighbors’ opposition; supported greater outreach and education efforts.
- Councilor Yeh – supported amending the schools, residential, ownership and funding flexibility provisions; encouraged analysis of whether the rest stop program is worthy of the effort if siting of new camps remains difficult; asked for additional information about the “no day use” requirement and how it was justified.
- Councilor Semple – asked about the timeline for approving new rest stops if council approval requirement is retained; reminded council that rest stops are considered transitional housing, which was determined to be in great need in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Forrest

Beth Forrest
City Recorder

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting: [here](#).