

KITTITAS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 27th 6:30 PM

Commissioners Auditorium
Kittitas County Courthouse

- I. **Vice Chairman Fraser** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Those present: Leslie Walker, Gary Starkovich, Brandon Huber, and Rob Fraser.

Those absent: Grant Clark, Bob Hickey and Margaret Sullivan

Also present: Staff Planner- Jeff Watson, Fire Marshal- Brenda Larsen, CDS permit technician/clerk- Rose Shriner and five members of the public.

- I. **Correspondence:** None.

- II. **Minutes:** None

- III. **New Business**

A. Staff presentation—Fire Marshal, Brenda Larsen.

Fire Marshal, Brenda Larsen presented a powerpoint presentation on the International Wildland Urban Interface (WUIC) and Fire Codes (IFC). Ms. Larsen described that the WUIC and IFC codes are used throughout the world and in rural jurisdictions are more difficult to enforce, for example, the fire code states that 120,000 gallons must be available for fire suppression. Ms. Larsen explained that fire districts are lines on a map and technically all of Kittitas County is applicable to the WUIC code. The objective of the WUIC is to ensure residential structure fires do not spread and vice versa and also, strategic requirements for properties building in those areas.

B. Public Testimony

Richard Elliot, 416 S Willow St, stated he is representing himself and other fire districts, he explained that Ellensburg will have an ordinance to the lowest classification of the

WUIC ordinance. He stated that this is an investment and we have the resources, capacity and time because it will pay off in the future.

DJ Evans, 11960 N Thorp Highway, stated that he endorses what Elliot spoke about and has concerns over properties and firefighter safety.

Dave Whitwill, 211 W Mount Hood Dr, representing Central Washington Home Builders Association, stated that he had no arguments to WUIC, but had concerns amount of staff time, funding and process.

Charli Sorenson, 1970 Sage Hills Dr, representing herself, stated that she had more questions for Fire Marshal, Brenda Larsen, concerning homeowner incentives for WUIC measures.

Russ Hobbs, 11042 Teanaway Rd, representing himself, stated that there are many areas at risk for wildfire. He briefly discussed the Firewise program available thru the Kittitas County Conservation District to reduce wildfire risk.

C. Leslie Walker made a motion to close the public hearing. Brandon Huber seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

D. Planning Commission Deliberation

Leslie Walker motioned to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption of the addition of section 14.04.005 Title 14 (Buildings and Construction) of the Kittitas County Code, modification of section 16.04.010 of Title 16 (Subdivisions) of the Kittitas County Code, the addition of Title 20 to the Kittitas County Code and the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Areas map and associated GIS data set(s) into the Title 20

of the Kittitas County Code. Gary Starkovich seconded the motion and the motion passed with 4-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.