

SPOKANE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 28, 2024

Planning Commission Members Present	Spokane County Department of Building and Planning Staff Present
Stephen Pohl, Chair	Elya Miroshin, Clerk
Peter Rayner, Vice Chair	Scott Chesney, AICP, Planning Director
Wayne Brokaw	Robert Brock, Planner
Logan Camporeale	Saegen Neiman, Planner
Clyde Haase (present via zoom)	Graham Zickefoose, Planner

The March 28, 2024, meeting of the Spokane County Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Stephen Pohl at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was accessible to the public in the Commissioners’ Hearing Room, Lower Level, Public Works Building, located at 1026 West Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA, and via Zoom, with web and telephone links provided on the Building and Planning website and in a public notice published in the Spokesman-Review on March 13, 2024.

Chairman Pohl opened public comment for items not on the agenda:

Suzanne Savall, a member of the public, conveyed her intentions of expanding her property as part of the Urban Growth Area expansion zone for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Pohl opened the public hearing for the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan 2026 Periodic Update - Public Participation Program.

Mr. Chesney presented the objectives and initiatives for communication engagement programs and strategies written within the Public Participation Program that will help guide public participation throughout the 2026 Periodic Update of the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan. A quarterly outline of the project was reviewed for years 2024, 2025, and 2026 as guiding benchmarks.

COMMENTS

Lunell Haught, a member of the public, commented on behalf of the following organizations: the Inland Northwest Trails and Conservation Coalition, the Spokane Urban Nature, the Land Conservancy, the Land Council, the Spokane Neighborhood Alliance, Friends of the Bluff, Fish Lake Trail Friends, and Washington Trails Coalition. The highlighted concern is prioritizing wildlife/conservation corridors amongst the thrust to care for people who need homes and to fit into connectivity with surrounding jurisdictions to create a new “healthy habitat” section that makes sense for citizens and wildlife.

Paul Kropp, a member of the public, commented that posting a working document seven days prior to a meeting is an insufficient amount of time and suggested it be changed to a minimum of ten days.

Mr. Chesney noted that the staff is committed to the 21-day posting for final documents that are potentially ready for action, which is an extension from the prior 15-day posting.

Mr. Camporeale addressed his thoughts regarding Mr. Kropp's and Commissioner Waldref's comments on the Public Participation Program.

Chairman Pohl continued the hearing with open public comment on the Public Participation Program for the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan 2026 Periodic Update through April 11, 2024. A revised document will be posted on April 18, 2024, and a hearing for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners will be held on May 16, 2024.

WORKSHOP

ZTA-0001-2023: A proposed text amendment to expand the definition of "Gun and Archery Range" in Chapter 14.30 of the Spokane County Zone Code to include new accessory uses associated with other gun and archery ranges. The amendment also includes a detailed set of criteria for that Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that would have to be acknowledged and met to go forward.

COMMENTS

Dwight Hume, the representative of the Spokane Gun Club's proposed text amendment, outlined the reasoning behind the submitted proposal.

Spokane Gun Club Vice President, Nicholas Knapton, commented examples of why more clarity is needed in the Zoning Code for "Gun and Archery Ranges" as they go through the permitting process.

Comments and concerns from residents around Amber Lake in opposition to a future proposed shooting range within their area were as follows: negative impacts to the quality of life, noise pollution, and that gun ranges and camping are standalone issues that might add more confusion and open conditional use litigations.

Mr. Chesney clarified that no specific application for a particular site that the club is looking to acquire had come through to Spokane County. This is simply a text amendment.

Mr. Camporeale suggested notifying existing ranges of this proposal and adding more specific, enforceable safety and noise mitigation language.

Mr. Chesney offered to extend notice for this proposal to the Cheney and Deer Park jurisdictions.

Spokane Gun Club Board Director William Corfage confirmed that the Spokane Gun Club has no interest in upsetting communities or quiet zones around lakes. He stated that they currently don't have and are not considering property for a gun club near Amber Lake.

ZTA-0001-2024: A proposed text amendment along with new Conditional Use standards and criteria proposes to consider creating allowed use for small-scale meat processing facilities that would allow for limited retail sales in rural areas of Spokane County. USDA regulations are required for the retail sale of processed meat to occur on-site.

Staff are still exploring language to define "small-scale" including options for square footage limitation or head of cattle per day/week/month.

COMMENTS

Comments from the public in favor of the proposal were as follows: with a fast growing demand for locally raised meat and not enough locations to have livestock processed, the proposal will help with efficiency (time, money) of being able to sell on-site processed meat to local farmers/public instead of having to haul livestock to a production site which currently has wait lists up to nine months. For this to be profitable, the public underlines the importance of defining "small-scale". This proposal would also allow wild game to be processed in a timely manner.

Mr. Rayner suggests that size or scale limits be deleted from the criteria. From public comment, Mr. Chesney suggests a starting working number of fifty head a month to help guide and define the processing and storage square footage needed for this number of livestock. Mr. Camporeale suggests staff reach out to local ranchers or existing facilities for feedback on this proposed number.

ZTA-0002-2024: A board-initiated zoning-text amendment to SCC 14.506.200 to allow annual time extensions for temporary residential uses when the landowner provides demonstrated need. The proposed amendment is in response to the Oregon Road and Gray Fires.

Planning Commission members will vote to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners ZTA-0002-2024 on April 11, 2024.


MINUTES

Mr. Camporeale moved to adopt the amended March 14, 2024, minutes; seconded by Mr. Rayner. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0 with an abstention from Mr. Haase and Mr. Brokaw.

STAFF REPORT

The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2024

Mr. Rayner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brokaw. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Stephen Pohl, Chair  Date 4-11-2024

Scott Chesney, AICP, Planning Director 