

Latah County Planning Commission
Minutes, 6 December 2005

Planning Commission [PC] Members: John Hunt [JDH], Suvia Judd [SJ], Kathleen Warnick [KW],
James Smith [JS], Janet Hohle [JH], Louise Barber [LB].
Planning Director, Michelle Fuson [MF]

Present/Absent: JDH, SJ, KW, JH, JS, LB present. Staff: MF.

Packet: Agenda, minutes from 11/15/05; Section 4.05 (junk) of the draft ordinance; article from *Governing*, "A New View of Sprawl."

Meeting: Minutes of 11/15/05 accepted. JDH asked SJ to chair the meeting. JDH asked how the draft version reflected input from the public re. 4.05 (Storage and Collection of Junk); MF noted the places where there were adjustments, notably in 4.05.02.1, .3, and .5. JS: 4.05.02.1 either goes too far or not far enough; KW: questions definitions paragraph (4.05.01), that 4.05.02.4 should cover noxious weed control; that 4.05.03.2 should be broader than "adjacent residence"; and noted that screening would never work for a house that was situated uphill from a junk site (4.05.03.4). George Hatley: there should be provision for obsolete, yet historic, farm and equipment, such as antique thrashers, steam engines, wagons, that are part of the landscape and belong; he provided a veritable inventory of these pieces of equipment in this and Whitman counties; scrap metal has a huge market, and could ease the junk problem. Marla Kraut: questioned 4.05.04 (Exceptions) and the word "usable"; furthermore, their road winds around and screening would be impossible. Barrett Ross (Deary): the cost of screening is untoward; discussion followed that pointed out how difficult it is to regulate "junk." Two diametrically opposing views. Stanton: the ordinance should reflect that the only consideration re. "junk" is that it not compromise public health and safety; 4.05.02.4 is the only part of this section that everyone can agree upon. Phil Nesbitt: Federal and State DEQ do not cover even health and safety until a certain number of gallons or certain amount of contamination occurs at a site. Kristen Hunt: dumping on top of deposits of junk is occurring out in the county; a problem. Ross: how easy is it to get rid of junk; if really difficult, the ordinance is pointless. Explained that bulky waste collection stations and transfer stations exist in county. Stanton: the point should be to bust the bad eggs, but not regulate everyone; property rights should trump collective aesthetics. Kraut: the cost would be prohibitive to cover the two defunct combines on her property. Leo Greenwalt: exactly what is the public right-of-way? His property was actually photographed by air (public) in the attempt to have him remove his equipment by a neighbor. Stanton: there are little-known public right-of-ways all over the county. MF: junk, according to the Prosecuting Attorney would not be grandfathered. KW: what about the site on Steakhouse Hill? MF: it is under enforcement now; some of the stuff has been auctioned off; he could apply for a CUP for a junkyard, but currently it is an illegal junkyard; junkyards are illegal in current ordinance except in A/F zone with CUP. Nesbitt: possibly use the terminology "Historical Landscaping Artifact" for antique equipment; problem with definitions section re. construction waste; this could be construed as dirt and if sold, a CUP would be necessary; what about conveying stuff (dirt, peat, sand, gravel) to one's property and storing material to sell? MF: not a junk issue and needs clarification. Stanton: this type of regulation is aesthetically rather than economically classist. JH: will it be used negatively? MF: If airplanes are used, anything can happen; this could easily be used by people with motives other than junk. The complaints come from all over the county.

Stanton: Re. Natural Mineral Resources, if dire or say, river stone, is stockpiled and sold? PC should discuss this; a business as opposed to excavation.

Next Meeting: 20 December 2005 at 5:30pm in the Latah County Courthouse, Room 2B; potluck; discussion of Natural Mineral Resources and Junk.

Submitted by Louise D. Barber, 14 December 2005