

Latah County Planning Commission
Minutes, April 2 2002

Planning Commission [PC] Members: Skyler Schlueter [SS], John Hunt [JDH], Suvia Judd [SJ], Kathleen Warnick [KW], James Smith [JS], Janet Hohle [JanH], Louise Barber [LB];
Planning Director, Michelle Fuson [MF]; Assistant Planning Director, Bill Belknap [BB]

Present/Absent: SS, KW, JS, LB present; SJ, JanH, JDH absent. Staff: MF.

Packet materials: agenda, Article 4 draft; email from Carl Mickelsen re. cell tower ordinance.

Handouts: minutes from 3/19/02.

Meeting:

Minutes from 3/19/02 accepted.

MF explained the draft wording for animal containment under permitted uses in the Ag/For zone; AUM, or animal unit month, is essentially 1000 pounds of animal weight -- one cow/calf pair, or the equivalent in sheep, chickens, etc. The rationale for this clarification in the ordinance is to prevent commercial feedlots, and not to inhibit actual farmers/ranchers wintering practices; lengthy discussion regarding language. Approximated that there are 25-30 farmers in Latah County who have 300-1000 head of cattle, many of these lease public land for range. PC decided to add a 30-foot buffer from any perennial stream for any winter containment location. The final version of this section needs to replace the similar section in the proposed rural zone.

SS will get in touch with Gerard Billington to get his take on the proposed rural zone, since Gerard was very much in favor of creating that zone to further protect agricultural lands. KW suggested that if we attempt to create the new zone, we need to explain why the two are different; it is not clear currently in the ordinance as drafted. Discussion on the rural zone tabled.

The email from Carl Mickelsen (Zoning Commission) was discussed; his language empowering the ZC to waive higher, co-locating towers was accepted. The word "intensity" that he questioned is the word used by the FAA regulations. In further discussion about wireless communication towers, JS questioned removal procedures, etc. MF made it clear that when a violation is observed, that is the point at which enforcement of the ordinance begins; all the permitted towers in existence are mapped by GIS.

MF noted that Bill Belknap was in Washington, D.C., to verify certain FEMA regulations (will report back), and that the CC rejected the PC recommendation re. the City Area of Impact and will proceed with negotiations with the City of Moscow to reduce the current size.

Next meeting: 16 April 2002 at 5:30pm, County Courthouse, 2-B. Rural Zone and conditional uses in the Ag/For zone will be topics.

Submitted by: _____ 9 April 2002
Louise D. Barber

