

Okanogan County Planning Commission Meeting 10/22/2018

These notes are taken by a commission member and are not comprehensive.

Draft Cannabis Ordinance Workshop

History. The draft cannabis ordinance was developed by a citizen's advisory committee consisting of equal numbers of industry and non-industry representatives. After review by the county commissioners it was sent to the Planning Commission, which recommended approval after changes regarding enforcement language and requiring conditional use permits for cannabis grow operations in the Rural Residential 1 and Methow Review districts. The county commissioners then reviewed the draft ordinance and returned it to the Planning Commission, asking for tighter language involving density of development, odor, lighting and traffic. The following discussion was held during a workshop with several members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

The issue of lighting (offensive light pollution) was quickly dealt with by specifying that all lighting shall be downcast.

The issue of traffic was discussed at length before agreeing that Director Huston would provide the text of a code addressing fire safety.

Odor and density were discussed at length and was not fully resolved. A motion was made and passed requiring a minimum lot size of 5 acres.

The industry representatives advocated strongly for removing the conditional use permit requirements previously added to the ordinance; no action was taken on the matter.

The language of the density restrictions was clarified, addressing subdivision 2-acres or less and 5-acres or less.

The subject of locating cannabis a minimum distance from the nearest existing dwelling was raised by not acted upon.

The discussions will be continued, time allowing, at the November 19th meeting.

Future Business

Water Availability Study – Tunk Watershed Study Area Public Hearing will be the first order of business at the November 19th meeting.

Comprehensive Plan. Director Huston anticipates that in March 2019, following a 30-day scoping period, the Planning Commission will be receiving the three proposed alternatives and the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Planning Commission will hold public hearings and then select a preferred alternative and decide on any recommended changes to that alternative before sending the draft back to the county commissioners.