

City of Cle Elum
Planning Commission (CEPC) Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
November 5, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Chair Berndt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call

CEPC Members Present: Chair Gary Berndt, Vice Chair Paul Kantwill, Colin Brissey, Ian Steele, Marc Kirkpatrick, and Cassidy Buechele-Curtis

CEPC Members Absent: Jon Corneilus. Commissioner Kantwill made a motion to excuse Commissioner Corneilus. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded. Motion carries.

Staff Present: Colleda Monick

Introduction of new Commissioner Cassidy Buechele-Curtis.

Chair Berndt proposed a looser protocol on accepting Public Comments this evening to allow for questions from the public.

Citizen Comments

Susan Walker – The property owner of 101 W First Street shared a heartfelt personal story, including reflections on her professional background and contributions to the community, such as founding Pioneer Coffee and her past involvement with the Fall City Business Association. She also expressed her perspective on some city decisions and shared news about her personal life, noting that she is currently navigating the recent loss of her parents. She apologized for her emotional state during the comments.

Russ Weaver – Mr. Weaver, owner of Señor Bones and Mike's Tavern, attended to discuss Cle Elum Municipal Code 17.90. He expressed feeling insulted by comments from the Planning Commission during their last meeting regarding his previous requests. He provided a timeline of his outdoor beer garden's operation, beginning with a ribbon cutting on November 30, 2018, and noted that he used the outdoor space through winter before and after the code changes. He mentioned that the city and state encouraged outdoor use during COVID-19. Mr. Weaver attempted to attend the September meeting, which was canceled due to lack of quorum, and voiced frustration over some Commissioners' comments during previous discussions. He requested the Planning Commission postpone enforcing the code and consider amending it.

Commissioner Brissey made a point to address Mr. Weaver's concerns about his previous comments and personally apologized.

Nathan Dwinell - A new resident to the area who lives near the lake, expressed support for revisiting the code related to outdoor patios. They highlighted their positive experiences using outdoor patios, especially their connection to Mike's Tavern and its owners, Russ and Shannon Weaver. As a friend of the Weavers, the Mr. Dwinell advocated for a "second look" at the current regulations, implying that the code could benefit from reconsideration to better accommodate outdoor seating options.

David Bridgerman – A retired chiropractor and property owner on First Street, voiced strong objections to the city's request for him to remove his arborvitae display. He also raised concerns about issues with a garbage removal variance request and emphasized the need for a collaborative approach between the city and businesses to improve downtown aesthetics, particularly regarding weed control. Bridgerman expressed multiple concerns, including the city's responsibility for snow removal, the need for better communication with business owners, and his concerns over the extent of code enforcement's authority.

Shannon Weaver - Business owner of Mike's Tavern and Señor Bones. She echoed her husband's sentiments regarding outdoor seating and the need to allow for extended time, highlighting a recent Saint Patrick's Day in which the weather was in the mid-70's.

Gayle Picken - Local resident, came to support Mike's Tavern. Thinks the outdoor patio is awesome.

Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Kirkpatrick motioned to accept the October 15, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Brissey seconded. Motion passed.

Public Hearing- City Planning

None Scheduled

Staff Report

Commissioner Brissey

- **Sub-Committee Report – Update on Table of Permitted Uses:** Members of the sub-committee, Commissioner Brissey, along with community member and local property owner John Hein, held a kick-off meeting last week with staff to begin work on updating the Table of Permitted Uses. The group discussed a process for developing the table, noting that many communities have adopted this format to organize permitted uses. The committee reviewed various review processes and is now working to create a comprehensive list of uses. Once complete, they will determine which uses should be permitted by right and which should require additional review. A draft table will be presented to the full commission for further consideration and discussion. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick

- Commissioner Kirkpatrick presented the Cle Elum Downtown Association's 2023 Strategic Plan. He clarified that the document is informational and not regulatory. He highlighted key areas the Downtown Association focused on and provided considerations related to design standards. A copy of the strategic plan document will be distributed to staff for further review.

Colleda Monick

- No updates

New Business

1. **17.90, Sidewalk Sales and Service of Food and Beverage,** Staff presented potential code changes including, consideration of a title change to Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places,

addition of "Mobile Vendor" to be more encompassing of the various types of mobile vendors, inclusion of planters, Snow Removal and discussion regarding expanding outdoor use to year-round.

Discussion concluded with bringing back the proposed changes for further consideration at the next meeting.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None

Next Meeting Agenda Development

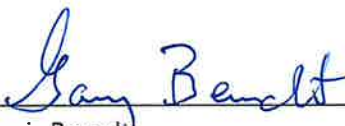
1. 17.90 – Finalize changes
2. 17.24 – Old Town Commercial
3. Table of Permitted Uses – Sub-committee update

Commissioner Comments and Discussion

None.

Adjournment

Chair Berndt called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brissey motioned and Commissioner Kantwill seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and to reconvene on November 19th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.


Chair Berndt


Date