



**CITY PLAN COMMISSION FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TEXT AMENDMENT FILE
NO. Z1000055-COMP**

A Recommendation of the City Plan Commission to the City Council approving an application by the City of Spokane Plan Commission for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, amending the text of the text of the Comprehensive Plan in a set of approximately 100 minor text amendments (typos, clarification, and corrections) proposed to be made to Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan. None of these proposed changes are categorized as substantial changes to the Goals and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan. The Capital Facilities Program located in Chapter 5 is excluded.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

- A.** The Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990, requiring among other things, the development of a Comprehensive Plan (RCW 36.70A).
- B.** The City of Spokane adopted a Comprehensive Plan in May of 2001 that complies with the requirements of the Growth Management Act.
- C.** Under the Growth Management Act, comprehensive plans may be amended no more frequently than once a year. All amendment proposals must be considered concurrently in order to evaluate for their cumulative effect.
- D.** On July 29, 2002, the City Council enacted Ordinance No. C-33074 codifying a revised annual Comprehensive Plan amendment process in SMC 11.02.100. The City Council then amended Ordinance No. C-33074 on December 8, 2003; this ordinance was passed to improve and streamline the amendment process.
- E.** This proposal is made by the City of Spokane Plan Commission. In 2010 the Plan Commission appointed a subcommittee to review the Comprehensive Plan for possible amendments on the topic of Healthy Communities. While undergoing this review, the subcommittee identified many minor text amendments classified as typos, clarifications, or corrections to the Comprehensive Plan which should be undertaken to keep the document current. While it is still the desire of the Plan Commission to move forward with Comprehensive Plan policy work under the topic of Healthy Communities, it was decided that these minor amendments could move forward first.
- F.** At this time, there are no amendments being proposed to the Spokane Municipal Code.
- G.** The Plan Commission held eight public workshops on this proposal prior to undertaking a Comprehensive Plan Amendment application. At the October 27,

2010 meeting of the Plan Commission, it was moved that the minor changes be moved forward through the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process.

- H. The Plan Commission made application for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment on October 29, 2010.
- I. Staff requested comments from agencies and departments on November 17, 2010. No substantive or adverse comments were received from agencies or departments.
- J. A public comment period ran from January 19, 2011 to March 16, 2011. Three people submitted public comment. Public Comments were individually reviewed at a Plan Commission Workshops held on March 23, 2011 and April 11, 2011. Some of the comments were incorporated into a revised Comprehensive Plan Amendment package at the behest of the Plan Commission and are forwarded to the City Council at this time.
- K. On July 14, 2011, the Washington State Department of Commerce and appropriate state agencies were given the required 60-day notice before adoption of proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
- L. The Community Assembly was informed of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment at their meeting on February 4, 2011.
- M. The Spokane City Plan Commission held workshops to study the amendment on February 9, 2011, March 23, 2011, and April 11, 2011.
- N. A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance were released on June 22, 2011 for the Comprehensive Plan text amendment. This began a 15-day SEPA Appeal period.
- O. Notice of the SEPA Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance, the Comprehensive Plan text amendment, and announcement of the July 13, 2011 Plan Commission Public Hearing were published in the Spokesman-Review on Wednesday, July 22 and Wednesday, July 29, 2011.
- P. The staff report found that the amendment met all the criteria and recommended approval of this application.
- Q. On July 13, 2011, the Plan Commission conducted a public hearing. No persons testified or had written public comment.
- R. The Plan Commission held the written record open for additional public comment until July 27, 2011. No additional comments were received during the extended public comment period.
- S. On September 14, 2011, the Plan Commission deliberated on the proposed amendment and considered all of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment decision criteria of Chapter 17G.020 of the Spokane Municipal Code. The Plan Commission also discussed the consistency of the proposed amendment with Comprehensive Plan policies and found that the proposed amendment was consistent with those policies.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. The Plan Commission adopted the following staff recommended findings for the decision criteria and review guidelines for Comprehensive Plan amendments, as listed in SMC 17G.020.010(C):

Decision Criteria

1. GMA: This application is consistent with the goals and purposes of the Washington state Growth Management Act.
2. Consistency: The Plan Commission concludes that this application is consistent with and implements the Comprehensive Plan and its supporting documents.
3. Cumulative Effect: Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications are being considered concurrently in order to evaluate their cumulative effects. The Plan Commission concludes that this criterion is met.
4. SEPA: An Environmental Checklist for a non-project action was prepared for this proposal pursuant to WAC 197-11 and the Spokane Environmental Ordinance, and on June 22, 2011, a Determination of Non-significance (DNS) was issued on this application. Notice of the SEPA Determination and announcement of the July 13, 2011 Plan Commission Public Hearing were published in the Spokesman Review on June 22 and June 29, 2011. The Plan Commission concludes that this criterion is met.
5. Adequate Public Facilities: This proposed text amendments will have no impact on the City's ability to provide public facilities and services. The Plan Commission concludes that this criterion is met.
6. Public Benefit: The proposed text amendment will result in a minor benefit to the public. One for the Guiding Principles for Comprehensive Plan Amendments as codified in Spokane Municipal Code Section 17G.020.010 subsection (B)(1) is *to keep the comprehensive plan alive and responsive to the community*. These minor amendments help achieve that goal.
7. No Adverse Effect: These proposed changes will not have a significant adverse effect on the public.

Review Guidelines

1. Regulatory Changes: This proposed amendment is consistent with any recent state or federal legislative actions, or changes to state or federal regulations.
2. Financing: This amendment will not impact or show up in the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan(s).
3. Funding Shortfall: This amendment will not impact funding in a way that would necessitate a scale back on land use objectives and/or service level standards.

4. Internal Consistency: The proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to all of its supporting documents, such as the development regulations, Capital Facilities Program, and downtown plan.
 5. Regional Consistency: This proposed amendment is consistent with Countywide Planning Policies, the comprehensive plans of neighboring jurisdictions, the regional Transportation Improvement Plan, and official population growth forecasts.
- B.** The proposed amendment has been reviewed by the City Plan Commission and found to be in conformance with the goals and policies of the City's 2001 Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Spokane Municipal Code Chapter 17G.020.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A.** By a vote of 7 to 0, the Plan Commission recommends to the City Council the approval of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, amending the text of the text of the Comprehensive Plan in a set of approximately 100 minor text amendments (typos, clarification, and corrections) proposed to be made to Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan. None of these proposed changes are categorized as substantial changes to the Goals and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan. The Capital Facilities Program located in Chapter 5 is excluded.
- B.** The Plan Commission further recommends that the City Council take simultaneous legislative action on all of the amendment applications proposed so the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained and so that the Comprehensive Plan is not amended more than one time in 2011.
- C.** By a vote of 7 to 0, the Plan Commission recommends the approval of four out of five of the amendment applications to the Comprehensive Plan by the City Council.



Karen Byrd, President

Spokane Plan Commission

September 14, 2011