



Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2020

Call to Order 6:30 pm

Roll Call

Present

Linda Utgard
Darren Robb
Patrick Hosterman
Larry Sather

Excused

Marcus Metz

Absent

Lance Dennis
Justin Burns

Staff Present: Patricia Love, Amy Rusko, Krista Hintz

The Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting were approved as presented.

New Business

City Beautification Program

Community Development Director Patricia Love presented the Stanwood City Beautification Action Program with focus on the Pilot Parklet Program.

The City of Stanwood is the commercial and cultural center of the greater Stanwood / Camano and the northern Snohomish County region. It is the desire of the City to preserve the community's historic rural, small town character while promoting the regions as a wholesome place to live, work, shop and play.

Over the last 10 years the City has developed an economic development strategy to promote the vitality of Stanwood's business districts and neighborhoods. A substantial amount of community volunteer hours went into crafting a vision for Stanwood's future.

Following the guidance laid out in these plans, the City is moving forward with an action plan referred to as the Stanwood City Beautification Action Program. It consists of 5 key program elements:

❖ Gateway Signage and Landscaping.

Create gateway signage based off the historic "Velkommen" sign, with a connection to the Snow Goose wayfinding signage, at the entrances to the City on SR 532: Camano Island and Snohomish County. Gateway signage should include local community service group logos such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, and American Legion. The idea is to make the signage at Highway 532 and 72nd Ave more prominent, to add simple landscaping and make the signage pop.

Planning Commission Comments:

- Strong support for improving the City entrance at 72nd Avenue with trees, flowers and signage. Create a special entrance to let people know they have arrived in Stanwood.
- Work to emphasize the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and include pedestrian access routes and safety.

❖ Main Street Revitalization.

East End Design Options: The question at hand, should we close off 271st St NW between 88th Ave NW and Florence, utilize the parking lot to the north of the 271st and install a passthrough where the Chamber



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currently sits to create more of a festival area with restaurant seating, public seating, art space.

Options Discussed

1. Permanently close this section of 271st St NW
2. Narrow the roadway as a way of controlling speed
3. Create Parklets by eliminating or reconfiguring some of the parking spaces
4. Create a One-Way street to allow for outdoor seating areas

Planning Commission Comments:

- Prefer an option that keeps both lanes of traffic but allows the street to be closed for street fairs and events.
- Permanent closure of the street is their least favorite option.
- Support moving the farmers market to Main Street. They feel it improves pedestrian safety by removing conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.
- Support Parklets and increasing sidewalk width to make area more business and pedestrian friendly.

Connecting the Center District: The section of 271st St NW between 88th Street NW and Camano Street was looked at. To do a complete street with bike lanes, wide sidewalks, on-street parking, landscape and travel lanes would be very expensive due to the need to purchase right-of-way.

Working within the existing right-of-way:

Option One: Remove center turn lane, add bike lanes and on-street parking.

Option Two: Boulevard Concept -Keep center turn lane and place planter strips in strategic locations to give a boulevard look.

Planning Commission Comments:

- Center turn lane is needed at congested intersections.
- Support the boulevard with strategic placement of landscape islands that don't interfere with turning movements. Will need a traffic study to help determine best alignment options.
- Don't need parking along this section of roadway.
- Support adding bike lanes but want to ensure that they connect to a larger non-motorized network.
- Consider adding a planter strip on the north side or widen sidewalks (greater than five feet).
- Agree with Economic Development Board, prioritize east and west ends first.

West End Brick Road: The west end has about half of the right-of way which gives less room to play around with design. Could the area be widened and made into more of a district that continues down to City Hall? The west end will take more work, but the idea is to create an Art District with parklets and outdoor seating.

Planning Commission Comments:

- Lunch time is the heaviest used time in the west end; concepts should create evening activity to enliven the west end.
- Do not favor closing the road; a one-way grid system could be considered.
- Maintain historic character and brick road – Brick street was originally laid out by Henry Keiser.



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- Designs need more thought: district boundaries, parking analysis, signage, and pedestrian access from city parking lot to Main Street.
- Bollards could be used to close the road for special events; like the east end.
- Brick road has ADA issues that need to be addressed.
- Traffic calming designs should be used to help slow traffic.
- West side needs trees and flowers.

❖ Downtown Gateway Features:

Create a City Center Intersection. Potentially 2 Gateways: One at the 271st / 88th Avenue Intersection and a smaller one near SR 532.

Planning Commission Comments:

- Support all gateway concepts: 88th Avenue and SR 532.

❖ SR 532 Beautification: Improve aesthetic quality of SR 532:

- Create a colorful tree lined street curb appeal
- Establish landscape themes at key intersections
- Improve walkability & pedestrian crossings
- Adopt a seasonal banner program on streetlights

Planning Commission Comments:

- Fully support landscaping concepts along SR 532.
- Add color at key intersections with Snow Goose signs.
- Prefer the straight line of trees down SR 532 to Pioneer Highway over the offset tree line.

❖ Wayfinding Signage: Purpose:

- Promote Economic Development in the City of Stanwood
- Promote Community Identity
- Encourage Tourism
- Promote Shopping Districts & Parking Opportunities
- Promote Community Events

Planning Commission Comments:

- Support moving forward with Phase 2 of wayfinding program.
- Signage should be hierarchical: signs on SR 532 should be general: shopping, parking, etc.; whereas signs on 270th and 271st could include business names with arrows. Signs on SR 532 should lead one into the downtown area and once in the downtown signs can lead people to specific businesses.
- Focus on east and west ends first; hilltop area could follow after Phase 2 in the downtown is complete.



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PRIORITIES:

Yearly: Create an annual budget for beautification projects \$10,000 yearly. (EDB feels this is too low)
Yearly 532 Landscape Improvements
Pilot Downtown Parklet Program
Main Street Benches/Flowers

Years 1 & 2: Gateway Signs at 72nd Ave and Ovenell
Service Club Signs
Wayfinding Signs
88th Avenue Arch (Move from year 3 to year 2-EDB suggestion)

Years 3-5: Pre-design and Public Outreach for Main Street Reconfiguration
Wayfinding Signs

Years 6+: Design and Permitting of Main Street Reconfiguration

Final Comments:

- Move Wayfinding to Priority 1 = yearly on-going; work with businesses to add signage.
- Agree with Economic Development Board, proposed funding for Priority 1 is too low. Double the amount to \$20,000 per year.
- Move pre-design of Main Street to Priority 2. Work could include Parklets, stripping, flowers, benches and applying for grants.
- Move 30% design of Main Street to Priority 3. Start working on the project now; let's not wait 5 years.

Planning 101

Due to the time spent on the City Beautification Program, the Planning Commissioners have decided to push the Planning 101 segment to the next meeting. A new packet will not be sent out.

Recent Council Action on Commission Items

City Council approved the Floodplain Regulations at their last meeting, the regulations were submitted to FEMA prior to the deadline.

Passed the tax credit for the Affordable Housing Amendment. We are partnering with the Community Resource Center for the rental assistance side of the program.

Miscellaneous Items

Two Parks related items: The city will be working on the design for the Stanwood-Port Susan Trail and is hoping for a kickoff meeting with the consultants in the next week.

PTAC has been working on the Church Creek Playground equipment replacement project. We are shooting for an install date in July.

Adjourn 8:33 pm