Grand County Planning Commission

January 8, 2019

A regular meeting of the Grand County Planning Commission convened on the above date at the Grand County Courthouse, 125 E. Center St., Moab, UT 84532

Members Present: Chair Gerrish Willis, Robert O’Brien, Christine “Christine” Green, Kevin Walker, Abby Scott, Emily Campbell, and Rachel Nelson

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Zacharia Levine and Kenny Gordon

Council Liaison: Terry Morse

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair Gerrish Willis.

Citizens to be heard: None.

Ejecting/Appointing the Chair and Vice-Chair Emily Campbell moves to nominates Abby Scott for Chair. Christine Green moves to nominate Gerrish Willis for Chair. Abby Scott seconds nomination for Gerrish Willis for Chair. Kevin Walker seconds nomination for Abby Scott as Chair. Abby express apprehension to being Chair because she knows she will be missing some meetings. Vote (via paper ballot): 3 votes for Abby Scott, 4 votes for Gerrish Willis. Gerrish Willis is Chair. Kevin Walker moves to nominates Abby Scott for Vice Chair. Christine Green seconds nomination for Abby Scott for Vice Chair. All were unanimous, vote carries. Abby Scott is Vise Chair.

Proposed lighting ordinance, which updates Section 6.5.5(D) Sign Illumination and 6.6 Outdoor Lighting.

Staff has collaborated with the ad-hoc Dark Skies Working Group to create a draft outdoor lighting ordinance. We have consulted the Executive Director of the International Dark Skies Association (IDA), members of the Colorado Plateau Dark Skies Initiative, professional outdoor lighting designers in the Mountain West, public officials from Flagstaff, AZ, which is often touted as having the model outdoor lighting code, Ketchum, ID, and Horseshoe Bay, TX, as well as local stakeholders from the outdoor guide community, federal, and state land management agencies. The draft outdoor lighting ordinance presented to planning commission draws from the best available information, model lighting policies from around the western US, and feedback from the abovementioned representatives.

Staff reiterates the importance of minimizing light pollution for the purposes of Grand County residents’ enjoyment of dark skies, meeting sustainability and energy efficiency goals, preserving and enhancing astrotourism as an economic driver, limiting detrimental public health impacts, and supporting ecosystem health (i.e. flora and fauna depend on dark night skies).

Chair Gerrish Willis opens the floor to public comment. Joette Langianese express support for the outdoor lighting changes. Sharon Russell express support for the outdoor lighting changes. With no other comments, Gerrish Willis closes public comment period.

Kevin Walker moves to forward a favorable recommendation to Grand County Council amending Section 2.11.4 (Resort Commercial District) and Section 6.5.5(D) Permitted Sign Illumination and Section 6.6 – Outdoor Lighting. Seconded by Bob O’Brien. For 6, against 1 (Christine Green), vote carries.

Staff to fix “Permitted and Prohibited External Sign Lighting Configuration” image.

Add the 5 year amortization language from “6.6.10B(3)” to the amortization schedule reference in 6.6.2(C).

Add definition for luminaire to 6.6.3 Definitions.

Add “Notwithstanding the exemptions in subsection E below,” to 6.6.4(D).

Motion to amend Net Acre to Developed Acre in 6.6.5. For 6, against 1 (Christine Green). Motion carries.

Emily Campbell moves to amend 6.6.5(A) to include the sentence, “Commercial developments shall be allowed a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) lumens regardless of developed acreage.” Seconded by Kevin Walker.
Emily Campbell moves to amend her motion to amend 6.6.5(A) to include the sentence, “Commercial developments shall be allowed a minimum of _______ lumens regardless of developed acreage,” and direct staff to research and fill in the blank prior to County Council review. For 5, against 2 (Kevin Walker, Christine Green). Motion to amend the main motion carries. For 6, against 1, (Christine Green). Motion to approve the amended main motion carries.

Kevin Walker moves to amend 6.6.5(B) to limit all residential parcels to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) lumens of light regardless of parcel size. Seconded by Emily Campbell.

Kevin Walker moves to amend his motion to amend 6.6.5(B) to read, “Total outdoor light output shall not exceed ten thousand (10,000) lumens of lighting for parcels one-half (acre), or larger, in size. Parcels smaller than one-half (1/2) acre shall be permitted five thousand (5,000) lumens of lighting regardless of parcel size.” Seconded by Robert O’Brien. For 6, against 1 (Christine Green). Motion to amend main motion carries. For 6, against 1 (Christine Green). Motion to approve the amended main motion carries.

Motion to amend 6.6.6(A)(a) to read, “Businesses open to the public after twelve o’clock (12:00) midnight may leave all outdoor lighting on until one (1) hour after close of business.” For 6, against 0, Kevin Walker abstained. Motion carries.

Motion to amend 6.6.9(B)2 to replace “Building Official” with Planning & Zoning Administrator. For 6, against 1 (Gerrish Willis). Motion carries.

6.6.10(B)1 include 50% revision in each sentence of 6.6.10(B)1.

(See revised Outdoor Lighting and Sign Illumination Standards)

Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2018: Motion to approve the December 17, 2018 meeting minutes with corrections, For 6, against 0, abstained 1 (Gerrish Willis was not present). The December 17, 2018 were approved.

Future Considerations:

Community Development Department Update: None.

County Council Liaison report: None.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting, all were unanimous. Adjourned at 7:30 pm.