

Environment Committee Meeting
March 8, 2007

Present: Mayor Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, Councilmember Dave Kaplan, Development Services Manager Robert Ruth, Planning Manager Denise Lathrop, Kent Hale from ESA Adolfson, City Manager Tony Piasecki, and Planning, Building & Public Works Director Grant Fredricks.

The meeting convened at 6:05 pm.

Critical Area Ordinance:

Denise Lathrop mentioned that she had received a letter from the Department of Ecology regarding mitigation ratios for wetlands. An addendum to the Findings of Fact stated the mitigation ratios are based on King County mitigation ratios and are supported by Best Available Science. The consultants suggest modifications to how ratios are applied by deleting one provision and modifying other provisions.

Tony Piasecki asked if the ratio or any other requirements were being changed. Denise answered that the primary concern is to make corrections to CAO adopting a 1-1 mitigation ratio, adding that we are adopting more stringent requirements than other communities.

The Committee requested that Denise make changes to definitions to mitigation ratios to better reflect the actual meaning.

Marine Shoreline:

Discussion ensued regarding legal challenges pertaining to the Marine Shoreline. Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, as well as the entire Committee was disturbed that many of the statements appear to be the product of Des Moines, and, in fact, most are recitals of the State WAC. Further discussion was then held regarding a new format and the pros and cons of a new set up which would designate what actually came from the City of Des Moines or from the State.

A lengthy conversation took place about the setbacks and the 115 foot buffer and what impact it could have on the City of Des Moines. Questions were asked regarding what other cities have allowed as well as the language used. The Committee voiced many concerns regarding the buffer and setbacks.

Robert Ruth advised the Committee that the new language changes may not be ready for the meeting on March 22, 2007; however, staff will do their best to complete this task.

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for, March 22, 2007 at 6:00 pm. The topic to be discussed will be the Shoreline Master Program.

The meeting concluded at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Abeles
Administrative Assistant