



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

Annual Business Meeting

1 **Call to Order**

2 The meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commissioner Dominic
3 Mocerri at 6:03 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Suneeta Eisenberg, Jim Hansen, Daniel Dunne, Dominic Mocerri, Scott Van
6 Dalen

7 Rud Browne arrived at 6:09 p.m.

8 **Absent:** Matt Barry, Nicholas Greif

9 **Staff Present:** Mark Personius and Aileen Kogut-Aguon

10 **Department Update**

11 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), stated that the
12 Planning Commission's final recommendation on the Comprehensive Plan was
13 submitted to County Council. Council has set a tentative schedule to review each
14 chapter, having meetings every Tuesday during the Committee of the Whole for the
15 next few months. Council's goal is to have a final public hearing in May of this year and
16 make their final adoption.

17 At Council's meeting on Tuesday they took action, preliminarily approving the City of
18 Everson and Sumas Urban Growth Area (UGA) proposals. They also considered the
19 letter submitted by the Planning Commission, where Commissioner Dunne answered
20 questions they may have had on it.

21 Commissioner Dunne stated for the record that he was not speaking on behalf of the
22 Commission, but on his own personal capacity.

23 Commissioner Hansen stated that he would like to attend and speak as the minority
24 party who voted against most of the recommendations if and when able to.

25 Mr. Personius continued with his update with Planning Commission's schedule for the
26 next few meetings:

- 27 • February 26, 2026 – The Blaine UGA Map Amendments
- 28 • March 12, 2026 – Open Space Application
- 29 • Housing Code Amendments – Late March or Early April

30 Commissioner Browne asked how would the Mercer Island and Kitsap case effect this
31 process.

32 Mr. Personius stated that both the amendments and Comp Plan will need to be
33 adopted simultaneously, so the development regulations are consistent with the Comp
34 Plan change based on Mercer Island and Kitsap case.

35 **Open Session Public Comment**

36 There was no public comment.



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1 **Commissioner Comments**

2 Commissioner Van Dalen asked about the meeting dates for the Commission. He
3 stated for the record that he will be absent April 9th.

4 Commissioner Hansen wanted to note that he just went through surgery which is why
5 he is remote and unable to stand during the flag salute.

6 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

7 **Timestamp: 6:19p**

8 The Commission discussed the requested revision from Chris Behee, City of
9 Bellingham's Long Range Manager.

10 **Motion 1. Commissioner Browne moved** to amend the meeting minutes from
11 *January 22, 2026 from the proposed revision and put in what was stated in*
12 *verbatim.*

13 **Commissioner Van Dalen seconded.**

14 **The Commission was in consensus. The motion carried.**

15 **Abstain- (Ayes-; Nays-; Abstain-). The motion carried.**

16 **Timestamp: 6:30p**

17 **Motion 2. Commissioner Browne moved** to accept the meeting minutes as
18 *amended.*

19 **Commissioner Van Dalen seconded.**

20 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Browne, Dunne, Eisenberg, Hansen, Mocerri, Van**
21 **Dalen**

22 **(Ayes- 6; Nays- 0; Abstain- 0). The motion carried.**

23 **Timestamp: 6:30p**

24 **Election of Officers**

25 **Timestamp: 6:31p**

26 **Motion 3. Commissioner Browne nominated Daniel Dunne for Chair**

27 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

28 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Dunne, Mocerri, Van Dalen, Browne**

29 **Abstain- Eisenberg, Hansen**

30 **(Ayes- 4; Nays- 0; Abstain- 2). The motion carried.**

31 **Timestamp: 6:36p**

32 **Motion 4. Commissioner Browne nominated Dominic Mocerri as Vice Chair**

33 **Commissioner Van Dalen seconded.**

34 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Eisenberg, Hansen, Van Dalen, Browne, Dunne**

35 **Abstain- Mocerri**

36 **(Ayes- 5; Nays- 0; Abstain- 1). The motion carried.**

37 **Timestamp: 6:39p**



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1 **Annual Business Meeting**

2 **Timestamp: 6:40p**

3 **Motion 5. Commissioner Van Dalen moved** to approve the Business Rules with
4 *the proposed changes.*

5 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

6 **Amendment Commission Chair Dunne moved** to strike out 1.5-D.

7 **Commissioner Browne seconded.**

8 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Eisenberg, Mocerri, Van Dalen, Browne, Dunne**

9 **Abstain- Hansen**

10 **(Ayes- 5; Nays- 0; Abstain- 1). The motion carried.**

11 **Timestamp: 6:49p**

12 Commission Chair Dunne asked staff to clarify what the new accessibility requirements
13 intel for the county.

14 Aileen Kogut-Aguon, PDS Coordinator, stated that the Washington State Office of
15 Equity has required that all government entities meet the Americans with Disabilities
16 Act (ADA) requirements by April 2026. This requirement is for all government web
17 content. Ms. Kogut-Aguon noted that for the Commission meetings, this would mean
18 that when a Commissioner is speaking, if they are able to, need to have their cameras
19 on because the video recording is made public on the county website.

20 Commission Chair Dunne asked a clarifying question on whether or not it should be a
21 requirement to have the cameras on for those zooming into the meetings.

22 Ms. Kogut-Aguon stated that if the person is able to, they should. There is an
23 understanding that some people may be calling in via phone and may not have a
24 camera. In that case, this is where the close-captions come in.

25 Mr. Personius asked if this requirement applies to the public.

26 Ms. Kogut-Aguon stated that the public attendees are not required as the zoom
27 meetings do not allow for attendees to have their cameras on. Having the close-
28 captions on for public speakers will satisfy that requirement. The requirement is for the
29 Commission members and staff.

30 Commission Hansen noted that sometimes when traveling, the internet is not great,
31 and having the camera on will crash the zoom link entirely. That would be the only
32 time the camera could not be on. He commented that most phones have cameras, so
33 not being able to have a camera is somewhat unique.

34 Commissioner Mocerri stated that it would be a good idea if those online, turn their mic
35 off when they're not speaking because the close-captioning will pick up on the feed and
36 make it more confusing for those who need it to follow along.

37 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Hansen, Mocerri, Van Dalen, Browne, Dunne,**
38 **Eisenberg**

39 **(Ayes- 6; Nays- 0; Abstain- 0). The motion carried.**

40 **Timestamp: 6:53p**



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1 **Adjournment**

2 **Timestamp: 6:57p**

3 Commissioner Mocerri stated that there is one seat open for the Commission from
4 District 1 or District 5, and if anyone is interested, they should apply.

5 Mr. Personius mentioned that Council has approved the purchasing agreement for the
6 32nd Street building for Planning and Development Services. The goal to transition from
7 this building to the new building will be later this year or early 2027.

8 The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

9 Minutes prepared by Aileen Kogut-Aguon.

10 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

Signed by:

Daniel Dunne

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11 _____
12 Daniel Dunne, Chair

Signed by:

Aileen Kogut-Aguon

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_____ Aileen Kogut-Aguon, Coordinator