

**YAKIMA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Location: Yakima Valley College

1704 W. Nob Hill Boulevard, Yakima, Washington, 98902

and

Microsoft Teams Meeting

I. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Sergio Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and requested the roll call.

A. Roll Call. A quorum was present at roll call:

1. **Planning Commission Members Present:** Sergio Garcia, Mike Shuttleworth, Holly Castle, and Jerry Craig
2. **Planning Commission Members Absent:** Doug Mayo (unexcused), Raul Martinez (unexcused) and Isidra Sanches (excused)
3. **Yakima County Planning Staff Present:** Olivia Story, Aaron M. Cohen, Phil Hoge, and Keith Wolf
4. **Public Present:** Keelan Naasz & Byron Gumz (Yakima Valley Conference of Governments)

B. Approval of Amended March 12, 2025, minutes. Mike moved to approve the amended minutes for the March 12, 2025 meeting, as presented, Jerry seconded, & the motion was approved 4-0.

C. Approval of April 9, 2025, minutes. Jerry moved to approve the minutes for the April 9, 2025 meeting, as presented, Mike seconded, & the motion was approved 4-0.

II. Public Comments. None.

III. New Business.

Periodic Update:

A. Olivia gave a presentation on the general Periodic Update process and provided a schedule of the 2025 calendar year and early 2026 of the remaining Planning Commission meetings and their respective topics.

B. Aaron gave a work session on the Parks and Recreation Element (LRN2025-00001/LRN2025-00008 summarized as follows:

1. An update to all relevant tables and charts was conducted. How staff calculated park level of service for each city and town was shown. As part of the calculations, staff selected to go with National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) 2024 Agency Performance Review as they provide a

1 better breakdown of numbers and standards for a wide array of city sizes as
2 opposed to the previously used Trust for Public Land report;

3 2. Aaron indicated in July an additional presentation on the tree canopy cover
4 will happen. Some discussion on tree canopy cover occurred with the focus
5 on issues and reasoning around the tree canopy cover topic. Issues of water
6 and infrastructure impacts were discussed; and,

7 3. New policies proposed involved supporting the Yakama Nation Heritage Trail,
8 incorporating local artists and public art into park and recreation opportunities,
9 supporting school districts with urban level nature classrooms in their existing
10 developments, and establishing a volunteer service for geolocating
11 vegetative species in the UGAs.

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13 **C.** Aaron gave a work session on the Economic Development Element (LRN2025-
14 00001/LRN2025-00004), summarized as follows:

15 1. An update to all relevant charts and tables was presented. Agriculture
16 remained the main industry in Yakima County and grew by two percent.
17 Health Services became the second top industry and Local Government,
18 Manufacturing, and Retail Trade all decreased by one percent;

19 2. New employment data from the Yakima County Development Association
20 were presented. Concern over the accuracy of the numbers was expressed
21 and staff will confirm how the numbers were collected; and,

22 3. The only new policy concerned the coordination of efforts regarding tourism
23 activities among stakeholders. One change was made to the policies to
24 adhere to the comprehensive plan Periodic Update checklist, which was
25 affirming private property rights. Staff was asked to ensure there was a policy
26 supporting local regional bus transit.

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28 **IV. Unfinished Business.** None.

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30 **V. Communications**

31 A. **Reports of subcommittees and study groups.** None.

32 B. **Status report of cases before the BOCC.**

33 C. **Secretary's Report.** None.

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35 **VI. Adjournment or continuance to a date, time, and place.** Mike made a motion to
36 adjourn, Jerry seconded, the motion was passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:29
37 PM.

38 Minutes approved by the Planning Commission on _____.

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40 Signed: _____

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42 Planning Commission, Chair