



City of Prineville

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

DATE: September 16, 2008

PURPOSE: Recommendation to fill three Planning Commission vacancies

BACKGROUND:

Due to recent resignations by Planning Commissioners Paul Cuddy, Jim McMillin and Jennifer Letz, there are currently three openings on the Planning Commission.

The City has received letters of interest from four Prineville residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission:

Deb Harper
Kendal Huestis
William Van Vactor
Don Wood

The Planning Commission held interviews of the candidates on September 16. Due to the pressing need to get enough Planning Commissioners to ensure a quorum at upcoming meetings, very short notice was provided to these applicants regarding the time of the interviews. As a result, Kendal Huestis was out of town on the day of the interviews and was not able to participate. The Planning Commission was given the option of waiting to make a formal recommendation until Mr. Huestis could be interviewed but elected to make the recommendation that night for two reasons:

1. Mr. Huestis is running for City Council and, since the Planning Commission felt the other three candidates are qualified, decided they did not want to take the chance that they would have to replace Mr. Huestis if elected to City Council.
2. The vacancy created by Paul Cuddy's resignation is for a term that expires at the end of this year. Don Wood, in his letter of interest, stated an interest to "infill as a Planning Commission member to ensure timely processing of planning applications." The Planning Commission determined it would be better to recommend Mr. Wood, who has previous experience on the Planning Commission, to fill the vacancy with a term that expires at the end of this year. If Mr. Huestis does not get elected to City Council, he will have another opportunity to apply for the Planning Commission in January, 2009.

The decision not to recommend Mr. Huestis was solely based on his status as a candidate for City Council and does not reflect on the Planning Commission's evaluation of his qualifications to be a Planning Commissioner.

After some discussion regarding the four candidates, the Planning Commission unanimously made the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Deb Harper and William Van Vactor to the vacant Planning Commission positions with terms expiring on December 31, 2009

Appoint Don Wood to the vacant Planning Commission position with a term expiring on December 31, 2008.

COUNCIL ACTION:

The City Council shall make a decision whether or not to fill one, two or all three of the Planning Commission vacancies from the candidates listed above. All four candidates have indicated that they will be present at the City Council meeting on September 23 and will be available to answer any questions from the Council.

EXHIBITS:

Letters of interest from the four Planning Commission candidates

September 5, 2008

City Planning Department
Prineville City Hall
387 NE Third St
Prineville, OR 97754

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit my name for consideration to the vacancy on Prineville's City Planning Commission.

For the past few years I have attended numerous planning commission and city council meetings. While my profession is in bookkeeping, I enjoy volunteering and hearing what others have to offer.

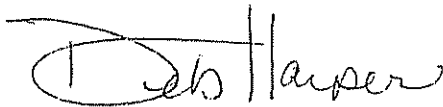
Currently my husband and I own multiple properties along with a business here. I have lived in over half a dozen towns and cities in Oregon. In each town I became involved by volunteering in various community events. Through volunteering I learned that every town has its own unique personality, offering something positive to focus on.

However Prineville is truly my home. I graduated from Crook County High School and I have lived in Prineville over 36 years (cumulative). I have good memories of growing up here where my family owned businesses and my father served on the Prineville Police Department. I have family and friends here from various walks of life which helps give me a broad perspective of the diverse interests of the people who live and work here.

All of this is to say I have a deep interest in how Prineville develops. I respect the history which made this town a great place to live and raise a family. I also acknowledge that growth is imminent and change is good, but we need to plan for it.

If appointed I will bring a wide perspective of considerations to the commission as well as a listening ear and open mind. I look forward to the future and being an instrument in Prineville's progress.

Thank You for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Harper". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Deb S. Harper
716 NE Fieldstone Ct - (R-2)
Prineville, OR 97754
541 419-9008

William A. Van Vactor, Jr.
584 SE Fourth Street
Prineville, OR 97754
(541)350-0423

September 9, 2008

City of Prineville, Planning Dept.
Attn: Scott Edelman
387 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754

Subject: Letter of Interest - Planning Commission

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in response to the City of Prineville's request for volunteers to join the Planning Commission. As a resident of Prineville, and concerned citizen, I am interested in being a member of the Planning Commission.

I am an attorney for Miller Nash LLP at its Prineville office. My practice focuses on land use, real estate, and business transactions. Throughout college and law school I have always had an interest in land use. Over the last year I have especially enjoyed the land use work I have done here in Crook County and around Central Oregon.

While living here in Prineville, I have developed a fondness for the community and a concern for the direction the community takes as it develops alongside other Central Oregon communities. Preserving this community's small town nature, which draws newcomers such as myself and keeps long time community residents here, is important, but recognizing the importance of economic growth is also critical to ensure the community is able to attract and keep businesses and people in the community. For these reasons, I am excited about the prospect of assisting the City of Prineville by being a member of the Planning Commission.

As an Oregon land use attorney, I am familiar with the land use process and believe I would be a valuable asset to the community in general as well the City Council as a member of the Planning Commission. I understand after talking to Scott Edelman that the Planning Commission will be interviewing candidates in the near future before making recommendations to the City Council. Please let me know when those interviews will be conducted.


Thank you for considering my interest in the position and I look forward to your response.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Van Vactor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

William A. Van Vactor

In the matter of the Prineville Planning Commission , in as much as the number of members are currently below that level required for quorum, I am willing to infill as a Planning Commission member to ensure timely processing of planning applications. My previous experience on the City of Prineville Planning Commission will be helpful in permitting me to immediately be up to speed with the duties and responsibilities of a Planning Commission member.

DonWood 
395 NE Elm Street
Prineville OR 97754
Contact Phone: 541-416-9663
Fax: 541-447-4249

WILLIAM A. VAN VACTOR, JR.

584 SE Fourth Street, Prineville, OR 97754 • (541)447-5777 • will.vanvactor@millernash.com

EDUCATION

University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, J.D. Candidate, May 2007 (GPA 3.23)

Honors:

- CALI Award for top grade in Contract Law, Fall 2004
- Outstanding Achievement Award in Administrative Law, Fall 2005
- Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law

Activities:

- Managing Editor, *Journal of Land, Resources, and Environmental Law*
- Natural Resource Law Forum

Clinics:

- Judicial Clinic, *Extern*, Chief Justice Christine Durham, Utah Supreme Court
- Environmental Law Clinic, *Intern*, Office of the Solicitor, Salt Lake City Field Office

University of Oregon, Eugene - B.S., Political Science; Business Administration and Environmental Studies Minor, 2003 (GPA 3.5)

Honors:

- Dean's List
- Guistina Scholarship

EXPERIENCE

Miller Nash LLP, Attorneys at Law, Associate Attorney, Prineville, Oregon (Fall 2007 to present)

- Research and draft memoranda on real property, land use, and other legal issues.
- Draft court documents including pleadings, answers, and trial memorandum.
- Appear at hearings and other related proceedings on behalf of clients.

Leahy & Kieran, Attorneys at Law, Law Clerk, Springfield, Oregon (Summer 2006)

- Researched and drafted memoranda on real property, municipal law, environmental law, and land use.
- Interacted, interviewed, and wrote letters for clients.

Office of the Solicitor, Salt Lake City Field Office, Intern, Salt Lake City (Spring 2006)

- Researched and wrote memoranda in such areas of law as the Federal Torts Claim Act, wildfire negligence, and historic rangeland policy in the West.

Chief Justice Christine Durham, Utah Supreme Court, Extern, Salt Lake City (Summer 2005)

- Drafted a judicial opinion regarding government employee contract rights.

Office of Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Intern, Washington D.C. (Summer 2003)

- Drafted constituent letters and office memos.
- Researched policy issues including (but not limited to) free trade agreements, Medicare, and Homeland Security.

Bryce Canyon National Park, Research Assistant, Bryce, Utah (Summer 2001)

- Researched natural and unnatural noise within park for study concerning effects of sounds on animals as well as park visitors.
- Monitored helicopter over-flights throughout park, as well as jets, propeller planes and automobiles.

PUBLICATION

William A. Van Vactor, Jr. *The Backlash to Land Use Regulation Continues: An Analysis of Oregon's Measure 37*, JOURNAL OF LAND, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, Fall 2005 available on Lexis at 26 J. Land Resources & Envtl. L. 221.

Hello to All Concerned

I would like to be considered for the position on the City of Prineville Planning Commission. I feel like I bring a fresh new look at how Prineville should grow. Without sacrificing Prineville's past and what makes Prineville a great place to live. I grew up here and Prineville have seen a lot of changes in the last 28 years. I am concerned in how Prineville grows and what needs to stay in the past and what needs to grow with the future

I am on the Crook County School Budget Committee along with the City of Prineville Budget committee.

I thank you for your consideration, in allowing me to bring my ideas to the City of Prineville Planning Commission.

**Kendal W Huestis
541-447-3010 (Home Phone)
541-788-9679 (Cell Phone)**