

SHASTA COUNTY SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Date: January 21, 2016
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Shasta County Administration Center
Board of Supervisors' Chambers

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ROLL CALL

Commissioners

Present:

Roy Ramsey	District 4
Patrick Wallner	District 5
Tim MacLean	District 2
Jim Chapin	District 1

Absent

Gene Parham	District 3
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Staff Present:

Richard Simon, Director of Resource Management
James Ross, Assistant County Counsel
Jennifer Lange Admin Board Clerk II Conf., Recording Secretary

Note:

All unanimous actions reflect a 4-0 vote.

Key: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Negative Declaration (ND), Categorical Exempt (CE), Other Exemption from CEQA (OE); Not Subject to CEQA (N/A).

OPEN TIME: No Speakers

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST
DECLARATIONS:** NONE

**CONSENT
ITEMS:** NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

R1: Ex-parte Communications Disclosures: NONE

ZONE AMENDMENT 16-001: Revised Ordinance Regulating Medical Marijuana: Zone Amendment 16-001 includes an ordinance initiated by the Board in response to the new State-wide legislation. The proposed ordinance would amend Chapter 17.88 "Special Uses" of the Shasta County Zoning Plan by: 1) adding section 17.88.315, "Medical Cannabis Deliveries," and 2) amending section 17.88.320, "Medical Marijuana Cultivation," to a) require a Zoning Permit for cultivation of medical marijuana and b) establish term limits on Zoning Permits approved for cultivation. Staff: Richard Simon, Director of Resource Management. County Wide. Proposed CEQA Determination: N/A.

Richard Simon, Director of Resource Management presented the staff report. Mr. Simon responded to questions from Commissioner Chapin regarding Zoning permits and Use permits. Mr. Simon explained the levels of Zoning permits to the highest level which is a Use permit. He also answered questions from Commissioner Chapin and Commissioner Wallner in regards to delivery restrictions. Director Simon explained the amendment is to prohibit commercial deliveries of Medical Marijuana. Commissioner MacLean asked if after all renewals are exhausted would an applicant apply for a new permit? Director Simon stated yes.

The public hearing was opened and Cathy Grindstaff, Project Director of the Sobering Choice Coalition spoke in favor of the Zone Amendment. She stated she appreciates the Commission being proactive. Ms. Grindstaff stated the change in the ordinance will give the county the tools it needs to help control illegal growing and dispensaries.

Speaking in Opposition:

Rob McDonald

Mr. McDonald stated marijuana is a health benefit and the county is putting patients at risk of death by denying them access to marijuana.

Shasta Heart

Ms. Heart stated she is a patient, she doesn't grow for other people nor does she own a dispensary. Ms. Heart spoke about a child who died due to his Medical Marijuana being taken away from him by authorities. She recited some laws then asked the Commission to have compassion and not approve the amendment.

Jerome Venus

Mr. Venus stated he was a grower, but he is currently a patient. He stated he uses cannabis for multiple ailments and to help him sleep at night. He asked the Commission to deny the amendment. Mr. Venus stated closing dispensaries will only open up the Black Market.

Brad Tillson, RN

Mr. Tillson stated patients use different extracts of the plant and patients can't be asked to grow different types of plants for each health issue. He doesn't believe deliveries would be a nuisance. Mr. Tillson asks the Commission to reconsider approving this amendment.

Eric Karamian

Mr. Karamian represented he was the spokesman for the American Marijuana Delivery Service. He stated they have over 19 thousand patients in their database from here to Southern California. Mr. Karamian stated they get calls all the time from people who don't have transportation and need their help delivering them their medical marijuana. He asked that the Commission reconsider approving the amendment. He stated people who grow are not bad people.

Cathy Cresser

Ms. Cresser spoke in opposition of the amendment and asked that everyone come together and talk to work out a better solution.

Dr. Tammy K Brazil

Dr. Brazil stated she owns a dispensary, but does not deliver. She stated she lives out in the woods on 21 acres and she still can't grow. She said she got estimates on building a greenhouse based on the requirements and the costs ranged from \$48,000-\$78,000 and that was without a permit. Dr. Brazil stated she is very sick and needs the juice from medical marijuana. She asked the Commission to reconsider and deny the amendment.

There being no other speakers for or against the project, the public hearing was closed.

ACTION: By motion made, seconded (Chapin/Wallner), and carried unanimously, by Resolution 2016-003, the Commission recommended that the Shasta County Board of Supervisors conduct a public hearing, find the project exempt from CEQA and consistent with the County General Plan, and adopt an ordinance adding section 17.88.315, "Medical Marijuana Deliveries," and amending section 17.88.320, "Medical Marijuana Cultivation," of chapter 17.88 "Special Uses," of the Shasta County Code (2 2016-001).

Non-Hearing Items:

NH1: Announce the cancellation of the February 11, 2016 Planning Commission meeting

ACTION: By motion made, seconded (Chapin/MacLean), and carried unanimously, the Commission canceled its regular meeting scheduled for February 11, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: The Planning Commission adjourned at 3:02pm.

Submitted by:



**Buffy Gray, Agency Staff Services Analyst I
Recording Secretary**