

HOW TO APPEAL A DECISION BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Grays Harbor County Planning Commission consists of nine County residents appointed to four-year terms by the Board of County Commissioners. The Planning Commission reviews amendments to the subdivision and zoning chapters contained in Grays Harbor County Code Title 16 and Title 17, applications for preliminary subdivisions and planned unit developments, applications for conditional shoreline substantial development permits and shoreline variances, amendments to the Grays Harbor County Comprehensive Plan, and other actions requested or remanded by the Board of County Commissioners.

Grays Harbor County Code requires the Planning Commission announce, within 30-days from the date the public hearing is closed, its decision to either (a) deny the application or (b) recommend its approval to the Board of County Commissioners. The Planning Commission typically renders its decision on an application at the conclusion of the public hearing.

The appeal of a Planning Commission decision involves two separate processes, depending upon an appellant's relation to the application. The two processes are as follows:

- **Appeal process for an applicant aggrieved by the Commission's decision**

An applicant subject to the decision-making process of the Planning Commission may appeal the Planning Commission's final decision, including any portion of the decision, to the Board of County Commissioners no later than 21 calendar days from the date of the Planning Commission's final decision.

Any Planning Commission's recommended approval to the Board of County Commissioners must be heard and decided upon by the Board of County Commissioners before any aggrieved party other than the applicant can initiate an appeal process.

- **Appeal process for any party, other than the applicant, aggrieved by the Commission's Decision**

The Planning Commission only transmits recommended approvals to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration. The Board of County Commissioners must render their final decision on the Planning Commission's recommendation before it can be appealed by any aggrieved party to superior court pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70C governing the Washington State Land Use Petition Act (LUPA).

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Commission's written findings and order by making a request at the public hearing or by contacting the Planning and Building Division.

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