



MINUTES
KEIZER PLANNING COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Robert L. Simon Council Chambers
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, Oregon

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** Chair Matt Lawyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Matt Lawyer, Chair
Jeremy Grenz, Vice Chair
Lindsey King
Fernando Lopez
Robb Witters

Council Liaison Present:

Councilor Juran

Youth Liaison Absent:

Talia Mesecar

Absent:

Larry Scruggs
Frank Hostler

Staff Present:

Shane Witham, Planning Director
Adam Brown, City Manager
Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney
Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. April 2026** Commissioner Jeremy Grenz moved for approval of the April 2026 Minutes as presented. Commissioner Fernando Lopez seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows: Lawyer, King, Grenz, Witters, and Lopez in favor with Scruggs and Hostler absent.

3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED PERSONS The interested person spoke under item a.

4. NEW-OLD BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT

- a. Discussion on Goats** Planning Director Shane Witham summarized the staff report on the request to have the City amend its Code to allow for goats in residential areas with appropriate restrictions.

Mr. Witham commented that he wanted this meeting to be a work session and had worked with Ms. Monica Njorogoe, the person who made the formal

written request, about getting a doctor's note stating that she needed the goat for emotional support.

Mr. Witham noted that recently, the City received some complaints and did some enforcement activity concerning having goats. Mr. Witham asked if there was a desire to regulate goats and to consider the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs, along with the neighborhood impact.

Chair Lawyer commented that he wasn't comfortable prioritizing a text amendment for allowing goats over the other work in the upcoming months.

Monica Njorogoe, Keizer, commented that she didn't want to put pressure on the City, she could rehome the goats somewhere else, and she was willing to pursue her request at a later time.

Pursuant to Ms. Njorogoe's email, Commissioner Grenz asked Ms. Njorogoe about the current ordinances she referenced, stating that other animals, including horses may receive consideration for emotional support services. Ms. Njorogoe confirmed that it was not in Keizer and that it was pursuant to the ADA. City Attorney Joseph Lindsay clarified that the ADA included service animals and miniature horses that were trained for a particular task.

Chair Lawyer summarized that the two questions for the Planning Commission by asking whether this should be taken up as a text amendment or press pause and conduct outreach.

Commissioner Grenz stated that ADA accommodations were intended for disabilities and task-trained service animals and expressed concerns that accommodating emotional support animals would be too broad.

Commissioner Witters agreed with Chair Lawyer and Commissioner Grenz and felt that this would be a heavy burden on the City and since there wasn't a specific use or training for goats, that this wouldn't be an appropriate time.

Commissioner King agreed that this was not the right time to pursue a text amendment and would support postponing the discussion. She expressed concern with tailoring code provisions specifically to ADA emotional support animals and suggested that any future discussion focus on goats with clear criteria and additional public involvement.

Mr. Witham clarified that the City Code does not specifically address or provide allowances for ADA animals; however, federal ADA requirements preempt local Code where applicable.

Chair Lawyer noted the following challenges to allowing goats on residential property:

- Varied lot sizes, causing a disparity.
- Goats are herd animals and require goat companionship.
- Noise by goats.
- Goats are active and jump over fences quickly, and the current fence regulations may prohibit the necessary height to keep goats contained in smaller lots.
- Critter and pest conflicts could be created. Urban yards were not set for pasture-type settings.
- Enforcement would be a nightmare with overburdened police staff, especially when they have safety issues to address.

Chair Lawyer further felt that allowing goats was inconsistent with the Oregon Administrative Rules in which goats were considered livestock.

Chair Lawyer found it very difficult from a policy perspective to try to build a framework around those people who want goats, being responsible and respectful of the people who don't necessarily want to have goats next to them—and for the health and safety of the actual animals.

Commissioner Lopez commented that even if there were language changes, that other laws may state that the City couldn't have goats. He appreciated hearing about the challenges raised by the other members.

Commissioner Grenz moved to suspend the rules to take formal action on agenda item a. Robb Witters seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows: Lawyer, King, Grenz, Witters, and Lopez in favor with Scruggs and Hostler absent.

Commissioner Grenz moved that the Planning Commission make a formal recommendation to pursue no changes in the Code related to emotional support animals. Commissioner King seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows: Lawyer, King, Grenz, Witters, and Lopez in favor with Scruggs and Hostler absent.

Chair Lawyer thanked Ms. Njorogoe for her attendance and presenting her case and engaging with the members.

b. New Policy for Committees, Boards, and Commissions to Apply for Grants

City Attorney Joseph Lindsay shared that if the Planning Commissioner ever wanted to apply for a grant, that the steps were included in the packet. The idea was to have a group decision, go to staff, and then the actual decision would be by the City Council.

There was a brief discussion about the types of grants that the Planning Commission could apply for.

City Manager Adam Brown commented that Youth Liaison Talia Mesecar

wanted to stay on the Planning Commission until college and that she was the top flute player in Oregon for the second year in a row and a very astute person.

**5. COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

There was no Councilor report.

**6. YOUTH LIAISON
REPORT**

There was no Youth Liaison report.

**7. COMMISSIONER
REPORTING TO
COUNCIL: Robb
Witters on June
15th at 6pm**

Chair Lawyer would report to Council on June 15th.

**8. NEXT MEETING:
July 8th**

It was noted that the **next meeting** would be **July 1st** instead of July 8th.

Chair Lawyer reminded members to be mindful of ex parte communications and potential conflicts of interest and to promptly address any concerns if they arise. If there was any uncertainty, members were encouraged to talk with the City Attorney. The importance of maintaining proper procedure was emphasized, with a reminder that cases were often decided on procedural issues rather than substantive merit, and that care should be taken to avoid situations that could create procedural complications.

Chair Lawyer provided an update on the Goldstar Monument in the final phase and all of the flags were ordered.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at: 6:42 p.m.

Minutes approved: _____