

SPECIAL MEETING of the ROSS TOWN COUNCIL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020
Held by Teleconference

1. 4:00 p.m. Commencement.

Mayor Julie McMillan, Mayor Pro Tempore Elizabeth Robbins, Council Member Elizabeth Brekhus, Council Member William Kircher, Council Member Beach Kuhl.

2. Posting of agenda.

Town Clerk Lopez reported that the agenda was posted according to government requirements.

3. Town Council applicant interviews for member selection to the Advisory Design Review Group.

Mayor McMillan provided introductory remarks regarding the interviews conducted for the Advisory Design Review (ADR) member selection.

Patrick Streeter, Planning and Building Director then provided a background of the ADR recruitment and interview process.

Individuals interviewed before Council discussion were: Mark Kruttschnitt, Eyal Guthmann, Mark Fritts, Laura Dewar, Gita Stiritz, Megan Zoback, Stephen Sutro and Zane Morrissey.

The following questions were asked of each applicant:

1. Briefly outline what in your professional background, work experience, education, or volunteer work would be relevant to the Advisory Design Review Group and highlight any special or unique qualifications or qualities you feel would contribute to the Advisory Design Review Group
2. Do you have any thoughts or ideas on the Advisory Design Review Group's role as it relates to development and quality of life in the Town of Ross?

Nira Doherty, Assistant Town Attorney, then spoke about the process to rank and ultimately select members of the ADR. The item would be continued to the next agenda at which point staff will utilize the rankings and return with a recommendation at which time the Council may vote on appointments.

Council Members questioned and confirmed with Attorney Doherty that the Council could choose all 5 members as design professionals or 4 design professionals and one at-large member, and the Council could also discuss their top candidates and choose the 5 members tonight.

Council discussion ensued regarding re-appointing incumbents, term limits and turnover and Attorney Doherty briefly addressed setting a methodology for appointments and the ranking system.

Councilmembers questioned and discussed the designation and expertise of a “design professional” versus “architect” and the definition in the policy, which is an “architect, building designer or design professional”.

RECESS

The Town Council took a 5-minute recess at 5:52 p.m., and thereafter reconvened the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Mr. Streeter summarized that staff agrees before the meeting is adjourned, but after the final of the 9 interviews is conducted, Council Members should email him with their 4 appointment recommendations for “design professional” and 1 appointment recommendation for “at-large” member. While the meeting is still going on, he will tally the emails and determine if there is a clear selection. If there is a tie, staff can perform a tie-breaker which would allow the Council to move forward with a Consent Calendar item for next week’s agenda for candidates who received the most votes.

The final candidate, Josefa Buckingham, arrived and was interviewed.

Mayor McMillan opened the public comment period.

Melinda Ching stated she recently had a first-hand experience with the ADR and was very impressed with their expertise. She urged the Council to vote for incumbents.

Mr. Streeter then asked Council Members to submit their email to him for their top pick for the at-large member and top pick for the design professional members.

After receipt of all Council votes, Mr. Streeter announced that the recommendation for the at-large member is Mark Kruttschnitt. The four design professionals are Mark Fritts, Laura Dewar, Stephen Sutro and Josefa Buckingham. This will be the recommendation in the staff report for next week’s Consent Agenda item and all candidates will be informed of the results.

4. Adjournment.

Mayor McMillan adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.



Julie McMillan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Lopez, Town Clerk