



CITY OF  
GRANITE FALLS

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**February 10, 2026  
6:30 PM  
Civic Center**

Planning Commission Commissioner Frederick Cruger, Commissioner Jude Anderson, Commissioner Scott Morrison, Commissioner Laura Houk, Commissioner Loren Tongsgard

Members Absent

City Staff City Clerk Darla Wilkins, Planning Director Amy Hess

Consultants Eric Jensen, EJ Municipal Land Use Planning LLC, Anisa Thaci, AHBL, Inc., Jeff Parsons, Herrera Environmental

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Frederick Cruger** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**Chair Frederick Cruger** led the Planning Commission, Staff and Audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Chair Frederick Cruger** verbally called out each of the Planning Commission Member's names.

**City Clerk Darla Wilkins** took note of the meeting attendance.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.A. Approval of December 9, 2025 Minutes**

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion to approve the minutes as written.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Planning Commissioner Jude Anderson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Planning Commissioner Loren Tongsgard

<b>AYES:</b>	Chair/Planning Commissioner Frederick Cruger, Planning Commissioner Jude Anderson, Planning Commissioner Scott Morrison, Planning Commissioner Loren Tonsgard, Planning Commissioner Laura Houk
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed</b>

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**6. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**6.A. Critical Area Regulations Update - Granite Falls Municipal Code 19.07.020**

**Planning Director Amy Hess** explained the reasons why the Planning Commission has had so many recent meetings. She explained that the Critical Areas Regulations and the Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan were the last two items needing to be adopted on the list. Once these items are finalized and adopted, the City will be eligible to begin spending the state funding the city has received. This is the main reason behind the number of meetings and the push. The March 10, 2026 meeting will be canceled as a special thank you for attending the additional meetings over the past two months.

**Anisa Thaci, AHBL & Jeff Parsons with Herrera Environmental Consultants**, reviewed the Draft Critical Areas Regulations Update with the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission commented on some changes they wanted to see made to the document including:

- Numbering changes (page 12)
- Remove "heard by" (page 12)
- Channel Migration Hazard Zone = clarify language
- Change all SCS references to NRCS (page 14)
- Add diameter breast height for clarification (page 15)
- Aquifer Recharge Areas (verbiage is redundant) (pages 33 & 49)

**6.B. Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan**

**Planning Director Amy Hess and Consultant Planner Eric Jensen** reviewed the background, grant program requirements, and proposed changes to the Draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The following items were discussed, and the following changes were proposed after reviewing with the Planning Commission:

- Page 9 - Economic Section - last sentence: "Property values are enhanced when parks are within walking distance ~~;~~ increasing property tax values."
- Page 16 - 7.4 Economic Context - second sentence: "Medium Household Income: Estimated at \$100,720 (2023 ACS) This represents a substantial increase from previous decades."
- Page 18 - 8.1 - second sentence: "These priorities have contributed to and helped shaped the Goals of this document."
- Page 19 - 8.3 - Turning Feedback into Action - first bullet: Because you asked for trails, the PROS plan prioritizes the inter- intra- GraniteFalls connection.
- Page 21 - Chapter 9 - Existing Parks Program - The park inventory listed here does not meet the park inventory that is listed in the comprehensive plan.
- Page 21 - Dog Park - Change name to Eagle Park
- Page 22 - Add in after first sentence in the Maintenance section: At Eagle Park, both the labor and expenses are shared by the users.
- Page 30 - Multi-Purpose Fields - "Availability is limited ~~to~~ by the school calendar"
- Page 32 - 12.6 Organized Programs & Sports Leagues - "Currently, Granite Falls has ~~minimal~~ no City-run recreation programming."
- Page 57 - 18.6 Indigenous Partnerships & Cultural Stewardship - second sentence "Meaningful partnership with these Nations ~~will~~ would enhance park management and cultural relevance."
- Page 63 - Last Paragraph, second sentence - "Over the last 2-3 years, the Parks Program has expanded its budget to include a community arts program....." - Does the city really have a community arts program?
- Page 167 - Frank Mason Park - Narrative & Inventory sections say two different things on ADA access. - need to make consistent

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.