

City of Watsonville
Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

August 3, 2016
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Meeting Topic: Cannabis Allowable Zoning Districts (continued)

Technical Advisory Committee Members:

Dorma Baker	Bryce Berryessa	Erica Padilla Chavez	Allan Flores
Thomas Frye	Felipe Hernandez	Aaron Newsom	Ari Parker
Jarrad Pecoraro	Henry Robles	Jenny Sarmiento	

Staff: Suzi Merriam, Assistant CDD Director, Justin Meek, Principal Planner, Laurie Blackwood, Administrative Analyst

- 1) **Call to order:** Suzi Merriam called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and introduced the City Manager, Charles Montoya, who thanked the Committee for their commitment to this process and spoke about their role, importance of working together in ensuring the community needs are met and potential difficulties that exist or surface as we proceed with this issue. City Manager also spoke about the cultivation permit limit recently approved by Council and applicable procedure for addressing the City Council due to questions raised by Committee Members on these items.
- 2) **Roll call:** Committee members present were Dorma Baker, Bryce Berryessa, Erica Padilla Chavez, Allan Flores, Thomas Frye, Felipe Hernandez, Aaron Newson, Ari Parker, Jarrad Pecoraro, Henry Robles, and Jenny Sarmiento. No committee members were absent. Staff present were Suzi Merriam, Justin Meek, and Laurie Blackwood.
- 3) **Cannabis Allowable Zoning Districts (continued)**
 - a) **Report by Staff:** Presentation was made by Suzi Merriam summarizing changes that were made to Staff's recommendation regarding allowable zoning districts and separation requirements for medical cannabis uses based on the Committee's recommendations from the July 13, 2016, meeting and additional research by Staff.
 - b) **Advisory Committee Review:** Questions regarding the recommended separation requirements and distance measurement and how this would affect businesses approved based on the existing cultivation ordinance were clarified by Staff. Various ways on how to address existing approved businesses were suggested. Concern regarding the number and location of dispensaries as well as safety issues was expressed. Staff was asked to clarify where a dispensary approved as an ancillary use to cultivation and manufacturing businesses would be located per Staff's recommendation. Staff indicated that the intent would be to locate a dispensary approved as an ancillary use in the same building as the cultivation and/or manufacturing business.

- c) **Public Input:** Members of the public spoke about need to provide guidance through legislative intent without violating on ex post facto law, expressed concern about implementing regulations that limit ability of owners to utilize their properties, suggested allowing testing facilities in same districts as manufacturing and cultivation as well as using other potential testing facilities and allowable sites, and asked about separation requirements for libraries.
- d) **Advisory Committee Discussion:** Members discussed the potential number of dispensaries that would be allowed based on the recommended zoning districts and separation requirements as well as other factors such as operational standards and submittal requirements. Limiting the number of dispensaries based on population and use of a compliance program to address safety concerns was also discussed. In addition, questions were asked and discussed regarding the testing process, State requirements, number of potential testing facilities that may be located in the City, and the importance of their proximity to cultivation and manufacturing sites.
- e) **Action:** A motion was made by Henry Robles and seconded by Jarrad Pecoraro to allow businesses previously approved based on the City's existing cultivation ordinance to operate as a non-conforming use provided they continue to operate in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws.

Ayes: Dorma Baker, Allan Flores, Felipe Hernandez, Aaron Newson, Ari Parker, Jarrad Pecoraro, Henry Robles, and Jenny Sarmiento.

Noes: None

Abstains: Bryce Berryessa, Erica Padilla Chavez, Thomas Frye

Motion passed

A motion was made Bryce Berryessa and seconded by Ari Parker to allow testing facilities to be included in the IG (General Industrial) District as well as IP (Industrial Park) and CO (Office Commercial) Zoning Districts.

Ayes: Dorma Baker, Bryce Berryessa, Allan Flores, Thomas Frye, Felipe Hernandez, Aaron Newson, Ari Parker, Jarrad Pecoraro, Henry Robles, and Jenny Sarmiento.

Noes: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Erica Padilla Chavez

Motion passed

A motion was made Jenny Sarmiento and seconded by Bryce Berryessa to approve Staff recommendation regarding allowable zoning districts, separation requirements and distance measurement with change to allow testing facilities in IG District and inclusion of language regarding non-conforming uses.

Ayes: Dorma Baker, Bryce Berryessa, Allan Flores, Thomas Frye, Felipe Hernandez, Aaron Newson, Ari Parker, Jarrad Pecoraro, Henry Robles, and Jenny Sarmiento.

Noes: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Erica Padilla Chavez

Motion passed

4) Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.