

BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. PC 2013-3056

Recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of one or more ordinances amending the provisions for MCC Chapters 11.15, 33, 34, 35 and 36 to impose Dark Sky exterior lighting regulations and associated amendments to the Sign Code.

The Planning Commission Finds:


- a. The Planning Commission is authorized by Multnomah County Code Chapters 37.0710, 38.0710 and by ORS 215.110 to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the adoption of Ordinances to amend the County Comprehensive Plan and land use regulations.
- b. Light pollution was first raised as an issue in the 1970s by astronomers who began to notice a degradation of night sky views. Light pollution from excessive outdoor lighting is rapidly diminishing the view of stars in and around developed areas and many jurisdictions have adopted anti-light pollution laws.
- c. Excessive light also can cause nuisance to others, waste electricity, result in unnecessary emissions of greenhouse gases, decrease the quality of lighting for safety and have negative effects on the health of humans and wildlife.
- d. Multnomah County land use code contains anti-light pollution regulations under certain development scenarios in specific portions of unincorporated Multnomah County. The Planning Commission desires an ordinance applying a more complete approach to regulating exterior lighting associated with a development permit.
- e. The proposed amendments protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare by generally requiring all new exterior lighting and all existing exterior lighting associated with a development request to have a fully shielded light source and to direct light downwards.
- f. A range of exemptions to these lighting requirements are provided including but not limited to lawfully installed existing exterior lighting, low lumen lighting for pedestrian pathways, limited duration lighting for certain farm and forest practices, and transportation traffic control lighting. Additionally, lighting required by a federal, state or local law is exempt when the lighting cannot comply with county Dark Sky regulations.
- g. No regulations are being proposed that further restrict the use of property and no mailed notices to individual property owners are required ("Ballot Measure 56 notice"). Notice of the Planning Commission hearing was published in the Oregonian newspaper and on the Land Use Planning website. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 6, 2016 where all interested persons were given an opportunity to appear and be heard.

The Planning Commission resolves:

The proposed Ordinance(s) amending MCC Chapters 11.15, 33, 34, 35, and 36 is hereby recommended for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 6th day of June, 2016

PLANNING COMMISSION
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



John Ingle, Chair