



# City of Independence

## Minutes

### Planning Commission Meeting Monday, August 4, 2025

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1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Alex Parakevas

2. **Roll Call.**

Planning Commissioners Present:

Sally Coen	Becky Jay
José Oliveros	Alex Paraskevas
Patrick Fugeman	

Commissioners Absent: Corby Chappell, excused. Jordan Carpenter, absent

Others Present: Fred Evander, Planning Manager; Myra Russell, City Recorder

3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the July 7, 2025 meeting were submitted in the agenda packet

ACTION:

Commissioner Coen moved to approve the minutes as with corrections; Commissioner Jay seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0:

AYES:	Coen, Jay, Oliveros, Paraskevas, Fugeman,
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

4. **Visitors/Public Comment.**

4.1. Harvey Cummings, Damascus, OR: Gave update on Brandy Meadows/Southwest Independence Concept Plan and SDC issues.

5. **Reports/Presentations.** None

6. **Unfinished Business.** None

7. **New Business**

7.1. Discussion of Walking Tour on July 22 Evander explained the walking tour for commissioners that weren't present and highlighted some of the housing options on the tour. Discussion continued on the concept of middle housing and its potential implementation in the area.

7.2. Discussion of Upcoming Code Changes based on Recent Legislation Evander explained some new legislation that may limit planning commission input. Discussion on changes to land division laws in Oregon and their impact on local planning processes, including new regulations for design standards.

8. **Other Discussion/Information Items**

8.1. Video: The Problem with Public Hearings Commissioners watched about 10 minutes of video which explained what some of the issues are with public hearings.

Discussion on public hearing effectiveness, community engagement strategies and ways to get input earlier in the process.

9. **Adjournment.** Commissioner Jay moved to adjourn, second by Commissioner Paraskevas. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Minutes submitted by:  
Myra Russell, City Recorder