

City of Watsonville
Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee

“Corrected” Meeting Notes

July 13, 2016
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Meeting Topic: Cannabis Allowable Zoning Districts

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
Doug Mattos, Administrative Analyst

I. **Call to order:** Suzi Merriam called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

II. **Roll call:** Committee members present were Dorma Baker, Bryce Berryessa, Erica Padilla Chavez, Allan Flores, Thomas Frye, Felipe Hernandez, Aaron Newsom, Ari Parker, Jarrad Pecoraro, Henry Robles, and Jenny Sarmiento. No committee members were absent. Staff present were Suzi Merriam, Justin Meek, Laurie Blackwood, and Doug Mattos.

III. Cannabis Allowable Zoning Districts

Report by Staff: Presentation was made by Suzi Merriam summarizing recent City Council actions, role of committee, and Staff’s recommendation regarding allowable zoning districts and separation requirements for medical cannabis uses.

a) **Advisory Committee Review:** Several members expressed frustration over recent Council actions and desire to have their suggestions communicated more effectively to the Council. Members discussed electing a Committee spokesperson and process for determining and presenting the information to Council. Staff assured Committee that they will continue to present the Committee’s recommendations in an effective manner but that it is ultimately the Council’s decision.

A motion was made by Ari Parker and seconded by Felipe Hernandez to elect Allan Flores as Committee representative and possibly Chairperson. Motion was amended by Ari Parker and seconded by Felipe Hernandez to elect a Committee representative, which may change from meeting to meeting.

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

Noes: None

Abstains: None

Motion passed

Questions regarding reasons behind zoning district recommendations for transporter businesses and dispensaries were asked as well as need for alcohol separation requirements and what types of alcohol businesses were included.

- b) **Public Input:** Several members of the public commented on why dispensaries should be located in commercial areas, issues with regulations in other jurisdictions, separation measurements, and reasonable application of requirements.
- c) **Advisory Committee Discussion:** There was some discussion regarding differences between alcohol and medical marijuana, need for an alcohol separation requirement and reasons why dispensaries need to be in safe, well-lighted areas and not restricted to the industrial zones. Reason for allowing transporter businesses in the IP District was also discussed as well as suggested modifications to separation measurement for dispensaries from residential areas in order to make it feasible for these types of businesses to locate in commercial areas of the City. Members also asked about timelines and possibility of allocating more resources to assist staff.
- d) **Action:** A motion was made by Bryce Berryessa and seconded by Allan Flores to eliminate the recommended alcohol separation requirement for dispensaries.

Ayes: Bryce Berryessa, Allan Flores, Thomas Frye, Felipe Hernandez, Aaron Newson, Jarrad Pecoraro, and Jenny Sarmiento.

Noes: Dorma Baker, Erica Padilla Chavez, Ari Parker, Henry Robles.

Abstains: None

Motion passed

Motion was amended by Bryce Berryessa and seconded by Thomas Frye to eliminate the recommended alcohol separation requirement for dispensaries except for liquor stores.

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

Noes: Dorma Baker, Erica Padilla Chavez, and Allan Flores

Abstains: None

Motion passed

A motion was made by Henry Robles and seconded by Ari Parker to modify how the separation requirement is measured for dispensaries and residential areas to straight line from nearest exterior wall of the leased space occupied by the dispensary to the nearest parcel line of the residential zone without regard to intervening structures and include CNS and CT commercial areas as allowable zoning districts for dispensaries.

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

Noes: Erica Padilla Chavez

Abstains: None
Motion passed

IV. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.