



City of Stanwood
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STANWOOD – Stanwood City Council Considers Medical Marijuana Collective Garden Regulations

On April 11, 2013 the Stanwood City Council will consider adopting regulations on where medical marijuana collective gardens may be located within the city. The proposed regulations would allow collective gardens in retail, commercial and industrial zones. Set back requirements of 500 feet would be limited to day care centers, schools, and similar uses. Citizens are encouraged to attend the city council meeting on April 11, and share their comments.

Council meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Stanwood Camano School District Administration Building, 26920 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood. There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning and end of the meeting. Public comments are limited to three minutes. Written comments may be submitted to Community Development Director, Rebecca Lind at rebecca.lind@ci.stanwood.wa.us.

The key elements included in the Planning Commission recommendation are:

- Provide definitions for marijuana and medical marijuana collective gardens that clarify that a “collective garden” includes limited growing, processing and distribution of products to members with or without the actual “garden” on the premises
- Establish findings and additional standards for medical marijuana collective garden facilities including structural and screening requirements as well as separation of 500 feet from schools, daycares, community centers and youth oriented facilities and 500 feet of separation is required from each collective garden
- Require medical marijuana collective gardens to have an administrative conditional use permit in several commercial and industrial zones including the MBI, MBII, General Commercial and Industrial Zones
- Establish a time limit and renewal process of one year for approved medical marijuana collective garden projects

Stanwood currently has no regulations in place to address medical marijuana collective gardens to ensure that the use occurs consistent with State law and in a manner that protects the public health, safety and welfare of Stanwood residents and property owners. The City currently has a moratorium on this use so that applications for collective gardens will not be processed until the proposed new regulations are enacted. These regulations address only medical marijuana and do not address recreational marijuana as defined in Initiative 502.

“The Stanwood Planning Commission’s proposal seeks to define and allow medical marijuana community gardens as a new administrative conditional use within the zoning code in certain land use districts – mainly retail, commercial and industrial zones”, noted Community Development Director, Rebecca Lind. Lind added, “The proposal incorporates guidance provided in state law and input from community members who have attended the Planning Commission meetings.”

The Planning Commission has previously held two workshops on this issue and a public hearing was held on March 25, 2013 for citizen comments. The Commission evaluated maps showing the location of schools, churches, daycare, parks where children and youth gather and evaluated a separation distance of 500 to 1000 feet from these facilities.

The Commission received several comments on the proposed regulations. Comments included clarification on the meaning of a collective garden and description of the kind of activities allowed under state law; separation from schools and parks; and techniques used to screen facilities. The Commission was urged to adopt an affirmative approach to this issue to address legitimate medical issues of community members. No comments were received at the public hearing review of this issue.

For more information about the proposed regulations, contact Community Development Director, Rebecca Lind at 360-629-2181 x111 or e-mail rebecca.lind@ci.stanwood.wa.us

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