

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Whitman County Planning Commission
Subject: Alternative considerations to a marijuana ordinance.

As requested, in addition to researching a marijuana ordinance, we the Planning Commission suggest the following alternatives ~~to the ordinance~~ for the BOCC to consider. They are in no particular order:

1. ~~Adopt the marijuana ordinance, Chapter 19.64.~~
2. Ban all new marijuana business applications.
3. Accept Chapter 19.64 without any outdoor grow operations.
4. Accept Chapter 19.64 but make the setback to all marijuana operations larger. Suggestions have been made that the setback to residences should be 1,500 feet to match the viewshed requirement in the Agricultural District code.
5. Setbacks to incorporated towns and unincorporated communities should be greater than ½ mile or 1,000 feet. Suggestions have ranged between 1-4 miles.
6. Residences ~~could~~should be added to the list of sensitive uses making the setback for residences to marijuana operations 1,000 feet.
7. Apply the new marijuana code to the existing marijuana businesses.
8. Continue to consider marijuana as an agricultural crop like any other agricultural crop.
9. Delay making a decision until more empirical data has been discovered about the potential health effects of marijuana odors.
- 9-10. For indoor grow operations make the minimum parcel size 10 acres instead of two acres.

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We feel that the subject of marijuana is a very significant issue and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners give this more attention in the form of additional public input.

Date: February 6, 2020

