

**CITY OF SHORELINE**  
**SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL**  
**SUMMARY MINUTES OF TOWN HALL VISIONING MEETING**

Wednesday, November 19, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

Shoreline Conference Center  
Shoreline Room

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ryu, Deputy Mayor Scott, Councilmember Eggen, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember McConnell, Councilmember McGlashan, and Councilmember Way

**ABSENT:** none

**GUESTS:** Will Hall, Vice Chair, Planning Commission; Ben Perkowski, Commissioner; John Behrens, Commissioner, David Pyle, Commissioner; Michele Wagner, Commissioner

**CITY STAFF:** Bob Olander, City Manager; Julie Underwood, Assistant City Manager; Joe Tovar, Planning & Development Services Director; Debbie Tarry, Finance Director; Dick Deal, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director; Mark Relph, Public Works Director; Mark Mayuga, Economic Development Manager; Steve Cohn, Long-Range Planner; David Levitan, Planner; Eric Bratton, Management Analyst; John Norris, Management Analyst; Scott Passey, City Clerk

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Ryu, who presided. Mayor Ryu welcomed the audience and explained that the purpose of the meeting is to assist in the development of the community's preferred vision for Shoreline's future. This shared community vision will serve as the guiding principles for the update of the Shoreline Comprehensive Plan, which is required by the state's Growth Management Act. She added that developing a vision statement is an important first step because the City must finish the Comprehensive Plan update by 2011.

2. **PLANNING COMMISSIONER PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Ryu then introduced Will Hall, Planning Commission Vice Chair, who introduced Commissioners Ben Perkowski, John Behrens, David Pyle, and Michele Wagner. He stated that their purpose tonight is to present the primary themes that emerged from the Community Conversation sessions conducted in October.

Vice Chair Hall thanked everyone who participated in the Community Conversations sessions, noting that the Commissioners reviewed every comment that was submitted. He pointed out that the themes are intended to introduce and organize the feedback. He commented that over 400 people participated in the Conversations, and many new people came out from “every corner of the City.” He said although some were skeptical about the process, most people appreciate the City’s commitment and the opportunity to provide input. He added that the comments received focused on local as well as global issues. However, tonight’s focus will be on the larger themes.

#### Protecting Natural Areas and Conserving Resources

Commissioner Perkowski reported that many comments focused on the protection and conservation of natural resources, recreation areas, and trees. He stated that many of the comments are consistent with the goals of the City’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy, including low-impact development (LID) in critical areas. Managing and protecting ecosystems was also a major theme that emerged from the community. Some of the solutions identified included: 1) addressing the impacts of past practices; 2) proactively managing and protecting ecosystems; 3) improving and expanding waste reduction and resource conservation programs; 4) finding energy solutions as a key to reducing our carbon footprint; 5) managing expected growth in a sustainable way; and 6) providing a diversity of active and passive recreation opportunities for all ages to gather and play.

#### Walkability, Transportation, Transit, and Services

Commissioner Behrens commented on the need for trails and corridors for bicycles and transit to smooth the circulation of both north-south and east-west traffic. He said most people are pleased with the aesthetics of Aurora Avenue, but others are concerned about how it functions. He said people want safe places to walk throughout the city, and sidewalks and bicycle trails need to be connected so they really work as a network. People need more transit, including east-west transit connections, and most people said they really like the first mile of Aurora Avenue. He said although there are definitely concerns about some things being slower or more difficult, people like the look of it. He also said that people value the high level of services we enjoy in Shoreline, but people would like to see even more variety and selection in retail, restaurants, brewpubs and other evening entertainment. He concluded that people have mixed opinions about the casinos but everyone seems to agree that we don’t want them to be dominant.

#### Community Gathering Places, Economic Development, and Unique Opportunities such as Fircrest

Commissioner Pyle noted that comments focused on extending social networks beyond neighborhood boundaries. He said people want more community gathering places, commercial establishments or informal open spaces. Regarding economic development, he stated that people want choices when it comes to services and amenities, but they also recognize that we must be able to fund those services and amenities. People want to increase the job opportunities in Shoreline so they can work closer to home. Other themes

included small business development and preservation, preparing for future needs through vocational opportunities, and retraining opportunities. There are some unique places in Shoreline, such as Fircrest, and the community has very strong feelings about them. People feel the city should stay very involved in planning for major institutions like Fircrest to make sure they meet the needs of the community. He concluded that protecting resources for future generations is another major theme that emerged from the sessions.

### Housing and Neighborhood Compatibility

Commissioner Wagner reported that housing and neighborhood compatibility was a major theme identified in the Community Conversations. She then elaborated on the sub-themes that emerged, which included density, neighborhood character, housing options, affordability, and senior housing. She said there was a strong feeling to protect traditional single family neighborhoods by directing growth to appropriate places, which include along Aurora, in North City, and at carefully chosen locations throughout the city. She also said people want to protect the character of neighborhoods by keeping the size of lots and houses compatible with existing homes so new development fits in. She pointed out that people want a consistent look and feel when it comes to neighborhood character, but they also value diversity. Regarding housing options, she said that some people would like the City to revisit the issue of smaller houses on smaller lots (i.e. "cottage housing"), but felt it should be done in targeted areas. There is room for a variety of housing types, large lots, small lots, single family, and multifamily housing. She added that people want options for affordable housing, including ownership and rental choices.

Vice Chair Hall summarized that there were many suggestions for incremental changes, but one overall message is that most people think Shoreline is a great place to live already. He said radical change isn't what we need. Our schools, parks, trees, and neighborhoods make people want to live here. As one of the closest suburbs to downtown Seattle, and one with I-5, 99, and transit connecting us to cities north and south, we can expect more people to want to live here in the future. He said the Commissioners heard how important it is for the City to accommodate growth in carefully chosen places so we can protect traditional neighborhoods and still provide for vibrant economic growth, a sustainable natural environment, and a range of housing choices. He concluded that to become a truly walkable and sustainable community, people want services and community gathering spaces within walking distance of every neighborhood, and they want the sidewalks, bike trails, and transit to connect us.

### 3. ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATIONS

Joe Tovar, Planning and Development Services Director, then explained that the audience would be divided into small groups in order to provide feedback on these themes directly to Councilmembers and to one another in a roundtable format. These roundtable conversations lasted approximately 45 minutes.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

At 8:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Scott called for public comment.

(a) LaNita Wacker, Shoreline, commented that visionary leadership is one of the intangible goals of the visioning process. She said that the City needs a leader to rise to the level of statesman. She concluded that visionary leadership in the style of Rockefeller or Carnegie is what is needed to lead Shoreline towards a new vision.

(b) Elaine Phelps, Shoreline, commented that the City Council has demonstrated its vision through this wonderful event. She said although there will always be disagreements, what is important is how you disagree. She said this is a wonderful way to begin the process and commented favorably on the Mayor's leadership.

(c) Maryn Wynne, Shoreline, noted that heightened interest and enthusiasm are common side effects of this process. She indicated a strong interest in peak oil. She commented that urban planning in a post peak-oil era is an important consideration and that uncertainty is an overarching theme.

(d) Dale Wright, Shoreline, commented that the current visioning process is an attempt to identify values. He suggested looking at the current vision to see what might be missing. He noted that over 300 separate activities led to the City's incorporation and the creation of the Comprehensive Plan. He concluded that while some things should probably change, the current vision requires few amendments.

(e) Les Nelson, Shoreline, commented that everything that is being offered in this process is already considered in the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that we have a choice of where we want density to occur, and although the Growth Management Act (GMA) dictates much of this, the City doesn't follow the existing Comprehensive Plan. He said allowing developers to build in conflict with the GMA also conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan goals. He urged enforcement of the Comprehensive Plan.

(f) Dan Mann, Shoreline, commented that respect for the quality of neighborhoods is an important theme. He said the City-enabled commercialization in residential areas is not needed. He noted that Richmond Beach, North City, and areas along the Aurora corridor are endangered neighborhoods.

(g) Wendy DiPeso, Shoreline, commented that a healthy community is what is needed, but Shoreline already has many amenities. She addressed the need for enhanced economic development in order to prevent increasing tax burdens on the community. She advocated for increased connectivity between public, private, and non-profit organizations. She hoped the City will actively promote community relationships.

(h) Bill Bear, Shoreline, spoke in favor of increasing the natural and social capital in Shoreline. He said if social capital does not increase, we risk having a city in which nobody trusts each other. He also advocated for increasing "natural capital" in

terms of environmental quality. He pointed out that quality of life is not measured solely in financial terms.

(i) Michelle Shafer, Shoreline, urged the community to work together so Shoreline can become the best place possible. She said she would like to see opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the older and younger generations. She said she would like to see more people working side-by-side on joint projects. She encouraged a union between the high schools and residents.

(j) Marlin Gabbert, Shoreline, spoke in favor of protecting local neighborhoods, parks, schools, and enhancing economic development. He stressed the need to work together and getting to know one's neighbors. He said although we have lost some of the interconnectivity with one another, we can accomplish the City vision by working together.

5. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Ryu thanked everyone for attending and for all their honest feedback. She then outlined the next steps in the Visioning process. She invited individuals and groups to compose their own vision of Shoreline, which will made available on the City website for everyone to review. In January, the City Council and Planning Commission will meet jointly to review all of the community's input. Council will then provide direction to the Planning Commission about key points to include in preparing a draft Vision and Framework Goals. In early February, the Council and Commission will conduct a joint public hearing to hear additional public comment on the draft Vision and Framework Goals. Mayor Ryu concluded by stating that the goal is to review and approve the final Vision and Framework Goals in March 2009.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m., Mayor Ryu declared the meeting adjourned.

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Scott Passey, City Clerk

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