

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Resolution regarding Planning Commission and 2007 Planning Work Program
DEPARTMENT:	Planning and Development Services
PRESENTED BY:	Joseph W. Tovar, FAICP Director

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City Council met with the Planning Commission in late October of 2006 and held a far-ranging discussion about Commission operations and the 2007 planning work plan, including the portions of the work program that affect the Planning Commission. The proposed resolution reflects that discussion and memorializes the Council's direction, commitments and priorities for the coming year.

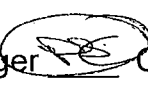
FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The financial impact of the Planning Commission and Planning Work Plan items discussed herein have been addressed in the PADS budget that Council adopted for 2007

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 254 recognizing the work of the Planning Commission and providing direction regarding the City's Planning Work Program.

Approved By:

City Manager 

City Attorney 

INTRODUCTION

The proposed resolution reflects the Council's October 30, 2006 discussion with the Planning Commission and memorializes the Council's direction, commitments and priorities for the coming year.

BACKGROUND

In the past, Council has met infrequently with the Planning Commission. Such ad hoc joint discussions usually were prompted by the need to discuss a controversial, pending issue, which in turn narrowed and constrained the scope of the dialogue. At its annual retreat, the Planning Commission concluded that regularly scheduled joint meetings would facilitate candid communication and improved understanding between the Council and the Commission.

In addition, several issues had also arisen during at Council meetings, partly in response to citizen comments and partly in the course of the City Council's review of Planning Commission recommendations. For example, during the review of quasi-judicial rezones, Council members expressed concern that some members of the public perceived these rezones to be "spot zones" rather than implementation of adopted comprehensive plan policies. Also, in response to a specific query from a citizen, the Council wished to review the question of whether the Commission should be the hearing body for such land use matters, or whether the Council should assume that role.

These and other issues were addressed in a wide-ranging discussion at the joint meeting in October. The Councilmembers and Commissioners shared ideas and experiences, and as a result of the meeting, the Council agreed to meet twice yearly with the Commission to discuss items of mutual interest and to promote communication on issues on a regular basis.

In addition the Council, in its discussion with the Commission, supported the following concepts:

- The Planning Commission is the hearing body for rezones. When appropriate, a representative of the Commission will participate in presenting its recommendation to the City Council.
- The Council and the Commission will co-sponsor a Speaker's Series on planning issues in 2007.
- The Planning Commission and Parks Board will be asked to meet jointly to assist in the implementation of Goal 6, "Creating an environmentally sustainable community".
- The Council supports the concepts of legislative rezones and form-based codes and requests that city staff and the Planning Commission review strategies for their use.

The attached resolution is a more formal re-statement of these concepts and reflects Council direction of some major items for the Commission's 2007 work program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 254 recognizing the work of the Planning Commission and providing direction regarding the City's Planning Work Program.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution No. 254

RESOLUTION NO. 254

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND PROVIDING DIRECTION REGARDING THE CITY'S PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Shoreline City Council and Planning Commission met jointly on October 30, 2006 to discuss implementation of the City's Planning Work Program, City Council Goals for 2007-2008, various means for public participation and citizen outreach, and other issues of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, it was a productive meeting, many ideas were discussed, and the City Council offered direction on a number of items; and

WHEREAS, it is the best interests of the public, the Planning Commission, and the City staff that the City Council give clear direction regarding priorities for the Planning Work Program and public participation, affirm the important role of the Planning Commission as the City's land use hearing body, and provide for ongoing communication and coordination between the Council and the Planning Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The Shoreline Planning Commission work program for 2007 shall include the following tasks, direction, and understandings:

Section 1. The City Council commits to meeting at least twice annually with the Planning Commission in joint meetings, in April prior to the City Council's retreat, and in October prior to the City's budget process.

Section 2. The City Council affirms that the Planning Commission is the hearing body for both quasi-judicial and legislative rezones. When appropriate, a representative of the Commission will participate in presenting its recommendation to the City Council.

Section 3. The City Council approves the concept of sponsoring a Speaker Series (community conversation) in 2007, directs that these be televised on the City's cable access channel, and that the community at large be alerted to this opportunity through *Currents*, the City website and other appropriate media.

Section 4. The City Council agrees that three members of the Planning Commission shall serve on the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Citizen Advisory Committee as it helps implement Council Goal 5, which is to "Develop a Comprehensive Housing Strategy."

Section 5. The City Council requests that the Planning Commission and Parks Board periodically meet in joint session to provide a sounding board to review and critique the City' progress in implementing Council Goal 6, which is "To Create an Environmentally Sustainable Community."

Section 6. The City Council supports the concepts of legislative rezones and form-base codes in order to implement adopted comprehensive plan policies and to improve the timeliness and predictability of the City's development review process, and asks that the City staff and Planning Commission prepare for Council review a schedule and strategy for utilizing these land use tools.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 8, 2007.

Robert L. Ransom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Scott Passey
City Clerk

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