

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP DINNER MEETING
WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Monday, April 13, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Shoreline Conference Center
Highlander Room

PRESENT: City Council: Mayor Cindy Ryu; Deputy Mayor Terry Scott; and Councilmembers Chris Eggen, Doris McConnell, Keith McGlashan, and Janet Way.

Planning Commission: Will Hall, Chair; Michelle Wagner, Vice Chair; and Commissioners Michael Broili, Janne Kaje, Ben Perkowski, Rocky Piro, and David Pyle.

ABSENT: Councilmember Ron Hansen

STAFF: Bob Olander, City Manager; Joe Tovar, Planning & Development Services Director, Steve Cohn, Long-Range Planner; Scott Passey, City Clerk

At 6:13 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryu, who presided.

Joe Tovar, Planning and Development Services Director, provided introductory comments. He noted that Will Hall is the new Planning Commission Chair and Michelle Wagner is the Vice Chair.

Proposed Updated Vision Statement and Framework Goals

Commissioner Hall introduced the topic of tonight's discussion, which is how to utilize the Vision and Framework Goals to move the City forward. He then asked each Commissioner to comment on the process and outcome.

Commissioner Kaje commented that it was impossible to include all the content received into the Vision/Framework Goals. However, he explained that lots of the detailed ideas can be used later. He expressed concern about losing the momentum and the ability to track all the ideas that were expressed. He suggested establishing a process to "map out" what we want to address as we move forward.

Councilmember Eggen noted that the Vision/Framework Goals is just a "snapshot" in time and things will continue to change. He wondered if the Commission is suggesting an

ongoing update of the Vision. Commissioner Kaje said the Commission has not yet addressed that issue; however, the information gathered thus far gives the City a lot to work on now and in the future.

Commissioner Hall pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan update will be coming in the future. This will provide another opportunity to work on the details.

Councilmember Way agreed that there are lots of ideas to implement. She expressed concern that terms such as “climate friendly” could be misunderstood in the future.

Councilmember McGlashan agreed that the Vision needs to be broad, but the City can work on the details and match the goals to the Vision.

Deputy Mayor Scott suggested that every five years might be a reasonable timeframe to update the Vision. He added that he is interested in implementing some of the citizens’ ideas and he doesn’t want to ignore the Vision once it’s completed.

Commissioner Wagner suggested that the Comprehensive Plan could be reorganized to have the Vision and Framework Goals serve as the general framework.

Commissioner Piro pointed out that the Vision is aspirational, but the details clearly need to be implemented through the use of specific policies.

Mayor Ryu expressed concern that the Vision doesn’t seem to include some of the City’s core services and values. She wondered if these are reflected elsewhere.

Commissioner Hall commented that the City-provided services are reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. However, partnerships with other groups and service organizations are vital.

Commissioner Broili commented that the Vision and Framework Goals serves as the “box” of guiding principles. He advised against making the Vision too large or complicated.

Mayor Ryu expressed concern that the City would limit itself if the Vision doesn’t include elements such as “senior housing.” Commissioner Broili shared his opinion that the first five Framework Goals do address that issue.

Mr. Olander pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan does not include every aspect of the City.

Mayor Ryu suggested that if we want to make a statement about Fircrest, we could put that into the Vision.

Commissioner Hall noted that the Commission included language alluding to lots of entities and partnerships. He advised against making a list of entities because it can get too unwieldy.

It was noted that some of the entities and partnerships could be appropriately placed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Way said she would like to include certain key words and phrases in the Vision, such as "parks," "trails," and "natural areas." She provided a handout of suggested additions to the Framework Goals.

Commissioner Piro noted that the Council will act on the Vision and Framework Goals; but if Fircrest is reflected in the regulations and policies, it will be more legally forceful.

Councilmember Eggen thanked the Commission for their work on the Vision, noting that he understands the difficulty of deciding what to include and what to leave out. He pointed out that the document implies that Shoreline is a "bedroom community." He wondered if the Council and Commission are satisfied with that description of Shoreline. He also noted that the Vision doesn't really mention economic development. He wondered if the decision is that Shoreline remains a bedroom community.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Commission tried to address that issue by revising Framework Goal #15.

Commissioner Wagner commented that all the Commissioners tried very hard to put their own preferences and biases aside. She said she heard strongly that people are very protective of neighborhood character.

Mr. Olander noted that the Council can be empowered to make changes it feels are needed as it adopts the more detailed policy statements.

Mr. Tovar pointed out that at the joint retreat with the Planning Commission, the mediator emphasized that as a policy-making body, the City Council is not just passing through what the public described. He noted that it is the Council's vision of what it wants Shoreline to become.

Commissioner Hall commented on the process of writing the Vision and the decision to write it in the present tense.

Commissioner Perkowski described how the Commission transformed the ideas into a narrative document. He noted that a bulleted list would have been a horrible way to write the Vision. He explained that the Vision has a separate and distinct role, as do the Framework Goals and the Comprehensive Plan. He pointed out that permit applicants are only focused on the Development Code; to them, the Vision Statement is more distant, yet the City must maintain the connection between the two. He also expressed the opinion that the Vision contains the correct tone and direction, and he would advise

against adding more detail. He said it's meant to be in the present-tense because it describes the City of Shoreline in 20 years.

Commissioner Kaje pointed out that although not every statement will be captured in the Framework Goals, it doesn't mean that certain items won't have a specific policy directive. He concluded by stating that the narrative captures the whole.

Mr. Olander stated that the proposed Vision is one of the best he's ever seen; the Vision contains a good narrative, and the Framework Goals are aspirational. The "how-to" elements will come later in the policies. He noted that at tonight's business meeting will be the public hearing on the Vision; they are not requesting Council action tonight. Mayor Ryu was comfortable with Mr. Olander's response regarding the "how to" elements and hoped they will be addressed later.

Councilmember Way felt that mentioning "parks" and "walkability" in the narrative wouldn't add too much detail to the Vision.

Commissioner Kaje called attention to the fact that the Commission struggled with the term "commercial core" versus "signature corridor" regarding Aurora Avenue.

Resolution No. 285 regarding Point Wells

The discussion then turned to the issue of Resolution No. 285 regarding Point Wells. Mr. Tovar provided background on the issue and concluded that the Snohomish County Council will ultimately make the decision regarding the future of Point Wells. There was consensus to send a copy of Resolution No. 285, once executed, to the Snohomish County Executive/Council and to the cities of Woodway and Edmonds.

Mr. Olander clarified that the City has to work with these entities, so it will not be productive to demonize them. Mr. Tovar encouraged the Council and Commission to talk about "interests" as opposed to "positions" because it will make the process less confrontational.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk