

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
AND SHORELINE PLANNING COMMISSION

SUMMARY MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP DINNER MEETING

Monday, April 12, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 301 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue N.

PRESENT: City Council: Mayor Keith McGlashan, Deputy Mayor Will Hall, and Councilmembers Chris Eggen, Doris McConnell, Chris Roberts, Terry Scott, and Shari Tracey

Planning Commission: Chair Michelle Linders Wagner, Vice Chair Ben Perkowski, and Commissioners John Behrens, Michael Broili, Janne Kaje, and Donna Moss

ABSENT: Commissioner Cynthia Esselman

STAFF: Bob Olander, City Manager; Julie Underwood, Assistant City Manager; Joe Tovar, Planning and Development Services Director; Steve Cohn, Senior Planner; and Scott Passey, City Clerk

Mayor McGlashan called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. There were introductions around the table.

Steve Cohn, Senior Planner, outlined the Planning Commission Work Program and the progress-to-date. He explained the Program as a priority list detailing how the Planning Commission intends to spend its time. His report included brief descriptions and timelines for each item, including Development Code amendments, design review standards, tree regulations, light rail alignment planning, Point Wells Subarea Plan and zoning, SE Neighborhood Subarea Plan and zoning, Crista Master Plan, Public Health Lab, and the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Mr. Tovar noted that the State Legislature moved the deadline for the Comprehensive Plan Update to 2014, but staff will continue on its original track for 2011 due to completion of the Vision adoption and the timing of the light rail alignment. After further discussion, Mr. Tovar asked for confirmation and direction from the Council and Planning Commission.

Councilmember Eggen wondered if the City's schedule would be impacted if Seattle rescinds its growth targets and pulls out. After brief discussion, Deputy Mayor Hall pointed out that it is a King County issue since it has the decision-making authority.

Mr. Tovar assured the Council that the present zoning in Shoreline can accommodate adequate growth, so there is no reason to be too concerned. Commissioner Broili noted that growth will want to occur along light rail alignment. Mr. Tovar added that the real estate and housing market will respond to that, so the topic of growth will be a very interesting discussion with citizens and Sound transit staff. Councilmember Eggen asks for clarification about Mr. Tovar's comment, to which Mr. Tovar responded that the market will respond to the land use policies the City Council approves.

Commissioner Behrens noted that the City might have to revisit the transit plan again since light rail will be coming after the subarea planning process.

Mr. Tovar noted that we can try to influence the Sound Transit decision, although under the GMA the regional entity, Sound Transit, is the decision-maker. However, the City can decide what happens in proximity to the rail stations.

Deputy Mayor Hall suggested that the Council define what the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) standards are before the alignment issue is decided. Mr. Olander agreed that at least the primary goals and objectives should be identified.

Councilmember Scott suggested that the City use other cities such as Seattle as a guide for how to develop near light rail facilities. He added that developments will precede the building of light rail, so that should also be considered.

Deputy Mayor Hall expressed support for adding to the Work Plan "efforts that lead to adoption of policies appropriate for transit stops." Commissioner Broili said it would be nice for the City to choose where those stops occur so they fit within the City's land use vision. Mr. Tovar commented that the City can try to influence the selection process. Mr. Olander noted that staff would need the Commission and Council recommendations by mid-2011.

Councilmember Eggen expressed concern about this approach because people need to be informed up-front about the potential impacts of light rail in their neighborhoods. Councilmember Roberts expressed concern that we might have different ideas for different transit stations depending on location.

Deputy Mayor Hall noted that detailed plans and designs cannot be completed until the light rail stations are built.

Commissioner Behrens noted that the transit plan could change everything the City is trying to accomplish in the SE Subarea Plan. He spoke in favor of expediting it so the City doesn't duplicate efforts.

Commissioner Moss added that decisions regarding station locations will be important, but the rail line alignment will impact neighborhoods too.

Responding to Commissioner Broili, Mr. Tovar explained the City's coordination efforts with neighboring jurisdictions such as Lynnwood and Edmonds. He noted that cities to the north prefer an alignment along the I-5 corridor. Councilmember Scott wondered if it is realistic to express a preference for an alignment that is different from the I-5 corridor.

Mr. Olander and Mr. Tovar responded that the biggest considerations are cost and travel time from Northgate to Lynnwood, so an alignment along the I-5 corridor is viewed as the most feasible option.

Councilmember Scott wondered if this issue should be moved up in the schedule so the Council can prevent it from becoming a political issue in the 2011 election. Deputy Mayor Hall commented that giving the Council the opportunity to make the best possible decision, without political considerations, is best for the community.

A discussion followed regarding various elements of the Work Plan, including the Code Amendments, Subarea process and plans, Town Center, and the Draft Vision Statement for Town Center.

Commissioner Perkowski outlined the process used by a sub-group consisting of himself, Commissioners Broili, and Commissioner Piro in developing the Vision Statement. He pointed out that tone, length, and detail were all considerations in the process.

There was discussion about changing the term "profitable" to "fiscally sound." Councilmember Eggen noted that the Vision Statement includes little emphasis on "walkability." Commissioner Perkowski suggested that paragraph four is a possible opportunity to speak more about walkability.

There was further discussion about the role of the Economic Development Advisory Committee in the Town Center and SE Subarea Neighborhood Planning processes. Commissioner Kaje noted that the elements identified in the SE Subarea Planning process are citywide concepts.

Following additional discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk

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