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**Commission Meeting Date: January 15, 2009**

Agenda Item: 7.B

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**PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<p><b>AGENDA TITLE:</b> Preparing for the January 29, Joint CC/PC Workshop <b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Steven Cohn David Levitan Planning and Development Services</p>
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The next step in the Visioning process is the January 29 workshop where the City Council and the Planning Commission will come together to develop the outline for what you would like to see in a Vision Statement and Framework Policies.

The workshop is intended to integrate the ideas you heard at the Community Conversations and consider the comments from the Town Hall meetings and the separate vision statements submitted by members of the public. Attachment A is the handout for Town Hall meeting #2. Attachment B includes the separate vision statements (aka "community concepts") received as of January 7.

**BACKGROUND:**

Staff suggests that, in their minds, the best vision statements assume that an individual is viewing the city at some point in the future and describing what they see around them. A vision statement should be a succinct set of paragraphs, descriptive, but probably not exceeding a page of text.

Framework goals or policies focus on major ideas to keep in mind that assist the City in attaining the vision. They can be stand-alone statements or have a few sentences under each one that offers a bit of background or explanation.

The January 29 meeting will be facilitated workshop, intended to help you and the Council as a group to develop a consensus about ideas or concepts to be included in the Vision Statement or Framework policies. As preparation for that meeting, staff suggests that your January 15 Planning Commission meeting include the following tasks:

- Debrief from the Town Hall meetings: Did you hear new ideas that you hadn't heard in the Community Conversations?

- Review the January 15 handout in light of what you heard in the Town Meetings and the individually-submitted vision ideas? Are there ideas you want to add, adjust, or delete from the January 15 handout?

Developing a vision statement that reflects a group consensus is not an easy process. However, if the Commission can develop a set of bullet points that represents your initial thoughts going into the January 29 workshop, it will provide some guidance and structure to the meeting that night.

If you have questions about the Visioning process, please contact David at 801-2554 ([dlevitan@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dlevitan@shorelinewa.gov)) or Steve at 801-2511 ([scohn@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:scohn@shorelinewa.gov)).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) Handout from Town Hall meeting #2
- 2) Vision Statements submitted by individuals as of January 7, 2009



**Shoreline City Council  
Town Hall Meeting #2 on Shoreline's Vision**

**January 8, 2009**

**6:30-9:00 PM**

Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline Room

**AGENDA**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**6:30-7:00 pm**

Light refreshments will be provided.

*This is an opportunity for the community to review the "themes" created during the "Community Conversations," as well as the schedule for the rest of the Vision Process*

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**WELCOME BY MAYOR RYU AND PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR KUBOI**

**7:00-7:15 pm**

*A brief recap of the November Town Hall Meeting and the focus and format for tonight's Town Hall Meeting*

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**"THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES"**

**7:15-8:40 pm**

*The City Council and Planning Commissioners will lead facilitated roundtable group conversations to discuss:*

- Are these the themes we should focus on?
- Did we miss any themes?
- What key elements should be considered as we move forward?

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**8:40-8:55 pm**

*Community members are invited to share their views of the proposed themes. To ensure as many people have an opportunity to speak, each speaker will be allocated two minutes.*

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**VISIONING PROCESS NEXT STEPS**

**8:55-9:00 pm**

*Mayor Cindy Ryu outlines the next steps in the visioning process.*

### **Themes Drawn from the Community Conversations**

**Based on the visioning meetings, staff and the Planning Commission identified several preliminary themes that stood out. We heard from the community that in our vision, the City of Shoreline should:**

- Protect our natural areas and conserves our resources;
- Be an attractive, vibrant, and inviting place to live and work;
- Offer a range of house types and prices to ensure a choice of attractive living accommodations;
- Encourage a strong and diverse economy, with commercial areas located and sized to serve all residents throughout the city;
- Provide a diversity of active and passive recreation opportunities for all ages to gather and play;
- Provide high quality services and exceptional schools;
- Be a place where ideas are respected and action is taken based on collaborative decisions;
- Support a variety of community gathering places;
- Promote walking and bicycling with sidewalks and bicycle trails that connect the entire city;
- Encourage a variety of transportation options including frequent bus service that provides both north/south and east/west connections; and
- Provide the opportunity for the location of more retail stores and personal services in areas close to residential communities and designate specific commercial areas for more intense and efficient development and jobs and housing growth.

**A Few Additional Themes Heard at the November 19 Town Hall Meeting**

**At the November 19 Town Hall Meeting, attendees commented on the list of themes listed above, and identified additional themes that they felt were missing. Based on a first review of the meeting comments, Shoreline should also:**

- Encourage and foster neighborhood identity (a “City of Neighborhoods”);
- Develop partnerships with Shoreline Community College, Shoreline School District, and other local agencies;
- Create a business environment that supports small and local businesses; and
- Support transit-oriented development (TOD), most notably in the areas surrounding the future light rail stations.

Draft Visions, or "Community Concepts"  
developed by individuals from the Community

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**Subject:** Shoreline Visioning A balance of measurable indicators for social, natural and human environment with the built and economic environment

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**From:** Bill Bear [mailto:flyinbear@acn.net]

**Sent:** Mon 12/22/2008 1:41 PM

**To:** David Levitan

**Subject:** Shoreline Visioning A balance of measurable indicators for social, natural and human environment with the built and economic environment

I would like to see the concept of balancing human environment carrying capacity indicators with natural environment, social environment, economic environment and built environment carrying capacity indicators.

The concept of measurable indicators for living wage job increases, non single vehicle transportation improvements, social capital and natural capital indicators serving as controllers for permitting or preventing new housing of any kind. In the Growth Management Act this is called concurrency.

In the CompPlan this is called maintaining a balance of all Framework Goals.

Please look at this course online

<http://www.sustainablemeasures.com/Training/Indicators/index.html>

Also look at [www.b-sustainable.org](http://www.b-sustainable.org) Which is from the [www.sustainableseattle.org](http://www.sustainableseattle.org) website

See [www.sustainablemeasures.com](http://www.sustainablemeasures.com) for a summary pages on 14 indicators.

Bill Bear

**City of Shoreline Vision Process 2008 by Karen McCoy**

Shoreline has already done a lot of good things!!

Behind every vision process is the idea of creating something that can be successfully achieved. The key to success is to define the parameters by which success is measured.

There is a danger in defining success as continual growth because there is never an end to getting bigger and what happens when the supports for growth lose their base? Our national economy is an example of how this paradigm can be easily toppled. Natural catastrophes are another example of how this paradigm can be easily toppled. How would Shoreline pull itself back together from an environmental catastrophe? The answer is in how community structures are established.

Success can be measured by deeper roots in our community. If growth is necessary, then grow in our knowledge and awareness of each other, develop our creativity, deepen our relationships and have more fun. Encourage these kind of community connections by centering our activities, our development and infrastructure around this as well.

Measure the success of our community by being a sustainable and healthy community. Support local businesses. Support women and people of color businesses. Encourage businesses that support other local businesses. For instance, restaurants that buy their food from (relatively) local farms. We know where our food is coming from and so we aren't necessarily dealing with unhealthy food scares or scarcity. Bring in businesses that serve the needs of the community so that people don't have to get what they need outside the city.

I would like to see the City of Shoreline become a self-reliant, sustainable and affordable community, building on its vision person by person, investing in itself. This is a difficult vision, requiring working together toward a common goal, but worthy of trying to achieve. Let's not have a disaster make us change the way we think about what it truly means to be a city community. And let's not have disasters happen on small scales: everybody deserves an affordable home.

I would like the City of Shoreline to be a safe community—a place where people are respected and cared for. This would be extended from city corners to inside people's homes. Domestic violence is a huge issue affecting 1 in 3 women in our world. Men are affected by domestic violence as well. All this means it is happening in our schools, in our homes, in our city. It knows no limits in race, religion, socio-economic status, age, education. It is a leading cause in homelessness.

Safety and education go hand in hand. Unless we are addressing issues related to begging and chemical dependency, we should be careful about creating laws around vagrancy and putting distance between our city and those who need the most help. Shoreline needs to be smart about those who are really taking from the community and those who have been marginalized by the community and deserve our support. If people are uncomfortable by



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those who have less resources and the complexity of their issues, than we need to unite to solve this problem. This is a complex issue that may require other city's involvement.

Green views: the city has already made a huge difference in the beauty of Shoreline along the Aurora corridor and by establishing the Interurban. Support businesses, provide for density, but remember that as a society we are visually overstimulated and we really need to see blue sky and green spaces. Keep going green in everything.

In conclusion, in building a vision, the words I would consider are: community, safe, respect, sustainable, support local, support those who need a leg up, green infusion, creative, healthy.

### My Vision for the City of Shoreline

December 22, 2008

My vision for the City of Shoreline is pretty much what has been expressed in these Visioning meetings. I, like many other citizens, would like to see our city be a place that provides good, family wage jobs for residents, a variety of housing choices, good public schools, excellent transportation, a variety of shopping opportunities, parks, trails, and other opportunities for recreation, as well as participation in the arts.

My vision is that Shoreline should keep its single family neighborhoods intact. They provide much of the ambience of living in the beautiful Northwest and give each neighborhood its own character enriching the overall city. I think the relationship between the city and its neighborhoods can be a vital, vibrant one of focus and cooperation. In this situation, I am focusing on the relationship between my neighborhood, Innis Arden, and the City of Shoreline because I think it can be prototype for working through differences and reaching consensus in a positive manner. I also know there is continual tension between the city and Innis Arden and both need to work together to alleviate the disharmony that exists between us.

My vision for Innis Arden in Shoreline is three fold. First, I envision the City of Shoreline making provision for its storm water runoff which continues to erode the neighborhood of Innis Arden where all the runoff of the westside of the City is concentrated. This runoff flows into Puget Sound with all of its impurities and pollution from the vehicles and buildings due to the impervious surfaces. The state is making the cleanup of Puget Sound a priority. One place to start is to put a stop to the runoff coming through Innis Arden where it is eroding our natural reserves. Some professional hydrologists estimate that 97% of the water running through Innis Arden and into the Puget Sound is from the runoff from the areas at the top of the city.

Second, I envision that the City would recognize and respect the covenants of Innis Arden. These covenants predate the City of Shoreline by about 50 years and are part of the title to each property owner in Innis Arden. It is important to recognize these covenants and allow cutting of the vegetation (including trees)

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for views as these provisions are an integral part of the covenants that accrue to the title of the properties. There is a way to allow tree cutting in Innis Arden though mitigation. Innis Arden needs to be allowed to cut trees not only on individual home sites but in the 52 acres of natural reserves. Innis Arden had a very successful experience in its Grouse Reserve about six years ago when trees were cut for views and new lower-growing trees and vegetation was planted. The reserve is now an open, inviting and wonderful place to enjoy nature. Gone are the blackberries, ivy, and Scotch broom which were overtaking the reserve. We need to realize that we cannot restore what was once here; rather we can only enhance what we have now.

Projects similar to the one in Grouse Reserve could be developed in our other reserves, Coyote, Blue Heron, Eagle, and Running Water. These reserves have dangerous trees in them which the city discourages removal. Every wind storm brings down more of these dangerous trees. A plan could be worked out with the City whereby mitigation would take place over a ten to 15 year time frame making the reserves open and safe as well as environmentally sound and able to handle the rain water that is in Innis Arden.

The city and the duly elected Board of Innis Arden need to work out an agreement of recognition for our Covenants and work to preserve this neighborhood. It may be tempting on the city's part to try to break these Covenants to attain smaller lots and increase density but it would be a big mistake in terms of the livability and kind of citizen the city attracts. The city needs to attract people who are well-educated, who care about their homes, who care about education, and community involvement. These are the type of citizens that Innis Arden attracts and the type of citizen Shoreline should want to attract, too.

Third, an environmental tie-in with keeping the covenants of Innis Arden could be solar power. I have heard people who support solar power in our community express the concern that too many trees can block the reception of sun for solar power. I think Innis Arden, with its more open west-facing topography because of its covenants, could provide a place where solar panels could be used to increase our supply of an alternative energy. There could be some demonstration projects at first and then further development so that more of the neighborhood could provide solar power. It seems to me we could work out a happy result between those who consider themselves to be totally green and those of Innis Arden who

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are still environmentalists but also believe that the covenants should be honored and respected.

All of these elements can come together if the city and the Innis Arden Board can negotiate in good faith and reach a consensus. It will take hard work and will entail a lot of listening as well as talking. Surely a neighborhood such as Innis Arden and the City of Shoreline can come together and reach common goals and direction.

Submitted by  
June E. Howard, CPA  
Proud Citizen of Shoreline and Innis Arden

Shoreline Community Concepts

## **City And World**

By Dwight Gibb

It would be foolish to plan for a world that will not exist! There is always a temptation to imagine the future as being like the present, and to plan for more of what we currently enjoy. But a realistic assessment of the future must pay attention to the trends we see around us and a consideration of their implications for tomorrow. Three current trends indicate that the world of 2028 may be strikingly different from today.

First, our financial crisis is already global. Fixing it will require governmental regulation in London, Paris, and Tokyo, as well as in New York, and there are presently no instruments in place for that. Furthermore, economic recovery will probably require Keynesian-type stimuli on a global scale, and two economic powerhouses, Germany and Japan, do not believe in stimuli. To address these difficulties our new president will need to perform on a global stage.

Second, Climate change is real. It will require a wrenching rearrangement of methods of production, and life styles - done in cooperation with nations whom we presently perceive as competitors rather than partners.

Lastly, poverty. Shockingly, four of the six billion people in the world live on less than two dollars a day – that is two thirds of all humans. These destitute people have observed our careless consumption on TV, and they demand a share. It will not suffice to label them insurgents and send out troops.

Realistically then, it would seem accurate to say that our world is already in crisis. Hopefully President Obama, already a citizen of the world and trained as a community organizer, will succeed in bringing everyone to the table. But if he does not, other leaders will have to – and long before 2028.

The only solution to these great issues will be something on the order of a global “New Deal.” This will mean nothing less than a commitment to a good life for all: Food for every person, an education for every child, and a living wage for every household. Can we afford it? Of course we can. For one model to start with we have the best-seller, *Three Cups Of Tea*.

We will have to pay higher taxes and reduce defense spending. Difficult, but with the advantage of knowing we are doing the right thing. And the dollars will go toward transforming the destitute of the world into productive workers. In this manner wealth can only increase, and the benefits of global prosperity will redound to ourselves as well. There is a precedent for such optimism: While clawing our way out of the Great Depression, we had no difficulty finding billions to pay for the Second World War, and in the process we stimulated our economy into prosperity.

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How can Shoreline prepare for these challenges? Simple as it may seem, the answer is by practicing the values today which we will need, in order to participate in a reformed world tomorrow. Taken together they comprise altruism – a stance we may adopt reluctantly, but also with the knowledge that caring for others is more satisfying than pursuing unvarnished self-interest.

The values are:

The value of good government: Open participation. Inclusive and diverse offices. And policies vetted by citizens and implemented by their representatives.

The value of social justice: Insuring that all citizens benefit from development. Dedication to the idea of affordable housing. Guaranteeing that citizens and businesses at all levels enjoy the services of the City.

Lastly the value of sustainability: Not just some trees and parks, but new approaches to housing, to transportation, and to the habits of cooperating with others.

Is this too idealistic? It was the great futurist, Buckminster Fuller, who repeated the adage that in normal times, ideas which are perceived as “realistic” make sense, but that in times of crisis, idealistic conceptualizations are the only ones which will work. So that in crisis idealism becomes realistic.

Can we think in these big ways? Yes we can.

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Shoreline Community Concepts

## **Whither Shoreline?**

By Art Nilsson

If the age we live in tells us anything, loud and clear, it is that we are all connected, we are all related profoundly to each other...with an immediacy we have never before recognized. We, the planetary family, are an ecology, and if that vocabulary means anything it means, not independence, but interdependence. The metaphor haunts us, dogs our every step today, that of the butterfly entangled with the monsoon. And now we know.

But if each of us is more intimate to another, more profoundly than we have ever known before, every action a consequence of our every thought and deed impinging upon our sisters and brothers across the planet, then the absolute corollary is that whatever action we do not take today deprives our sisters and brothers of our talents, those talents we are advised never to hide under a bushel. These moments are gone forever, the moment we abandon them, or betray them, in fear and surrender...to process, pragmatism and compromise.

The poet Robert Frost, in composing his well-remembered stanzas titled "Mending Wall", observed his farming neighbor, who with a rock in either hand, like a modern stone-age man, repaired the wall between them. Frost's neighbor muttered a conventional wisdom, "Good fences make good neighbors." To which the poet later replied, in verse:

Before I built a wall, I'd ask to know  
What am I walling in and walling out  
And to whom am I like to give offense?  
Something there is that doesn't love a wall  
That wants it down.

A gated community can be gated with hinges, gated with price, gated with tax rate, gated with zoning, code or covenant. All with intention. Gates on the ground appear to be closed, while those in the air appear to be open...with elevators to small spaces. If on the ground, what ground? Where are the buildable spaces in Shoreline? Further out? There is no "further out" in a surrounded municipality. Then where? Is it sprawl or is it increased density? The only permissible direction in a surrounded municipality is vertical, upward. The other, impermissible, is density within. If density within the fixed area of land is off limits, denied by ordinance, zoning, code or covenant, then vertical sprawl prevails. But only where it does not contaminate our delicate sense of community.

The land area of Shoreline is twelve square miles, or 7680 acres. Forty-five percent of that area is park, road, commercial property, utility right-of-way or government office. The remaining fifty-five per-cent is residential property, 4224 acres, or 180 million square feet. There are an estimated 17,000 residences in Shoreline, thus the average property size is

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10,823 square feet, almost exactly 1/4 acre. The population of Shoreline is approximately 53,000 persons. Then there are some 3400 square feet of land for every Shoreline citizen, which is a plot not quite sixty feet on a side.

Is there a scarcity of building property? Does that depend upon one's definition of scarcity? Or upon one's definition of welcome? Or upon one's definition of community itself? If you or I arrived in Washington and chose to live in Shoreline as a member, say, of that idealized - I hope not romanticized - family, would we want to be welcomed on the ground, where families appear to thrive, or compressed...up in the air?

More than 50,000 citizens in this municipality, of this republic, are stewards of 55% of the land area. A few dozen citizens, who are public servants, have led and appear to lead, and to compel decisions as to the welcoming or segregated use of that resource. If "...the just power to govern is derived from the consent of the governed....", with whom does the authority for those decisions reside?

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Shoreline Community Concepts

## **From Crossroads To Community**

By The Shoreline Citizens' Coalition

If you asked the people of Shoreline why they live here, they would probably tell you it is because of the schools, the trees and quality neighborhoods with great access to services. Many other things would also be listed, but these seem to be common among most: old and new, rich and poor, young and old.

While Shoreline has so much to offer, our collective quest is for a true sense of Community. Historically, the school district provided that sense of community. But, we now have our own city. It is time to include all aspects of the community in governance.

Our goal is really about good public process. We believe Shoreline can set the bar for community-driven and fact-based government. We can create a healthy and sustainable Community when people are working together for a common purpose.

It is relatively easy to design a future City. It is easy to get agreement around the concepts of "safe and friendly neighborhoods," "preserving and enhancing the environment," and "attracting and retaining businesses." Actually achieving and sustaining these goals over time is much more difficult.

What are the challenges we face to achieving that vision?

### **Crossroads**

Physical challenges caused by the freeways and highways that bisect our City, make it difficult to establish walkable communities and sense of place.

We are a crossroads for many cultures. Our relatively affordable community close to major commerce attracts people from around the country and around the world. It makes Shoreline an interesting place, but also introduces the challenge of truly understanding and assimilating new people, without the gathering places which make this easier. Schools, some churches and the Central Market have provided places where people can cross paths and interact. But we need more. While many people live here, many also go to other bordering cities to do their shopping.

Socially Shoreline is a crossroad between some of the wealthiest people in our Region and some of the poorest. It is a crossroad between those who came looking to get out of "the city," and are now on fixed incomes, and those just moving in who want the amenities and conveniences of "the city." Given more time and space, the community could probably identify many more examples of how Shoreline is a physical, cultural, and social, crossroads.

### Connections

While highways and cultural and social differences can divide us, they can also be used to our advantage. Our task then, over the next twenty years is to build real physical, cultural, and social **connections** between these gaps and over these obstacles. How do we do that? We will actually connect our land use designs with our transportation projects. "Community Livability" will be measured in the actual number of trips we can leave the car at home. All our communities must be livable, which means the benefits and costs of growth must be equitably distributed.

To do this we make a commitment to connect ALL of our residents and communities, starting with the ones most in need. We use sidewalks, bike paths, neighborhood connectors, parks, circulator buses, plazas and safe crosswalks to connect neighbors to each other and to the retail and professional services. For instance, the Interurban Trail will have connecting trails that allow pedestrians and bicyclists to access commercial areas. The more people are walking and riding, the more they are crossing paths, interacting and setting up their own social networking.

We will work locally and regionally to be sure we have a transit system that serves the people and businesses that means having local shuttles, neighborhood circulators, and fast, convenient, frequent service from where we live, to where we want to be.

We make sure we are not just a pass-through for shoppers and work closely with our Chamber of Commerce to grow existing businesses through innovative programs like "Shop Shoreline," and Green Business Program.

Shoreline will be known as an Environmental Educational center. We will incorporate and build on our current identity as a City committed to Education (Children), the Environment (Trees and clean water) and Diversity.

To achieve these goals, our Plans, Investments and Measurable Outcomes will necessarily be in alignment. They will be connected, internally consistent and consistent with the goals of the Community.

### Community

All policies and programs will have identified measurable goals, established by the Community. These performance measures, published each year by the City, will give us a sense of whether we are moving toward our goals of Environmental, Social and Economic Health and sustainability for all the people in our City.

Our City government will create and reflect a true sense of respect and openness. It will lead to a culture of accountability and inclusiveness. Our citizens will be informed because they have free access to their officials and to information.

Included in our Vision is a Civic Center and Library housed in or near our City Hall. This would be where we would find documents, classes, meetings, critical and respectful exchanges between citizens and city officials and community organizations.

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Our **Civic Center will act as a gathering place** for ideas and for people. Our **neighborhoods will be planned** so that development gradually increases as homes get closer to transit hubs and designs are compatible with the surrounding homes or scale of buildings. Business centers will be welcoming places that fit with neighborhoods.

The Campuses in our City like Shoreline Community College, Fircrest and CRISTA will grow in a way that improves life for their existing residents or students, but also provides for more connections with the surrounding Community. They will provide services, housing and recreational opportunities that Shoreline Residents need, but they will be planned in a way that also provides for the needed infrastructure.

Democracy, meaning a true respect for a process, for openness and for seeking out dissent, is at the heart of our vision. Democracy is not easy, it is not fast, but it provides a higher probability of success for lasting results. Our vision is that Shoreline will commit to the democratic model and build on those strengths that have made us a great community: commitment to education, the environment and quality neighborhoods.

We will be able to answer the question, "Who built Shoreline?" with the Answer, "All of Us."

12.22.08

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**Subject:** Vision Shoreline Ideas

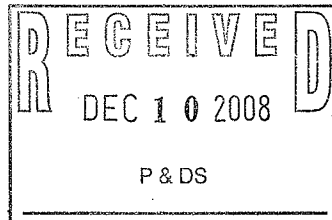
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**From:** Ann Erickson [mailto:annson@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Mon 12/22/2008 9:32 PM  
**To:** David Levitan  
**Subject:** Vision Shoreline Ideas

David, thanks so much for keeping us posted on this project. I need reminders. Here is an idea that has been kicking around in my head for a long time.

With so much snow on the roads, people are out walking to the store and getting around. I have seen and spoken to more neighbors in the last few days than I have in weeks. We need to encourage more of this, but without the snow! Sidewalks would be a huge improvement and encourage people to get out more and still be safe. Another thing I would like to see is one or more kiosks placed in each neighborhood where people can post signs for garage sales, baby sitting, pet walking and the like. As people stop to read them, they would become neighborhood "bumping" places where people might meet each other. We need things like this to help people make contact with each other on the house by house, block by block level. Perhaps this is something that neighborhood associations could be encouraged to develop and maintain.

Sincerely yours,  
Ann Erickson



December 7, 2008

Dear City of Shoreline Administrators & Council Members,

I'm not quite sure why I am even taking my time to write this letter. The City of Shoreline has asked its citizens to become involved and I have attended two "Vision" meetings and one Tent City meeting in the past month and a half. Based on the fact that the City has approved the permit allowing Tent City it is clear to me that my input is not valued. At least the Church was considerate enough to send a letter "inviting" citizens to the Tent City meetings. While on the other hand, the City did provide minutes of the two meetings it never provided notification (via direct mailing, The Shoreline Journal, The Enterprise or Currents) to alert Shoreline citizens that the permit had actually been issued.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter directed to Kim Lehmborg with regard to the Tent City issue. And, since you have asked, I have a few additional comments to make regarding the "Vision" for Shoreline.

Things I do NOT want in MY community:

- A Jail
- A Homeless Encampment
- A Homeless Caravan Encampment
- Same-Day/Pay-Day Loan Businesses
- Business Signs in a Foreign Language
- Blue Tarps
- "Tent" Carports
- Free Furniture (etc) on Street Corners
- Appliances/fixtures/junk visible from the street or neighbors property
- RV's on parking strips
- "Gearheads" working on their cars in view from the street or their neighbor's property.
- Pit Bulls, Rottweilers or any other aggressive breed (check the statistics).
- Schools or Businesses with unkempt exteriors, including landscaping (Shorewood High School).
- More Casinos, Strip Clubs or Hookers walking Aurora.

Things I DO want in MY community:

- The Shoreline Church Council to do something VIABLE for the homeless.
- Better Code Enforcement (we've started – we need more)
- Landscaped Corners at Main Intersections
- A Volunteer Program that helps low-income elderly, low-income disabled and low-income single mothers who have lived in Shoreline for at least 5 years and have contributed to Shoreline. The Volunteer Program would NOT assist drifters.
- Safe Parks for Children – not drug dealers.
- Pea Patches
- Saturday Market
- Better Lighting on Aurora
- More Sidewalks (not necessarily the “traditional” sidewalk but a clearly delineated walking strip).
- Plantings between the sidewalks and roadway (Nice job on Dayton @ 174<sup>th</sup>).
- Business Addresses clearly visible from the street.

Now, what I REALLY think.

I read the newspaper and watch TV news every day. I have been very aware of King County's plans to site a new jail. There were originally 4-5 sites under consideration and then, I believe, a couple more were added. The closest – at that time – was somewhere between 110<sup>th</sup> and 130<sup>th</sup> and Aurora. Isn't it interesting that less than a week after the City of Shoreline issues a permit for a Tent City that King County comes knocking on OUR door to site a jail, here. Ghetto begets Ghetto. Obviously, King County thinks we are a “soft touch”. As far as I know the (serious) crime rate in Shoreline is quite low. Tell King County to put the jail in the area that has the highest crime rate – NOT HERE. What do jails do other than house really undesirable people? They attract MORE undesirable people to visit them in jail!!!!

While my position on “Tent City” is pretty well spelled out in the attached letter, while attending a recent “Vision Shoreline” meeting, a City of Shoreline employee sitting at the same round table actually opined that she felt we were not doing enough for the homeless and she thinks we should

designate a "safe area" for those living in their cars to come to congregate. It's one thing when drifters are schlepping their tents from one church to another..... it is entirely something else when they are on wheels and can come from Arkansas, Alabama, Anchorage, **FROM ANYWHERE**. Once you have opened that floodgate – Watch Out.

I agree, we are NOT doing enough for the homeless. But let's be SMART about how we go about helping them. Designating a church lawn or a public parking lot for them is NOT helping them. It is demeaning. What will HELP is to locate people who LIVE IN SHORELINE, who are on the verge of being homeless. People who have lived here for 5 years or more, who have contributed to Shoreline by supporting the tax base. The churches can "adopt" these people, help them with their rent/mortgage/food and help them find a job, if necessary. **LET'S HELP OUR OWN – NOT SOME DRIFTERS**. If we continue to allow these Tent Cities we will become known as the softest touch in the State and will become a **MAGNET** for every down-and-out person with wheels or a thumb. We will become a Ghetto. How many of those living in Calvin Presbyterian Tent City have ANY ties to Shoreline??? My guess is none. None have worked here, lived here, raised their children here, paid taxes here or contributed in ANY way to Shoreline. We have plenty of people who have lived here, paid taxes and contributed who are on the edge – **THOSE** are the people we have an obligation to help. And based on our current national economic fiasco, there will be plenty more.

In addition to encouraging the churches to participate, I would like to see a City-wide Volunteer Program established and administered by the city. A list of services would be established. Shoreline citizens could apply to become a volunteer and specify their particular expertise based on the list of services. A background check could be completed by Shoreline Police. Each Volunteer would be required to contribute a minimum number of hours each month. The "assignments" would be issued by the Volunteer Coordinator.

There would be requirements for recipients – They would need to have been a resident for at least ??5 years??, be low-income elderly, low-income disabled, low-income single mothers (possibly other categories). They would need to provide verification of their low-income status.

There are many in these categories who live in our community who could use some help – maybe grocery shopping, wash windows, wash car, mow

lawn, weeding, etc., etc. There are many retired individuals who have extra time on their hands and those who – even though they work – would gladly volunteer 8 hours a month to help a “neighbor”.

Another component could be to help with landscaping at local schools.

Obviously, this is a very basic outline of what I call “Shoreline Choreline” and many policy, legal and strategic questions would need to be addressed, but I think it is one heck of a lot more charitable and neighborly than letting a bunch of drifters sleep on a patch of grass and devalue our neighborhood.

At the most recent “Vision” meeting, the term “Economic Viability” was used A LOT. Please tell me what is economically viable about a Tent City??

Regarding the Aurora Corridor. While the aesthetics of Aurora 145<sup>th</sup> – 175<sup>th</sup> has been improved, problems remain.

1. The flow of traffic has not improved – as far as I can tell.
2. The lighting is TERRIBLE. On a dark, rainy night it is dangerous. The light standards on the outer boundaries are SO tall (and/or the bulbs are so weak) that very little light actually illuminates the roadway. While the plantings on the median are (or at some point will be) attractive, they absorb the little light that actually shines on the roadway. I was very surprised to see that no lighting was placed in the median. If you’re going to spend that amount of money to place a landscaped median wouldn’t you want to accentuate it with lighting – especially since we are in the dark here for so many months a year?? I’m quite certain it would be cost prohibitive to retrofit the median with lighting at this point, but please take a look at correcting the problem in the next phase. Are there illumination standards that are required for public and government funded projects such as this? If so, does the Corridor meet those standards?

Signage: We live in the U.S.A. We speak English as a FIRST language and have ever since the country was founded. It is very insulting to drive down the main street in Shoreline (where I shop and pay my taxes) and not be able to determine what type of business is behind the front door. Is it a grocery store? Is it a nail salon? Is it a hardware store? Is it a strip club? I must assume that the owners are either elitist or secretive – OR BOTH. I personally cannot imagine moving to a foreign country and not learning the



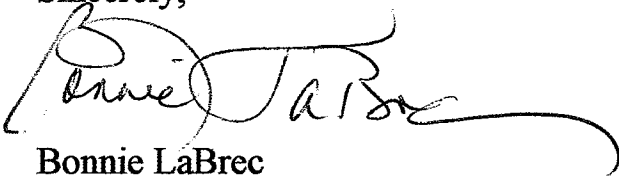
language – how isolating that would be. It is quite clear that there are some in Shoreline who have no interest in participating in their community or engaging with anyone outside of their culture. I guess that's their business – but I think the City of Shoreline – at the VERY least – needs to enact codes that REQUIRE that the signage is readable by the people who fought for and created the country that they now choose to live in.

With regard to visible addresses on businesses I can tell you that you can drive for miles on Aurora, 15<sup>th</sup> NE, Richmond Beach Road or any other main thoroughfare in Shoreline and not see a visible address. How inviting is that? Are business (or residences for that matter) required to have visible numbers? If they are I would like to see some enforcement.

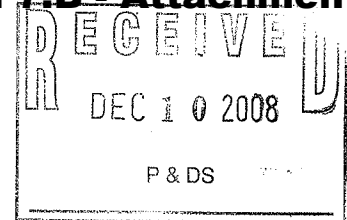
And with regard to code enforcement, I think it would be a good idea to publish a list of maybe at least the top 10 code violations in Currents, The Shoreline Journal and/or The Enterprise. Perhaps there are people out there who are not aware they are in violation of a code and would correct the problem on their own. Or --- if they don't, at least they won't be surprised when they are fined.

Well, there is A LOT more I could say (especially regarding business development) but based on your consideration of my last request, I don't have a lot of hope that you REALLY value citizen input but "Vision Shoreline" does SOUND good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie LaBrec", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bonnie LaBrec  
126 North 193<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Shoreline, WA 98133



November 14, 2008

Kim Lehmberg  
Associate Planner  
Planning & Development Department  
City of Shoreline  
17544 Midvale Avenue North  
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Ms. Lehmberg,

Last Saturday I attended the community meeting at Calvin Presbyterian Church for two reasons: 1) To learn more about the City of Shoreline's position and laws governing the granting of necessary permits to allow Tent City 3 on the property of the church. 2) To obtain information from law enforcement authorities regarding any statistics they may have regarding increase in their services related to residents of previous encampments in Seattle or Shoreline. Unfortunately, there were NO representatives from either the City of Shoreline Planning/Development/Ordinance/Zoning Departments nor from the City of Shoreline Police Department or King County Sheriff's Department. I don't feel that any of us who took the time out of our Saturday received a fair, comprehensive overview of the impact this transient community will have on our neighborhood and the City of Shoreline, in general.

Prior to attending the meeting I was not in favor of allowing the establishment of Tent City 3 and nothing I heard at the meeting changed my mind. I am NOT in favor of allowing ANY Tent City in Shoreline for the following reasons:

Shoreline has – twice – in the past few years been voted the “Best City in Washington”. We should be quite proud of this designation as it is based on a number of criteria that many of us – both City leaders and individual citizens – worked very hard to bring to fruition. Some of the criteria include good schools, good parks, stable and strong tax base, sound infrastructure, affordable housing, etc. Never have I seen “Sponsorship of Transients/ Drifters” as a criteria.

This "Best City" designation can help our city in many ways. It can attract STABLE homeowners/renters and businesses that actually BUILD AND BROADEN our tax base, which, in turn provides funds to continue to improve our city. I have to believe that any potential homeowner/renter or business contemplating relocating to Shoreline would consider a Tent City in their neighborhood as a NEGATIVE.

None of us moved here wanting or thinking our property values would DECREASE. Over the past 10 years my property assessment has increased \$20,000 to \$56,000 PER YEAR. Over that period of time my property taxes have increased accordingly. As we all know, over this past year the housing market has changed dramatically and I estimate the market value of my home has dropped by almost \$100,000 – I'm not alone. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE INTRODUCING AN ELEMENT TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WILL FURTHER DEVALUE OUR PROPERTY AND OUR COMMUNITY.

Just as there are criteria for determining the "Best City", I am sure criteria are involved when the city's bond rating is calculated. You know better than I those criteria -- but I doubt that allowing "Tent Cities" would be in the "positive" column.

Where are these people from originally? Shoreline? Arkansas? Vermont? Have they contributed -- in ANY way to OUR community? Have they WORKED in OUR community? Do they PLAN to work in OUR community – or "give back" in ANY way? The church is asking us to condone the import of people into our community who, as far as I can see, will do NOTHING to improve our neighborhood, who will contribute NOTHING to our tax base and will only bring a negative image and FEAR to our community.

I do not have children but many attending the meeting on Saturday were parents – AND THEY ARE FEARFUL. The neighborhood bus stops their children use are the same bus stops these transients will be using. The parks their children play in will be the same parks these transients will be using.

My suggestion to the church was to "adopt" either an individual or family from Tent City. Surely, out of all of the parishioners at the church – many

of whom are leaders in our community or have hiring authority at their place of work – could find decent paying jobs for some of these people. They could provide funding for first month / last month /security deposit and three months food to get them on their feet and become contributing, stable members of society. One of the church representatives spouted off approximately 10 churches in the immediate area who were “very supportive” of Calvin’s sponsorship of Tent City. Well, if they are so “supportive” let them also “adopt” a Tent City resident, provide them with the above mentioned support and take 10 additional homeless people and make them productive members of society – if they WANT the help. **I’M NOT SAYING “DON’T HELP THESE PEOPLE” I AM SAYING “DON’T ENABLE THESE PEOPLE”.**

The City Council and the City of Shoreline Administration have an OBLIGATION and RESPONSIBILITY to the hard working, taxpaying, property owners of Shoreline – NOT to a pack of drifters. You can put as much lipstick on this pig as you want, but it won’t change the fact that **ANY** Tent City is a negative. That’s it that’s all.

And lest you think I know not of what I speak – think again. I grew up in poverty and I can distinguish between the **TRULY** impoverished, the users and those who choose this way of living as a “lifestyle”.

And lest you think I am not charitable – think again. I give monthly to a very small, very local group who in addition to collecting direct donations from members also raises funds which are maximized and distributed to LOCAL residents who HAVE contributed to our LOCAL community. Last winter I drew \$500 from my home equity line of credit to donate to the flood relief effort in Grays Harbor County. Why? Because that is where I grew up and I felt a connection to those people who did not choose to be flooded and found themselves in a desperate situation. I have no “connection” to ANYONE in Tent City and I feel – personally – that at least some of the Tent City residents are in the situation they are in due to some unwise choices THEY have made.

Like so many other people, I live paycheck-to-paycheck. My mortgage payment is over half of my monthly income. I am single and maintain my home on my own and help my neighbors often with home/yard improvement projects. I take pride in my home and maintain it well knowing that by

## Item 7.B - Attachment 2

doing so not only am I increasing (or at least maintaining) the value of my home but I am also improving the overall value of my neighbors' property.

I am insulted that the City of Shoreline would even consider bringing this negative element into MY community. The community I shop in, pay taxes to, support the local businesses & eateries, etc. I work in Seattle. I could easily do my general/grocery shopping, have my hair cut, have my nails done, entertain my friends, eat out, etc, SOUTH of 145<sup>th</sup> Street. But because I feel it is important to support the community you live in, I CHOOSE to spend my money here – in MY community. You, City of Shoreline Administration/Council, have an obligation to those of us who create the tax base that pays YOUR salaries – NOT to some drifters. I know I speak for MANY. It's YOUR choice.

Going forward, it would be my suggestion that the Council consider banning any future Tent City in the City of Shoreline. However, it is my fear and concern that ever since you approved the first Tent City, the Genie is out of the bottle and precedent has been set. Please tell me I'm wrong.

Sincerely,

Bonnie LaBrec  
Ten Year Shoreline Resident