Planning Commission Report

To: City Council

From: Planning Commission

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Date: September 29, 2010

DGA Number: L100259

Planning Commission Recommendation: Approval.

Recommended Action: Adopt amendments to the Participation, Implementation, and Evaluation element of the Redmond Comprehensive Plan as shown in Attachment A.

Summary: The recommended amendments are part of the 2010-11 Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan. Key components of the update to the Participation, Implementation, and Evaluation element are described below.

- Amendments required because of changes to the Growth Management Act: state law requires that cities and counties complete major reviews of their comprehensive plans no less frequently than every seven years. The Planning Commission recommends harmonizing City policy language with state law.
- Amendments required because of changes to regional planning documents: no amendments of this nature are needed.

- Amendments to reflect City actions since the last update and Council direction from recent or current studies: the Planning Commission recommends incorporating the concept of sustainability by 1) highlighting the important of taking a long-term perspective, and 2) evaluating during the Plan amendment process the City's ability to provide fair and equitable access to services.
- Other amendments: the Planning Commission recommends streamlining where possible to reduce duplication in concepts, and supports updates to Section E: Implementation and Monitoring, to take account of lessons learned and current practice.

Reasons the Proposal should be Adopted:

The recommended amendments should be adopted because:

- They reflect current conditions and shift of planning horizon from 2022 to 2030;
- They emphasize Redmond's planning goal of being a sustainable community; and,
- They provide better guidance where appropriate and reduce duplication in policy text.

Recommended Findings of Fact

1. Public Hearing and Notice

a. Public Hearing Date

The City of Redmond Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment on September 15, 2010. The Commission did not receive testimony.

b. Notice

The public hearing was published in the Seattle Times. Public notices were posted in City Hall and at the Redmond Library. Notice was also provided by including the hearing in Planning Commission agendas and extended agendas mailed to various members of the public and various agencies. Additionally, hearing notification was posted on the city's web site and mailed to several hundred citizens that have indicated interest in planning issues.

Recommended Conclusions

1. Key Issues Discussed by the Planning Commission

Attachment B includes a summary of the Planning Commission's discussion issues and staff responses. Below are key issues discussed by the Planning Commission.

a. <u>Timely Decision Making</u>

Commissioners reiterated their commitment to policies calling for clear regulations and timely decision making on development applications. Commissioners recognized the work of the Code Rewrite Commission in this regard.

b. <u>Participation</u>

Commissioners and staff discussed the variety of ways that the City engages with citizens to encourage participation in the Plan update process. Staff provided information about the ways it encourages participation and measures participation. The Commission recognized that participation is not an issue that ever is solved, but it is something in which the City continually tries to improve.

2. Recommended Conclusions of the Technical Committee.

The recommended conclusions in the Technical Committee Report (Attachment C) should be adopted as conclusions.

3. Planning Commission Recommendation.

The Planning Commission adopted a motion to recommend approval of amendments to the Participation, Implementation, and Evaluation element of the Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 6-0 at its September 15, 2010 meeting.

List of Attachments

Attachment A: **Recommended Amendments to the Participation, Implementation, and Evaluation Element**

Attachment B: **Planning Commission Final Issues Matrix**

Attachment C: **Technical Committee Report with Exhibits**

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Robert G. Odle, Planning Director Date

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Thomas T. Hinman, Planning Commission Chairperson Date

Approved for Council Agenda _____ _____
John Marchione, Mayor Date

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