

CITY OF REDMOND
BEAR CREEK CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY [DRAFT]
May 10, 2010 – Fairwinds of Redmond, 9988 Avondale Road

NOTE: This summary is not a full transcription of the meeting.

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Berrios, Murillo, J. Thompson, S. Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Churchill, Senior Planner

The Bear Creek Citizen Advisory Committee is appointed by the Mayor to advise vision, policy, and regulatory updates during the course of the Bear Creek neighborhood plan update.

CONVERSATION WITH FAIRWINDS RESIDENT

The meeting began shortly after 3:30pm. Nina Shelden, Fairwinds resident, attended the special CAC meeting at Fairwinds of Redmond.

CAC members described the various policy proposals and priorities that have been developed over the past several months with input from the community.

Comments from Ms. Shelden included:

- Support for light rail to Redmond
- Potential transportation connection behind Fairwinds – what is the rationale for the proposal?
- Commuting does not seem to be a major issue for employees of Fairwinds
- Many employees of the dining room are high school and college students
- One of the valets rides his bike to work
- Jobs at Fairwinds are a good training ground
- Probably not a big demand (from residents) for trail connections
- People would like to be able to sit and enjoy the nature around them
- Wondered why residents do not receive the Redmond Reporter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

CITY OF REDMOND
BEAR CREEK CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY [DRAFT]
May 13, 2010 – Redmond City Hall

NOTE: This summary is not a full transcription of the meeting.

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Berrios, Murillo, J. Thompson, S. Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Churchill, Senior Planner

The Bear Creek Citizen Advisory Committee is appointed by the Mayor to advise vision, policy, and regulatory updates during the course of the Bear Creek neighborhood plan update.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Berrios convened the meeting at 4:40pm.

DEBRIEF OF CAC MEETING AT FAIRWINDS ON MAY 10, 2010

CAC members commented that the one resident from Fairwinds that attended the special CAC meeting at Fairwinds was very well-informed. CAC members commented that Fairwinds is a self-contained community, unlike elsewhere in the neighborhood.

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION POLICIES

Staff described the minor change requested by the CAC to policy #5, and the addition of policy #10 regarding bus pullouts. Staff relayed information from the traffic operations staff about the use the observed impact of buses on traffic flow in the Avondale corridor. While there is no hard data, staff's observation has been that the northbound flow in the afternoon peak is the most affected by buses stopping in traffic to pick-up and drop-off passengers. The CAC was in general agreement with the policy language and decided to set it aside until the CAC considers the policy package as a whole.

LAND USE POLICIES

Mr. Thompson had asked on April 22 who owned the land between what was called Quin's and Championship Motors. The City owns that property. CAC members noted that there is a significant dip in the property that surprises drivers who drive into the property. CAC members wondered whether there were any liability issues. CAC members also asked what the City's plans are for that property. There was general agreement with the land use policy language and the CAC decided to set it aside until it considers the policy package as a whole.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT DISCUSSION

The CAC reviewed the ideas generated during the visioning process and then discussed how to translate those ideas into policy. Key themes included: farming that is compatible with protecting the aquifer, educational partnerships; access to natural areas; and keeping up with best practices. Questions that arose included: how close can agricultural activities get to Bear and Evans Creeks? How are pesticides regulated? What effects do earthquakes have on the aquifer? What is the effect of irrigation on the aquifer?

Mr. Thompson related that a member of the Water Tenders told him at the open house on April 29 that he would be ok with farming if it did not contaminate the water.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Thursday, May 27 at 4:30pm at Redmond City Hall. Topics of discussion will be the environment, and parks, open space and recreation.

REVIEW OF APRIL 22, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY

The CAC unanimously approved the meeting summary for its April 22, 2010 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Environment Policies Draft – May 27, 2010
Bear Creek Neighborhood Plan Update

Natural Environment Portion of Neighborhood Vision Statement

The Bear Creek neighborhood values a culture of conservation and education. This has helped promote the health of the valley's ecosystem. In the Bear and Evans Creek valley, plants and wildlife thrive in the streams and the riparian corridors. For example, the creeks support healthy salmon runs and freshwater mussels, and have been reconnected to surrounding wetlands. The neighborhood is keenly aware that Redmond's drinking water aquifer lies just beneath the creek valleys, and so people employ methods to minimize groundwater pollution. The neighborhood enjoys these assets because there is sufficient access to natural areas in order to appreciate them. Residents breathe clean air and wildlife benefit from improved surface water quality.

Draft Environment Preamble

The Bear Creek neighborhood is home to two key natural resources: the Bear and Evans Creek system, and Redmond's drinking water aquifer. Policies in other Comprehensive Plan elements already speak to the protection of these resources. The policies below are geared toward neighborhood-level actions that will help ensure that these resources remain healthy for the long term.

Draft Policies

#	Policy
1	Support educational programs in the neighborhood that help residents and others make choices that support the long term health of natural resources. Examples include continuing natural yard care and landscape classes and providing groundwater educational experiences.
2	Locate interpretive signage along the Bear/Evans Creek Trail to highlight the benefits of a healthy creek and aquifer ecosystem.
3	Encourage builders to plant native and drought tolerant vegetation to reduce irrigation needs and encourage healthy landscaped areas.

- *Staff suggests addressing access to open space in the parks & open space section of the neighborhood plan (not yet drafted)*
- *Policies about best management practices already exist in the citywide Natural Environment element of the Comprehensive Plan.*



Parks & Recreation – May 27, 2010
Bear Creek Neighborhood Plan Update

What we have heard to date specifically about parks and recreation

- More shelters in parks
- Picnic tables placed in various location; outside of parks; like pull-offs/rest stops
- Less structure to parks, leave natural
- Equestrian usage—good, but away from stream
- Make trails multi-use
- More opportunities
- Variety of plant/tree species to prevent mass die-offs such as pine beetle or fungus
- Passive uses as well
- More than soccer fields
- More parking at Perrigo!
- Education opportunities like Bellevue Botanical
- Gardens—demonstration, sustainable plantings, community training, agricultural and botanical (see Huntington Gardens in California)
- Larger and multipurpose gardens like Bellevue Botanical
- Educational signage

What the parks and recreation section has addressed in other neighborhood plans

- Preserving wooded areas
- Shared use facilities
- Community gathering places
- Trail surfaces and connections
- Geographic park gaps
- Lighting
- Specific acquisition opportunities
- Creative funding mechanisms
- Resting areas
- Public access to critical areas
- Connections through new development
- Neighborhood commons
- Utilities landscaping

Questions to consider prior to the May 27 meeting

- What tools could address neighborhood ideas and concerns raised to date?
- Does the City have provisions in place that address these tools already or should additional policies or actions be considered? *See the Comprehensive Plan.*
- If additional policies or actions should be considered, what are they?
- What are the implications of such policies or actions?

The citywide context

Redmond's Comprehensive Plan contains a Parks, Recreation, and Arts Element that addresses:

- Land acquisition and facilities planning
- Developing a balanced system of arts, recreation, and cultural programs
- Bear and Evans Creek trail connections
- Other stream, and river trail corridors
- BNSF corridor planning
- Equestrian trails
- Facilities maintenance
- Neighborhood compatibility
- Open space planning