

AM No. 09-061

MEMO TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council
FROM: RCDG Rewrite Team
DATE: April 7, 2009
SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: RCDG REWRITE DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

I. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Rob Odle, Planning Director, 425-556-2417
Judd Black, Development Review Manager, 425-556-2426
Lori Peckol, Comprehensive Planning Manager, 425-556-2411
Lynda Aparicio, Senior Planner, 425-556-2438

II. BACKGROUND:

At the beginning of 2009, staff began the first phase of the Redmond Community Development Guide (RCDG) rewrite. The goal of the first phase is to adopt a mission statement and a set of principles that will guide how the code is rewritten and updated. In addition, the first phase will define the methodology that will be used in the rewrite.

Throughout January and February, staff and the consultant team have been working with key stakeholders to gain initial feedback with respect to the challenges presented with the current RCDG and opportunities for improvement for the new code.

At the March 10, 2009, study session, the Council discussed the scope of the RCDG rewrite and expressed the desire to establish a mission statement for the project that clearly captures the purpose and goals of the rewrite and in particular, expresses the Council's direction to ensure that the values embodied in the Comprehensive Plan and Community Development Guide are maintained.

As such, staff has drafted the following mission statements for your consideration and feedback:

Alternative 1:

To rewrite Redmond's Zoning Code so that it:

- *is easier to understand,*
- *more clearly and effectively implements the goals, visions and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, and*
- *maintains the integrity of code concepts adopted over time by the City Council.*

Alternative 2:

Create a code that:

- *maintains the most successful elements we have today,*
- *more clearly and effectively implements the goals, visions and policies of the Comprehensive Plan,*
- *improves clarity, conciseness and usability, and*
- *incorporates new ideas and innovations where appropriate.*

Staff considers both alternatives as clearly conveying the goal of making the document more user-friendly, and easier to navigate while eliminating conflicts and redundancies. Additionally, each mission statement conveys the desire to better communicate the Comprehensive Plan policies that are being implemented and also recognizes the goal of maintaining the intended outcomes of code provisions that the community, Planning Commission and Council have worked to establish.

As discussed at the Council study session, the team will be working to develop a set of principles that will guide how the code is rewritten and updated in the future. To date, the consultant team has provided a draft set of *categories* of principles that will be further drafted and presented to the community, Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Council for further deliberation, discussion and ultimately, adoption. The categories of principles identified thus far are:

- **Code organization**

These principles guide how to improve the way in which the code can be navigated, including such concepts as using navigation aides, making it easier to use on-line, etc.

- **Development standards**

These principles guide how the regulations themselves should be written. Examples include being succinct and clear with respect to intent and connection to the Comprehensive Plan, infusing code with sustainability measures, and providing greater transparency with respect to allowed density.

- **Process for development review**

These principles would address such items as consistency with state regulations for processing, providing a high degree of transparency in the review process, and providing a high degree of public participation (due process).

- **Process for zoning code development, review and adoption**

These principles would address the code rewrite process, including public involvement, timeline, and scope.

III. NEXT STEPS:

Staff is seeking preliminary input from Council on the mission statement and the categories of principles at this time. Additionally, staff will be scheduling a meeting with the Planning and Public Works Committee in the near future to further discuss and refine the mission statement which will be brought back to the full Council for approval. The specific principles will be drafted and presented to the stakeholder groups for further discussion and deliberation throughout the months of April and May 2009.

In addition to creating a mission statement for the RCDG rewrite, the Council expressed a desire to prepare a guiding mission statement for the review body that will review and make a recommendation on the proposed changes (tentatively proposed as the Code Rewrite Commission). Staff expects to develop a mission statement specifically for that body and present that to the Planning Commission and Council in the next month or so. Staff expects the Code Rewrite Commission to be formed by September of this year.

Staff is currently working on a calendar of events for the balance of this first phase which will identify future Council, Planning Commission, and Design Review Board meetings on the rewrite, as well as future community stakeholder meetings. Staff expects to present this calendar to Council at the April 7, 2009, meeting.