

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Planning Commission

From: Technical Committee

Staff Contacts: Robert G. Odle, Director of Planning and Community Development, (425) 556-2417
Lori Peckol, Policy Planning Manager, (425) 556-2411
Colleen Kelly, Human Services Manager (425) 556-2423
Brooke Buckingham, Senior Planner, (425) 556-2416

Date: November 3, 2010

File Number: L100259

Title: 2010-2011 Periodic Update of the Comprehensive Plan: Human Services Element

Recommended Action: Adopt Recommended Amendments to the Human Services Element

Reasons the Proposal should be The proposed amendments should be adopted because:

- Adopted:**
- The amendments reflect policies that are aligned with the newly adopted Human Services Strategic Plan.
 - The amendments emphasize Redmond's planning goal of being a sustainability community.

I. APPLICANT PROPOSAL

A. APPLICANT

City of Redmond

B. BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR PROPOSAL

The City of Redmond amends its Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis as permitted by state law. In addition to these regular amendments, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties and cities to periodically conduct a thorough review of their plans and regulations to bring them in line with any relevant changes in the GMA, and to accommodate updated growth targets. Redmond last completed a “periodic update” in 2004.

Given the extent of the 2004 major update, the scope of this update will be to extend the planning horizon from 2022 to 2030, to comply with regional and state requirements that have changed since 2004, to identify opportunities to strengthen sustainability concepts as part of the Comprehensive Plan, and to implement Council direction and recommendations from current and previous studies. In coordination with this effort, the City will also be updating the Transportation Master Plan. This Comprehensive Plan update is expected to be complete by December 2011.

In February and March 2010 the Planning Commission provided input on the scope for this periodic review and update; the City Council finalized the scope in April 2010 by adopting a resolution.

Staff will bring recommended amendments to elements of the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Commission according to the approved schedule. This set of recommended amendments pertains to the Human Services Element.

II. RECOMMENDATION

The Technical Committee recommends amending the Human Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan as shown in Exhibit A.

III. PRIMARY ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The adopted scope for the 2010 - 2011 Comprehensive Plan review anticipates:

1. Amendments required because of changes to the Growth Management Act.

The Washington State Legislature amended the time interval for periodic updates to comprehensive plans. This change is reflected in the proposed Human Services Element.

2. Amendments required because of changes to regional planning documents.

No changes to the Human Services Element are necessary to comply with changes in conditions or with regional planning documents. Planning staff verified the

conformance of the Element with requirements of Washington State Department of Commerce and Puget Sound Regional Council.

3. *Amendments required to extend the planning horizon to the year 2030.*

The recommended changes emphasize sustainability, consistent with Redmond’s vision for the future.

4. *Amendments to reflect City actions since the last update and Council direction from recent or current studies.*

A portion of staff’s review of the Comprehensive Plan is to identify opportunities to emphasize sustainability. The definition of sustainability adopted for the Comprehensive Plan Update is:

“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development)

Minor amendments to text and policies help to address sustainability. For example, policies HS-1 and HS-2 speak to the need for social services to be accessible to all in Redmond and that they may assist residents in becoming self-sufficient, contributing members of the community.

5. *Other amendments*

Other amendments to the text and policies reflect the directions outlined in the Human Services Strategic Plan, adopted in April, 2009. In addition, Policy HS-4 includes text relating to the Human Services Commission which was created in June, 2009.

IV. SUPPORTING ANALYSIS: FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Human Services Element describes how the City’s efforts in planning, funding, coordinating, and improving human services’ delivery contribute to reach community goals and enrich the quality of life in Redmond. It defines the City’s roles and describes many tools used to understand and address Redmond residents’ needs for human services.

The Human Services element supports the social sustainability aspect of the city’s overall sustainability goals by providing policies designed to ensure that residents have access to an effective human services delivery system. Residents struggling to meet basic needs are less able and far less likely to be engaged and actively contributing members of the community. In addition, the Human Services Element requires necessary updates, to reflect

the strategic directions outlined in the Human Services Strategic Plan, adopted in April of 2009.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH CRITERIA FOR AMENDMENTS

Redmond Comprehensive Plan Policies PI-16, LU-24 and LU-9 direct the City to take several considerations, as applicable, into account as part of decisions on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

Items 1 through 5 apply to all proposed amendments. Other criteria apply only when proposed amendments concern allowed land uses or densities, such as proposed amendments to the Land Use Plan Map, land use designations, allowed land uses, or zoning map. This Element does not concern those topics and so those criteria are not included.

The following is an analysis of how this proposal complies with the requirements for amendments.

1. Consistency with Growth Management Act (GMA), VISION 2020 or its successor, and the King County Countywide Planning Policies.

The recommended amendments are one portion of the periodic review of Redmond's Comprehensive Plan as called for by the GMA. The recommended changes to text and policies are neutral with respect to VISION 2040 and the King County Countywide Planning Policies.

2. Consistency with Redmond's Comprehensive Plan, including the following sections as applicable:

The recommended amendments are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

a. Consistency with the goals contained in the Goals, Vision and Framework Policy Element.

Yes, the recommended amendments are consistent.

b. Consistency with the preferred land use pattern as described in the Land Use Element.

No changes are recommended that are directly relevant to the preferred land use pattern as described in the Land Use Element.

- c. **Consistency with Redmond’s community character objectives as described in the Community Character/Historic Preservation Element or elsewhere in the Comprehensive Plan.**

Yes, the recommended amendments are consistent.

- 3. **Potential general impacts to the natural environment, such as impacts to critical areas and other natural resources.**

There are no changes to policies of the Human Services Element that have an impact on critical areas and other natural resources.

- 4. **Potential general impacts to the capacity of public facilities and services. For land use related amendments, whether public facilities and services can be provided cost-effectively and adequately at the proposed density/intensity.**

The recommended amendments present no potential impacts to the capacity of public facilities and services.

- 5. **For issues that have been considered within the last four annual updates or comprehensive land use plan amendments, whether there has been a change in circumstances that makes the proposed plan designation or policy change appropriate or whether the amendment is needed to remedy a mistake.**

It has been more than four years since the City’s last update of this Element.

V. AUTHORITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL, PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW

A. Amendment Process

RCDG Sections 20F.30.15 and 20F.30.55 require that amendments to the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed under the Type VI process. Under this process, the Planning Commission conducts a study session(s), an open record hearing(s) on the proposed amendment, and makes a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council is the decision-making body for this process.

B. Subject Matter Jurisdiction

The Redmond Planning Commission and the Redmond City Council have subject matter jurisdiction to hear and decide whether to adopt the proposed Development Guide Amendment.

C. Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Staff will complete a SEPA Checklist for the 2010-2011 Periodic Update of the Comprehensive Plan as a whole. Staff anticipates adoption of previous environmental documents and will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address the potential impacts on Climate Change before City Council action on the Update in late 2011. The recommended amendments to the Human Services Element make up only one portion of the Update. In addition, no adverse environmental impacts are expected with the proposed amendments.

D. 60-Day State Agency Review

State agencies will be sent 60-day notice of this proposed amendment on November 2, 2010.

E. Public Involvement

The public will have opportunities to comment on the proposed amendments during the Planning Commission review process and public hearing. Public notice of the hearing on December 8, 2010 will be provided by posting in public locations and by newspaper listing on November 17, 2010. The recommended amendments to the Human Services Element are accessible through the City's web site and copies are available at City Hall.

F. Appeals

RCDG 20F.30.55 identifies Development Guide Amendments as a Type VI permit. Final action is held by the City Council. The action of the City Council on a Type VI proposal may be appealed by filing a petition with the Growth Management Hearing Board pursuant to the requirements

VI. LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A: Recommended Amendments to Human Services Element

Robert G. Odle, Director of Planning
and Community Development

Date

William J. Campbell, Director of Public Works

Date

N:\PLANNING\Comp Plan Update Periodic 2010-11\Human Services Element\Technical Committee\Tech Report.docx