

TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council

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DATE: January 18, 2011

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: REDMOND'S NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM – 2011 TO 2012

The City's Neighborhood Program includes several components that staff proposes to continue and enhance during the 2011-2012 biennium, consistent with the budget Council adopted. In summary, staff proposes strategic enhancements together with process streamlining to support continued collaboration with Redmond's citizens at the neighborhood-scale and to help foster additional opportunities for civic leadership. The following describes the past year's efforts and projected 2011-2012 program milestones.

Staff requests any feedback or questions from Council as part of the staff report. Staff plans to proceed with the program enhancements, including notice for the February Neighborhood Network events, in late January 2011. If you have any questions as you review this memo, please contact Kimberly Dietz at 425-556-2415.

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

In 2010 staff worked with neighborhoods on three additional neighborhood plan updates: Bear Creek, Idylwood, and Overlake, bringing the total updated in the past ten years to seven of Redmond's ten neighborhoods. Staff anticipates adoption of the updates for the Bear Creek neighborhood during March 2011.

Also in 2010 staff conducted two pilot Neighborhood Network events. Approximately 20 citizens attended the Grass Lawn meeting and 40 attended the Education Hill meeting. Citizens of both neighborhoods also took part in an on-line questionnaire. Citizen feedback on the events was very positive. The events provided an opportunity for neighbors to come together and get to know one another in a new setting, to meet and discuss questions with City officials and staff, and for attendees to share their interests, concerns, and ideas for the future. In addition, citizens had an opportunity to indicate interest in helping to carry out some of the ideas by volunteering as a neighborhood steward. Finally, staff piloted a Facebook page for Education Hill following the Neighborhood Network meeting. To date, 36 people have joined it.

Staff tracks the amount of citizen participation in the City's Neighborhood Program. In 2010, citizen participation included a total of 580 contacts, including attending meetings, providing

feedback via on-line or mailed questionnaires, and participating in collaborative opportunities such as Facebook and stewardship projects.

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

In 2011 staff proposes to implement programmatic enhancements to the Neighborhood Program, consistent with the adopted budget offer. Included are the following components:

1. Rollout Redmond's Neighborhood Network in seven of the City's ten neighborhoods. The seven neighborhoods are those that have recently updated neighborhood plans: Downtown, Education Hill, Grass Lawn, Idylwood, North Redmond, Overlake and Willows/Rose Hill.
 - a. Combine neighborhoods geographically, where feasible, such as Education Hill and North Redmond.
 - b. As significant projects or concerns exist, staff from Police, Parks and Transportation may choose to attend.
2. Commence the biennial Citizen Academy series. The Citizen Academy series precedes a neighborhood plan update process and provides several sessions for citizens to learn about Redmond government including programs, plans, processes and future innovations.
 - a. Staff involvement includes participants from various departments/divisions, calling upon a group once during the series.
 - b. Streamline the series to reduce the number of meetings from ten to six.
 - c. Promote Citizen Academy opportunity to all citizens. In particular, invite existing neighborhood stewards such as CERT students.
 - d. Re-evaluate the frequency of the Citizen Academy series – whether to offer annually or biennially – after 2011.
3. Initiate a neighborhood plan update for SE Redmond. Neighborhood plan updates occur at regular intervals, currently scheduled every six years per neighborhood.
 - a. Sammamish Valley neighborhood plan update will shortly follow SE Redmond in 2012.
 - b. Implement process efficiencies to reduce the plan update timeline from three years to two years from initiation to final adoption.
 - c. As part of the 2011 Comprehensive Plan update, staff recommends revising the interval for neighborhood plan updates to completing plan refinements as necessary every six years and completing more significant updates to neighborhood plans every 12 years.
4. Continue to track and improve the Neighborhood Program as monitored by performance measurements.
 - a. Maintain or increase the number of people who participate in the neighborhood planning process and the Neighborhood Network.
 - b. Maintain or increase citizens' sense of connectedness and community as measured by citywide survey and annual questionnaire as part of the Neighborhood Network event.

PROGRAM MILESTONES

To carry out these efforts, staff proposes the following schedule that includes combining neighborhoods for the Neighborhood Network over four sessions during February and March; followed by the biennial Citizen Academy series; and then the start of the SE Redmond neighborhood plan update:

Date	Neighborhood Program Component	
January 2011	Standardize a Neighborhood Network (NN) Process	
February	NN – Willows/Rose Hill & Grass Lawn NN – Idylwood/Overlake	
March	NN – North Redmond/Education Hill NN – Downtown (<i>note Bear Creek Neighborhood Plan Update adoption in first qtr 2011</i>)	
April	Citizen Academy (CA) Session 1/Session 2	
May	CA Session 3/CA Session 4	
June	CA Session 5/CA Session 6	
July	Neighborhood Plan Update	
August		
September		
October		
November/December 2011		
January 2012	NN – Willows/Rose Hill & Grass Lawn NN – Idylwood/Overlake	
February	NN – North Redmond/Education Hill NN – Downtown & Bear Creek	
March/December 2012		

NN: Neighborhood Network

CA: Citizen Academy