Planning Commission Report

To: City Council

From: Planning Commission

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Date: August 24, 2011

Title and File Number: 2010-2011 Periodic Update of Redmond's Comprehensive Plan

(L100259)

Planning Commission Adopt amendments to the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture &

Recommendation: Conservation (PARCC) Element of the Comprehensive Plan as show in

Exhibit A.

The recommended amendments are intended to: Summary:

> Reflect work completed since the last Comprehensive Plan update in 2004, including adoption of the 2010 PARCC Plan,

- Enhance the vision statement,
- Add and update policies to reflect the vision and 2010 PARCC Plan,
- Reduce repetitiveness,
- Better organize the policies, and
- Incorporate Redmond's goals for sustainability and focus on urban centers.

Adopted: policies.

Reasons the The proposed changes better reflect the recently adopted PARCC Plan **Proposal should be** (June 2010) and better align with the City's overall vision and framework

Recommended Findings of Fact

- 1. Public Hearing and Notice.
 - a. Public Hearing Date. July 27, 2011
 - **b. Notice.** The public hearing was published in the <u>Seattle Times</u>. Public notices were posted in City Hall, at the Redmond Library and on the City's web site. 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. The quarterly newsletter for the Comprehensive Plan update also included information about the hearing.

2. Public Comments.

During the public hearing, two Parks and Trails Commissioners spoke in support of the recommended policy changes to the PARCC Element. A week after the hearing, during the week-long comment period opened by the Planning Commission, one comment was received (Exhibit B) and is described in detail in the Planning Commission's issues matrix (Exhibit C).

Recommended Conclusions

1. Key Issues Raised by the Planning Commission

The following is a summary of the Planning Commission's major discussion issues including responses to issues raised by members of the public. Exhibit C includes a more detailed summary of the Planning Commission's major discussion issues and responses.

• The City proposed a policy that addresses sustainability in the parks system. A public comment was received relating to this policy (Exhibit B), which asked for more specificity relating to the prohibition of pesticides. The City has a detailed Integrated Pest Management operational procedure, which was shared with the Planning Commission during this discussion. However, staff recommended more general language, as policies typically don't specify operational procedures, there are limited times when pesticides are necessary, and sometimes synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are less toxic than organic varieties. The Planning Commission supported the following policy language.

PR-NEW2: Encourage conservation and sustainability throughout the Redmond parks and recreation system by preservation of significant natural areas, protection *of health and* natural resources, and sustainable design, construction, *renovation and maintenance of* facilities.

• The Planning Commission requested language to encourage development of Wi-Fi, or the next generation of our communications system, into the parks system. The Commission felt that more use of technology in the park system will attract more users, whether it is

through advanced lighting systems to allow evening or early morning uses, Wi-Fi, or the next generation of our communications system. Staff proposed the following modification to an existing policy and the Planning Commission supported the change.

PR-21/54 Design new and renovated facilities utilizing appropriate *construction and maintenance* technologies to gain cost efficiencies and conserve resources and *integrate technology into park design, as appropriate, to* accommodate diverse uses and increase capacity through extended and expanded *uses*.

2. Recommended Conclusions of the Technical Committee.

The recommended conclusions in the Technical Committee Report (Exhibit D) should be adopted as conclusions.

3. Planning Commission Recommendation.

The motion to recommend the Comprehensive Plan amendments in Exhibit A was approved by a vote of 6 to 0. The Planning Commission approved their report to City Council on August 24, 2011.

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A:	Planning Commission's Recommended Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan PARCC Element	ne
Exhibit B:	Public Comments	
Exhibit C:	Planning Commission Final Issues Matrix	
Exhibit D:	Technical Committee Report	
Robert G. Odle, Planning Director		Date
Thomas Hinman,	Planning Commission Chair	Date
Approved for Council Agenda:		
John Marchione, I	Mayor	Date