

City of Redmond Planning Commission

January 9, 2013 Meeting Summary
Redmond City Hall – Council Chambers
15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond, Washington

Planning Commissioners in Attendance:

Franz Wiechers-Gregory, Chair; Scott Biethan, Phil Miller, Eric Murray, Robert O'Hara and Sheri Sanders

Planning Commissioners Excused:

Vibhas Chandorkar

Staff in Attendance:

Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner, Jeff Churchill, Senior Planner; Eric McConaghy, Associate Planner; Cathy Beam, Principal Planner and Judd Black, Manager, Development Review

Call to Order:

Chair Wiechers-Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the agenda:

The agenda was approved without changes.

Items from the audience:

None

Approval of meeting minutes and summary:

Meeting minutes for November 14, 2012 and November 28, 2012 and the meeting summary for December 5, 2012 were approved unanimously without changes.

Report Approval, General Sewer Plan Map Amendment:

The motion to approve the Planning Commission Report passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Briefing, Southeast Redmond Neighborhood Plan Update:

Jeff Churchill, Senior Planner, briefed the Planning Commission on outreach activities within the Southeast Redmond neighborhood, including a report on the December 3, 2012 workshop held at City Hall. In addition, Mr. Churchill indicated that he was seeking any questions or observations from Planning Commissioners and would also identify next steps in the neighborhood update process.

Outcomes from the 12/3/12 workshop were summarized as:

- Stakeholders working together to brainstorm ideas;
- Participants identified having better buffers between residential/business/manufacturing uses as a high priority; and,
- Creating a walkable place around the future light rail station also was identified as a high priority

Commissioners Biethan and Murray said they had attended workshops and felt that there was a good turnout and input from various individuals representing residents, businesses and education. They stated further that they appreciated the efforts of staff in getting the word out about the neighborhood plan update process and the challenge in engaging people. Mr. Churchill identified the next steps as Council appointment of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) on January 15, 2013 and the first CAC meeting in late January. The next neighborhood event is scheduled for April, 2013.

Study Session, Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan Amendments for Tree Removal Exceptions and Definition of Technical Committee:

Eric McConaghy, Associate Planner, stated that he and Cathy Beam would introduce the topic and assist in identifying discussion issues with the Planning Commission. The applicant is Neighbors and Citizens for a Sustainable Redmond (Sustainable Redmond). The applicant's request is for amendments to Redmond's Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan that relate to exceptions to tree protection regulations. The applicant has also requested a definition for the Technical Committee as part of the Comprehensive Plan glossary and Zoning Code definitions section. The Technical Committee recommendation is to: 1) revise the Comprehensive Plan glossary to remove a recently added definition for Technical Committee and instead use links to point to the definition of Technical Committee in the Redmond Municipal Code, and 2) deny the applicant's requested amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. Planning Commission discussed the topic and staff recorded the Planning Commission's questions and issue items on the issue matrix. Chair Gregory confirmed with staff that the public hearing will be held January 16, 2013, with a follow-up study session scheduled for January 23, 2013.

Announcements and Scheduling

Sarah Stiteler, Staff Liaison, noted that the City Council held a combined business meeting and study session the previous evening, January 8, 2013 and had discussed the proposed policy and code amendments for the Downtown that the Planning Commission had reviewed and recommended in November, 2012.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:38 p.m.

Summary prepared by:

Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner / Planning Commission Staff Liaison