

City of Redmond Planning Commission

**February 20, 2013 Meeting Summary
Redmond City Hall – Council Chambers
15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond, Washington**

Planning Commissioners in Attendance:

Franz Wiechers-Gregory, Chair; Vibhas Chandorkar, Vice-Chair, Phil Miller, Eric Murray, Robert O'Hara and Sheri Sanders

Planning Commissioners Excused:

Scott Biethan

Staff in Attendance:

Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner and Pete Sullivan, Senior Planner

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 meeting summary:

The meeting summary for February 13, 2013 was approved unanimously without changes.

Study Session, Proposed Amendments Regarding 1) Comprehensive Plan Goals, 2) Comprehensive Plan Policies for Building Design, and 3) Zoning Code State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Exemption Thresholds.

Chair Wiechers-Gregory acknowledged e-mail correspondence sent to the Commission by the applicant, Mr. Robert Pantley regarding the proposed amendments. Pete Sullivan, Senior Planner, introduced the topic and identified the applicant's proposals:

- 1) The first proposal by the applicant is for the addition of a goal to the City's Comprehensive Plan Goals to speak more directly to sustainability. Mr. Sullivan stated that the applicant, Robert Pantley, and he had discussed these proposals and the applicant's intent for the first proposal is to: a) elevate Redmond's commitment to sustainability and, b) for greater recognition of the built environment as providing more opportunities to incorporate sustainability.
- 2) Secondly, an additional proposal is to revise Comprehensive Plan policy language to encourage superior architectural design. The applicant's intent is to: a) facilitate development of innovative and green buildings, and, b) have proactive vs. defensive design requirements in the Redmond Zoning Code.

3) The third proposal is for the City to raise the SEPA exemption thresholds in the Redmond Zoning Code. The intent is to: a) raise awareness of these new thresholds and to make sure that the City is aware of, and considering these, and, b) encourage the City to follow up with an appropriate increase to exemption thresholds. Mr. Sullivan stated that Redmond is currently at the ceiling of the exemption thresholds provided by State law and would be considering the issue of raising them later in 2013 after the Department of Ecology had finished its update of SEPA administrative rules.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the applicant's proposals as well as alternatives that had been considered by staff and the Technical Committee, as well as the Technical Committee recommendations on each of the three proposals. The Planning Commission reviewed the information and stated that they looked forward to input from Mr. Pantley at the public hearing the following week.

Briefing, Central Puget Sound Growing Transit Communities Program

Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner, gave a briefing on the Growing Transit Communities program that is the result of a \$5 million grant to the central Puget Sound region and administered by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). The grant was awarded to this region to capitalize on the \$15 billion investment in new light rail in this region, and to support planning and implementation of more livable and sustainable communities that are associated with these transit investments. Redmond is one of the founding partners of the consortium and is participating in several of the efforts underway within the scope of the grant, including the East Corridor Task Force, the Affordability Steering Committee, the Equity Network Steering Committee and the Oversight Committee. Currently, a draft Regional Compact and Corridor Action Strategies are being reviewed by partners to the grant with expected final approval this summer by the Oversight Committee, which is the regional review body for the grant activities. The grant is for a three year term and all work will be completed prior to February 1, 2014.

Announcements/Scheduling

Sarah Stiteler, Staff Liaison, reviewed items that the City Council had taken action on at their meeting the previous evening, February 19, 2013.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Summary prepared by:

Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner / Planning Commission Staff Liaison