



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

REDMOND 2050 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday December 10, 2020

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

1. Meeting Logistics - Reminders on How to Use Teams

Staff shared a slide with Teams logistics reminders.

2. Roll Call

CAC members present: Armstrong, Blumenfeld, Brakke, Castro, Chandorkar, CK, A. Coleman, M. Coleman, Cruz, Duval, Joffre, Norling Stoner, Thompson, Varadharajan, Wang, Wu

CAC members absent: Bhagwat, Jacob, Koehn

Staff present: Caroline Chapman, Senior Planner; Jeff Churchill, Planning Manager; Tam Kutzmark, Senior Planner; Ian Lefcourte, Planner

3. Committee Member Introductions

None - all CAC members present had introduced themselves in November.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary for November 12, 2020

The meeting summary was approved without objection.

5. Existing Conditions Reports: Housing, Economic Vitality, and Transportation

Mr. Churchill introduced the agenda item and provided an overview of the introduction chapter to the Existing Conditions Report. Mr. Lefcourte provided an overview of the housing section. Ms. Chapman provided an overview of the

Economic Vitality section. Staff asked CAC members to consider the following questions in small groups:

- *What additional policy considerations should be added?*
- *What did you find useful?*
- *What information is needed to inform policy choices?*
- *What other ways could these reports be improved?*

Housing small group discussion summary:

Suggested Policy Considerations

- Promote and provide housing options that factor in pandemic health considerations as future pandemics are possible. For example, garden apartments have exterior entrances to the individual housing units while taller podium housing typically provides access to the individual housing units through interior hallways.
- Review standards and regulations for HVACs; consider updating if prudent to increase human health and environmental efficiency.
- Promote infill development through incentives (e.g. expediated permitting) and less stringent codes.
- Promote infill, explore innovative infrastructure strategies to facilitate annexations and increasing housing unit density in neighborhoods that are currently low density.
- Revise regulations to facilitate the development of ADUs, multiplexes, and townhomes, across single family neighborhoods, similar to Portland or Minneapolis.
- Focus the redevelopment/retrofitting of existing large houses into multiplexes. Where possible, minimize tear downs and new construction.
- Allow a wider variety of housing types in detached single-family zones.
- Develop regulations that allow individual units to be sold as private, individual housing units. For example, selling ADUs to a different person than the main homeowner.
- Recognize that, and plan that, housing will become more reliant on quality internet service as vital for independence.
- Cluster housing units to create dense walkable areas, and where possible, locate small local businesses within those areas.
- Create safe walkable/bikeable connections between housing and amenities (transit, jobs, recreation, education). This includes pathways, trails, and sidewalks that are ADA compliant and built with “universal design” principles. Also design these components with an eye towards pandemic best health practices.

- Consider partnerships between the city and other organizations to develop affordable housing on surplus City land.
- Create regulations that allow multifamily buildings to create the most affordable units, with an emphasis on units lower area median income (AMI) units. Consider expanding the range of AMIs for affordable units.
- Consider establishing a City employee position that focuses on educating people on housing: buying a home, affordable rental opportunities, how to build an ADU, etc.

Suggested Additional Information to Include in Existing Conditions Report

- Projections for long-term remote working trends based on how COVID-19 Pandemic has altered business practices. If not possible to create accurate long-term projections, perhaps some brief narrative within the report. Are there any new best design practices?
- Possible for more information on housing preferences of aging community members (70+) on whether they want to move out of homes and into smaller downtown units.
- Reflect on distribution of school students across housing relative to which school they attend.
- Include legal background on the challenges of constructing condominiums in Washington state.
- Recognize the nexus of outdoor amenities, recreation, housing, and employment.
- Any nuanced demographic projections which are particularly relevant to housing (and are not already discussed in the introduction).

Economic Vitality small group discussion summary:

Suggested Policy Considerations

- Considerations for small businesses including in the manufacturing sector. "Makers spaces" and warehousing for co-working spaces that would also have retail. Might include "just in time" manufacturing as technology like 3D printing becomes more readily available.
- What policies will support a green economy and ways to enhance sustainability?
- Develop impactful programs and policies that further the goals of equity and affordability.
- Mitigate the displacement of existing businesses as development occurs to maintain business diversity and support local establishments.
- Develop policies that will support and maintain a diversity of businesses to meet the needs of residents at all income levels.

- Retain existing character of the city and attract small, locally owned businesses.
- Support and encourage small neighborhood-based businesses and startups.
- Consider regional resources and strengths in developing Redmond's economic strategic plan.
- Plan for flexible spaces for office, manufacturing, and retail to be ready for unknown changes in the market
- Nodes or small, neighborhood scale retail to enhance walkability and support teleworking residents.
- Consider rental caps for businesses, potentially only on smaller locations to encourage small entrepreneurs.

Suggested Additional Information to Include in Existing Conditions Report

- What "levers" or ways does the city have to influence economic vitality?
- Reasons behind manufacturing's decline and details on the types of manufacturing that has declined.
- More information on small businesses and what businesses (and types) are Redmond outside of the major employers
- Economic and housing: what are the rough salaries by sectors? More information on workforce housing and wages.
- More data on regional picture, especially with the Innovation Triangle
- Income by race
- Data on rent and lease costs for the city, especially retail and class C office space
- Trends and predictions in workforce and types of jobs going forward

Transportation small group discussion summary:

Suggested Policy Considerations

- Promote and provide efficient transportation to move people from their homes to the light rail stations. Consider improved regional bus service; consider sufficient parking at stations.
- Establish or strengthen partnerships with Redmond businesses to help promote efficient commuting that meets the City's transportation vision (i.e. non-single-occupant-vehicle travel)
- Consider micromobility options (e.g. scooters) as a viable alternative and policy focus area. Explore how other cities partner with businesses and neighborhoods to promote micromobility, and to offer more specific metrics or outcomes that operators could work toward meeting.

- Support (or more support) for better transit along Willows Road and improved transit speed and reliability, for example by investing in queue jumps and other techniques that keep buses moving.
- Support for prioritizing bicycle facilities for all ages and abilities.
- Consideration of how autonomous vehicles will shape the transportation system, and for pilot autonomous vehicle projects in Redmond.
- Support for public-private partnerships that utilize private assets (e.g. Microsoft Connector vehicles) for public mobility purposes when they are not needed for private use.
- Improved mobility options in single-family neighborhoods where household size or other factors may preclude residents from choosing to live somewhere in Redmond with broader mobility options.
- Support for electronic charging infrastructure and other techniques to reduce reliance on vehicles powered by fossil fuels.
- Consideration of how teleworking and broader travel patterns will shape how we plan for mobility after the pandemic.

Suggested Additional Information to Include in Existing Conditions Report

- Information about park and rides and other parking facilities.
- Information about business partnerships that support transportation demand management (TDM) program goals (e.g. Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association (GRTMA), Go Redmond, Hopelink)
- Information about how the City does now, and plans to, implement TDM programs in support of the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan.
- Information about what is needed to expand and enhance existing modes. For example, what needs to happen to support better transit along Willows Road and improve transit speed and reliability?
- Information about what we know/don't know about how teleworking and broader travel trends will change/not change after the pandemic.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Norling was elected committee chair by majority vote. Mr. Cruz and Ms. Joffre were elected committee vice chairs by majority vote.

Adjourn – 7:28 p.m.