DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
REDMOND 2050 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday March 11, 2021

1. Roll Call

Chair Joffre called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

CAC members present: Armstrong, Bhagwat, Blumenfeld, Brakke, Chandorkar, A. Coleman, M. Coleman, Cruz, Joffre, Koehn, Stoner, Thompson, Varadharajan, Wang, Wu

CAC members absent: Castro, CK, Jacob

Staff present: Jeff Churchill, Planning Manager; Beckye Frey, Principal Planner; Ian Lefcourte, Planner

2. Approval of Meeting Summary for February 11, 2021

The meeting summary was approved without objection.

3. Redmond 2050 Themes

Ms. Frey introduced the four Redmond 2050 themes: equity and inclusions, resiliency, sustainability, and being a technology forward community. Ms. Frey described the community engagement occurring that focuses on these themes as well as how staff will use the themes to inform Comprehensive Plan policy development. The CAC broke into two groups to discuss the themes.

<u>Group 1: Sustainability and Resiliency</u>

<u>What does **sustainability** mean to you? Does our working definition need any adjustment?</u>
- Continuation and Maintenance, or Growth and Change
  - o It implies a continuation, suggesting we should talk about future generations
  - o It implies thriving now and into the future – intergenerational equity
  - o Sustainability suggests maintenance at a similar level as now, but definition seems to suggest change or growth

- o Are we about "maintaining" or "progressing" – being better than we have been in the past?
- **Natural Environment**
  - o Natural environment comes to mind first – recycling, composting
  - o Environmental came to mind first, such as sustainable transportation.
  - o What is unsustainable? Rising housing costs, so affordable housing is sustainable. Need to provide alternatives to cars and promote biking and walking.
  - o Expand on the "environmental vitality" of definition.
- **Economic Prosperity for Whom?**
  - o We need to change things that might not be the best financially. Economic prosperity is not a priority.
  - o We must invest in sustainable solutions.
  - o We need prosperity for everyone. Need more "for all" to address reduction in inequality.
  - o Sustainability requires clearly defining our benchmarks to evaluate tradeoffs and how to spread prosperity equitably.

What does **sustainability** mean to your daily experiences in our community? How does/should **sustainability** impact our built and natural environment?
- I have a hard time composting in my condo, but where I lived before in Redmond (micro housing with a community of younger people) there were collective compost bins in the garage. **Composting services should be available for all residents.**
- Over time, how do we make all the change in downtown still feel like an out-of-city environment, with green space is close by and accessible; i.e., downtown should not feel like all-of-a-sudden concrete everywhere. We want **harmony and a constant sense of the natural environment**.
- Buildings should **manage stormwater** and not pollute rivers; **encouraging solar; bike and ped-friendly frontages**
- World's most sustainable areas tend to be denser; spaces are smaller, and many don't have cars
- **Density that allows life without a car.** This will require a radical shift from the current Redmond of big individual houses on big lots.
- Locate **community spaces along the edge of Marymoor Park**; people would visit the park and those community spaces.

What does **resiliency** mean to you? Does our working definition need any adjustment?
- Protecting weak spots – build into definition.
- Protecting people with fewer resources; people with more resources can withstand bigger shocks.
- Prevention (early warning).
- Second sentence wording is awkward. Of course you have to take action during unexpected events. Like in Puerto Rico, you always have to prepare for storm season. But even when something unexpected happens like an earthquake, you still act.
- Preparing for the unknown.
- "Adapt and learn" vs. "Adapt and grow." "Grow" feels like putting positive spin on a negative thing.

- There are different levels of crises, and that should be addressed somewhere, if not in the definition. For example: things happen over which Redmond doesn't have control, like COVID relief. Should plan for where you have control.

What does <u>**resiliency**</u> <u>mean to your daily experiences in our community? How does/should</u> <u>**resiliency** impact our built and natural environment?</u>
- If small businesses fail in a crisis (like COVID), then we are not a resilient community
- The speed at which businesses failed in pandemic suggests a fragile system that lacks a safety net.
- Fragility is the opposite of resiliency. Community (people) created resiliency for some local businesses that were on the brink.
- Some businesses are paycheck to paycheck
- As a community we seem resilient, but it can mask individual challenges. If someone loses their job, there's no hand holding them (reference to pictogram for this theme).

<u>Group 2: Equity and Inclusion, and Technology Forward</u>

<u>What does **equity & inclusion** mean to you? Does our working definition need any</u> <u>adjustment?</u>

- Use of "resident" is too limiting – needs to incorporate everyone who works, shops, visits, etc.
- Use of term "fairly" - how is that defined? Should that be equitable or some other term that might not be interpreted in many different ways, especially when we start looking at services?
- Hard to define without using those terms "equitably" etc.

<u>What does **equity & inclusion** mean to your daily experiences in our community? How</u> <u>does/should **equity & inclusion** impact our built and natural environment?</u>

- Don't know if this current audience includes people living in all areas – accessibility to city services does vary (northern parts of Avondale, etc.). Ask outlying areas. Need a broader audience to get feedback.
- Affordable housing is too much apartments and not multi-generational housing… puts the responsibility on the resident instead of being inclusive of the needs for different cultures… it would be nice to see some responsibility to address implicit bias in the types of housing choices available.
- The implementation of equity needs to be very organic (in people's mindset) and in the public-facing elements of the City (police, fire, permit services, etc.) Awareness of needs of the community comes as a side effect of this education. No quick solution… need policy, but also need to educate public and employees.
- Off 51st a series of houses built in 50/60s on acre lots that are transition – most new houses start at $2M… losing "affordable" homes. Is there any way the City can do anything different to keep those new homes at the same price – size of homes or something?

<u>What does **technology forward** mean to you? Does our working definition need any adjustment?</u>

- Privacy and security considerations – can we wrap that into the definition? Open data sharing.

<u>What does **technology forward** mean to your daily experiences in our community? How does/should being a **technology forward** community impact our built and natural environment?</u>

- Losing a portion of the community members, especially seniors. Don't lose them --- training classes or ramp up needed.
- Tech reasonable – if you need a new computer to use the new tech, that is not a reasonable expectation. Don't put out forms in the newest format that can't be read unless you've got the newest tools, etc.
- City Services – will be useful to have a broad plan in place in advance – e.g. emergency services… information is either not reliable at a particular point or time or hard to find. Earthquake happens – what happens?   How do we handle this? That's not broadly available.
- Example – KC Community Court – a significant number of people using that system do not have access to technology AT ALL. They have to get help – not financially capable of owning powerful enough computer and not enough publicly available computers to use.
- Technology not working great – app for Redmond Services – up pops a map of the US. If you touch continue it says no location selected. Need to think things through and test on different platforms before releasing.
- Emergency preparedness. What happens without electricity? Bellevue had a program at one time for Emergency Prep. Was a great program.
- On Redmond Citizen Core Council, works hand in hand with Redmond Emergency Preparedness – have an emergency preparedness fair. Redmond Citizen Core Council works hard to communicate and train people – most people ignore/recycle notices that come in the mail.
- Does technology only mean IT or does it mean something else? Solar?
- Switch out of fossil fuels.
- Buying green power.

4. Redmond High School Student Presentations

Redmond High School Honors 9 English students and teachers joined the CAC to present need and solution statements related to Redmond's future. RHS teachers Victoria Rice, Kevin Joffre, and Ollie Hurt introduced the topic. The three presentations were:

1. <u>**Opportunities for the Homeless**</u>, presented by Apuroopa Kavikondala, Omar Khalil, Alek Prunk, and Sanjay Ram. This group focused on the benefits of additional employment opportunities in reducing the incidence homelessness.

2. <u>Mental Health Resources for Teens</u>, presented by Luly Rejtman, Nanda Junu, America Galicia, Veronica Martinez, and Neeha Darbha. This group shared the idea of peer-to-peer mental health support via an app to increase access to mental health support.

3. <u>Resources to Decrease Loneliness Among the Elderly</u>, presented by Emma Morrissey, Joseph Sigall, Ishwari Thorat, and Pratyush Kore. This group advocated for an easily accessible community center and allotting additional funds to senior centers and senior programming.

CAC members and City staff asked questions of each group and thanked the students for their outstanding presentations.

5. Good of the Order

Mr. Churchill advised the CAC that the Redmond 2050 environmental consultant will be conducting a climate vulnerability assessment. This will extend the schedule for Phase 1 of Redmond 2050 by about four months. It will also allow the project to take advantage of the results of the data and analysis generated through the assessment. The assessment would have been completed anyway, but incorporating it into Redmond 2050 accelerates the work and makes the results available for use as part of Redmond 2050.

Adjourn – 8:06 p.m.