



REDMOND 2050 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

REDMOND 2050 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 13, 2021

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

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

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

CAC members absent: Armstrong, Bhagwat, CK, Jacob, Wu

Staff present: Caroline Chapman, Senior Planner; Jeff Churchill, Planning Manager

2. Approval of Meeting Summary for April 15, 2021

The meeting summary was approved without objection.

3. Growth Scenarios

Ms. Chapman shared preliminary results of growth modeling.

CAC Questions and Discussion

- Do the models assume there will be 13- and 19-story buildings? Densities should visually match or be similar along 148th Ave NE, the border with Bellevue.
 - *Staff response: there are 13- and 19-story buildings in Centers scenario, in Overlake only.*
- Some corridors have no services and so are not as walkable as others. That needs to be evaluated when considering growth scenarios.
- What are the traffic characteristics of each of these? That information would be helpful in evaluating the scenarios. For now, whichever results in less growth in Downtown is preferred.
 - *Staff response: transportation demand modeling will be conducted for all scenarios.*
- Intuition says that housing costs would be higher in the Centers scenario because there are fewer lots to develop on. Is that right?

- *Staff response: the model was “told” to produce close to 20,000 new homes in each scenario, resulting in roughly the same amount of new housing supply, which is a significant factor in cost.*
- Interested in how many 13- and 19-story buildings.
 - *Staff response: In the Centers scenario there are 9 parcels with 19-story buildings and 10 parcels with 13-story buildings. The full growth modeling report will be posted online later in May.*
- How big is a parcel? What about school capacity - where will the schools go? Washington state law requires schools to have open spaces.
 - *Staff response: LWSD is a key stakeholder in this planning process. City has a responsibility to work with school districts to understand future needs. If available land is constrained then districts may respond by using different models in urban areas.*
- What is expected socioeconomically with not much SF growth but a lot of MF growth? Does this growth restrict zoning changes in other areas.
 - *Staff response: both growth scenarios assume about 5% of growth would happen elsewhere in Redmond. There are ways to diversify Redmond’s housing supply within existing single-family areas, such as by reducing barriers to building duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes.*
- Centers and Corridors scenario, if more affordable, would be preferred. Though, a Centers focus would leave more room for growth when we are here in 30 years looking toward 2080.

4. What Makes Redmond, “Redmond”?

The CAC provided input on why they came to Redmond, what made Redmond special then, and what makes it special now. Then, Mr. Churchill shared results from the “Favorite Places” interactive map and reminded CAC members about what we heard during the “Pains and Gains” questionnaire.

What brought you to Redmond? What made it special at the time?

Group 1: 10+ years in Redmond

- Built a house to sell, but went through downturn and so moved in and stayed. Kept talking about moving, but has remained.
- Has never lived in Redmond; thought it was a cute little town in late 80's. Likes the way it's laid-out; government services available in close proximity to one another; likes downtown core and downtown park.
- Parents brought me here where I was raised, what brought me back was

Group 2: <10 years in Redmond

- Came here for Microsoft out of college. Commuted from Sammamish but that was long. Loved community feel and downtown Redmond. Bellevue felt more urban.
- Also came for job at Microsoft. Lived in downtown Bellevue; moved to Overlake for transit access. Likes the downtown - walkable, bike trails compared to downtown Bellevue.
- Moved for work and needed apartments that could handle two dogs. By chance ended-up in

family, close with teachers and mentors and community.

- College brought me to Redmond from Puerto Rico, family worked for job at MS so lived in Redmond. What made it special was how accessible services were, close to get to things you need. Biking is an option and makes it worth paying for more expensive rent.
- Moved here when got married. Close to city life if you need it, progressive thinking & trees are why we're here. Moved twice but within a mile of where we lived - initially for close commute.
- Culturally vibrant, e.g., So Bazaar, but also having the trails and the parks.
- 56 years: Moved here for housing and could afford a house here, 1968 \$3k, built a house and live on an acre. Close to stores and accessible, softball at Marymoor and teams, well-kept parks are all things we enjoy.
- 2010: came for MS in 2003 first in Woodinville, came back to Ed Hill. Aspects of Redmond that remind me of small country town on a river where grew up. Access to different things like trail running and sense of home that we weren't getting in other places. Schools and RHS gave us roots, longest lived in a place.

Redmond. Great because husband loves to bike, and Marymoor is perfect for the dogs.

- Came because I thought it would be a good community to raise my children. The schools are great, the number of parks is wonderful, we are close to 520 so we can still easily get to downtown Seattle or Bellevue, we like the emphasis on sustainability, and the charm of downtown. We looked in certain neighborhoods of Redmond to live because accessibility to 520 was key.
- Things are close by - it's convenient to be able to grab and go.
- It's a comfortable city. Not worried if child ran away in parking lot; safety.
- Impressed by Redmond Police - interacted in positive ways with kids.
- Affordable when we moved here

What keeps you in Redmond? What do you love about it now?

Group 1: 10+ years in Redmond

- The people I know; it's bikeable - can go almost anywhere on Eastside and beyond; convenient by transit; have a nice garden.
- Has worked at same place in Redmond since 2001; has lived just north of Kirkland
- Keeps me here: safety, calm, not the energy of a big city, go jogging late

Group 2: <10 years in Redmond

- Community. Where do we want to raise our kids? Family orientation. Community feel from events like Derby Days.
- Sold house right before COVID, and market is so crazy and may not be able to stay in Redmond. Priced out of certain neighborhoods but love smaller-

and it's safe. If I were to start family in a place like this.

- The people are what keep me here. A lot of compassion in this community want to keep
- Slow, peaceful, lots of amenities, parks and schools, relationships-developing roots. Opportunities to move elsewhere and come back.
- Have developed roots here. It's home and sense of belonging is there.
- Traffic now with COVID makes it easy.
- Redmond Saturday Market, the historic downtown buildings (brick).

feeling community. Ed Hill and Idylwood - knows her neighbors.

- Yes, my neighbors are great; we've been very impressed with the city government and resources (communication with residents, care of parks and outdoor areas)...it is a great balance of the urban feel of Bellevue, more affordable than Kirkland, and more convenient than Woodinville.
- A lot of the same things that brought him here. Bike access - it's a good asset when thinking of raising kids.

What are the essences we want to keep? (Group 2 Only)

- People and being a forward-thinking city, inclusive, well-traveled, compassionate people. How Redmond deals with problems: want it to continue to be more progressive and have heart going forward. Redmond does more than some other places for inclusion, but want to continue to be a leader and be more inclusive future.
- Who was living here as indigenous populations - know about it and appreciate it.
- Students who are here now might not want to come back or can't afford it. Can we make it affordable again? How do we create space to come back here? Change how ownership happens. Not just market alone and market alone rules
- Leading the way in terms of inclusion & environment.
- Make it sustainable so it still stands and stands for something.
- Keep it unique so it is not a forgotten place.
- Mix of people and income levels, all ages, just starting out to retirees.

Discussion Themes

- People and community make Redmond special
- Places make it special, too, but people and community resonated most strongly
- Affordability for new residents, small businesses

5. Good of the Order

Mr. Churchill noted that Housing and Economic Vitality policy options and alternatives would be the main topic for the June 10, 2021 meeting. Transportation may also be included or may be deferred to July to ensure sufficient time for Housing and Economic Vitality.

Adjourned at 7:31 p.m.