

City of Redmond Planning Commission

October 27, 2010 Meeting Summary
Redmond City Hall – Council Chambers
15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond, Washington

Planning Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Tom Hinman, Vice Chair Franz Wiechers-Gregory, Phil Miller, Robert O'Hara, Passion Julinsey, Scott Biethen

Planning Commissioners Excused:

Tom Flynn

Staff in Attendance:

Pete Sullivan, Planning Commission staff liaison; Jim Roberts, Jeff Churchill.

Call to Order:

Commission Chair Tom Hinman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

The evening's agenda was approved without changes.

Approval meeting minutes:

Meeting minutes for 9/15, 9/22 were approved without changes. Meeting minutes for the 9/29 meeting was approved with a minor change on Page 9 for clarification.

Approval of meeting summary:

The meeting summary for 10/13 was approved without changes.

Items from the Audience

No items from the audience were presented.

Briefing, Economic Development Strategic Plan

Jim Roberts, Deputy Planning Director, provided an update on the City's Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Robert's re-capped portions of a previous presentation for the benefit of new Planning Commissioners and highlighted newer developments. A summary is provided below.

The proposed Economic Development Program would be the first of its kind for the City of Redmond. The purpose of such a program is to retain current industries and businesses, as well as attract new ones. Over the last year a consultant prepared a strategic plan outlining how the program should be structured; the plan was approved by City Council in February 2010.

As recommended by the plan, the Economic Development Alliance will be a quasi-public agency, reporting to both the Redmond City Council and Redmond Chamber of Commerce. The City is currently searching for an Executive Director; members from local business and industries will represent key stakeholders. The organization's first priority will be retaining existing businesses. The second priority, attracting new

businesses, will be accomplished through a variety of methods such as developing promotional materials, a web site, videos, and printed materials that explain the benefits of doing business in Redmond. The City expects an Executive Director to be selected in early 2011. Planning Commissioners asked clarifying questions about near-term objectives, diversification, and tie-ins to sustainability.

Study Session, Bear Creek Neighborhood Plan Update

Jeff Churchill, Senior Planner, provided an initial overview of the draft Bear Creek Neighborhood Plan Update. Accompanying Jeff were the four members from the Bear Creek Neighborhood Plan Update Advisory Committee. Jeff provided an overview of the planning process and major findings, and committee members shared their experiences participating on the committee.

The Bear Creek Neighborhood developed its first plan in the mid-1990s. Since much has changed in the area, most notably development of Redmond Ridge (just outside City limits) and resultant traffic impacts along Avondale Rd, the neighborhood's principle thoroughfare. Highlights of the proposed update include revised narrative and policy recommendations covering the natural environment, neighborhood character, traffic and land use. The neighborhood's boundary would also change under the new plan, in response to the area's current development pattern.

Announcements and Scheduling

- PC members shared thoughts on recent 152nd open house and asked staff to explain next steps.
- Pete Sullivan announced the upcoming event: Livable Redmond: A Community Conversation on Sustainability to occur Nov 3, 2010, 4:30-8:30PM and Redmond City Hall. He described the purpose of the event, its format, and how results will be used for planning purposes.
- Chair Hinman announced that he will be absent for the next two Planning Commission meetings, and explained who will Chair on his behalf
- Chair Hinman briefly previewed the Planning Commission's extended agenda, including a special joint meeting with the Parks and Trails Commission on December 2, 2010 to preview design concepts for the Redmond Central Connector.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.