

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Meeting Summary

---

**Council**

Hank Margeson, Chair  
Kim Allen  
Richard Cole

**Mayor**

John Marchione

**Staff**

Rob Odle, Planning Director  
Jim Roberts, Deputy Planning Director  
Kelley Cochran, Management Analyst,  
Public Works  
Ron Grant, Assistant Public Works  
Director  
Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, City Clerk

Convene 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn: 5:30 p.m.

Chair Margeson opened the meeting and overviewed the agenda for the afternoon.

**Stormwater Rate Study and Water/Wastewater Rate Study**

Mr. Ron Grant, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on stormwater and water/wastewater utility rate studies. He noted the dates that these items will come forward to the Council for study session; July 29 and August 12 and 26, 2008.

Ms. Kelley Cochran, Management Analyst, Public Works Administration:

- referenced the utility rate studies;
- provided the definition of enterprise funds; “Enterprise funds account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private businesses, where it is the intent of the City that the costs of providing services to the general public will be recovered primarily through user fees/rates;”
- advised that the roles of utility rate studies are to (1) identify the cost for self-supporting enterprise, (2) track which costs are changing and which customer class bears the burden, (3) provide guidelines for future financial/rate strategy, (4) document the relationship of the financial planning process and its impact on customers, and (5) document the usage and financial information for system operations and planning;
- spoke regarding the goals of the rate study and the eight steps required to meet the goals; (1) revenue sufficiency, (2) capital funding strategy, (3) fairness/equity, (4) growth pays for growth, (5) policy guidelines, (6) economic development incentives, (7) respond to changing customer base, and (8) satisfy debt requirements;
- stated that there are three financial tests that must be met: (1) net income, operating revenues must be sufficient to cover the operating expenses, including

- depreciation; (2) net cash flow, this test ensures that the utility is able to generate sufficient revenue to meet its cash obligations; and (3) coverage test, ensures allowable revenues will equal at least cash operating expenses plus a multiple of revenue bond debt service; and
- advised regarding the rate study process.

Discussion ensued regarding the rate study being applicable to single-family residentials and the increasing costs of maintaining stormwater due to the requirement of managing stormwater increasing. Members of the committee asked staff to schedule separate meetings with Councilmembers Carson and Myers to overview the rate study.

### **Stream Naming Policy**

Representatives from the Natural Resources Division of Public Works were on hand at the meeting to provide information on the State's requirements for stream naming. They noted the benefits for stream naming and advised that the process would include bringing a resolution to the Council for action on the naming of streams, followed with submission to and approval by the State for placement on the official streams map.

Members of the committee discussed bringing the matter to the Parks and Trails Commission for review and possible naming, the timeline in which to complete submission to the State to receive approval once a name is submitted, and that there are no issues created in the Shoreline Master Program requirements by stream naming.

Mayor Marchione noted that there is some debate regarding the current name of Evan's Creek; the Historical Society believes that the name of the stream is Martin's Creek.

### **Temporary Use Permit Process Update**

Planning Director Rob Odle advised that there is a community meeting planned regarding the amendment to the Temporary Use Code that will be held on July 24, 2008, in the Council Chambers, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Staff informed members of the Committee that the amendment would clarify issues that were previously brought up in the appeal process, including the Planning Director's authority to act on a "temporary encampment" permit request.

### **Quasi-Judicial Role for Council Members**

Members of the Committee and Staff discussed the City's current appeal process to Council from decisions of the Hearing Examiner. Staff advised that the other option available to the Council is to send Hearing Examiner Decision Appeals directly to Superior Court and provided information on cities in Washington State that currently follow this process. They also discussed the imposition of an appeal filing fee and provided the rates that these cities are currently charging. The fees would defray the

administrative costs of preparing the record and the hearing process; and would be sent directly to the general fund.

Members of the Committee discussed the pros and cons associated with the two processes, including their ability to interact more freely and assist citizens with their concerns. Members of the Committee also discussed providing the Hearing Examiner more ability to mediate matters that come before them.

They agreed to bring the matter back to the Planning and Public Works Committee for further discussion at their August meeting. Mr. Odle noted that any action on this item would require a change to the Redmond Community Development Guide, and would, therefore, require a public hearing at the Planning Commission level.

### **Sound Transit Update**

Mayor Marchione updated the Committee with the current Sound Transit proposal to place a proposition on the ballot in 2008. He noted that the Board would be voting on the proposal during their July 24, 2008, meeting.