

# **City of Redmond Planning Commission**

**May 25, 2011 Meeting Summary  
Redmond City Hall – Council Chambers  
15670 NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Redmond, Washington**

## **Planning Commissioners in Attendance:**

Chair Tom Hinman, Vice Chair Franz Wiechers-Gregory, Scott Biethan, Vibhas Chandorkar, Tom Flynn and Phil Miller

## **Planning Commissioners Excused:**

Canaan Bontadelli, Passion Julinsey and Robert O’Hara

## **Staff in Attendance:**

Sarah Stiteler, Planning Commission staff liaison; Kim Dietz, Senior Planner

## **Guests:**

Arthur Sullivan and Michael Stanger, representatives from ARCH - A Regional Coalition for Housing

## **Call to Order:**

Chair Tom Hinman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

## **Approval of the Agenda:**

The agenda was approved without changes.

## **Items from the audience**

No comments from the audience were made.

## **Study Session, Community Character and Historic Preservation Element**

Vice Chair Gregory, as Planning Commission Liaison for the Community Character and Historic Preservation Element suggested that before the City heads into the future with the update of the Comprehensive Plan, it is important to know where we’ve been. He recalled the 1983 community visioning process, “The Talk of the Town” in which many citizens and others identified a preferred vision for Redmond. Mr. Gregory stated that it was interesting and gratifying to see that much of what had been identified 30 years ago as important has been achieved. He stated further that the current review of the Comprehensive Plan offered a similar opportunity as the earlier process, particularly with the review of the Community Character and Historic Preservation Element.

Kim Dietz, Senior Planner, provided an overview of the Element, indicating how it integrates sustainable concepts and practices and encompasses aspects of other Elements and disciplines, such as the PARCC Plan and the Urban Centers Element. Ms. Dietz gave an introduction to the City’s historic preservation program. She described the Landmarks Commissions for the City of Redmond as well as that of King County and the process for designating a historic property. Planning Commissioners identified questions and issues for the issues matrix, which staff will respond to and provide to Commissioners prior to the next study session/public hearing on June 8, 2011.

### **Study Session, Housing Element**

Vice-Chair Gregory, as Planning Commission lead for the Housing Element requested that Sarah Stiteler give an overview of the Housing Element, summarizing the changes that have been made to update this element. Ms. Stiteler stated that the jobs/housing balance continues to be an issue in the City, with increasing employment and the challenge of having adequate supply to meet the housing needs of the population. The Housing Element also continues to emphasize needs in the Urban Centers as they are anticipated to accommodate up to 75% of the new housing units in the City in the next 20 years. Arthur Sullivan, Program Manager at ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) and Ms. Stiteler addressed issues and questions raised by the Planning Commission, as well as those to be listed on the issues table for further discussion.

The next study session/public hearing on the topic will be on June 8, 2011.

### **Study Session, Economic Vitality Element**

Chair Hinman is the Planning Commission lead for the Economic Vitality Element. Sarah Stiteler presented a summary of the changes proposed to the Economic Vitality element. She indicated that there had been considerable review of this element by the Redmond Economic Development Alliance (initially) and later by the Government Affairs Committee of the Redmond Chamber of Commerce. A new policy is proposed that speaks to the City's open, accessible and "user-friendly" atmosphere for those seeking municipal services. In addition, policies have been rewritten to be more explicit about the City's interest in delivering services in an efficient manner. Commissioners identified questions and issues for the issues table.

The next study session/public hearing on the topic will be on June 8, 2011.

### **Announcements and Scheduling**

- Commissioner Flynn stated that he had attended the East King County Housing Tour and found it to be very informative.
- Sarah Stiteler reported that the City Council had finished its second study session on the Package 1 amendments for the Comprehensive Plan update and had resolved the major issues on their issues table. The resolution stating the Intent to Adopt the Amendments will be on the City Council agenda of June 21, 2011.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

### **Summary prepared by:**

Sarah Stiteler, Senior Planner / Planning Commission Staff Liaison