

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

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Date: April 25, 2012

Subject: **2012 Redmond Neighborhood Network and Citizen Academy –
End of Year Briefing**

MEETING PURPOSE – APRIL 25, 2012

On April 25, 2012, staff will brief the Planning Commission regarding the input received from the Neighborhood Network Meetings conducted during February and March, 2012. This is an informational session.

BACKGROUND

The Redmond Neighborhood Network is a formal, annual communication channel between the City and the Redmond community. The program was piloted in 2010 and officially implemented in 2011 to:

- Help maintain connections with residents;
- Provide opportunities to check in on neighborhood plans; and
- Hear residents' ideas and concerns regarding City projects or programs, their neighborhood and other parts of the City. Neighborhood Network complements existing communication opportunities such as Redmond Citizen Academy, National Night Out, and citywide events.

The City Council adopted updated Comprehensive Plan policies in 2011 regarding the Neighborhood Network and the Neighborhood program. The policies support frequent collaboration with the City's ten neighborhoods to discuss plan implementation and to prepare for any refinements or more significant updates to neighborhood plans. Plan policy NP-1 describes

neighborhood plan update and implementation processes and calls for an annual neighborhood meeting to discuss the progress of respective neighborhood plan implementation and as necessary, a six-year refinement of neighborhood plans and a more robust twelve-year plan update. Policy NP-2 supplements this policy by emphasizing regularly scheduled communication to help maintain and foster awareness of neighborhood interests.

Redmond's Budgeting By Priorities (BP) process identified the Redmond Neighborhood Network as an existing community outreach series. As a result of the City's annual community questionnaire, staff combined the two outreach efforts in 2012 to reduce the number of invitations involving similar subject matters within a single year. The 2011 community survey included questions about how people prefer to participate in the City's BP efforts. At the time of the survey, only 9% of those surveyed indicated they preferred to participate in a focus group or meeting, 75% said to inform them through a newsletter or survey and 8% indicated they did not need involvement. Meanwhile, 88% affirmed the City's budgeting priorities.

DESCRIPTION

The Neighborhood Network meetings were organized around the City's six community priorities with the focal point being the programs that aligned with each of the priorities. Approximately 70 community members participated in three meetings at City Hall and another 111 provided their feedback through an online/paper questionnaire.

The first part of each meeting provided an "open house" format and offered participants opportunity to interact with staff representing a variety of City programs. Staff encouraged participants to ask questions and provide ideas and feedback regarding these programs.

The remainder of the meeting focused on the neighborhoods as well as an overview of the City. In facilitated discussion groups, participants were asked two specific questions:

- What are your primary concerns or suggestions for Redmond in the near-term {1 to 6 years}? Where would you like the City to focus its investments?
- What are your primary concerns or suggestions for Redmond for the longer-term {6 to 12 years}? Where would you like the City to plan for future investments?

Staff recorded the focus groups' ideas and asked participants to prioritize the programs and projects they felt were most important. Some recurring themes of the meetings included:

- Increasing enhancements to promote walkability and bikability
- Providing additional commuting and transit services
- Mitigating traffic volumes and speeds in residential areas
- Prioritizing public safety
- Fostering Downtown's economic vitality
- Supporting and fostering sustainability and the natural environment
- Providing community gardens

For a final report of the process and community input, see *Attachment A*. Pages 3 and 4 of the report list the projects and programs participants identified as high priority for the near-term (1 to 6 years) and long-term (6 to 12 years).

Staff provided the *Redmond Neighborhood Network & Budgeting By Priorities 2012 Final Report* to participants of the current Budgeting By Priorities process for their reference in developing the Requests for Offers as well as the resulting Budget Offers. The Redmond community received the report and its associated exhibits by way of their respective neighborhood webpage. Staff announced the availability of this information on neighborhood Facebook pages and through e-newsletters (currently involving approximately 1,000 subscribers). The community can also request printed copies of the report and exhibits as needed.

Feedback from an article in the Redmond Patch on the meetings is attached. {*Attachment B*}

NEXT STEPS

In addition to the Neighborhood Network Meetings, budget communications have included recruitment of citizen Results Team members, a presentation at the Redmond Citizen Academy and an upcoming coffee chat with Redmond Seniors. Press releases continue to provide timely updates regarding the budget process. In the coming months, staff plans for additional opportunities for the community to give input into the budget through Public Hearings scheduled for June 19, October 16, and November 20, 2012, by contacting the City's Budgeting by Priorities Team at bpquestions@redmond.gov or by viewing the most up to date information on the City's website (<http://www.redmond.gov/Government/FinancesandBudget/Budget/>).

ATTACHMENTS

A. Redmond Neighborhood Network and Budgeting By Priorities 2012 Final Report

- *Note: Staff will provide one printed copy of Final Report - Exhibits 1 and 7 for the Commission's reference at the April 25, 2012 meeting*

B. Redmond Patch Article: Moms Talk: Coming Home