

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

From: Jeff Churchill, AICP, Senior Planner, 425-556-2492
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Date: January 9, 2013

Subject: **Southeast Redmond Neighborhood Plan Update**

The purpose of this memo is to update the Planning Commission on progress on the Southeast Redmond Neighborhood Plan Update.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Since initiating the Southeast Redmond neighborhood plan update in summer 2012, staff has sought participation in several kick-off meetings held at a variety of times of day and locations. Most of the kick-off meetings have been held to seek ideas and concerns that should be considered as part of the neighborhood plan update. In addition, participants at the December 3, 2012 meeting were asked to work in small groups and use a variety of tools to translate key ideas identified so far by the neighborhood into draft concepts for future growth and improvements. Staff encourages Commissioners to view these draft concepts online at www.redmond.gov/seredmond. The Citizen Advisory Committee will consider these and other concepts when it convenes in early 2013.

These events were attended by a combined total of approximately 56 people. In addition, staff visited the Woodbridge community's Fourth of July picnic, which was attended by 200-300 residents, and connected with many families as they enjoyed the day's activities. Also during this first phase, 156 people subscribed to the neighborhood's Facebook page and e-newsletter, and 22 people completed a web-based neighborhood questionnaire. Ideas and concerns that participants have identified to date are enclosed as Attachment A.

At the Commission's July 11, 2012 meeting, staff identified the following topic areas to be addressed as part of this plan update:

- Transportation: truck traffic, east-west connectivity, parking, transit "last mile", and permeability of Redmond Way for people
- Economic development: growth capacity
- Housing: capacity, choices and affordability
- Parks: needs generally

- Land use: Gateway Design District regulations, Redmond Way land uses, Neighborhood Commercial cluster policies, light rail station area and relationship to Central Connector and Marymoor Park
- Neighborhood character: general character and transition to unincorporated area

Based on the issues and concerns from stakeholders as summarized in Attachment A, the neighborhood plan will also address land use compatibility, the non-motorized transportation network, and other topics that may arise during the process. Attachment B provides the anticipated work plan and schedule for the neighborhood plan update.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On January 15, 2013 the City Council is expected to appoint the Southeast Redmond Citizen Advisory Committee. Staff solicited applications for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) from both businesses and residents through a number of communication techniques, including two neighborhood-wide direct mailings, the City's website, RCTV, *Focus* magazine, the *Redmond Reporter* newspaper, announcements at meetings and in-person communication.

The applicants represent a variety of interests and viewpoints, and include residents, people who own property and businesses, and people who work in the neighborhood. While diverse in makeup, all applicants have expressed a fondness for Redmond and the Southeast Redmond neighborhood. Some applicants have previously participated in volunteer efforts with the City or other organization; others will be participating in a public process like this for the first time.

Staff expects that the CAC will meet monthly from January to September 2013. In addition, CAC members will be invited to continue to participate during Planning Commission and City Council review and action on the update.

Similar to approaches used in past years, CAC members will have an opportunity to learn about how city government works through the Redmond Citizen Academy. CAC members will be able to view videos of prior Citizen Academy sessions in advance of topic-based discussions. This approach is needed to accommodate an expedited timeframe for the neighborhood plan update.

The nature of the Southeast Redmond CAC and the neighborhood in general require a few new approaches to the plan update process. These include:

- Members of the CAC will be encouraged to engage in informal discussions with neighbors and colleagues. These conversations will help promote awareness of the neighborhood planning process and encourage additional communication and feedback among neighbors.
- CAC members will be asked to provide information regarding the plan update to their neighbors and businesses, and to update the committee on their discussions and the neighborhood's general perceptions.
- Staff plans to schedule at least three neighborhood-wide meetings as regular check-ins with the neighborhood at large (Attachment B). This type of venue will help CAC members, City staff, and other participants to understand viewpoints and ideas from members of the neighborhood as a whole. It will then allow the CAC, with guidance from staff, to refine concepts for the neighborhood plan.

PREPARATION FOR JANUARY 9, 2013 BRIEFING

Please review the enclosed materials and review the December 3, 2012 workshop results online at www.redmond.gov/seredmond.

NEXT STEPS

After the City Council appoints the CAC in January, it will begin to meet monthly through September 2013. During the first quarter of 2013 the CAC will develop concepts for the future of Southeast Redmond, using input to date as it considers various options. After developing concepts, the City will host a neighborhood-wide event to gather input, and will also gather input in other ways. During the second quarter the CAC will refine the concepts based on public input and develop them further into alternatives. Another round of concerted public outreach would follow. The CAC will finalize a preferred alternative during the third quarter, to be followed by further outreach, and then review by the Planning Commission and City Council.

ENCLOSURES

Attachment A: Summary of Ideas and Concerns from Kick-off Meetings

Attachment B: Neighborhood Planning Process and Milestones

Please contact Jeff Churchill, jchurchill@redmond.gov or Kimberly Dietz, kdietz@redmond.gov with questions or concerns.

Attachment A: Summary of Ideas and Concerns from Kick-off Meetings for the Southeast Redmond Neighborhood Plan Update

As described in the main body of this memo, staff has met with residents, business representatives, and other stakeholders in a variety of venues over the last few months. Ideas and concerns that neighborhood stakeholders have expressed to date include:

- Complete Southeast Redmond Park and incorporate amenities that support passive and active recreation for all ages;
- Provide a variety of shopping and services within close proximity to residential areas as well as employment areas;
- Foster a variety and additional opportunities for employment;
- Create additional affordable housing as well as variety of housing choices;
- Promote a strong network of connected transit opportunities;
- Plan for existing and future commuting challenges including traffic volumes passing through the neighborhood;
- Support existing businesses and their operations, noting relationships with truck traffic such as ensuring a separation between large vehicles and non-motorized connections as well as routing of large vehicles away from residential areas;
- Consider current and future demands for employee parking as well as their ease of traveling the “last mile” to work and/or home;
- Enhance neighborhood walkability and bikeability;
- Promote additional opportunities for higher education in the neighborhood;
- Focus some of the neighborhood’s future growth around the future light rail station;
- Create better buffers between residential and manufacturing and industrial land uses;
- Create non-motorized connections to nearby parks such as Perrigo Park; and
- Create a community gathering place in the neighborhood, possibly in partnership with vicinity neighborhoods.

Staff also encourages Planning Commissioners to visit www.redmond.gov/seredmond to view the draft concepts for the future of Southeast Redmond that small groups developed at the December 3, 2012 workshop.

Process and Proposed Schedule

	2012		2013				2014	
	3 rd Q	4 th Q	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q	1 st Q	2 nd Q
Neighborhood Outreach	■							
Kickoff Meetings		■						
Concepts			■	◆				
Alternatives				■	◆			
Finalize Alternatives					■	◆		
Planning Commission						■	■	
City Council							■	■

