Woodinville Comprehensive Plan Update
Vision 2035 Public Meeting

Meeting Summary: November 13, 2013

OVERVIEW
The City of Woodinville held a public meeting on November 13, 2013 from 6:30 to 9 pm in the City Council Chambers, 17301 133rd Avenue NE, Woodinville. Notice of the workshop was placed in City View a newspaper insert in the Woodinville Weekly issued November 4, 2013. The insert is delivered to every address in Woodinville. An agenda and press release were also provided to the media and posted on the website. Approximately 11 persons participated at the workshop including Planning Commissioners and a City Council person.

The purposes of the meeting were:

- To invite the public to provide input on the vision for the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update.
- To gather information from citizens on their desires and preferences for future development in the City.
- Share information on:
  - Growth Management Act Requirements
  - Project Objectives and Schedule
  - Growth Targets & Horizon Year

An open house was held for about 30 minutes followed by a presentation. After an introduction by Dave Kuhl, Development Services Department Director, Lisa Grueter, with BERK Consulting, presented information on the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan Update and trends. Bob Bengford, with MAKERS, provided an overview of the workshop exercises. The small group exercises included Interactive stations with facilitated 30-minute small group exercise with questions and boards.
MEETING SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Stations included the following topic areas:

- Visioning
- Character and Quality of Life
- Housing & Jobs
- Facilities, Services, Transportation, and Taxes
- Natural Environment and Sustainability

Facilitators at the stations included: John Owen and Bob Bengford, MAKERS; Lisa Grueter and Kevin Gifford, BERK; and Alexandra Sheeks, Tom Hansen, and Sarah Ruether, City of Woodinville. Notes from the facilitated discussion are provided below.

Persons could fill out a questionnaire or participate in the small group discussion on all the above topics. No persons returned a hard copy questionnaire at the meeting. However, nearly 45 persons have filled out a questionnaire at the City’s website to date where questions similar to the above topics are found. The online questionnaire is summarized under separate cover.

VISION STATEMENT

The group engaged in a robust discussion on the existing vision statement. Below are comments and possible changes for future discussion:

In the year 2016-2035, Woodinville is a safe, friendly, diverse, and family-oriented community that supports a successful balance of neighborhoods, parks and recreation, tourism, and business. We have preserved our Northwest woodland character, our open space, and our clean environment. We have enhanced our strong sense of community and our ability to move freely throughout the community by all modes of travel. Woodinville is a pleasant place in which to live, work, play, and visit, with a compact, inviting downtown that is attractive and functional.

Other notable visioning related discussion comments:

- Woodinville is very unique in the region – with our “close in rural character.” This refers to the following aspects:
  - The large R-1 zones – as such areas are very rare this close to Seattle/Bellevue urban centers.
  - The large open spaces/farmland in the Sammamish River Valley south of Downtown, which are largely outside of the city and the urban growth area, and largely protected as permanent open space/ farmland use (via Transfer of Development Rights).
- How do we measure success?
  - Metrics & Growth
- Discussion on “Northwest Woodland Character”
  - Much of downtown doesn’t exemplify the Northwest Woodland Character look, though most of the buildings were built before the city’s guidelines were in place.
  - Exemplified by the preservation of natural areas within and surrounding the city, by the design of new developments, notably City Hall, and by the type of landscaping (heavy emphasis on native plants) used for new and remodeled developments.
  - Blending of natural and man-made character.

Comment [b1]: Participants felt that by just saying “family-oriented” that it might be excluding others and that perhaps we add the term “diverse” to be more inclusive and recognize evolving demographic changes here and within the region.

Comment [b2]: Greater recognition/emphasis on growing wine tourism and its impact on the character and identity of Woodinville

Comment [b3]: Participants still thought this term was appropriate and that it was exemplified by the preservation of natural areas within and surrounding the city by the design of new developments, notably City Hall, and by the type of landscaping (heavy emphasis on native plants) used for new and remodeled developments.

Comment [b4]: By open space, participants noted that the farmland and open spaces that surround the city are extremely important to the character and livability of the city.

Comment [b5]: Participants felt that a greater focus on creating a stronger sense of community was important, not just in the look of the community, but in terms of programs and activities.

Comment [b6]: Participants noted that more work here is needed and wondered if “moving freely” is the appropriate wording here.

Comment [b7]: Group discussion clarifying that this means walking, bicycling, transit, and vehicles.

Comment [b8]: And vibrant riverfront mixed-use & tourist district.
Discussion on housing diversity.
  - The R-1 type lots/housing add to the diversity of housing stock in region.
  - City has more jobs than housing. More housing needed for newer generations, particularly in appropriate areas served by transit and good access to services.
  - City currently lacking land areas for new multifamily (except for CBD via redevelopment) and other compact forms of single family housing

Perhaps to expand on the vision statement in the Comprehensive Plan, we create a chart that expands upon the key concepts in the vision statement. Example:

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CHARACTER DISCUSSION

The group reviewed a poster that included images and examples of new development and actions that have occurred over the past ten years and were asked (1) whether the City was moving in the right direction given these changes and (2) what other changes/actions are desired to improve the character and quality of life in the city?

- Recession held back a lot of development over the past decade
- Perception that not much has happened over the past decade, but it's not necessarily true when examining the number and types of new development listed in the workshop poster. Perhaps there's a way to point out those things that have changed to the community.
- The main drag needs to be re-done (175th) (current businesses do not fit with desired character)
- Hard to access SR 522 – need work with state and Bothell to improve connections
• Discussion of the industrial areas – both accommodating increasing wineries and other uses, but the southern industrial is particularly ripe to transition to a mixed-use tourist district, given recent changes and its location adjacent to the Sammamish River and Trail.

• See Northwest Woodland Character comments/discussion above.

• Museum (?)

HOUSING AND JOBS DISCUSSION

The group reviewed housing and employment capacity and growth targets for 2031/2035, demographic statistics and trends, discussed the need for a broad range of housing types in key locations, and discussed ideas on adding employment capacity in the next twenty years.
Discussion:
- Future pressure for housing may require review of building heights limits — even in Downtown where heights were recently increased.
- Residential uses may begin to encroach into industrial areas.
- Consider integrating housing together with wine tourism and mixed uses in the South Industrial area to bring in more jobs and create a more attractive district with direct access to the Sammamish River.

PARKS AND RECREATION
Participants were asked: Over the next ten years, what are the 2 most important priorities for the City to focus on and dedicate financial resources to when it comes to parks/recreation?
- Trails were discussed as the most popular feature — (particularly for walking)
- Cooperate with King County especially regarding trails in the southern Tourist District
- Pursue Powerline Trail
- Use parks for concerts
- Retain reserves in case park/open space opportunities come up

TRANSPORTATION
Staff summarized planned/proposed transportation improvements and parallel transportation planning efforts and asked participants for their thoughts on major transportation concerns, requests, and suggestions.
- Funding Priorities:
  o Motorized vs. Non-Motorized
  o Where's the balance?
- Lack of regional transit facilities. Existing park and ride is in the center of town, but not convenient to SR-522 access.
- Keep traffic moving through choke-points, but find ways to let non-motorized use the corridor, as well
- Interest in a shuttle connector between tourist district and Downtown
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Background information on City Natural Environment activities was discussed, particularly restoration, though a small group discussion was not held. Posters available at the workshop are shown below.

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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: CRITICAL AREAS

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: HABITAT RESTORATION

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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS

- GOAL EN-1: To reduce the waste stream
- GOAL EN-2: To promote energy conservation
- GOAL EN-3: To preserve and enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat
- GOAL EN-4: To protect the public from health, landslide, erosion and other natural hazards resulting from deficiencies of the environment
- GOAL EN-5: To protect and improve water quality
- GOAL EN-6: To promote the preservation of Northeast Woodinville character
- GOAL EN-7: To protect and improve air quality
- GOAL EN-8: To explore innovative opportunities for environmental protection, maintenance and enhancement objectives as part of all city planning and development reviews

Is there anything missing?

Would you change anything?

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Woodinville Comprehensive Plan: Vision Workshop
Prepared: December 16, 2013