

Date: January 26, 2010

Betsy Pringle, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Pringle introduced herself as the chair for the group, and stated her intent to remain neutral in discussions. She said that she will have an opportunity to discuss her opinions later, when the Houghton Community Council considers the plan.

All members then introduced themselves. Two members were absent: Tom Markl and Colleen Cullen.

Ms. Pringle discussed the materials that had been included in the packet distributed to members of the Advisory Group. First, she went over the group's role, mission and process. Staff noted that a new handout was included in the binders provided for members at the meeting, which included a flow chart for the plan update process.

Ms. Pringle also discussed the ground rules proposed for the group. There was some discussion about the proposed rule that no one "speak for others". The rule was clarified through discussion, and the members generally decided that they would preface any comments they made that represented the views of people not in attendance with a reference to the source of the views.

Ms. Pringle went over the proposed schedule that was included in the packet. She pointed out the meeting dates and planned topics for discussion. One member noted that the meeting planned for March 30<sup>th</sup> would conflict with the Passover holiday.

Ms. Pringle then asked the two representatives in the audience from the Kirkland Heritage Society if they wanted to speak. Ms. Loita Hawkinson spoke, providing a quick overview of the history of Houghton.

Advisory Group members asked if they could hear more about the history. Staff responded that this topic could be addressed in more detail at a future meeting.

Dorian Collins, Senior Planner with the City then reviewed the maps on display, providing a quick overview of the Central Houghton neighborhood boundaries and land use pattern. Questions and discussion followed regarding the origin of the split of the Houghton area into two neighborhoods: Central Houghton and Lakeview. The merits of combining the two neighborhoods into one were discussed.

Several group members expressed interest in the South Kirkland Park & Ride site, and inquired about their involvement in discussions regarding this area, since it lies within the Lakeview neighborhood. Staff stated that they would report back to the group regarding discussions on this site from the Lakeview Advisory Group.

Ms. Pringle stated that discussion of the South Kirkland Park & Ride would be put on the "parking lot" list for future discussion.

One group member asked if a map could be provided that indicates the locations of uses such as churches and private schools.

Angela Ruggeri, Senior Planner for the City then went over the existing neighborhood plan for Central Houghton, pointing out the sections of the plan that will need to be updated. She explained the changes to format that will be needed to make the plan consistent with other neighborhood plans in the Comprehensive Plan. Her comments introduced the group to the topics that would be discussed in the Visioning exercise, to follow.

Scott Guter, Planner with the City, introduced the Visioning exercise to the group. The members were divided into three groups of about four people each, and charged with developing several "mini-vision statements" about each topic area to be included within the neighborhood plan (such as Land Use, Natural Environment, etc.).

The groups spent approximately 45 minutes in active discussion, and wrote their ideas on flip charts.

Planning staff will type all of the comments from the charts for distribution to the advisory group members. At the meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, members will have an opportunity to vote on the mini-statements they believe are most important.

Initial reports from the groups included the following "big inspirations":

- Rails going to trails provides opportunities
- Community center (similar to Crossroads mall) at Houghton Center
- Public involvement in school development and redevelopment
- Shuttle between Park & Rides and Houghton Center

The meeting ended at 9:00.