



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 2015

To: Planning Commission

From: Janice Coogan, Senior Planner
Paul Stewart, AICP, Deputy Director
Eric R. Shields, AICP, Planning Director

Subject: Comprehensive Plan Update, File No. CAM13-00465 #5

This memo addresses the City Council Comments on:

- Draft Community Character Element
- Draft Economic Development Element

I. RECOMMENDATION

Consider City Council comments on the draft Community Character and Economic Development Elements and staff's suggested text changes in response to those comments.

II. BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

On January 20, 2015, City Council was briefed on the draft Community Character and Economic Development Elements. The City Council webpage contains the [packet](#) information they received. Below are staff's suggested text additions in response to these comments. Staff would like to know if the Planning Commission agrees with the proposed text changes shown in underlined text below.

A. Draft Community Character Element

1. Comment: Add "emergency management services" to Policy CC 1.5

Policy CC-1.5: Work toward a safe, crime-free community.

Safety is a critical part of a strong community. A community's safety is dependent not only on the Police and Fire Departments, and Emergency Management Services,

but also on the community itself. The City should support educational and community programs that provide citizens with the information and tools necessary to work toward a safe community and to be prepared in case of an area-wide emergency. In addition, the City should support design standards that promote safety and discourage crime in new development.

2. Comments:

- *Page 14, Goal CC-4- add new policies (or text) to the built environment section that expresses our strong community values in the following areas and cross ties these ideas to other elements.*
 - Comment: *Describe Kirkland as a place to live, work, play often in the same neighborhood and mention our 10 minute neighborhood concept as an aspect of our community character.*

Staff response: On page 17, add to the introduction paragraph of the Built and Natural Environment section the following new text:

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Kirkland is fortunate to have fine qualities and a well-established identity based on a unique physical setting and development pattern. Kirkland is a great place to live, work and play, where many people can reach their daily services within a short walking distance. See the Land Use Element for more discussion.

The Comprehensive Plan recognizes many urban design principles that contribute to Kirkland's identity, such as gateways, views, scenic corridors, waterfront access, historic sites, building scale, manmade and natural landmarks, and pedestrian and bicycle linkages.

As the built environment continues to change and densify, these design principles along with development regulations are used to maintain the quality of life in the community. Neighborhood identity, building design, protected public views, and mitigated impacts, such as noise and lighting, are some of the important factors that maintain and even improve this quality of life.

- Comment: *Support connections to waterfront, parks on Lake Washington, to Cross Kirkland Corridor, greenways and connections within neighborhoods.*

Staff response: Add a new policy:

Policy CC-4.2: Maintain and enhance connections between neighborhoods and to the waterfront, parks, and the Cross Kirkland Corridor/Eastside Rail Corridor.

The ability to walk or bike from Kirkland's activity areas and neighborhoods to Lake Washington, parks and the Cross Kirkland Corridor is an important value and often a reason people choose to live and do business here. The Transportation, Shoreline, Parks and Land Use Elements include other initiatives that support our connectivity and shoreline access goals.

- Comment: *Add to Policy CC-4.3 that quality architectural design should also include green building, energy efficiency, and solar power; especially with civic buildings given what we've done with the Justice Center and want to do with City Hall.*

Staff recommendation: Topics such as promoting green, energy efficient buildings are addressed in the draft Environment Chapter (see Goal E-4, Policies E-4.1, 4.2, 4.3)

3. Comment: *Policy CC-4.2- keep existing word "prohibit" rather than "discourage" gated developments and add to the Planning work program to develop regulations enforcing prohibiting gated developments. That is the community character we need to express in Kirkland.*

Staff response: Staff will keep existing word "prohibit". Will also add this to the Implementation Strategies chapter to develop regulations to enforce prohibiting gated developments.

Policy CC-4.2: Prohibit gated developments.

Kirkland strives to be an open, welcoming community with inviting neighborhoods and a strong social fabric. These values can be supported by allowing public access throughout the community. Gates that restrict public access and connections through developments have an exclusionary effect and detract from a friendly, open neighborhood image. This policy is not intended to restrict fences with gates around individual single-family homes, gated multifamily parking garages, gated multifamily interior courtyards, or similar private spaces.

4. Comment: *Policy 4.8- Keep existing text to "implement" sign regulations. Add to work program to implement sign regulations.*

Staff response: Will do.

5. Comment: *Have Planning Commission/City Council revisit policy to complete the public shoreline pedestrian access trail including requiring single family development to dedicate easements shoreline access.*

Staff response: Currently public shoreline access is only required if developing larger short plats, multifamily and commercial uses. Because of the complexity and legal issues related to this topic staff will add this as an issue to study with the update of the Shoreline policies and regulations.

B. Draft Economic Development Element

1. Comment: *On page 310, for both policies ED 1.8 and ED 5.1, add a couple of sentences explaining why it is important and what to do about it.*

- Policy ED-1.8: Support locally developed enterprises by encouraging small startup businesses.

Small, startup businesses should be nurtured to promote locally owned businesses and job growth. In addition to providing job growth, local businesses employ a variety of supporting services or products in doing business within a community. In turn, this increases the amount of work for everyone in the local economy. Individuals in a local economy are able to sell their goods and services to a local business which benefits everyone in that area. Money spent at a local business keeps money in the local area.

- Policy ED-5.1: Encourage businesses that provide products and services that support resource conservation and environmental stewardship.

Local, green businesses involved in providing renewable energy, remediation, clean technology, green building, products or services or healthy lifestyles should be nurtured. These businesses generate jobs while expanding clean energy production, increasing energy efficiency, generating less waste and pollution, conserving water and protecting natural resources. These businesses produce goods and services with an environmental benefit or use innovative skills and technologies to produce them.

2. Comment: *On page 299, delete self- contained community*

Staff response- Will do.