

CITY OF KIRKLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Updating the Shoreline Master Program

THE PUBLIC FORUMS

Monday, 18 September 2006, 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.
Saturday, 30 September 2006, 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

SUMMARY

OF KEY THEMES, ISSUES AND CITIZENS' SUGGESTIONS

by Jim Reid, The Falconer Group, Facilitator of the Forums

THE FORUM'S GOALS

These were the primary goals of the two public forums sponsored by Kirkland's Department of Planning and Community Development to introduce to the public the update of the City's Shoreline Master Program: 1) Hear from the City about why this project is required and needed and what issues it may address; 2) Advise the City on what issues are of greatest interest and concern to the stakeholders and, therefore, should be included in the project; and 3) Identify the City's and stakeholders' common interests in protecting the City's waterfront.

WHO ATTENDED THE FORUMS?

In total 28 citizens attended the two forums, 14 at each one. Of these, three people live on Lake Washington and one lives outside the City in its Potential Annexation Area (PAA). At the Saturday morning forum over half the audience identified themselves as residents of the City for more than thirty years.

THE FORUMS' AGENDA

To understand the process used at each forum to present information and solicit citizens' perspectives, opinions and recommendations, please see the forum agendas that are attached at the back of this document.

KEY INTERESTS THE UPDATE SHOULD ACHIEVE

Staff articulated for the citizens these five primary interests of the City:

- Provide a healthy environment along the shoreline to enable current and future generations to enjoy using it.
- Provide a healthy environment along the shoreline to preserve fish and wildlife and their habitats.
- Protect the City's investments as well as those of property owners along and near the shoreline.
- Produce an updated Shoreline Master Program (SMP) that is supported by Kirkland's elected officials, citizens, property owners and businesses, the State of Washington, and other key interest groups with an interest in the shoreline.
- In updating the SMP, efficiently achieve the mandates of the State.

At the forums there was citizen support of these interests. The people attending the forums articulated these additional interests and goals (there was no effort made to achieve consensus on these):

- Provide education, incentives and outreach to motivate or enable homeowners, property owners to be partners in implementing the updated SMP.
- Encourage restoration and coordinate ecological enhancement/restoration of City-owned properties with that on adjacent private waterfront properties.
- The City should proactively take actions to facilitate substantial changes for ecological improvement along the Kirkland waterfront, rather than wait for a few owners to voluntarily make improvements in a piecemeal fashion. Consider working with a group of owners of contiguous properties to facilitate efforts to ecologically improve a section of shoreline.
- Offer flexibility in design or design options for achieving the mandates of the SMP; e.g., when bulkheads are removed, allow for some of the new slope to be land, rather than requiring that it all become lake. Also consider reducing setbacks from the street to increase the setback from the lake.
- Simplify processes or ensure City permitting rules, regulations and requirements do not make it more difficult to achieve the goals and objectives of the SMP. Explore the possibility of the City providing sample plans for preferred dock designs.
- Recognize differences in the shoreline to ensure that solutions are tailored to individual and unique circumstances and conditions.
- Coordinate with other local and regional governments to ensure consistent rules and requirements, and to benefit from others' efforts that have proven successful. A "process" example: the City could learn from the Department of Ecology's adoption of Port Townsend's SMP. A "design" example: Mercer Island provides preferred dock design plans to assist anyone who is building a dock.

ISSUES TO ADDRESS IN THE SMP UPDATE

These are issues (and, perhaps, potential solutions) that were suggested during the forums for inclusion in the SMP update:

1. Address stormwater impacts on water quality and shorelines, particularly turbidity following storms and the impacts of vehicular oil and other pollution that drains untreated effluents into Lake Washington.

2. Encourage “low impact” development practices to decrease adverse impacts in areas that are outside the SMP but impact it.
3. Educate boaters about the impacts on fish and water quality of tossing their garbage into the water.
4. Manage milfoil and other invasive aquatic vegetation.
5. Address the impacts of construction activities on water quality and the shoreline.
6. Assess the City’s zoning requirements, such as those pertaining to how far from the street a house must be, to ensure that we are not inhibiting efforts to restore shorelines on private property.
7. To improve Lake Washington’s water quality, the City should charge more for moorage at marinas on the lake and offer free “pumping” services. Improving moorage and related dock services could attract overnight boats and benefit Kirkland’s economy.
8. Enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. For example, when the City takes down trees in public parks, make sure to replace them, particularly if they are close to the shoreline and, therefore, provide shading for fish.
9. Work with the State to find the funding for public education.
10. Work with other jurisdictions, such as Seattle, to assess impacts on the shorelines from activities across the lake (e.g., milfoil and litter), and join together to reduce those impacts.
11. Provide a wider range of incentives for people to restore their shorelines or engage in other activities which help achieve the City’s goals for preserving and protecting the shoreline.
12. With redevelopment or new construction, require a “softer front” on the shoreline.

WHAT STAKEHOLDERS VALUE ABOUT THE LAKEFRONT

The citizens who attended the two forums said that they most value these qualities and characteristics of Kirkland’s Lake Washington waterfront:

1. Great public access to the lake.
2. Good water quality.
3. A fairly low percentage of the waterfront has bulkheads, considering that it is “urban” lake.

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Monday, 18 September 2006
6:30 – 9:15 p.m.
Kirkland City Hall 123 Fifth Avenue

THE FORUM'S GOALS:

1. Hear from the City about why this project is required and needed and what issues it may address.
2. Advise the City on what issues are of greatest interest and concern to the stakeholders and, therefore, should be included in the project.
3. Identify the City's and stakeholders' common interests in protecting the City's waterfront.

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6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- *Refreshments will be available for your enjoyment.*
- *Materials describing the plan update process and substantive issues will also be available, as will cards upon which you can write questions or comments about the issues and process. During the meeting some of these questions will be addressed. Those that are not due to lack of time will be included in the meeting summary and considered when finalizing the project's scope.*

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|-----|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| I. | 7:00 | Welcome, Introductions, Review Goals and Agenda | Jim Reid,
Facilitator |
| II. | 7:10 | Why Update the Shoreline Master Plan Now? | Mayor Jim Lauinger |

III.	7:15	Presentations: Issues and Challenges in Protecting Kirkland's Shoreline	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>How has Kirkland's shoreline changed?</i> ▪ <i>What benefits can a shoreline provide?</i> ▪ <i>How well is Kirkland's shoreline providing those benefits?</i> ▪ <i>From experiences around Lake Washington and elsewhere, what changes in managing shorelines have helped improve fish and wildlife habitat?</i> ▪ <i>What might the City do to increase Kirkland's shoreline benefits?</i> ▪ <i>What process does the City envision to update the SMP, including involving key stakeholders in defining issues, problems and potential solutions?</i> 	<p>Michael Cogle Michael Patrice Tovar Amy Myers</p> <p>Patrice</p> <p>Patrice/Joe Burcar</p>
	8:00	Break	
IV.	8:10	Stakeholders' Questions, Concerns and Advice	Everyone
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Are there any questions about what the panelists said to clarify or elaborate on their remarks?</i> ▪ <i>What is important to you about the City's waterfront?</i> ▪ <i>What issues do you advise the City to consider during the update of the SMP?</i> 	
V.	9:05	Summarize Key Themes from Tonight's Discussion source not found.	Error! Reference
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>What were some of the key themes of the discussion, including our common interests.</i> 	
VI.	9:10	Next Steps in Our Process	Patrice Tovar, Project Manager
	9:15	Adjourn	

CITY OF KIRKLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Updating the Shoreline Master Program

PUBLIC FORUM

Saturday, 30 September 2006
8:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Kirkland City Hall 123 Fifth Avenue

THE FORUM'S GOALS:

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2. Advise the City on what issues are of greatest interest and concern to the stakeholders and, therefore, should be included in the project.
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| II. | 9:10 | Why Update the Shoreline Master Plan Now? | Mayor Jim Lauinger |

III.	9:15	Presentations: Issues and Challenges in Protecting Kirkland’s Shoreline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>How has Kirkland’s shoreline changed?</i> ▪ <i>What benefits can a shoreline provide?</i> <p>source not found.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>How well is Kirkland’s shoreline providing those benefits?</i> ▪ <i>From experiences around Lake Washington and elsewhere, what changes in managing shorelines have helped improve fish and wildlife habitat?</i> ▪ <i>What might the City do to increase Kirkland’s shoreline benefits?</i> ▪ <i>What process does the City envision to update the SMP, including involving key stakeholders in defining issues, problems and potential solutions?</i> 	<p>Michael Cogle Error! Reference</p> <p>Patrice Tovar Dan Nickel</p> <p>Patrice</p> <p>Patrice/Joe Burcar</p>
	10:00	Break		
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V.	11:05	Summarize Key Themes from Tonight’s Discussion		Error! Reference
		source not found.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>What were some of the key themes of the discussion, including the common interests of the City and stakeholders?</i> 	
VI.	11:10	Next Steps in Our Process		Patrice Tovar, Project Manager
	11:15	Adjourn		

