

Neighborhood Dialogue

October 9, 2012 Houghton Fire Station (#22)

TOPIC: Comprehensive Plan, Houghton-Everest Neighborhood Center Plan, Everest Neighborhood Plan and Central Houghton Neighborhood Plan

Summary of participant comments

Prepared by: Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager (Facilitator)

On October 9, 2012, staff from the Planning & Community Development Department and City Manager's Office hosted a "Neighborhood Dialogue" meeting to provide an update on the Houghton-Everest Neighborhood Center Plan, to further facilitate a discussion around participants' concerns expressed at recent neighborhood association meetings and to listen to further concerns and ideas about planning processes associated with the City's Comprehensive Plan and subarea plans associated with the Central Houghton and Everest neighborhood areas. There were over 35 participants.

Marilynne Beard, Assistant City Manager, started the meeting by presenting a matrix (attached) that lists the major issues raised by residents and the processes, programs, and projects that the City administers that address those concerns. She highlighted how comprehensive and subarea planning address transportation, growth management, density and other issues identified by residents. She explained how City processes involving street and sidewalk repairs, neighborhood traffic control, and parking management help to address residents' issues. She explained that city processes, programs and projects all provide for public involvement and include city-initiated communications (webpage, email updates/list serves, media relations).

Angela Ruggeri, Senior Planner, then gave an update on the Houghton-Everest Neighborhood Center Plan (Business District). She explained that due to citizen response the original timing of developing land use policies, zoning regulations and design standards for the business district has been delayed. She stated the City Council will take a more formal action at its October 16 meeting on the timing of the City's Comprehensive Plan update, including how subarea planning (e.g. Business District and Neighborhood Plans) will be conducted.

For the sake of participants who had not attended the previous neighborhood meetings, Ms. Ruggeri explained the purpose of the City's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) which is to serve as a city-wide "vision" for what the community wants Kirkland to be in the future. She stated neighborhood plans and business district plans are subsections of the Comp Plan. She stated the City will initiate a 10-Year update to the Comp Plan in 2013 which is a process that takes two years to complete.

She explained that the Central Houghton Neighborhood Plan was updated involving a citizen advisory group and was accepted by the City Council and Houghton Community Council in 2011.

Ms. Ruggeri further explained the sequential relationship between the Comp Plan, subarea plans and zoning regulations and that the best time for residents to get involved with community planning is when the Comp Plan is updated.

Ms. Ruggeri, Ms. Beard and Paul Stewart, Deputy Director, Planning & Community Development Department answered questions. Facilitator Stake called on participants.

Many participants asked about the timing of completing the city-wide Comp Plan update in relation to completing the Houghton-Everest Neighborhood Center (Business District) Plan and conducting an update to the Everest Neighborhood Plan. A second common theme was that participants were curious (and confused) about the purpose and requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA). A third common theme was about density and its impact on traffic. A fourth theme was concern that the current (approved) Central Houghton Neighborhood Plan allows for up to 5 story buildings now, if certain criteria are met, and how can there be assurances that this type of development not be allowed. Below is a summary of participant comments:

Comprehensive, Subarea Planning

- How does the Comp Plan Update work?
- What is the order of comprehensive planning? Comp Plan then neighborhood plan then business center plan? (Preference)
- Comp Plan should look at all of Kirkland, including annexation area
- Need confirmation that the Neighborhood Center Plan will be revisited within a year
- Will Business District (plans) be a part of the Comp Plan Update?
- What are the City Council's goals and vision?
- We need to trust that the City will do the Business District plan

Growth Management

- What does GMA require? ("What does it force us to do?")
- We need a meeting about GMA

Density

- Totem Lake Mall needs to develop so that it will absorb density (spare the Houghton-Everest neighborhood of more density)
- How much population does Kirkland have to accept?
- How much population does Hunts Point have to accept?
- If Kirkland is dense now (6th in State), why do we have to accept more density now?

Zoning

- How is zoning changed?
- What's the difference between zoning and planning?
- There's an inability to make infrastructure improvements. How does the City limit what can happen for development?

Building Height

- Why does there seem to be a trend toward 5-6 story buildings?
- Concerned about scale of potential development in Houghton/Everest Neighborhood Center (5 stories)

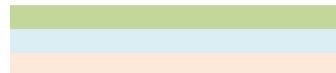
Public Involvement; Public Information

- Citizens should continue to participate
- Residents should participate in neighborhood associations and attend meetings
- Make the planning process easy for residents to participate; easy to understand
- Thank you to City for opportunity to share thoughts
- When will the project signs be removed?

Attachment: Issues Matrix

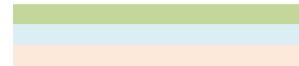
Projects Short to Medium Term						
	<i>Intelligent Transportation System</i>	<i>Cross Kirkland Corridor</i>	<i>I405 Widening</i>	<i>520 Bridge Improvements</i>	<i>South Kirkland Park and Ride</i>	<i>6th Street Sidewalks</i>
Issue						
Moving Cars, Bikes and People <i>Transportation Planning</i> <i>Intersection Capacity</i> <i>Traffic Flow (6th Street)</i> <i>Pedestrian Safety</i> <i>Bicycle Safety</i> <i>Parking in Neighborhoods</i>						
Community Planning <i>Growth Management</i> <i>Density</i> <i>Everest Neighborhood Plan</i> <i>Houghton/Everest/Neighborhood Center</i> -Scale -Density -Business Diversity -Scope of study area -Neighborhood Character						
Staying Informed and Involved <i>Involvement of Businesses</i> <i>Involvement of Schools</i> <i>Number and Type of Meetings</i> <i>Communication Tools</i> -Visual -Postcards -Web -Kirkland Reporter Early Involvement How to Stay in Touch						

City Activity
Other Agency Activity
Situational



Programs							
Short to Medium Term							
	<i>Street and Sidewalk Repairs</i>	<i>Neighborhood Traffic Control</i>	<i>Transit Service Coordination</i>	<i>Police Emphasis Patrols</i>	<i>Parking Management</i>	<i>Neighborhood U & Civics Academy</i>	<i>Communication and Public Involvement</i>
Issue							
Moving Cars, Bikes and People							
<i>Transportation Planning</i>							
<i>Intersection Capacity</i>							
<i>Traffic Flow (6th Street)</i>							
<i>Pedestrian Safety</i>							
<i>Bicycle Safety</i>							
<i>Parking in Neighborhoods</i>							
Community Planning							
<i>Growth Management</i>							
<i>Density</i>							
<i>Everest Neighborhood Plan</i>							
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-Scale							
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<i>Early Involvement</i>							
<i>How to Stay in Touch</i>							

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Processes Medium to Long Term						
Comprehensive Plan Update <i>-How we accept growth (population, employment, housing) -Transportation Master Plan (level of service standards, multimodal, priorities) -How we plan for neighborhoods and business districts -Plus much more (Critical areas, infrastructure planning, etc.)</i>	Subarea Plans <i>-Neighborhood Plans -Business District Plans</i>	Zoning Regulations <i>--Design Guidelines?</i>	Development Review (new developments) <i>-Traffic impact analysis (SEPA) -Concurrency -Zoning compliance and permitting</i>	Capital Improvement Program <i>Identify Projects Set Priorities Identify Funding</i>	Other <i>-Legislative Advocacy - Transportation Funding</i>	
Issue						
Moving Cars, Bikes and People <i>Transportation Planning Intersection Capacity Traffic Flow (6th Street) Pedestrian Safety Bicycle Safety Parking in the Neighborhoods</i>						
Community Planning <i>Growth Management Density Everest Neighborhood Plan Houghton/Everest Neighborhood Center -Scale -Density -Business Diversity -Scope of study area -Neighborhood Character</i>						
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