



Comprehensive Plan/Municipal Code Advisory Group Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Advisory Group Members Present:

Steve Shepro, Council Member
Lauren Ruskoff, Community Member
Russell Joe, MBAKS
Meagan Watne, Community Member
Peter Kamb, Community Member
Sim Jhutti, Community Member
Ben Hagglund, Community Member
Kristine Birkenkopf, Community Member

Staff Present:

Patricia Love, Community Development Director
Tansy Schroeder, City Planner
Audrey Rotrock, Associate Planner

Advisory Group Members Absent:

Jami Sollid, Community Member

Parks Policy Review

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Update process, the parks goals and policies need to be reviewed and updated. The policies were revised to reflect current conditions, simplify into “plain language” and to reduce redundancy. Below are the revised policies for your review.

Advisory Group Questions and Comments:

PROSG 1

- Reword “equally distribute” to just “distribute” or how they’re distributing.
- Equal access would mean leaving your car behind. Allow for parking in one place and to be able to move through different parks.
- Most parks in town are slow to update and add new features, how will this be addressed? This will be better addressed in the Parks Plan.
- Have parks that are available to walk to near homes, so people don’t have to drive at all.
- 1.3: Add a description of what passive and active facilities are.

PROSG 2

- Add language about regional trail networks such as Centennial Trail and Camano Island, Leque Island, connections to Snohomish County and Island County, provide access to those parks.
- Seattle schools and parks have shared uses and facilities, this could be a goal to work towards.
- Add language referring to the Transportation Plan talking about Safe Routes to School.
- Add more community centers that offer pools or activities that are more affordable than joining a gym. Add this language to 2.3.

PROSG 3

- Stronger language on acquiring Railroad ROW property for waterfront access, or rails to trails.



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- Acquire properties for flood prevention in parks, to make the spaces safer and more usable. This website is a good example: <https://www.dezeen.com/2020/08/17/retrofitting-for-flood-resilience-edward-barsley/>

PROSG 4

- 4.5: “Promoting a healthy community” – add more detail on what a healthy community is. Add Healthy Community to the Goal and remove it from the policy.
- 4.7: Add some connection to uptown. Safe pedestrian passage between uptown and downtown is needed.

PROSG 5

- 5.3: Advertising signage on outside walls of baseball fields, allow concessionaires and signage at parks and have them be a sponsor, if possible.
- 5.3: Wording is a bit confusing, who is renting the equipment, the concessionaires, or residents? This needs clarification.

PROSG 6

- 6.1: Add transportation to the end of sentence “open space, recreation, transportation (pedestrian/multimodal), educational opportunities...”

PROSG 7

- Send spreadsheet to group.
- Clarify the different types of acres (open space, neighborhood parks, etc.).
- Adding more types of levels of service can get complicated. Focusing on the number of acres would give more flexibility.
- How is the chart used? Adopted numbers get folded into the park impact fee formula. It takes the adopted capital facilities park projects, and they are built into a formula to get a dollar amount of impact fee (Parks only – not trails or open space).
- Acres per person seems less useful than a ballpark per X amount of people. This can get very complicated. There is a need for formula and RCO. Looking at types of uses in the policies would be good to add to Goal 4.
- The National Recreation and Parks Association used to recommend 10 acres per 1000 people. How did we end up at 5? Decisions in past are based on what they had and existing levels of service. Do a study on what 6 acres and 10 acres per person would do to the impact fees.
- Trails – are we near meeting our LOS? How does Stanwood compare to other cities with trails. Staff will run an analysis on this and upping acreage per person.
- Provide an average per household of what is being paid in impact fees.



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PROSG 8

- This is a great place to add land management for stormwater runoff, etc.
- Don't make it more expensive to create parks with measures needed for sustainability. Would it make development of parks more expensive?
- Are these requirements? Or will they be done as they can be done? Use practices that make sense for the park you're developing
- Work with Snohomish County Conservation Department – they can provide supplies at low cost for things such as rain gardens.

PROSG 9

- No Comments

SMC Title 7 Health and Sanitation

- 7.16.030: #5 – Fences. People might not be able to afford to fix their fence. How can we fine someone for that? The City does not go straight to fines, we work with people to get them into compliance – this is a broader issue. Staff proposes a subcategory structure. These policies need to be in the code. If they were not, there would be no way to enforce them.
- There is a theme that appears in multiple places – blocking of sidewalks – cars, vegetation, trash cans, etc. It is a safety matter as well as a convenience matter? Cars on sidewalks forces people to walk in the street. Consider adding language to the code requiring trash cans to be removed within 24 hours of trash service or face fines.
- Burning - #25, does this include wood burning stoves? Staff will double check, but this likely refers to outside burning.
- 16d: This is broad statement that needs clarifying.
- Dangerous dogs: How does code enforcement legally access a property to investigate? Add language to show how this will be possible.
- 7.16.050: How far does the City go to require a warrant?
- 16: This section seems more like life safety issues rather than a nuisance. It may be better under Property Maintenance.
- Add a comprehensive definition of what a nuisance is.

Title 8 – Animals Draft Text

- Dangerous animals and non-traditional pets will go to Council for consideration. Staff will continue to work with the Police Department on this topic.

Adjourn: 7:00