



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Sidaro Sin, Senior Planner

**DATE:** June 15, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Community Vision Comment (PP 10-0007)

### ACTION

Review the comments on the vision statement and either revise the statement or leave it as is.

We do not expect, nor is it the intent that the CAC will need to review amendments to the vision at every meeting. However, at this time, it is important to ensure that we have the best working community vision as the CAC brings forth its recommendation on a preferred scenario to the City Council on July 19.

### BACKGROUND

On May 19, the CAC reviewed the input received from the City Council (February 15), Planning Commission (March 14) and March 29 open house comments and amended the vision statement considering these comments.

### DISCUSSION

The amended community vision was forwarded to the Planning Commission at their May 23 meeting as an informational item. On May 25, Planner Commissioner Russell Jones forwarded the following email with additional suggested changes to the community vision. In addition, at the City Council work session on June 14, members of the City Council provided additional comments.

#### Planning Commissioner Comments

*Email sent by Russell Jones, Planning Commissioner 5/25/11*

**“I wasn't able to open the attachment as emailed to make comments so mine are from the pdf version.**

**We manage growth by providing the opportunity for have a wide variety of neighborhoods with variety high quality, of attractive and compatible housing that serves a range of ages, incomes and households.** Our distinct and walkable neighborhoods contribute to the city's small town feel. Mixed-use districts enhance adjacent residential areas by providing access to quality jobs, housing, transit, entertainment, services and shopping. Higher density housing is located strategically and sensitively (**including**) along transportation corridors and town centers to preserve the character of our existing neighborhoods.

I would leave out the "including" as areas of greater density is more efficiently located along and near transportation corridors not in low density neighborhoods. We need to look more towards the European

developments methods regarding density in central areas with density decreasing the farther from the center of a city/town one goes.

**We are good stewards of our environment.** Our urban forest, natural areas and watersheds are valued and cared for as essential environmental, economic, and cultural assets. We are recognized for effectively balancing today's community needs with the need to preserve clean air, water and land resources for future generations. The built environment is designed to protect, enhance and be integrated with natural systems.

I would like to see a mention of respecting private property (given the divisive nature of Sensitive Lands) and the city leading be example.

**Our architecture and natural setting inspire people to live here.** Development respects the physical environment and meets the highest quality of community design to **preserve and** foster the distinctive character and beauty of this special place.

I think we need to also emphasize the community character we currently have as well. “

The CAC has discussed including reference to private property rights on December 2 and January 26. For reference on this topic, the January 26 CAC meeting summary notes read:

In early December, the CAC discussed the idea of including a reference to private property rights in the draft vision statement, however concluded not to include the reference because it was marginally raised during the survey and the October workshops. It did not receive the same high level of remarks as other topic areas that were included in the draft vision. In addition, the question was raised as to why private property rights needed to be singled out, out of all of the other inherent rights (free speech, etc) that the comprehensive does not specifically address.

#### June 15 City Council Comments

Members indicated that the amended vision looked much better. General comments included:

- Too long
- Concerned about using sustainability in the first paragraph – is “sustainability” just a passing trend?
- Would the last sentence in Complete Neighborhoods and Housing be better as a goal or policy?

“Higher density housing is located strategically and sensitively, including along transportation corridors and town centers to preserve the character of our existing neighborhoods.”

Specific recommendations included:

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New Text = **Bold & Underline**

- Complete Neighborhoods & Housing  
**We have a wide variety of neighborhoods with high quality, attractive and compatible housing that serves a range of ages, incomes and households.** Our distinct and walkable neighborhoods contribute to the city's small town feel. Mixed-use districts enhance adjacent residential areas by providing access to quality jobs, housing, transit, entertainment, services and shopping. Higher density housing is located strategically and sensitively, including along transportation corridors and town centers to preserve the character of our existing neighborhoods.
- Community Health & Public Safety

**Our community is a safe place to live and supports lifelong active and healthy living.** We ~~are known for~~ have excellent public safety response systems that work together with an involved community to ensure peace and safety. There are opportunities for active lifestyles and to obtain locally grown food that promotes the health and social interaction of our residents.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the comments above, staff recommends the following changes:

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**In 2035, Lake Oswego is a thriving, sustainable city, meeting the community’s needs without compromising the needs of future generations.** Our community is recognized for its quality of life, exceptional schools, and excellent local government. Our multigenerational neighborhoods, healthy natural resources, vibrant mixed-use shopping, employment districts, and diverse services and activities are accessible to all.



**Our educational, cultural and recreational opportunities strengthen the social fabric of the community.** Our top-rated schools offer excellent education and reinforce the value of the community as a desirable place to raise a family. Our outstanding library, parks, and community amenities provide a wide range of programs and special events. Public art and historic resources enrich our cultural identity.



**We have a wide variety of neighborhoods with high quality, attractive and compatible housing that serves a range of ages, incomes and households.** Our distinct and walkable neighborhoods contribute to the city’s small town feel. Mixed-use districts enhance adjacent residential areas by providing access to quality jobs, housing, transit, entertainment, services and shopping. Higher density housing is located strategically and sensitively, including along transportation corridors and town centers to preserve the character of our existing neighborhoods.



**We have safe, efficient and convenient transportation choices.** There are frequent and reliable public transportation options that make it easy to move around our city and the region. Pathways, sidewalks, roadways and bike routes encourage residents of all neighborhoods to walk and bike safely.



**We are a community where people can live, work, play and meet their daily needs for goods and services.** We build upon the intellectual capital of the community to attract new ventures, retain local businesses and connect to the global economy. We are business-friendly and a regional model for employment and mixed-use centers that attract quality jobs.



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