

INTRODUCTION

I am fortunate as a citizen to offer my input in the planning effort to update our shared vision of what our City can look like in 25 years. It is also important to report that there are 14 additional active CAC members who represent a wide range of Board, Commission, personal and professional experiences from living in this community. City staff and consultants also made significant contributions to this product.

Eighteen years ago, I moved to Lake Oswego. My family was very lucky. We purchased our home from Herald and Virginia Campbell – a very civic couple who at that time had lived and raised their family in this City for over 40 years. The Campbell's became friends and Herald encouraged our family to put down roots and become involved in the City. I took his friendship and advice to heart.

Over the years, I have accumulated City experiences which support my role as a CAC member. I have commuted to work from LO to PDX, Vancouver & Beaverton and then started (2001) and currently operate a business in the City. My two children both attended Lake Oswego public schools through their graduations at Lakeridge in 1997 & 2007. In 2005-6, my mother-in-law experienced health problems and I worked with the City to complete an expanded SDU residence for her on our lot where she now resides healthily. I use the dog park & other walkways and parks daily, the library weekly, attend church, belong to an Oswego Lake easement and the McVey South-Shore neighborhood association, shop locally and frequently go to the farmer's market, have my primary physician and dentist in LO, get my hair cut, run, bike and swim - all within the City limits.

I give this background to illustrate the two points – 1) my own personal City perspective extends over three generations living under one roof – in housing in LO, and 2) I believe that all 14 CAC members bring an equal or greater amount of living and working experience to their work on the CAC.

THE VISION STATEMENT

The CAC for the Comp Plan revision has been meeting since August 2010. Crafting a Vision Statement for the Plan was one of our first tasks. As an initial Comp Plan undertaking, I found this exercise to be particularly helpful and productive for good reasons:

1. Envisioning the future of LO focused our member's attention immediately. Engaged and productive discussion from the entire CAC promoted group cohesion. Listening to others present and defend their perspectives as community members, citizens and members of their own "stakeholder" groups helped produce a thorough hearing. Moreover, I believe that this promoted a unique atmosphere of friendly cohesion and very constructive debate.
2. The CAC began serious deliberations over Draft Vision Statement content in September and continued concentrated work at each meeting through January. I heard from factions of the community I was unfamiliar with. This listening exercise emphasized our commonality as neighbors and citizens pursuing a "best efforts" projection goal.

3. The original Vision Statement naturally evolved and improved with each iteration. The CAC left no assumption unquestioned in our discussions. From simple word smithing, to finalizing category titles, and re-working topic content, this document received a notable investment in thoughtful CAC deliberation and review.
4. As a witness to this process I can assure the Council that the entire CAC was completely engaged. All of our members contributed to the construction of the final document you see before you tonight.

CONCLUSION

The CAC was presented with a unique and challenging task at the onset of the Comp Plan update. We were asked to use our past and present City and personal experiences to project ahead 25 years for the City. The results of this deliberation with the inclusion of staff input and community survey results are before you to consider tonight. No one can predict the future with certainty. But if we do not plan to reach objectives for our City and residents then we are failing at our job to protect our talent and resources. I think we achieved this goal.

I further believe that this Draft Vision Statement will be an extremely constructive tool for the Council and the CAC as we proceed with the remainder of the Comp Plan update. The Vision Statement categories and content make CAC tasks plainer as they provide direction for planning. I think that the Vision Statement effectively and precisely describes future City visions and values in all areas of life for our citizens. I am also convinced that the Vision Statement illuminates significant and relevant values which are shared by all residents.