



**Comprehensive Plan
Citizen Advisory Committee
Meeting # 13**

**July 27, 2011
City Hall, Council Chambers
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SUMMARY IS NOT A WORD FOR WORD DOCUMENTATION OF ALL OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THE MEETING. TO SEE THE INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED PLEASE REFER TO THE MEETING MATERIALS ON THE CAC MEETING WEB PAGE <http://welovelakeoswego.com/citizen-committees/cac-meetings/>

Members in attendance: Tom Brennan, Tom Fahey, Nancy Gronowski, Katie Abbott, Bill Gaar, Bob Needham, Liz Hartman, Dorothy Atwood, Christopher Clee, Doug Cushing

Members not in attendance: Teri Oelrich, Tim Mather, David White, Jim Johnson and Sally Moncrieff (Chair)

Staff in attendance: Sid Sin, Laura Weigel, Emily Brennan, Kim Gilmer (Parks Director), Ryan Stee (Parks Planner), Brant Williams (Economic Development Director) and Kirstin Greene (Cogan Owens Cogan).

1. Public Comment: No public comment

2. CAC/ Staff Feedback:

Kirstin Greene from Cogan Owens Cogan congratulated the CAC members for a year of service on the Citizen Advisory Council and on the 7-0 vote (unanimous) from the Council on the Comprehensive Plan Scenario vote. Nancy Gronowski spoke to the positive experience of presenting to the council. Tom Brennan commented that the council had good questions, and the CAC was well informed about the issues and was able to answer them confidently. Katie Abbott commented that all the Council's questions were clarification rather than critique and also that the CAC could not answer all the questions posed by the Council, because the CAC has yet to approach those subjects; overall good experience.

Sid reviewed the major items that were raised at the council meeting:

1. West Lake Grove Design District and Lake Grove District: Was there any thought of combining the two? Or are they distinct and separate? Sid commented that from the all public comments he has heard that citizens wanted to keep the Lake Grove Village separate and respect the work of the community in that area.
2. 20-Minute Communities: Council thought that 20-minute communities was going to be applied everywhere in Lake Oswego. We need to clarify that they are building off existing communities, commercial, etc.
3. South Industrial District: Strictly industrial use or is there opportunity for housing? There is still opportunity for housing in that area.
4. Hubs: Focal points for the neighborhoods. Possible development of a one-pager for Neighborhood Associations and interested parties to explain more clearly.
5. Centers and Corridors: The mayor asked about center and corridor development. We have two designated centers and several corridors. In the future the CAC is going to discuss the distinctions between corridors and centers. The CAC will go into more detail when they discuss complete neighborhoods and housing.

Liz Hartman passed out notes from the Neighborhood Chair Meeting on July 9th that Mayor Hoffman hosted. Chairs were asked what they liked/disliked in their neighborhoods. Not all the chairs have responded in full, but the notes are still helpful feedback guides for the neighborhoods. Liz received 21 responses from 26 neighborhood chairs (the notes from that meeting are an attachment to this summary.)

Laura Weigel announced the “We Love LO” poetry contest. The contest asks residents to write a poem about what they love about Lake Oswego. There are three different categories: Kids, Teens, and Adults. Contest kicks off on September 1 and will end on October 28. Staff is trying to encourage this activity to be part of school classes in order to get kids involved. The winning poems will be read at a City Council meeting in November and published in Hello LO in December. Dorothy suggested that students focus their poems on their neighborhoods.

3. Parks and Recreation Systems Plan

Kim Gilmer and Ryan Stee presented a PowerPoint to the CAC, which is available online:

Kim Gilmer commented that this process is setting the path for Parks and Recreation for the next 15-20 years. It will evaluate community needs and then implement them. Dorothy Atwood asked what stage they are in their planning process. Kim responded that they began the process last August (2010). Parks is planning on finishing this process by the end of the year. Dorothy also asked if the Parks Master Plan maps included schools, Kim responded that it does not include schools because schools are limited by hours and you can't use those sites when the schools are using them.

Lusher Farms Master Plan

Kim and Ryan presented a PowerPoint to the CAC, which is available online:

Christopher Clee asked if Lusher Farms was donated, Kim Gilmer responded that the city purchased it in 1991, but there are deed requirements that dictate that part of the farm is to be used as a museum. Christopher Clee applauded the work of the Parks Dept, but commented on lack of public participation. Christopher Clee also commented that he is glad to see that the Parks Dept. is addressing aquatic needs: Willamette River, Oswego Lake, and Tualatin River.

A committee member commented that balanced uses at Lusher farm is a difficult subject because there are merits to both the urban farmers and ball fields; there is a need and a want for both. Dorothy Atwood saw that the lake, streams, and the golf course were not taken into account as environmental attributes or opportunities for recreation/ open space/ corridors. Ryan took note to possibility add those to the map.

Christopher Clee noted that the Lake should be open to everyone. Kim and several other members responded that the Lake is a private corporation, so it is not up to the Parks Dept. Water access did come up as a priority for Lake Oswego, so they have been focused on the river.

4. Foothills District Framework Plan

Brant Williams presented a PowerPoint to the CAC, which is available online:

Kirstin Greene asked about the “First 30 Feet” mentioned in the PowerPoint, Brant responded that focus is placed on the first 30 feet of the building from the ground up because that is typically what pedestrians see.

Dorothy asked if the main pathway is pedestrian access only and Brant responded that the access is for pedestrian and automobiles. Dorothy asked if there is a reason why there are not very many pedestrian access points, because that would cause the linkage that the development is striving for. Brant responded the grade is not very steep, so that is an option for the future. Tom Fahey asked if they are planning another access point for vehicles over the railroad tracks to the Foothills District, Brant responded yes.

5. Portland to Lake Oswego Streetcar:

Brant Williams presented a PowerPoint to the CAC, which is available online:

Dorothy Atwood noted that Vancouver (WA) has a completely enclosed waste water treatment plant that has high end condominiums and that Lake Oswego could model that plan. Brant responded that they are aware of that plant; a big difference is that the Vancouver plant was from scratch, while this project would require retrofitting. Christopher Clee asked they considered having a public slipway, Brant responded that they had not considered it.

6. Comprehensive Plan Update:

Note: Because of time constraints Sid had to cut his Comprehensive Plan update short and move it to the next CAC meeting.

Sid referred to the packet given to the CAC at the beginning of the meeting. Sid asked for feedback from the CAC member to make sure the process/schedule/action area /final products are on track and meet our objective.

Kirstin asked the CAC members if they agreed to take a bus tour of the Comp. Plan sites (endorsed scenario areas) next meeting. The CAC agreed that it was the best way to experience the sites.

Sid expanded on the timeline and noted it was intended to make the process more manageable for the City Council and Planning Commission. Sid explained the order of the action areas (community summits) on the timeline are in-line with Metro's timing on the population, housing and jobs forecast. In addition, the healthy ecosystem action area is last to allow the anticipated new natural resources planner to get familiar with the program. The first community summit was moved to October and the two additional meetings were added to the schedule, so the Planning Commission and the CAC have the opportunity to review the materials before they are presented at each of the summits. Each action area is anticipated to take about 7-8 months; Long Range Planning is open to ways to shorten this time. Laura added that splitting up the action area allows a focused outreach to stakeholders.

Liz asked if the dates in the packet are final and staff clarified that they are tentative/target dates. Dorothy commented that the "meatiest" action areas are at the end, and it might serve the process better to mix in a few heavier topics i.e. move economic vitality earlier up in the process to maintain the momentum created thus far.

Tom Brennan asked about the process of getting the comprehensive plan adopted by the City Council. Sid explained that the Council will see the work of the CAC and the public study sessions, and will hopefully adopt a resolution (to show their support) for each of these action areas, then all the seven actions areas will go to Council for adoption all by ordinance at once. Sid also provides regular updates to the Council.

Katie Abbott asked about the clarification on acronyms on the timeline. Good idea to add a legend. .

Dorothy Atwood asked why there is a lull in the action during the summer months. Laura responded that the Council usually breaks in the summer and the City wanted to give the CAC a break. There was also a request from the Planning Commission to not schedule so many meeting in the summer time.

7. Public Comment:

Matt Briggs, Lake Oswego: Commented on the need for a sustainable lens for our Comprehensive Plan Update. He submitted the following letter:

Why include "Sustainability" in the New Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan?

Why floss your teeth, eat your vegetables, exercise, get a good education, develop moral standards for your life, save money for a house, raise great children? To avoid problems, reach our full potential, and have a better life.

The Comprehensive Plan is our effort to avoid problems, reach our full potential and have a better life. And we need it to be Sustainable; economically and environmentally.

My own pitch today is that we have to give weight to the sustainability of both monetary and natural capital in Lake Oswego. If you burn up your natural capital, your economic prospects will go down. Keeping the parks, the Lake, the rivers clean and the tree canopy over Lake Oswego is one level. But you can only save the rivers and the trees and turn down the temperature of the Earth by almost stopping burning fossil fuels, changing the types and ways we use energy, how we get around, how we run our businesses.

It's all connected---we're all downwind and downstream. I think we have to see the big picture of where we stand in an increasingly damaged Natural World and do our part to make it better----make our local Comprehensive Plan do its part for a global Comprehensive Plan ---plans, activities, incentives, and yes--- code changes--- that eventually lead us to NET ZERO damage of our local and global natural capital---lakes, rivers, soil, trees, agriculture, air, weather, and the diversity of life, ---to get to a point where we only emit as much chemical or carbon emission pollution as both Nature and Man can clean up.

So how do we do this?

Perhaps the biggest way is Energy efficiency.

The McKinsey Global Institute released a study last year that shows that if we massively deploy energy efficiency across the economy, we won't have to build any new power plants and we will get all of our money back; sustainability for free sounds pretty good to me. I am a business guy and a fiscal conservative, but I don't see any downside in making investments in smart sustainability that are going to pay themselves back off.

Over time, we can transition to live and work Near Net Zero---no carbon emissions, no pollution, zero pollution, and zero waste. That to me is the best definition of Sustainable---a steady system that does not degrade and crash over time. Anything less and we are just fooling ourselves that we are OK, that our kids are OK.

To transition to Net Zero we need to get a lot smarter about the way we use water, energy, transportation, how we build, how we work. Some of us will do it on our own. Some of us will do it in our businesses to save money. But in order to keep all of us from destroying the natural capital of both our local area and the Earth as a whole, all of us will need to change the way we live. This is where writing Sustainability into the Comprehensive Plan comes in. We need to transition to a steady state where we don't damage the Natural World that we take for granted.

I don't see writing Sustainability transitions into the Comp Plan as Big Government or an extension of the Nanny State. I see it as making both environmental and economic sense. I see it as common sense. A Comprehensive Plan that is truly Sustainable will make Lake Oswego a better place where we can reach our full potential and have a better life.

Thank you for your time.

Liz Hartman forwarded a question from Cheryl Uchida. Cheryl asked how the CAC and city were going to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan Update will not change or impact current approved neighborhood association plans.

Staff Response: The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan update, is to ensure that the City's Comprehensive Plan goals, policies and other city regulations support the community's vision for 2035 and is consistent with state and regional requirements. Neighborhood plans are adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan, and all parts of the Plan need to be consistent. Staff will be reviewing neighborhood plan goals and policies while drafting revisions to citywide Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. If conflicts emerge staff will seek assistance from the association to bring the concepts in line. There may be some policies from neighborhood plans that could be appropriate to apply on a city-wide basis. Neighborhood plans may also influence the Comprehensive Plan as the Plan influences neighborhood plans. Ultimately, the goal as identified in the vision statement and reflected in the future land use scenario is to preserve the community's quality of life and what people value, including "preserve the character of our existing neighborhoods."

Upcoming Meeting Dates: CAC meeting August 24.