

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Planning Policy Commission

6:30 PM
 March 28, 2019

Council Chambers
 135 E. Sunset Way

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners Present:

Joan Probala, Chair
 Joy Lewis
 Bill Rinehart
 Jason Voiss, Alt. (voting as regular member)

Administration/Staff:

Trish Heinonen, Policy Planning Manager
 Jean Lin, Senior Planner
 Lesan Gouge, Neighborhood Engage-
 ment Coordinator

Commissioners Not Present (Excused):

Ron Faul, Vice Chair

CALL TO ORDER

PROBALA called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) MOVED BY RINEHART, SECONDED BY LEWIS that minutes of the PPC meeting on February 14, 2019 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 4-0.
- b) MOVED BY VOISS, SECONDED BY LEWIS that minutes of the PPC meeting on February 28, 2019 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 4-0.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) Discussion: City Strategic Plan Update, (I)
Presented by:
Jean Lin, Senior Planner

PROBALA acknowledged how much time has gone into developing the City Strategic Plan, and thanked all involved for their efforts.

Lin made staff's presentation, including an overview of the plan; the goal; the community engagement process; the vision statement for the City in the plan; the parts of the plan itself and how they interact; and six strategic priority areas. She continued her presentation on the implementation framework, including tools for putting the plan into action, evaluating it, and adjusting it as needed. She described the current phase of the plan, and encouraged everyone who hasn't yet completed the survey to do so online before the survey closes on March 31. She said staff plans to present the survey results to Council in April.

PROBALA asked whether additional staff will be hired to implement the objectives and goals in the plan. Lin said that kind of decision will be part of the budgeting process, as well as the prioritization process to be followed. PROBALA said choices will have to be made about what will be done first, and so prioritization is critical. LEWIS agreed, and said there isn't much detail in the plan about who will be responsible for implementing the plan, or how the public will be looped back into a prioritization

discussion. She spoke in favor of a more clear delineation of ownership in terms of who will be responsible for implementing the plan, and involving the public in determining priorities.

PROBALA said this plan, like other strategic plans, appears to be well done but needs more for it to be implemented to its full potential. She said an implementation plan needs to accompany this strategic plan; those kinds of pieces are missing. LEWIS said as an example, there should be measurable success markers in list form so that progress in achieving the goals and objectives can be tracked.

VOISS asked how many of the 1,600 responses received were directly in response to this document. Heinonen said the 1,600 responses include all the responses received so far and were used to develop the plan. Now that the plan is ready to be shared, the public has the opportunity to respond specifically to this plan. PROBALA asked so were the 1,600 responses submitted through the survey. Gouge replied about 1,300 of them were received from the survey; other responses resulted from other public outreach activities. PROBALA encouraged the viewing public to complete the online survey if they have not yet already done so.

b) Discussion: Issaquah Neighborhoods, (I)

Presented by:

Lesan Gouge, Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator

Gouge made staff's presentation. She gave some background on her position as Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator, and her overall goal of connecting with all neighborhoods in the City. She described sessions held with representatives of all 13 subareas in the City at which participants described "what makes your neighborhood special." She displayed the result of that effort, which is a colorful, illustrated map of events, activities, and landmarks in all the neighborhoods in the City. She said more discussions are anticipated about how upcoming work to revisit the Issaquah Treasures will fit into this effort.

PROBALA said the map is "cute," but it doesn't show enough to those outside the community about the specific neighborhoods, and gave examples. VOISS asked how the map will be used. Gouge said it will be used primarily for residents, and said it is an example of how a list of "what makes your neighborhood special" can be made tangible. She continued it will also be part of the overall conversation about the City's Strategic Plan.

PROBALA suggested framing it and displaying it in strategic places around the City. VOISS agreed, and said it could be used as a mural on the side of a building, for example. LEWIS said she likes the idea that the 13 neighborhoods defined themselves in this map. She suggested making the map into postcards that could be given out at City Hall, for example. PROBALA suggested putting it on the front page of the City's web site. The Commissioners complimented the fun, colorful look of the map.

Audience Comments

Robin Kelly, Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce, noted that the piece is not a map for wayfinding, so it is confusing to call it a map. She suggested finding another way to refer to it so that people can understand and accept it for what it is.

- c) Discussion - Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2050 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, (I)

Presented by:

Trish Heinonen, Policy Planning Manager

Heinonen made staff's presentation on the draft SEIS for the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Vision 2050. She said the purpose of tonight's meeting is to introduce the draft SEIS to PPC and share the three approaches to growth in the plan. She began with a list of meetings and opportunities the City Council has scheduled to take comments on the document, including a link on the City's website to provide comments directly to PSRC, and noted that the comment period for the project concludes April 29, 2019.

She continued with more background on Vision 2050, including why PSRC is undertaking this update to Vision 2040. She described the four counties (Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and King) that will be affected and the forecasts for the four-county area. She also noted that Issaquah is classified as a Regional Growth Center and "core city" in the narrative of the draft update.

She gave more details about the three alternatives, including a comparison of the alternatives, as outlined on pages 55-65 in the agenda:

1. Stay the Course (No Action Alternative)
2. Transit Focused Growth Alternative
3. Reset Urban Growth Alternative

She distributed copies of each chapter in the draft SEIS update with highlights where staff has questions and concerns about proposed changes. She noted staff will be clarifying those areas with PSRC prior to its presentation to Council.

RINEHART asked clarifying questions about how PSRC's policies could impact the City's plans; are PSRC's policies recommendations for the City, he asked. Heinonen explained how asking to be a Regional Growth Center has committed the City to accommodate certain densities in exchange for transportation funding opportunities. She continued what that means in terms of an impact on the City is one of the questions staff has for PSRC. She gave more details about some of the questions staff has about what PSRC is expecting from the City.

PROBALA said her ne of her concerns is that general rules are sometimes made by overarching organizations like PSRC that apply uniformly to all jurisdictions, despite differences among the jurisdictions.

RINEHART asked where more information is available for the public in understanding the relationship between the City and the PSRC. Heinonen referred to explanations in the City's Comprehensive Plan that were included when the City decided to seek designation as a Regional Growth Center.

She continued explaining areas in the draft Vision 2050 SEIS chapters on which staff will seek more direction and clarification from PSRC.

RINEHART asked how one of the three alternatives will be selected. Heinonen explained the process PSRC uses. She noted PSRC representatives will attend the Council's April 1 meeting, and that the video of that meeting will be available online for anyone interested in watching.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Heinonen gave an update on the interviewing process for new PPC members. She noted that the upcoming term will begin in June, so the schedule that appears in the agenda will change to accommodate training of new members.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, PROBALA adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary