

**City Council
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
April 11, 2019 Meeting
Meeting Notes**

Attendance:Council Committee Members and Staff:

Elizabeth Callaghan, Councilmember
 Rob Johnson, Councilmember
 Dianne White, Councilmember
 Judy Williams, Councilmember (Left after Dianne White Arrived)
 Jennifer Ferguson, City Administrator
 Patricia Love, Community Development Director

Public:

Tim Schmitt
 Library Board Members

Excused Absences:

None

1. BUSINESS RETENTION PROGRAM:

Jennifer Ferguson, City Administrator, reviewed the general concept of a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program with the Committee. The BRE will focus on supporting the community's existing businesses through ongoing engagement and information-sharing between the city's economic development professionals and local business owners. The intent is to work with existing businesses to form the foundation for local employment opportunities, stabilize our tax base, and serve as key engines for its overall economic growth.

Overall the Committee was supportive of the concept and encouraged staff to implement a strong communication and education work plan. It is important to accurately address business owner's expectations while working to promote a high quality of life model that focuses the "work here / live here" theme. Examples of needing clear communications and management of expectations include addressing issues such as signage, housing affordability, and marketing efforts.

2. LIBRARY BOARD REQUEST:

The Stanwood Library Board has requested to amend the Annexation Agreement, dated January 2016, to remove the location and time restriction so that they may have better flexibility to plan for the Library's future. In this agreement, the Library agreed to stay in the downtown district until 2023.

The Committee had split opinions on this issue. Some felt it was worth discussing because it would move the facility out of the floodplain while others felt that removing all public facilities from the downtown could negatively impact the historic use and charm of the downtown area. The Library Board thanked the Committee for their consideration. Additional discussions on this issue is warranted.

3. SHORELINE CODE UPDATE:

Staff reviewed the components of the draft Shoreline Management Regulations Code Amendment with the Committee. The amendments are mostly administrative in nature and include state mandates between 2007 and 2017 as well as minor local changes which have occurred since the last SMP adoption. The draft code is out for the required 30 day public review and the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the amendment on May 20th with the City Council public hearing following thereafter. Staff will provide a copy of the draft code to the Committee prior to forwarding it to the full body of the City Council.

4. OVENELL BANNERS:

FOSPAT is interested in installing three murals / banners on the barn facing SR 532 at Ovenell Park. Two banners would have historic pictures of the Ovenell Farm and Native American Basket Weaving while the third banner would promote the "Future Ovenell Park" theme. The Committee recommended that the Ovenell Park sign have a plain background (yellow with blue border), large letters, include the City logo and website. Staff will present their recommendation to the PTAC on April 15, 2019. The PTAC's recommendation will then be brought back to the Committee for their review before being presented to the full body of the City Council.

5. BUILDING AND INSPECTION SUPPORT SERVICES

The Council approved funds in the 2019/2020 budget to hire additional staff or consultants to provide building plan review and inspection services. Our first attempt to partner with Island County did not work as they hired a full time plan reviewer / inspector in early 2018 and do not anticipate needing any additional help. Staff is in the process of interviewing potential firms to help fill the gap: SafeBuilt, West Coast Code Consultants, and BHC. The Committee was comfortable with the contract being added to the City Council's agenda as soon as the scope of work is negotiated.

6. PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL 2050 GROWTH PROJECTIONS EIS

As a walk on item to the Committee's agenda, staff provided the Committee with a copy of the joint Snohomish County Planning Director's recommendation to the Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee on the 2050 growth options. The Planning Directors are recommending that the Puget Sound Regional Council adopt the transit oriented development pattern for future growth. This would direct the majority of the regional growth towards areas served by transit facilities including: light rail and bus lines.