



City of Kirkland
Planning and Building
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MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission

From: Janice L Swenson, Senior Planner
Allison Zike, AICP, Deputy Planning & Building Director
Adam Weinstein, AICP, Planning & Building Director

Date: June 4, 2024

Subject: **2044 Comprehensive Plan Continued Public Hearing: Introduction Chapter and Land Use Element, File No. CAM22-00032**

Recommendation

Receive written public testimony until June 13, 2024, and continue the public hearings for the following Comprehensive Plan elements:

- Introduction Chapter (includes Vision Statement and Guiding Principles)
- Land Use Element

During the continued public hearing, the Planning Commission (PC) should deliberate and make a recommendation to City Council (Council) for each element or chapter.

The PC and community should note that the record remains open for written testimony to be submitted until the PC begins deliberations, but no further spoken testimony will be accepting during the June 13 PC meeting.

Background

At previous PC public hearings on May 9, 2024 (Introduction Chapter) and May 23, 2024 (Land Use Element), the PC voted unanimously to continue the hearings to their June 13, 2024 regularly scheduled meeting. The PC also voted to keep the record open for additional written testimony from the public; testimony may be received by the PC up until the meeting start time. The June 13, 2024 meeting will not include another public comment period for spoken testimony; all oral testimony was received at the initial public hearing meetings.

The below subsections contain footnotes that reference materials previously supplied to the PC. This memorandum is intended to provide only a high-level overview of the status of elements being considered on June 13, and the previous meeting materials should be referenced for a full account of background information for PC to consider in their deliberations.

Introduction Chapter

On May 9, 2024, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the draft Introduction Chapter that includes citywide General goals and policies and a draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. The May 9, 2024 meeting packet¹ provides: background on the purpose of the Introduction Chapter; the process that was involved to draft the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, including community engagement; previous draft versions prepared by staff, Planning Commission and City Council; and an overview of the draft General Goals and Policies.

At the May 9, 2024 hearing, the Planning Commission provided direction to staff that they did not have any proposed amendments to the draft Introduction Chapter, including the goals, policies, and Guiding Principles, but wanted additional time to consider further revisions to the Vision Statement. The PC designated a subcommittee to work on a revised draft of the Vision Statement to present to the full PC on June 13, 2024 (see Attachment 1). Staff will include the final Vision Statement, as recommended by the PC, into the Introduction Chapter (as recommended in Attachment 1A in the May 9 meeting materials). The PC should vote on a recommendation for the Introduction Chapter in its entirety at the June 13, 2024 meeting.

Land Use Element

On May 23, 2024, the PC began the public hearing for the Land Use Element, and received spoken testimony related to the goals and policies therein. The May 23, 2024 meeting packet² includes background information on the draft Element, including a draft goals and policies matrix that provides a side-by-side comparison of the existing and revised draft goal and policy language. Staff has included an updated version of the full Land Use Element in this memorandum (see Attachment 2) with the following minor updates since the May 23 packet:

- Improve graphic quality of the Land Use Map figure, and correct titles of the Land Use categories that relate to the draft map;
- Clarify labeling in Table LU-3 to address questions from the PC and public comments;
- Remove Figure LU-5 showing existing commercial and mixed use areas (not relevant to future planning);
- Reinstate policy LU-5.10 stating continued support for the Totem Lake and Greater Downtown Regional Growth Centers;
- Revise language in policies LU-5.2 and 5.3 to update reference to specific areas to read: “transit-oriented and commercial ~~and mixed use areas~~”; and
- Implement non-substantive and limited edits to narrative text for improved descriptions.

The PC should vote on a recommendation for the Land Use Element in its entirety at the June 13, 2024 meeting.

¹<https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/Public/CompiledDocument?meetingTemplateId=1245&compileOutputType=1>

² <https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/meetings/ItemWithTemplateType?id=426&meetingTemplateType=2>

Public Comments

Public comments received over 2022-2024, through June 3, 2024 (prior to the publication of this memo for the continued public hearings) are available on the K2044 webpage³. Public comments are also available organized by subject matter⁴. Additional public comments received after the publication date of this memorandum will be provided to the PC prior to the June 13 public hearing and compiled and posted on the K2044 webpage after the hearing.

Compliance with State Environmental Policy Act - Environmental Review

The City anticipates issuing a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on June 10, 2024 that evaluates two alternatives: 1) Existing Plan (No Action) Alternative; and, 2) Growth (Action) Alternative. Both alternatives would accommodate the City's assigned growth targets through 2044, which includes 13,200 additional housing units and 26,490 additional jobs.

A copy of the Draft SEIS will be available for viewing on the K2044 Comprehensive Plan/ Basics webpage⁵. To submit comments, community members can email Janice Swenson at jswenson@kirklandwa.gov prior to July 12, 2024 at 5:00 pm, or attend the June 27, 2024 public hearing and provide verbal testimony.

Next Steps

The below public hearing schedule has been revised to reflect any future public meetings at which the PC has voted to continue public hearings, as well as the previously established hearing dates and which respective elements are scheduled for consideration:

- June 13, 2024 (7pm): Public Hearing Continuation (from May 9 Public Hearing #1 and May 23 Public Hearing #2)
Topics: Introduction Chapter and Land Use Element
- June 27, 2024 (6pm): Public Hearing #3
Topics: Transportation Element, Capital Facilities Element, Utilities Element, Public Services Element, Draft SEIS
- July 11, 2024 (7pm): Public Hearing Continuation (from May 23 Public Hearing #2)
Topics: All Neighborhood Plan and Subarea Plan Chapters (except the Juanita

³ https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/2022.12.06-2024.05.01_public-comments_k2044.pdf

⁴ https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/2022.04.19-2024.05.01_public-comment-tracker_k2044_1.pdf

⁵ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Planning-and-Building/Planning-Projects/Kirkland-2044-Comprehensive-Plan-Update/The-Basics>

Neighborhood Plan; the PC completed deliberation on recommendation to Council on May 23, 2024)

- September 26, 2024 (6pm): Public Hearing #4
Topics: Housing Element, Appendix (Historical, glossary, Housing Needs Assessment, Community Profile)

Prior to public hearings #3 and #4, staff will host Open Houses for the community at City Hall from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The Open Houses will allow staff to provide background information and answer any questions community members may have prior to the opportunity to provide public testimony at the hearing for each respective Element.

A joint study session for the PC to relay their recommendation on the draft Comprehensive Plan to Council is tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2024. Final adoption of the full Plan by Council is scheduled for December 10, 2024.

Attachments

1. Updated Draft Vision Statement prepared by PC Sub-committee
2. Draft Land Use Element (updated since May 23, 2024 public hearing version)