

CITY OF SHORELINE

SHORELINE PLANNING COMMISSION SUMMARY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

June 15, 2006
7:00 P.M.

Shoreline Conference Center
Mt. Rainier Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chair Piro
Commissioner Broili (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Commissioner Hall
Commissioner Harris
Commissioner McClelland
Commissioner Phisuthikul
Commissioner Wagner

STAFF PRESENT

Joe Tovar, Director, Planning & Development Services
Steve Cohn, Senior Planner, Planning & Development Services
Steve Szafran, Planner II, Planning & Development Services
Jessica Simulcik Smith, Planning Commission Clerk

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Vice Chair Kuboi
Commissioner Pyle

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Piro called the regular meeting of the Shoreline Planning Commission to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call by the Commission Clerk, the following Commissioners were present: Chair Piro, Commissioners Hall, Harris, McClelland, Phisuthikul and Wagner. Commissioner Broili arrived at 7:05 p.m. and Commissioner Pyle and Vice Chair Kuboi were excused.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 7.i was placed after Item 7.ii. In addition, the Director's Report was moved to later on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 1, 2006 were approved as submitted.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one in the audience who expressed a desire to address the Commission during this portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BECKER SITE-SPECIFIC REZONE #201522

Chair Piro reviewed the rules and procedures for the quasi-judicial public hearing. He reviewed the Appearance of Fairness Rules and inquired if any Commissioners received comments regarding the subject of the hearing from anyone outside of the hearing. None of the Commissioners disclosed any ex parte communications. No one in the audience expressed a concern about the participation of any Commissioner, either.

Staff Overview and Presentation of Preliminary Staff Recommendation

Mr. Szafran explained that the applicant is proposing to modify the existing zoning category for a 15,200 square foot parcel located at 18016 Stone Avenue North. Currently, the site is developed as a single-family home, which is on the City's Historic Inventory List. The subject parcel is relatively flat and has many significant trees. Four large trees that are located within the right-of-way adjacent to the subject property would be saved by meandering the required sidewalk around them.

Mr. Szafran displayed the proposed site plan and advised that the applicant is proposing to build four, low-impact single family homes. Sixty-five percent of the trees on site would be saved, as would the trees that act as a natural buffer on the north side of the property. Two covered parking structures would be built on the site, as well. He explained that with a parcel size of 15,200 square feet, the gross average density on the site would be 11.5 units per acre. He noted that the City has received four letters of opposition to the proposed development and site-specific rezone. He provided elevation drawings of the proposed structures, as well as some pictures illustrating the architect's work in other areas of Shoreline.

Mr. Szafran advised that the Comprehensive Plan designation for the adjacent parcels to the north, east and south is medium density residential, which allows residential zoning between R-8 and R-12. The parcels to the west across Stone Avenue North have been designated as either mixed use or community business, which allows all residential zoning between R-8 and R-48 and all commercial and industrial zoning categories. He further advised that the zoning in the immediate area is a mixture of R-6, R-8, R-12, R-24, R-48, Office and Regional Business. He provided pictures to illustrate current development in the immediate area. Nearby properties have been developed with a mixture of low-density single-family homes, medium-density single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, multi-family buildings, and commercial uses.

Mr. Szafran said the subject property is located close to a major arterial, and Aurora Avenue North accesses a number of transit routes. The site is within walking distance to Cromwell Park and Shorewood High School, as well as numerous employment and shopping centers.

Mr. Szafran explained that when reviewing rezone applications, the Commission is required to consider five criteria. He briefly reviewed each of the criteria as follows:

1. **The rezone is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan:** The Comprehensive Plan designation is medium density, which allows up to an R-12 zone, and the proposed development would

promote an efficient use of land. The current single-family residence on the site does not meet the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposal would provide varying styles of housing units for the future needs of Shoreline residents, would encourage infill development on an underutilized site, and would be compatible with existing housing types. The proposed development meets the land use, housing, environmental, and community design goals and policies.

2. **The rezone will not adversely affect the public health, safety of general welfare:** Adequate infrastructure exists in the area, and the proposal would utilize low-impact development techniques. The developer aims to keep as much natural vegetation as possible while placing the buildings around significant natural features on the site. Natural screening would remain in place to protect the privacy of adjacent neighbors.
3. **The rezone is warranted in order to achieve consistency with the Comprehensive Plan:** The medium density land use designation allows up to an R-12 zone. The proposed single-family homes would be less dense, have smaller building footprints, have less impervious surfaces and would not be as tall as other single-family homes that have been developed in the immediate area. The site is located in an area where higher density is encouraged and within walking distance to schools, parks, shopping, employment and transit routes. The current single-family home does not meet the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan since the site is developed at 2.8 dwelling units per acre.
4. **The rezone will not be detrimental to uses or property in the immediate vicinity of the subject rezone:** On the built portion of the property, density would be less than other projects recently completed in the neighborhood. Adequate sewer and water exists at the site. Stormwater would be contained on site using low-impact development techniques. It is estimated that only 2.2 peak hour trips would be generated, and landscaping would be provided along all property boundaries. Frontage improvements would meander around significant trees located in the right-of-way, and 65% of the significant trees on the site would be retained, where the City's code would only require 20% retention.
5. **The rezone has merit and value for the community:** The proposed project would be more environmentally friendly than if the site were redeveloped under the existing zoning category. The new homes would be placed within the natural features of the site rather than grading and cutting them down. While the new development would increase impervious surface more than what exists now, the impact would be less than what could occur with development under the current zoning designation of R-8.

For the reasons outlined in the rezone criteria, Mr. Szafran advised that staff recommends preliminary approval of the rezone based on the following conditions:

- The scale and architecture of homes must resemble elevations on file.
- Low impact development techniques must be used.
- Building heights shall not exceed 25 feet.
- At least 60% of the significant trees shall be retained
- Trees acting as a natural screen on the north, south, east and west shall not be substantially changed from their current state.

Applicant Testimony

Scott Becker, Applicant, 19202 – 20th Avenue Northwest, advised that his company built the Reserve Cottages. He explained that their approach for the proposed project was based on a desire to provide an alternative to the standard type of housing development, which is not typically required to preserve any trees. In addition, they are trying to apply an array of low-impact development techniques to avoid adding the full burden of stormwater management that is normally required for development. He noted that at the Reserve Cottages, they hired geotechnical and civil engineers to figure out how to infiltrate and transpire the stormwater rather than sending it all to the overtaxed stormwater system.

Mr. Becker pointed out that the proposal is to develop the site to 25% lot coverage on a lot that allows much more. The footprint of the development is less than what could be built with a three-building development, which is currently allowed on the site. Upzoning would assist in providing a better overall development. He noted that the units have been uniquely designed and angled in such a way to avoid the removal of trees where possible. He summarized that they are trying to do something better to improve the neighborhood and preserve existing trees and wildlife habitat.

Questions by the Commission to Staff and Applicant

Commissioner Harris asked about the proposed building footprints. Mr. Becker answered that they are intending to construct three bedroom houses. The bottom level would be in the neighborhood of 750 square feet. The total square footage of space in each unit would be about 1,200.

Mr. Becker noted that the site plan has been revised since the Commission packets were mailed out. The slide displayed as part of the PowerPoint presentation shows the current site plan. He explained that the initial site plan was not based on a complete survey. Since that time, a survey has been performed to better identify all of the trees on the site. He noted that on the north side of the site there are smaller caliber trees that don't technically qualify as significant, but a number of them would be preserved as well. There are also some significant trees to the northeast that were not shown on the original site plan.

Commissioner Phisuthikul referred to the easement through the northern boundary of the property to serve the property to the east. He asked if this easement would serve other properties, as well. Mr. Becker answered that the easement currently serves only one house. He said he intends to locate the buildings as close as possible, while angling them to create open areas of common green space or patios. Commissioner Phisuthikul asked who would own the open areas. He also asked if a homeowners association would be formed. Mr. Becker replied that the homeowners would own the land their houses sit on, as well as a perimeter dimension of roughly 3 to 5 feet wide. The common open space would be planted with native species that are resilient and require less maintenance.

Commissioner McClelland requested clarification about the orientation of the proposed buildings. Mr. Becker answered that rather than orienting the houses towards Stone Avenue North, the green space along the street would be maintained. The easement would allow them to create a central area where parking and individual walkways to the units would be provided. The development would focus inward rather than out at the adjacent properties.

Public Testimony and Comment

Cong-Qiu Chu, 1301 North 182nd Place, said he lives across the street from the subject property. He said he enjoys the area and is not convinced the developer would be able to implement the plan without destroying the existing environment. He questioned the developer's ability to preserve 60% of the trees. He expressed his belief that four houses and two parking garages on the subject property would be too crowded, and he is concerned about the traffic impact created by the additional housing units. He pointed out that privacy is also a concern for the adjacent property owners. He said he strongly opposes the proposed development. He encouraged the Commissioners to visit the site to get a better idea of the neighbor's concerns. Commissioner Hall asked some details about Mr. Chu's home. Mr. Chu answered that on his cul-de-sac there are 10 or 11 houses. His home is 1,900 square feet in size.

Commissioner Broili noted that the developer's intent is to retain many more significant trees than the 20% required by the code. If the developer were to construct three single-family homes utilizing the maximum footprint allowed by the existing zone, the impact to the adjacent property owners would be much greater. Mr. Chu said he is still concerned about the impact that would be created by six structures on the subject property.

Yedim Liebman, 1309 North 182nd Place, said he would like the property to be developed as two single-family homes rather than the four that have been proposed. He pointed out the location of his home and driveway and expressed his concern about some of the existing trees on the subject property and the hazard they pose. He asked that the dangerous trees be removed before his home is damaged. He pointed out that a fifth house has been proposed for property to the east of the subject property. He concluded his remarks by reiterating his opposition to the proposal.

Commissioner McClelland inquired about the location of a fifth house that would be constructed to the east of the subject property. Mr. Szafran pointed out that the City has not received a building proposal for the east parcel. The property would be accessed via the 15-foot easement that would run through the subject parcel.

Rebecca Glass, 18033 Stone Avenue North, said she lives southwest of the subject property. She expressed her concern about the recent construction that occurred right next to her property. The first thing they did was cut away all the vegetation on the property, including most of the trees. The developer did everything possible to get around the City requirements. If Mr. Becker's development is built as proposed, it would be a good development for the neighborhood.

Brian Lee, 18018 Stone Avenue North, said he owns property to the east of the subject property. He said he has lived in his home for almost 25 years and has been in the real estate business for the past 30 years. He referred to previous developments that had a negative impact on the neighborhood. Numerous significant trees were removed to accommodate the new development. He said he supports the proposal as the best alternative for the neighborhood. He suggested that unless the City were to purchase the property for a park, the proposed development would be the best option. The Commission asked questions to clarify the location of Mr. Lee's property, how it is accessed, and what his future plans are.

Martin Kral, 1317 North 183rd, said his property is located just to the north of the subject property. Contrary to the information provided in the staff report, he pointed out that the east side of Stone Avenue North is developed as single-family residential throughout, with the exception of the Meridian Park Cottages. He suggested that that the current proposal appears to be another effort to develop cottage housing in the neighborhood. He concluded that if spot zoning were allowed to continue in

Shoreline, the neighborhoods would be in danger. He pointed out that the landscape buffer along the north boundary of the subject property is actually part of the Elena Lane Development. This landscape buffer was one of the conditions set forth by the City to mollify the concerns raised by the neighbors. He expressed his belief that the neighborhood would be detrimentally impacted by allowing a cottage housing type development on the subject property. They already have two cottage housing developments in their area.

Commissioner McClelland requested clarification about the landscape buffer mentioned by Mr. Kral. Mr. Kral clarified that this buffer adjoins the easement to the north of the property line. The line of trees is actually owned by the adjoining property owner to the north. It is a landscape barrier that was negotiated and agreed to by a previous developer. Therefore, it should have no impact whatsoever on the proposal. Mr. Szafran pointed out the location of the buffer of trees

Ellie Brandower, 1314 North 180th Street, said she lives behind the proposed development. She referred to the site plan and asked what a feature on the plan was. She noted that this was not identified on the site plan she received previous to the meeting. She expressed her concern that the proposed development would interfere with her privacy. She said she is also concerned that the bushes separating her property from the subject property would have to be removed.

Commissioner Hall clarified that the two parallel lines drawn from the corners of the central units indicate a 9-foot distance between the two buildings. These lines do not represent a road or any other type of construction. They are architectural lines on the map to show distance. Ms. Brandower asked how far from the property line the houses would be built. She concluded her remarks by stating that she is opposed to the proposed cottage development. The idea of a park or something of that nature would be better.

Presentation of Final Staff Recommendation

Mr. Szafran said staff's final recommendation is that the Planning Commission move to recommend to the City Council that R-12 zoning be adopted for the property located at 18016 Stone Avenue North, with the following conditions:

1. The scale and architecture of homes must exhibit characteristics of those presented at the Planning Commission such as small building footprints, lower building heights, and less intrusive homes to neighboring properties.
2. Low impact development techniques must be used.
3. Building heights shall not exceed 25 feet.
4. At least 60% of the significant trees shall be retained.
5. Trees acting as a natural screen on the north, west, east and south shall not be substantially modified from their current state.

Mr. Tovar clarified that the proposal is not a "cottage housing" development, and the City no longer has cottage housing regulations. The current proposal is to rezone the subject property to R-12, which is a single-family zone. He suggested that one question the Commission might want to discuss is whether or not a unit that is smaller than a certain number of square feet could be considered a single-family house.

Final Questions by the Commission and Commission Deliberation

Commissioner Harris noted that on Page 41 of the Staff Report, staff stated that the Elena Lane Development was built at 12.8 units per acre. But then Page 46 states that it is 12.8 net dwelling units per acre. He noted that the current zoning designation for this property is R-8. He asked if the staff's calculations excluded the road. Mr. Szafran said that the road and open space/drainage facility were excluded. Commissioner Harris clarified that the Elena Lane Development was built to the R-8 standards, so the language in the Staff Report was misleading.

Commissioner Phisuthikul asked if the property could accommodate five dwelling units if the zoning were changed to R-12. Mr. Szafran said that only a maximum of four units would be allowed.

Commissioner McClelland asked Mr. Becker to clearly identify the trees the applicant has control of, particularly the trees on the north side of the property. Commissioner Hall pointed out that if the Commission were to approve the rezone application, with the condition that at least 60% of the significant trees be retained, staff would have to verify how many significant trees are on the site. Commissioner Broili said it would behoove the Commission to be sure that everyone is clear on what is planned for the subject property.

Mr. Becker explained that the survey excluded non-significant trees that were less than 8 inches in diameter. The non-significant trees and the hedge along the border were excluded from the calculations because the City does not require them to be kept. However, he plans to retain them anyway. He pointed out that border trees along the driveway are actually owned by both properties, and they would be retained. The significant trees along this border were not included in the calculations, either. The 65% of trees that he is proposing to keep would be significant caliber trees in excess of all of the vegetation along the border.

Commissioner Phisuthikul asked if any civil engineering work has been done on the plans. Mr. Becker said a civil engineer is currently reviewing a geotechnical report that includes a soils component and perk test. Their intention is to infiltrate on the site so that stormwater could be contained on site and not enter the City's stormwater system. He noted that their engineering firm has a great deal of expertise in doing low-impact development.

COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SCOTT BECKER SITE-SPECIFIC APPLICATION (LOCATED AT 18016 STONE AVENUE NORTH, APPLICATION #201522) WITH ON ADDITIONAL CONDITION THAT REQUIRES THAT PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT AN ARBORIST BE RETAINED BY THE DEVELOPER TO EVALUATE THE NORTHEAST PORTION OF THE PROPERTY AND REMOVE ANY HAZARDOUS TREES PRESENT. COMMISSIONER WAGNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hall suggested that the Commission focus on the difference between what likely could occur in the future if the rezone is or is not approved. The prospect of having an additional City park is wonderful, but he would not support the City requiring a private property owner to give up property for a park. He pointed out that the likelihood of redevelopment on the subject property is high. He agreed that the size of the proposed lots would be smaller than many of the surrounding properties. However, he reminded the Commission that the purpose of the City's Comprehensive Plan is to balance the goals of the community, including the goal to provide a variety of housing types and adequate housing to meet the growth targets for population over the next 25 years. For that purpose, it is common for land use

designations to allow for a more intense use of property than the current use. Through redevelopment, the City will see higher intensity uses in order to house the population.

Commissioner Hall said he sees value to the community in redeveloping the property in a way that preserves the trees in a natural environment. He referred to Land Use Policy 108 which states that the removal of healthy trees should be minimized, particularly when they are in environmentally critical areas. He advised that the City has an opportunity to balance the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. They can get increased housing density while preserving trees. Therefore, he plans to support the motion.

Commissioner Harris said that he really likes the architectural style proposed by the applicant. However, he reminded the Commission that his previous project, the Reserve Cottages, was not well-received by the neighborhood. Therefore, it would be inaccurate to say that architecture is the selling point for the proposal. He also expressed his concern that the design is inclusive and does not reach out to the community. He noted that planning publications talk significantly about the need to design developments that integrate into the community. He also expressed his concern that the rest of the street is zoned as R-8, so a rezone to R-12 could be considered a spot zoning.

Commissioner Broili said he is also disturbed about the proposal that would allow R-12 zoning in an area that is otherwise zoned R-8. He expressed his concern that this could set a precedent for future rezones in the area. He said he can also appreciate the neighbors concerns about increased traffic. Four homes would likely result in two additional cars per unit. Eight additional automobiles in a cul-de-sac could definitely have an impact. On the other hand, he applauded the reduced impact design that is being proposed. The proposed development would be far more conducive to the environment than the recent Elena Lane development.

Commissioner McClelland agreed with the concerns raised about traffic impacts. Even though the four houses and two garages may not cover any more ground than two big houses, the proposed design and easement is awkward. Having an easement right along the property line would be intrusive on existing developments.

Commissioner McClelland said the community's impression of single-family development is one house on one lot. When more than one dwelling unit is allowed on a lot, the community may no longer view it as single-family. While the City has provisions to allow more than one unit on a lot, the proposed project might be perceived by the public as a variation of cottage housing.

Commissioner Hall agreed that the issue of "spot zoning" is a legitimate concern. He reminded the Commission that the Cottage Housing Ordinance was viewed by some as a way to get around the zoning code to build a greater density than what is allowed by the City Code, but that is not what the applicant is doing. Mr. Becker is going through a legal process that existed long before the City ever had a Cottage Housing Ordinance. Any property owner has the option to request that the zoning on their property be changed. This gives the community and neighborhood a fair opportunity to speak for and against the proposal. He suggested that any discussion related to cottage housing is inappropriate for this application. The proposal is a site-specific, property-owner initiated rezone.

In regards to traffic, Commissioner Hall noted that the development immediately to the north has 11 units on a private street. The proposed development would only have four units, plus the possibility of two more in the future, on a private street. With respect to the easement, he pointed out that the

screening vegetation is located on the property line, and documents have been included in the record indicating that the property owner would preserve this vegetation. While preserving the neighborhood character is important, he has not seen a proposal come before the Commission that does a better job of balancing the need to increase the population to meet the City's growth target with the need to preserve trees. He urged the Commission to support the proposal.

Commissioner Harris pointed out that one of the reasons Elena Lane is so intrusive is because of the size of the required road and cul-de-sac to meet the City standards. If the road width could have been reduced, larger front yards and more trees could have been part of the plan.

Chair Piro said he is uncomfortable identifying the proposal as a "spot zone." He thinks of spot zoning as a more dramatic change such as rezoning a property within a single-family zone to commercial. Going from R-8 to R-12 zoning is a natural, gradual and compatible change. Under the current zoning designation, the property would accommodate three homes, and the rezone would allow four. He expressed his belief that the proposal represents a creative way to construct single-family housing units.

Commissioner Wagner noted that prior to her joining the Commission there seemed to be a number of conditions placed on a project at Echo Lake that were changed drastically after the proposal left the Planning Commission. She suggested that they not just review the project based on what is being proposed. She agreed that the proposal is attractive and supports the concept of low-impact housing, but the Commission should keep in mind that changes could occur to the site plan after they pass their recommendation on the rezone application to the City Council.

Commissioner Wagner said that while the height restrictions found in proposed Condition 3 start to address the issue of lot coverage, further defining the maximum footprint allowed would help address this concern.

Commissioner Broili recalled that the Cottage Housing Ordinance included a suggested ratio between the 1st and 2nd floor. Commissioner Hall recalled that in the Commission's final deliberations they talked about requiring that at least 700 of the 1,000 square feet had to be located on the ground floor. Commissioner Broili pointed out that the Reserve Cottages were not well received in large part because they did not adhere to that ratio. They were considered to be out of proportion with the rest of the neighborhood. He suggested that perhaps some type of floor ratio could be incorporated as a condition of the rezone. Commissioner Phisuthikul suggested that a simpler alternative would be to create a condition to limit the lot coverage ratio of the structures and impervious surfaces.

Commissioner McClelland pointed out that the proposed site plan would not be binding if the rezone application were approved. However, Commissioner Phisuthikul emphasized that the conditions placed on the rezone application would be binding on whatever site plan is approved. That is why it might be appropriate to create a condition to identify the maximum lot coverage allowed. Mr. Szafran pointed out that any time a condition is added to a rezone application, it is considered a contract. Although it would not be called a contract rezone, the applicant would be obligated to meet all of the conditions.

Commissioner Hall reminded the Commission that their role is to recommend policy decisions, and the City Council's role is to make policy decisions. The staff is responsible to implement the policy decisions. He cautioned that the Commission should not make bad policy recommendations out of concern that someone in the governmental process has not performed their role. The Commission should maintain their role to make good policy recommendations and trust that staff would continue to

do their very best to implement the policies. He said he is comfortable that proposed Condition 1 would address concerns related to lot coverage and compatibility.

Commissioner Broili referred to proposed Condition 2 and explained that low impact development, by definition, speaks to such things as hydrology at the site. The applicant does not know whether or not the site can be infiltrated in order to apply specific low-impact development techniques. He noted that low-impact development is not defined in the City code, so the Commission does not know exactly what the term means. The applicant might have to make changes in the design.

Commissioner Hall pointed out that even if the only low-impact development technique used by the applicant was to preserve the trees, this would result in a reduction of stormwater runoff. He pointed out that under the existing zoning, a developer could construct three houses on the subject property with no public hearing requirement and no requirement to implement low-impact development. Commissioner Broili agreed but stated his belief that since the code is not clear about the meaning of low-impact development, proposed Condition 2 would be meaningless.

Chair Piro summarized that the Commission seems to be in agreement about the appropriateness of proposed Conditions 3, 4, and 5, as well as a new Condition 6 that would require an evaluation by a certified arborist of the trees on the northeast corner of the site. However, the Commissioners still have concerns about proposed Conditions 1 and 2.

Commissioner McClelland said that if the Commission could be assured that the proposed site plan represents what would take place on the site, it would be much easier to support proposed Conditions 1 and 2. However, certain conditions relating to Conditions 1 and 2 could change after the rezone application has been approved.

Chair Piro said the Commission does not have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the site plan once they have forwarded their recommendation to the City Council. He invited the Commissioners to provide feedback on changes that could be made to proposed Conditions 1 and 2 to satisfy some of their concerns.

Commissioner Broili said he plans to support the proposed rezone application. However, it is important to voice all of their concerns as part of the record. The Commission has an opportunity to bring forward issues of concern in order to move the City towards the point of where they do have definitions for low-impact development, etc.

Mr. Szafran pointed out that the code restricts single-family development to a 35% building lot coverage, and the proposed site plan identifies 25%. The code allows 50% total impervious surface and the applicant is proposing 45%.

Closure of the Public Hearing

COMMISSIONER HALL MOVED THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCOTT BECKER SITE-SPECIFIC REZONE REQUEST BE CLOSED. COMMISSIONER BROILI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vote by Commission to Recommend Approval, Denial or Modification

Commissioner Hall concurred with staff's findings and conclusions that the proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. In addition to the goals and policies staff called out, the proposal also addresses the following Comprehensive Plan goals and policies:

- Community Design Goal 1, which promotes community development and redevelopment that is carefully considered, aesthetically pleasing, and functionally consistent with the City's vision for preservation of trees and environmental sensitive areas.
- Land Use Policy 108, which calls for the need to preserve healthy trees.
- Land use Policy 87, which speaks to providing standards for site development to minimize environmental impacts.

Commissioner Broili expressed his concern that if construction and the removal of trees and vegetation is not done carefully, the root systems of other trees could be impacted and the remaining trees could die anyway. He suggested that new Condition 6 be expanded to require an arborist be on site during excavation and land development to ensure protection of the remaining trees.

COMMISSIONER BROILI OFFERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO EXPAND THE NEW CONDITION 6 TO HAVE THE ARBORIST VISIT THE SITE TO REVIEW TREE REMOVAL DURING THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT.

Commissioner Hall said he would be comfortable having an arborist on site during the course of site development, but leave it to the staff to determine when that should be done. Commissioner Harris pointed out that the City's code is very specific that a tree retention plan would have to be prepared by an engineer, so there would be no need to expand Condition 6. Commissioner Broili shared an example of a development near his home where the City code was not being adhered to.

Commissioner Harris said that the proposed friendly amendment is non-specific and does not indicate when the arborist would visit the site. Commissioner Broili said the point has been made that the Commission should lay out basic policy and then expect staff to follow through. The friendly amendment merely indicates that the Commission would like a little attention to this unusual site plan, especially where the trees would be close to the building. A bit more attention by an arborist during the development process is not too much to ask as a condition of the rezone.

COMMISSIONERS HALL AND WAGNER ACCEPTED THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.

THE MAIN MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SCOTT BECKER SITE-SPECIFIC REZONE APPLICATION, WITH ONE ADDITIONAL CONDITION AS AMENDED, WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission took a recess. They reconvened the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON JAY FINNEY SITE-SPECIFIC REZONE #201508

Chair Piro reviewed the rules and procedures for the quasi-judicial public hearing. He reviewed the Appearance of Fairness Rules and inquired if any Commissioner received comments regarding the subject of the hearing from anyone outside of the hearing. None of the Commissioners disclosed any ex

parte communications. No one in the audience expressed a concern about the participation of any Commissioner, either.

Staff Overview and Presentation of Preliminary Staff Recommendation

Mr. Szafran said the subject property is located at 14539 – 32nd Avenue Northeast. There is currently a condemned single-family home on the site. The house has been vacant for approximately 10 years and has been used by vagrants and as a dumping ground. It has few if any significant trees. The applicant is proposing a 4-unit town home development, much like the one located three parcels to the south of the subject property. The development would consist of two buildings, with two town homes in each. The density of the site would be 20.6 units per acre, and the approximate height of the buildings would be 34 feet. He noted that the City received 13 letters in support of the proposal and one letter in opposition.

Mr. Szafran reviewed that the Comprehensive Plan for the adjacent parcels is mixed use, which allows all residential zones between R-8 and R-48 and all commercial and industrial zoning categories. The zoning in the immediate area includes R-12, R-18, R-24, R-48 and Neighborhood Business. The area is developed with a mix of older homes, duplexes, triplexes, multi-family buildings and commercial uses. The subject property is located close to major arterials that access a number of transit routes, and is within walking distance to Hamlin Park, Shorecrest High School, Briarcrest Elementary, numerous churches, employment and shopping centers.

Mr. Szafran said the rezone request meets the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan by promoting an efficient use of land, encouraging infill development, reviving development in an older area, matching densities existing in the area, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, and improving the safety and aesthetics of the Briarcrest Neighborhood.

Applicant Testimony

Jay Finney, Applicant, 19825 – 52nd Place, Lynnwood, said he agrees with the staff report as presented and was available to answer Commission questions.

Questions by the Commission to Staff and Applicant

Commissioner Hall noted that many of the comment letters indicated a desire to save the trees. He asked if the two conifers near the back of the property are on the subject property. Mr. Finney answered that one is on the adjoining property and the other one is on or close to the property line. Commissioner Hall noted that the site plan does not indicate how many significant trees are on the site.

Public Testimony or Comment

Scott Solberg, 2020 Northeast 177th Street, indicated his support of the rezone proposal.

Presentation of Final Staff Recommendation

Mr. Szafran reminded the Commission that the code would allow the applicant to remove six significant trees from the site without any permits.

Final Questions by the Commission and Commission Deliberation

COMMISSIONER BROILI MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FINNEY SITE-SPECIFIC REZONE APPLICATION LOCATED AT 14539 – 32ND AVENUE NORTHEAST. COMMISSIONER HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McClelland asked if the applicant would conduct some pest abatement prior to redevelopment of the site. When there is development on the site, the pests would likely move to some other property. Mr. Finney explained their efforts to clean up the site. He has put out rat bait and traps to take care of the pest problem before the building is torn down.

Commissioner Hall asked if any significant trees have been removed in the past three years. Mr. Szafran said the City has no information about whether or not trees have been removed from the site in the past 36 months. Mr. Tovar explained that when a site is significantly overgrown, it is difficult for the staff to accurately identify the number of trees that have been removed.

Commissioner Hall pointed out that many of the people who have offered support for the proposal have conditioned their support based on whether or not the Conifer trees would be retained. If these trees are removed, then the recorded testimony both for and against the proposal becomes quite mixed.

Commissioner Harris said he is well aware of the property, and nothing has changed for the past several years except to board up the windows and doors. He has not noticed any tree cutting on the property within the last three years.

Mr. Finney said that while working on the project to the south a few years ago, he had the chance to meet all of the neighbors. The neighbors actually brought the subject property to his attention. The owner of the property across the street has offered great support for the project, even though she is in favor of saving trees. Commissioner Hall inquired if it would be a fatal obstacle to the proposed development if the applicant were to attempt to save all of the significant trees on the site. Mr. Finney answered that it would.

Commissioner Phisuthikul inquired if the property would be allowed up to five units if the rezone application were approved. Mr. Szafran answered affirmatively, but said the applicant is only proposing four units.

Closure of the Public Hearing

COMMISSIONER BROILI MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE JAY FINNEY SITE-SPECIFIC REZONE REQUEST. COMMISSIONER HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vote by Commission to Recommend Approval or Denial or Modification

Commissioner Hall recalled the previous proposal to build four units on a 15,200 square foot lot and preserve 60% of the trees. The Commission spent over an hour discussing their concerns about tree removal. Now they are entertaining a proposal to put four units on an 8,460 square foot lot and remove all of the significant trees on the site, and he is perplexed that the Commission does not seem to be concerned.

Commissioner Harris said he does not believe the two proposals are similar. The surrounding properties are zoned as R-18 and R-24. The proposed zoning would also be very compatible with the strip along Lake City Way that is zoned Neighborhood Business. Commissioner Hall pointed out that the rezone proposal would double the number of units allowed on the site. He suggested that an R-18 zoning designation would be a better option and would enable the developer to provide a 15-foot setback near the back of the lot to save the Conifers. He said he recognizes that even with the current zoning, the applicant could cut down the Conifer tree that is on his property. However, this rezone request offers the City an opportunity to further the Comprehensive Plan policies to preserve healthy trees whenever possible.

Commissioner Harris reminded Commissioner Hall that he consistently cautions the Commission not to single out one applicant and require them to do something above what the code would allow in order to gain approval for a project. Instead, the Commission should follow the development code requirements when making their recommendations. Commissioner Hall agreed. However, he expressed his belief that the Commission has the authority and responsibility to consider consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, and not just the Development Code, when making rezone decisions.

Chair Piro extended the meeting to 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner Broili said he drove by the subject property prior to the meeting. While he agrees with Commissioner Hall's concerns, the site is very different than the previous proposal and whatever is done would be an improvement over the present situation. He noted that the testimony on the previous proposal was that it was fine as it was currently developed and redevelopment of any type would create a negative impact to surrounding property owners. Any redevelopment of the current subject property would have a positive impact. While he recognizes that the Commission cannot condition the application to require the applicant to use low-impact development techniques, etc. he would certainly encourage him to do so. He also encouraged the applicant to consider street edge alternatives for the landscape strip to mitigate some of the runoff from the parking area along the north side.

COMMISSIONER PHISUTHIKUL MOVED THAT THE MOTION BE MODIFIED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS ALLOWED AT THE FINNEY SITE TO FOUR. COMMISSIONER BROILI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Phisuthikul pointed out that if the rezone is not limited to four units, a developer could construct five units instead.

Commissioner Broili asked if increasing the number of units on the site would change the amount of impervious surface and lot coverage allowed on the site. Commissioner Hall said the application would still have to meet the requirements of the building code, but the separation between the buildings might be different or the buildings could be taller.

The Commission discussed whether it matters if four or five units would be constructed on the site. Commissioner Hall pointed out that if the site plan does not match what the community saw when they offered their support, it is possible that some may not support a different proposal.

Commissioner Broili said he would vote against the proposed condition. Since this site is located on a major transportation corridor, he would not be opposed to the increase in density, as long as the City's code requirements for density and lot coverage could be met. Chair Piro pointed out that both 145th

Street and Lake City Way are major bus corridors, and there is already R-48 zoning on the same block and the adjacent block. He said he would not be opposed to five units on the site, either.

THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION FAILED 2-5, WITH COMMISSIONERS HALL AND PHISUTHIKUL VOTING IN FAVOR AND CHAIR PIRO AND COMMISSIONERS BROILL, HARRIS, MCCLELLAND, AND WAGNER VOTING IN OPPOSITION.

THE MAIN MOTION CARRIED 6-1, WITH COMMISSIONER HALL VOTING IN OPPOSITION.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONERS

Chair Piro extended the meeting to 10:05 p.m.

None of the Commissioners provided any reports during this portion of the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was scheduled on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Retreat Update

Julie Modrzejewski, Assistant City Manager, thanked the Commission for inviting her and Marci Wright, Human Resources Director, to facilitate the Commission's 2006 retreat. She distributed copies of the 2005 Planning Commission Retreat Agenda. Just as last year, she suggested that phone interviews with each Commissioner be used to establish the 2006 agenda. She asked that Commissioners indicate the best time for her or Ms. Wright to phone them. She noted that they would like to start the phone interviews next week, and then design a draft agenda that could be presented to the Commission the week of July 3rd. The last minute details and logistics could be worked out by the week of July 10th so the retreat could be conducted on July 20th.

In preparation for the retreat, Ms. Modrzejewski asked the Commissioners to complete an on-line survey. She explained that this tool is easy and quick to use. The Commissioners would be asked to grade staff on how they met the Commission's expectations. They would also be asked to grade their fellow Commissioners. She recalled that the Commission spent a lot of time discussing expectations at their 2005 retreat, so it would be healthy to assess how they are doing. She noted that staff also developed expectations of the Planning Commission, and they would be asked to complete an evaluation, as well.

Ms. Modrzejewski encouraged the Commissioners to attend the joint communications training meeting with the City Council, the Parks Board and other Boards and Commissions. She said it would be helpful to see how well the Commission works as a team and with the staff as part of the team. Commissioners who are unable to attend the joint meeting could arrange for a short one-on-one or small group training session with either her or Ms. Wright before the retreat.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tovar announced that the appeal that was filed against the City's Critical Areas Ordinance amendment for regulating piped watercourses and setbacks was settled. In exchange for the appellant's agreement to dismiss the petition, the City has agreed to review the issue again. He advised that an amendment would be proposed next fall for the Commission's consideration and a new record would be established. The Critical Areas Ordinance amendments that were previously approved by the City Council would remain intact for the time being.

Mr. Tovar advised that the Commission's recommendation regarding the Hazardous Tree Ordinance has been forwarded to the City Council. A public hearing has been scheduled before the City Council on July 10th. Council deliberation and possible action has been scheduled for July 17th. He explained that the moratorium expires on July 3rd, and a public hearing has been scheduled for June 26th for the sole purpose of continuing the moratorium and interim control until September 3rd.

Mr. Tovar reported that the City Council would review the Critical Areas Stewardship Plan proposal at a study meeting in August. Staff would explain the history of the issue, as well as the Commission's recommendation of denial. The City Council would then provide additional direction on how they want the staff and/or Commission to proceed.

Mr. Tovar announced that Ms. Simulcik Smith recently graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Communications.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Broili shared a report on the concept of "green roofs." He noted that his co-worker, Drew Gangnes, a Shoreline resident and highly respected engineer, did some of the work that was completed by the City of Seattle through Seattle Public Facilities. They have been conducting tests on four sites to see how green roofs work. Tests indicate that runoff was reduced by 92 percent, even during the heaviest storm when the soil was already saturated, runoff was reduced to a point of 79%. He encouraged the Commission to consider this concept as a possible option for development in Shoreline.

Commissioner Hall asked Mr. Tovar to provide a report at a future meeting about whether the updated Puget Sound Regional Council's 2020 + 20 Plan would be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and growth targets.

Commissioner McClelland invited the Commissioners to attend the Art Gala on Friday, June 23.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Chair Piro announced that the next meeting would be July 6th, and two public hearings and a workshop discussion have been scheduled on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Rocky Piro
Chair, Planning Commission

Jessica Simulcik Smith
Clerk, Planning Commission