

Neighborhood Area Planning Program

Comments and Responses

May 29, 2018 Council Study Session

Comment	Response
Outreach	
<p>1. Capture all contact information to ensure that all get notice through formal steps of the process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information will be requested at all in-person events and as part of online outreach. • Contact information will be compiled for each neighborhood area for use in providing project information and noticing of events.
<p>2. Make sure all voices are heard; allow time for inclusive outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities to use mobile apps, such as MyBellevue, especially as a way to engage with younger residents. • Include old-fashioned outreach as well as online/mobile • Consider working with senior centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed public engagement approach includes a menu of outreach options to meet the diverse needs and expectations for communication in the neighborhood areas. • The proposed one-year time frame is intended to allow adequate time for inclusive and meaningful outreach. • Online, mobile and in-person outreach methods will be included the public engagement process.
<p>3. How will engagement for boundary areas, where one side of the street is in the neighborhood area and the other side is in a different neighborhood area, be handled?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice through the city's e-alert system, project website, press releases, social media platforms and other methods will be broadly available to people within and outside the specific neighborhood area. • All meetings will be open to the public and persons who live outside of the area will not be precluded from sharing thoughts about proposed ideas and strategies. At the same time, neighborhood area plans focus within each neighborhood area and preferences of neighborhood residents will carry greatest weight in determining direction. • If boundary edge issues are identified, staff will document and track these so that a record of edge issues is preserved for consideration in the applicable neighborhood area.
<p>4. Consider how to engage with neighborhood areas that do not have HOAs, neighborhood associations or community clubs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city's engagement process is based on a broad outreach approach that includes and expands upon HOAs, neighborhood associations and community club engagement. • Outreach will encompass a variety of methods including the city's e-alert system, project website, press releases, social media platforms, such as NextDoor, direct contact with neighborhood organizations and cultural groups, posting of

July 2, 2018

Comment	Response
5. Verify whether input is from people in the neighborhood area	<p>posters and notices at local businesses and gathering places, and other measures will be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, staff plans to identify and work with neighborhood ambassadors in each neighborhood area who can help identify which channels of communication are most effective in reaching people in their neighborhood area. • Because neighborhood areas capture a larger area than immediate neighborhoods, many residents do not identify with the boundaries. • A map to help identify whether people live within the relevant neighborhood area will be available at meetings. A similar map will be provided for online outreach. • All meetings will be open to the public and persons who live outside of the area will not be precluded from sharing thoughts about proposed ideas and strategies. At the same time, preferences of neighborhood residents will carry greatest weight in determining direction.
6. How will commercial and retail owners participate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business owners will be invited to participate in all in-person and online activities. If there is interest, morning or other meeting times that are convenient to business owners will be provided.
7. Consider including opportunities for helping people become a community leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned participation process is intended to help people gain skills in working together to identify and resolve issues, brainstorm ideas for the future and make effective decisions in a group. • If there is neighborhood interest in additional skills training, we will work to incorporate that into the process or identify other options to meet this interest.
Content	
8. Include a character/identity/positioning statement in the neighborhood profile.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A character or identity statement will be included in the neighborhood profile.
9. Include a vision statement developed by the neighborhood area. Recognize that areas are not homogenous, so may not have a single vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vision statement will be developed for each neighborhood area. Diversity in vision will be recognized and incorporated into vision statements.
10. A large diverse neighborhood area may need more than 3 – 5 priorities to be included in the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of priorities and strategies in each plan will be representative of the size and range of interests in the neighborhood area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is not a fixed maximum number of strategies, the plans are intended to have a strategic focus on the most important priorities rather than a comprehensive list of all issues. • Priorities that are not carried forward and developed as a strategy with supporting actions will be documented for reference in future updates.
<p>11. Issues for consideration in plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Density, infrastructure, how to identify and define valuable spaces, local amenities, commercial space, connectivity • Consider “dog-friendly” issues within the neighborhood areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue identification in each neighborhood area will be informed by the neighborhood profile and other data, goals and policies in the existing plan, neighborhood input provided through meetings, walking tours, online mapping and other methods; and input from city staff. • Each neighborhood will identify the highest priority issues for further consideration.
<p>12. Comprehensive Plan flexibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need flexibility to allow follow-up actions in Comprehensive Plan and/or Land Use Code. • Make sure process for follow-up is established so that can happen in annual cycle. • Make sure this process is more than just a sales job for the Comprehensive Plan and vision • Remember that Comprehensive Plan is citywide Council-adopted policy; caution against making it too easy to change 	<p>Staff recommends that the city’s fundamental vision and direction as expressed in the City Council’s vision and the Comprehensive Plan provide a framework and guide that should not vary between neighborhood areas. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values: stewardship, innovation, and integrity • City Council Vision: We welcome the world, diversity is our strength, we embrace the future while respecting our past. • Comprehensive Plan vision, including the following themes: diverse and vibrant neighborhoods, meeting the housing needs of a diverse population, reliable and predictable transportation system, hub for global business and innovation, stewardship of the environment, active and engaged citizenry; a community that cares; “city in a park” • Citywide growth strategy as established in the Comprehensive Plan • Standards for provision of basic city services, such as for transportation, parks, utilities, police, fire and other basic city services <p>Within this framework, potential plan or regulatory changes may be appropriate. An example of this type of change could include a plan amendment to reflect a neighborhood area decision related to detached accessory dwelling units, environmental</p>

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	stewardship or other similar neighborhood-focused topic.
Process	
<p>13. Council and Planning Commission involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Council and Planning Commission to outreach events • Should Commission members meet outside of formal meetings? • Potential to be intimidating or raise questions of appearance of fairness • Want to discuss further, area of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than direct participation in events, staff recommends regular briefings to the Council and Commission to share status and progress. • Specific meetings that would be most informative and conducive for Council or Commission participation could also be identified.
<p>14. Interested in addressing sequence for plan updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so directed by Council, the sequence for plan updates will be addressed at a future meeting.
<p>15. Program schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With 16 neighborhoods, will take eight years, which is too long, especially for urgent issues. • Need some flexibility to handle common issues and things appropriate for citywide change more efficiently. • Could some neighborhood areas be combined, such as West and Northwest Bellevue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed schedule of two plans per year is intended to provide a balance that allows for inclusive and meaningful participation while moving as quickly and efficiently as possible. • The average neighborhood area population is about 9,000, rising to 17,000 persons in the largest area. Combining neighborhood areas with relatively large population or geographic area would likely mean that additional time is needed to allow for full engagement and address a broader range of interests. However, there may be opportunities to combine areas with relatively small populations or geographic area. • As planning proceeds, there may also be circumstances that would allow similar solutions to be applied to multiple areas. Staff proposes to continue to explore these opportunities and work with Council to expedite the planning process wherever possible. • There will continue to be multiple ways for neighborhoods to engage with the city as neighborhood planning is proceeding – including programs through Community Development, Parks and Human Services, Transportation, and other departments. The neighborhood planning program will work with all city departments in an integrated manner to support responsiveness to neighborhood needs whether through neighborhood area planning or other programs.

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<p>16. How will the mismatch between the old subareas and the neighborhood area boundaries adopted in 2015 be addressed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City staff will review existing subarea plans that fall within new boundaries to ensure that applicable information and policies are brought forward for consideration in the updated neighborhood area plan. • Policies will be evaluated to determine whether they are outdated, redundant or still potentially applicable to the neighborhood area. • All policies, whether identified as applicable or not, will be available for neighborhood area review and consideration during the planning process.