

**PLANNING ACADEMY II – SESSION IV AND OVERALL FEEDBACK SUMMARY
May 28, 2008**

	Information Provided	Meeting Format	Presenters	Location / Setting
Excellent Above Standard	10	5	11	13
Standard Below Standard	23	17	24	17
Standard	15	24	15	17
Below Standard	3	5	0	3

What was the most useful information you gained from the presentation(s)?

- Learning about the over process of infill – the complexity and the importance of details.
- Gained a broader perspective of the many factors that must be addressed in planning.
- Learning how the information gathered at the Planning Academy will be used to update our Comprehensive and Neighborhood Plans.
- The range of housing types that could be placed into the existing zoning.
- Appreciated the clearer definitions of housing types.
- Great F.A.R. explanation.
- The options for Design Guidelines.
- The need for zoning changes to occur in order for infill to happen.
- Found the “You get what you measure” , the LOS alternative mode, presentation very helpful.
- That Bellingham is working toward a green community future.
- The enthusiasm for change that reflects our community and respects individual neighborhoods.
- That people are willing to work with the city.
- The opinions of the community.
- The presentations by various professionals.
- Mark Hinshaw’s Presentation on his book True Urbanism.
- Old Town Urban Village.
- The next steps for our community.
- Both the stormwater and the transportation presentations.
- How many participants are against infill – mostly because of bad detached ADU’s.
- Not much, the information given skirted the real issues, and left many unanswered questions.

What topics or issues would you have liked to see discussed in more depth or detail?

- How neighborhoods work with the City to make design unique & appropriate.
- What process is the City going to use in aiding the neighborhoods in developing their plans.
- More on specific and clarity regarding neighborhoods.
- Where will the infill be taking place.
- Direction on how the neighborhoods should determine their growth.
- Direction to those neighborhoods that are ready for the infill on how to get the processes started.

- How will the changes be implemented into the Comprehensive Plan.
- The cost of infill and some of the negative impacts that could result from it.
- Urban Village locations and design concepts.
- Urban Village zoning – and the opportunity to modernize the entire plan to focus on those things NOT allowed.
- Strategies on planning for the Downtown Core.
- Examples of good infill that relates directly to specific types of Bellingham Neighborhoods.
- More examples of design standards / guidelines.
- Option of piloting detached ADU's.
- Participating in actual planning exercises using the “tools” discussed during the academy.
- What the process would be for putting the “toolbox” together based on the planning academy and how the information will be presented to the neighborhoods.
- What would the new code changes be as a result of the meetings.
- Transit oriented development.
- Discussion about WTA taking trips to Parks once in the morning and once in the afternoon.
- More discussion on the stormwater issues and becoming energy efficient.
- The use of view corridors and retention of the rights of way.
- How to minimize the negative impacts of each infill type.
- Discussion on examples of the parking impacts mitigations related specifically to the ADU and cottage type housing.
- Discussion about financial issues addressing the viability of building quality high density & low income structures to last.
- The state law that mandates growth.
- GMA accommodation issues with multi-family housing.
- How to be sure the new housing types and zoning is not used to attract even more people to Bellingham.
- How infill / denser development will accommodate people's need for privacy, perception of safety, and freedom from crime.
- How is the property values effected by the different housing types in single family neighborhoods.
- The option of an overlay for rezoning in certain areas.
- Discussion on more of the topics from the book, True Urbanism.
- Green infrastructure corridor criteria to support urban infill near urban centers & existing transportation corridors, as well as, in the neighborhoods.

What suggestions do you have for developing future community education sessions related to growth management, comprehensive plan policy, or neighborhood planning?

- Be more specific to each neighborhood – their individual needs, the process they would follow, and how to include that in their plan.
- Continue periodic sessions like this where questions can be asked.
- Public forum and presentations on transportation impact issues.
- For the worksessions, use Bellingham rather than a pseudo city plan.
- Ask planners to be attend neighborhood meetings and be available for advice, information, and answering questions specific to personal concerns.
- Include stormwater planners and engineers in discussions.

- Have higher standards for Low Impact Development and include it in all descriptions.
- Create ways to hear from everyone, not just loud talkers.
- Don't review the previous meeting for 2 hours.
- Suggested publishing the series in the Herald. This will reach a larger # of people and different populations.
- Provide an update next year.
- Ensure the attendees are more diverse – mostly property owners that were middle class, Caucasian, and professionals attended Planning Academy II.
- Components and strategies for development of the Urban Villages.
- Have fewer people with focused topics.
- Allow conflict / disagreement and fit feedback into the SWOT analysis (strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats).
- Explain the cost of planning.
- Talk about where industrial complexes should be situated.
- Discuss average household population vs. new population and new housing built.
- How do we engage those that don't have a direct stake initially, but could be affected in the future.
- No speeches – use a real “workshop” educational format.
- Balance the information from being too technical to too simplistic (meeting 2&3).
- Utilize the system used in the Healthy Community Workshops that the County & Health Department are using.
- Have the Mayor say what happens in the neighborhoods, as far as growth is concerned – instead of the stakeholders who are there to push their bottom line.
- Provide more time for discussion and feedback from the community.
- Invite planners and directors from a city “similar” to Bellingham, that can talk about the issues they dealt with as it relates to growth management, and the successes that resulted.
- Allow more continuity between Planning Academy and Comprehensive Plan amendments and neighborhood plans.
- Provide more detail into the actual neighborhoods – similar to the Old Town public meetings.
- General education on the 13 parts of the GMA.
- Throughout the year, hold workshops once a month, as well as, 3 to 4 weekend long workshops to provide more extensive learning.
- Hold monthly gatherings for education and brainstorming sessions.
- Continue to assign seats; however, rotate them from one session to another.
- Include both pro and con views for panel discussions.
- Don't spend so much time on the what – discuss the where and how.
- Quarterly update sessions on progress in Bellingham; as well as, new ideas from other areas.
- Discuss how the social engineering, involving transportation issues, will change the neighborhood character.
- Support the associations in providing information about infill to the neighbors.
- More time for group discussions.
- Pilot 5 over 1.
- More hands on exercises (like the map).
- More information on Building Code and planning tables.
- Hold outdoor meetings on the neighborhood playgrounds.
- Think about delivering this in a lecture series.

Comments:

- Appreciation for the Planning Department's increase in public participation.
- Did not like that consensus was required at the tables, especially because the tables were loaded with development professionals.
- Enjoyed getting to know other community members.
- Academy was too broad – did not address the specific needs of each neighborhood.
- Change table assignments each week.
- Thanks to Mt. Bakery for refreshments.
- Please do more for ordinary citizens.
- Minimize the up-front costs for public notification relating to owner occupied development.
- Last session was very good... presenters were excellent... questions were nicely handled.
- Require infill in downtown – don't push it on to the neighborhoods if it is not required in the core.
- Third session was a waste of time – too repetitive of session 2.
- Concerned about how more people can receive this information.
- Provide safe bike and pedestrian routes.
- Academy was very enlightening – would like to see the information in the neighborhood plans.
- Disappointed about the Old Town plan not containing enough F.A.R. to have everybody live, work, play, and provide jobs on a regional level.
- Do not let the “people who are on the giving end” be taken advantage of.
- Did not like the second session – felt there was not enough information about the housing types they were supposed to rate... felt that the planning staff “bullied” the tables into agreeing and voting on infill.
- Worried that these workshops were the preparation phase for the destruction of single family homes.
- Would like to be kept informed of growth management and issues related to the academy.
- Suggested that everyone should have glossy reproductions, instead of them being emailed to the participants.
- Nicole did a good job – she deserves a gold star.
- The most useful idea was that infill is essential.
- Wanted to know if the feedback from the academy is going to be put to use.
- Concerned that the City is selling off its character to achieve infill at all costs.
- Not impressed with the mix of participants – pro-development, city planners, and those that gain financially by development.
- Should be addressing downtown zoning problems before single family infill.
- Start on time.
- Focus more on residential infill and provide more detail on how to integrate infill into the neighborhoods.
- Thank you for the effort to inform and educate the public so they can be involved in the City's growth.
- Sunnyland should invite the antique stores into their neighborhood when they have to move due to the changes in Old Town.