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JAN 14 2010

City of Bellingham
Planning

Mr. Aucutt,

The enclosed letter is in support of the amendments to the Puget Neighborhood plan being presented to the Planning and Development Commission on Jan. 21, 2010. Please include these comments in the written record.

Thank you.

Clifford Haas

1/14/2010

Andrea Haas
Clifford Haas
1032 Queen Street
Bellingham, Washington 98229

Greg Aucutt, Senior Planner
Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department
210 Lottie Street,
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Dear Mr. Aucutt:

We are members of the Board of Directors of the Puget Neighborhood Association, and we are strongly urging the Bellingham Planning and Development Commission to recommend that the City Council docket the proposed amendments to the Puget Neighborhood portion of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan.

Significant portions of the current Puget Neighborhood Plan are badly out of date and do not accurately reflect the existing or anticipated character and needs of the neighborhood.

Bellingham's neighborhood plans are essential in helping city leaders make the best decisions when it comes to issues that affect where we live and work. But the usefulness of those plans is compromised when they become outdated.

In addition, several significant projects that will directly impact the neighborhood are in the planning stages, including changes to the Lincoln Creek Park and Ride, development of 23 acres south of Fred Meyer and construction of new access ramps to I-5.

In keeping with our neighborhood's documented history of constructive engagement in the planning process and development issues in our area, the Puget Neighborhood Association Board formed a Planning Committee in 2007 to update our neighborhood plan. A comprehensive effort including public meetings, a carefully-designed survey and other outreach activities identified the most pressing neighborhood needs for the future and yielded a comprehensive depiction of how Puget residents see the neighborhood now and how they want it to develop in the future.

All of this is reflected in the significant revisions to three chapters of our neighborhood plan that have been presented to you. Discussions, general meetings, mail, email, our association website, written materials and more have been used to communicate with our neighbors about the plan revisions and there is broad and deep support throughout the neighborhood for the amendments which have been presented to you. There is no known opposition to these amendments.



In light of the pending projects mentioned above, gaining approval of these revisions now is in the best long-term interests of the neighborhood and the city. Therefore, we hope you will agree that these thoughtful amendments deserve timely consideration and that the City Council should be advised to docket these amendments in 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Andrea Haas
Director, Puget Neighborhood Association



Clifford Haas
Director, Puget Neighborhood Association



"J M"
<mccabejr@earthlink.net>
01/19/2010 09:33 AM

Please respond to
mccabejr@earthlink.net

To planningcommission@cob.org
cc
bcc
Subject Puget Neighborhood Plan Update

Planning Commissioners:

I encourage the Planning Commission to recommend the three chapter revisions to the Puget Neighborhood Plan (Transportation, Open Space and Utilities) to the Bellingham City Council for docketing in this calendar year 2010.

Puget is one of the most diverse of Bellingham's neighborhoods with a broad mix of residential types, topography, land uses (e.g. industrial, commercial, schools, parks - Civic Field) and transportation connectivity.

The chapter updates proposed will bring the neighborhood vision for future changes into the Comprehensive Plan. Transportation (auto, pedestrian and bike) and utilities were often raised as problem areas at neighborhood meetings. In particular, the Lincoln/Lakeway area is the core of the neighborhood and exemplifies transportation issues. The area has also been flagged as a potential new Urban Village.

Input for the plan update was gathered over several years via neighborhood meetings and a mail and online survey so should accurately represent the neighborhood sentiment.

Thank you for you consideration.

Jim McCabe
Puget Neighborhood resident
Former Puget Neighborhood Treasurer and Vice President

GUIDE MERIDIAN/CORDATA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2010

RECEIVED

City of Bellingham
Planning and Development Commissioners ✓
Planning and Development Department
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

JAN 19 2010

City of Bellingham
Planning

Dear Commissioners:

The Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood does not object to docketing proposal #10-P5, the proposed rezone and plan amendment in Area 23.

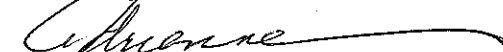
This is based on the planned update of the Neighborhood Plan this year.

This does not mean that we are convinced that a rezone is appropriate at this time. We have several concerns about the proposal and current application that will need further review. Among the concerns are wetlands impact, traffic flow into and through the property and the basic needs of the area for more commercial land.

It should be noted that even though circumstances may have changed since this area was annexed to the City, the Gateway binding site plan was approved in 2005 and little has changed since then. We are not aware of a "significant oversupply of unused industrial land." The City of Bellingham Employment Lands Report identifies the West Bakerview corridor as an important area but does not indicate an oversupply of unused industrial land.

We look forward to completing the Neighborhood Plan including a thorough review of the needs in and near Area 23.

Sincerely,



Adrienne Lederer

President

Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Association

Cc: Members of the City Council

Planning Director – Tim Stewart

Heather Wolf