

SUMMARY REPORT
Sustainability Commission Meeting
May 10, 2011

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by Chair Dan Schweitzer.

Roll Call: Caroline Arnold, Daniel Schweitzer, Theodore Newman, Alyssum Kellogg, Tami Roberts

Staff: Gary Locke, Community Development Director

Review of Meeting Summary Report of March 15, 2011: Tami Roberts noted that her name had been omitted from the roll call in the report. Dan Schweitzer made a motion to approve the summary report as revised from March. The motion was seconded by Caroline and was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Public Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS

The discussion of housing issues facing the City continued. Dan Schweitzer passed out some information that he obtained regarding planning and design for green building. He indicated that he was not sure what the proper densities should be and discussed some of his thoughts regarding parking and density. He went through some of the information that he found and what some other projects were doing with density and parking. There was some question about how some of these ideas would work in Kent. Caroline Arnold noted the increase in gas prices and the impacts that these would have on driving and transportation. This could be particularly pertinent to students. Tami Roberts asked about public transportation and Gary Locke noted that PARTA was the regional transit authority.

Gary Locke explained what he was trying to obtain in the way of direction from not only the Sustainability Commission but also the other boards and commissions in regard to density and land use. Caroline Arnold went back to the material that Dan Schweitzer had given us and noted that most of the communities mentioned were in California and wondered if any of the communities were University towns.

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There was further discussion of what might be an appropriate density and Gary Locke indicated that it was his opinion that anything above 20 units an acre got to be uncomfortable. Even this is somewhat debatable given location and contemporary issues related to travel. Alyssum Kellogg asked if there was a market for the new housing being proposed. Gary's opinion and it seemed that of some of the others was that there was not a need for the number of units being proposed.

Caroline Arnold asked whether we were near consensus on any of the points. There was general agreement that densities should be higher than R-3 densities presently. There was then discussion on parking. Caroline felt that one car per bed would still be appropriate and that we could look at this over time if driving situations change. Theo Newman felt that requiring less parking would require better transit systems and alternatives. Others agreed with Caroline on this point. It was agreed to discuss open space at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING:

July 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:40 pm.