

Comments- VISION Public Open House- February 28, 2013

Growth:

- It is so important that the city encourages private affordable housing especially owner occupied affordable housing, and most especially, new owner occupied affordable housing. (Agreed!)
- The City needs to partner with private developers to encourage more homes being built in low priced areas.
- Business development must focus on incubating new startups in Renton, supporting existing local independent businesses and business in the downtown core, rather than attracting outside chains/businesses.
- Mixed business and residential land use encourages citizen healthy, sustainable small businesses. (Yes!) (Yes!) (*)
- Business development not just downtown. Allow small retail areas in residential areas. (v)
- Food stores, even and 3rd space small green groceries should be available within walking distance.
- Quality grocers like PCC and Trader Joes. Or a local Renton Community Co-Op. (Yes!) Trader Joes. (*)
- Balance growth in the downtown area between mixed income housing with business on the bottom. 4 over 1 or 3 over 1 buildings with parking on their own site.
- Make the downtown attractive for young people and young professionals.
- Bring in larger business to make jobs in the city.
- Pursue public private non-profit partnerships to produce truly affordable housing.
- Housing and business growth should be encouraged in neighborhoods with high access to opportunities for high quality of life: parks, transit, good schools, safe streets, and access to services. All neighborhoods should have opportunities for low-income households, such as affordable housing.
- I would like the city to put more pressure on the property owners -building owners- to either fix them up or sell them to others that will.
- Downtown needs to be more walkable(!) There are loads of spaces that can be enhanced(!)
- I would like to see downtown have a plan. Is it going to be a business district, or “old town” look and feel. Those decisions will determine what sort of investments can be made. As I see it now, there seems to be a lack of direction. I like that there are plans for more downtown housing, but shouldn't there be more professional offices?

Comments- VISION Public Open House- February 28, 2013

Transportation:

- More density does not make for better neighborhoods or change traffic. It only adds to the city's taxes. Actually you have nothing but cars parked everywhere. (YES!)
- It is not a good idea to encourage more density.
- Too many people per acre – doesn't make sense.
- Downtown one-way streets are confusing. (That's for sure!) (I second that!)
- Balance dense housing with walkability
- Does this mean our current density will not support better bus service?
- The city should provide updated infrastructure – especially sidewalks/planting strips, or they just will not be built.
- More crosswalks near Benson Hill.
- Not in favor of dense housing. (YES!)
- Allow new housing to be more dense -more houses on an acre. Don't you mean "restrict" building a house with more acreage?
- Stop closing the bus stops along Maple Valley Highway. With gas prices skyrocketing, etc., may more people will require bus transportation.
- Yes and yes 😊
- Connect the Landing to downtown Renton with free public transportation. (Ditto) (Double Ditto) and not a trolley! (Yes!)(*)
- Denser housing but not in individual nonusable front lawns (like in Pdx) – clustered so there is shared play space/gathering space with parking on perimeter.
- I want a yard for my kids to play in(!) (YES!)
- A downtown trolley. Light rail?(!)
- A safe bike path through downtown Renton. Specifically 7th Street(!)
- More completed sidewalks to encourage walking for health(!) (Yes)(*)
- Make alternatives to driving in your car, bike lanes, that are safe. Walking trails to different parts of the city. Make it easy to walk downtown.
- Avid cyclists need a quick safe way to commute to Kent. Connect the Soos Neck Trail to the Cedar River Trail. Start the connection of the trails.
- Work with other levels of government to increase access to transit in Renton and across South King County. Renton can support state legislation that increases funding for transit, not just roads, and work with King County and Sound Transit to increase rapid transit access in the area that connects to services, and incorporates quality, affordable housing into the planning process.

Comments- VISION Public Open House- February 28, 2013

Natural Environment:

- Develop more soft trails
- Work w/Newcastle to complete May Creek Trail up to Devil's Elbow. (*)
- The bottom picture does not look friendly to me.
- The new structure (Public Storage?) being built on Benson (up hill on way to Fred Meyer) is huge and ugly and blocks what was once a beautiful view of the valley.(*)(*)(*)(!)(!)
- Remove invasive ivy from trees near library.
- Restrict use of nicotinoid pesticides as a hazard to honeybees.
- Increase street trees. (*)
- Improve and build sidewalks to encourage leaving cars at home, lighting, litter control and beautify streets. (*)(Yes!)
- Ugly stuff → pocket parks, green spaces, community farms.
- Not every park needs to be lawns. Allow for more natural landscapes. Role model environmentally friendly landscapes which don't require so much water, herbicides to maintain.
- Swales and water catchment.
- Water harvesting to maintain parks.
- Natural environment as water cleaner before it hit streams.
- Recharge station(!)(Yes!)
- All governmental buildings must have energy reduction goals and CO2 reduction goals.
- Off leash dogs parks, more trails.
- Connect the Cedar River Trail with the Soos Neck Trail -At Least Begin the project.
- Protect the natural environment by providing a structured way to enjoy it.
- Dog parks. Walking trails. Community gardens. More "natural" parks and green spaces. Protected green 'corridors' between neighborhoods and parks.
- How about just improve parks and open space that already exists? Renton does not really need more → It is already very green(!) (*) (☺)
- More and larger trash receptacles at bus stops to encourage less littering(!)

Comments- VISION Public Open House- February 28, 2013

Quality of Life:

- It is important to open lock-up community buildings in neighborhood parks (Tisdale, Tiffany Park, etc.) and establish financially sustainable programs that encourage a sense of community – after school classes, camps, enrichment classes and convenient meeting halls. (Yes)(+1)
- It is important to provide services and programs for youth. Art opportunities, drama, sports, volunteer, leadership training, etc.
- Run down homes (code enforcement) are too common (broken down cars, etc.). (Yes)(*)
- Major access routes should be kept litter free, cleaner.
- It is important that we have freedom without government(!) Telling us how to run every single aspect of our lives. Who gets to decide if my house is “attractive” or if it is “maintained?” To whose standard? What if I don’t agree with your definition of “” (Yes)
- Make built environment prioritize pedestrian traffic -e.g. 4th St.
- Benson Hill/Cascade needs a community center for youth to go → like Highlands Neighborhood Center. (*)
- Foster community participation, p-patch, farmer’s market, local business bucks.
- Police presence so we feel safe. Lighting in high-use areas.
- More walking trails. We already have some great ones but we need more and an emphasis on connecting present ones to new ones.
- Isolation is BAD. Must have spaces where people WANT to congregate and interact -and celebrate their diversity- with coffee carts, food carts, in each neighborhood. (I second this!)(!)
- Expand neighborhood programs.
- Foster utilization of empty storefronts.
- Walking trails. Dog parks. Clean, unique parks. New, exciting businesses. Diversity(!) Community/neighborhood centers. Community gardens.
- Teen/youth centers in Benson and Highland areas.
- More community neighborhood events/sport events.
- Don’t forget sustainable design and building standards.
- “Attractive design” is all at the eye of the beholder. Design should be safe, healthy, and incorporate well into the surrounding community, but the city’s design and development standards should be flexible enough to allow design professionals to make sound, cost-efficient decisions.
- Renton should promote a diverse housing stock to ensure all people of all incomes have the opportunity to live in safe, healthy, affordable home. But the current Comprehensive Plan promotes higher cost luxury housing. This is contrary to the original goal since very high cost housing pushes high income households into lower cost housing since even they can’t afford the luxury. This takes opportunities away from lower-income households. The City should focus on promoting high quality housing affordable to the low and moderate wage workers to ensure people of all incomes can afford to live here.
- Consider the role of code enforcement in helping to preserve existing stock and further neighborhood values.
- While neighborhoods should be able to protect and enhance their individual character, it cannot be at the expense of excluding diversity. All neighborhoods should have opportunities for safe, healthy housing affordable to a range of income levels. That means cottages, town houses, and apartment buildings should be (and can be) built to incorporate into the neighborhood character, rather than excluded from the neighborhood.
- School play grounds should be open 24/7 so neighborhood children can use the public facilities.
- Make both soft surface and paved walkways away from traffic.
- Neighborhood links to connect the City.

Comments- VISION Public Open House- February 28, 2013

What Else?

- Should Skyway/West Hill be a neighborhood in Renton sometime in the next 20 years? (Only if they want to be)
- Arts/Artist magnet
- Provide for seniors, low income, disabilities, homeless, more! (←This is for non-profits, not government!)
- Focus on small local manufacture, we should not fall apart if Boeing goes. (*Yes)
- Move toward more self sufficiency with the larger area
- Local employment
- (*)Local food(!)
- Local Entertainment
- Why aren't the council pictures named with representative areas?
- I do not understand why the Renton fire department charges to transport by ambulance. We have already paid for them.
- In 20 years, an energetic and livable downtown.
- More and larger trees and tree cover.
- Better water access for non-motorized boating on Lake Washington/Gene Coulon Park.
- Good coordination with neighbor cities. We are all updating our plans.
- An arts consortium at Big Five. (Yes!) Would synergistically add to theatre, downtown vitality, and bring in fresh money.
- Keep library large with entrance over the river. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater!
- Put a copy of the directory that's in the elevator also on the outside of each floor -14 copies.
- Vibrant downtown area, more historic preservation focus on small business growth and incubation (Think Portland/Austin, others).
- Library, community center, Benson Terrace – beautify strip mall by Fred Meyer. Public storage top of hill big mistake!!!
- Sidewalk 116th – by a school not safe for kids.
- Focus on diversity of housing and services to create a Renton for everyone.
- A vibrant, thriving, community-centered city.
- A high quality live music club/venue with art space and restaurant that will draw local and national bands.
- Year round farmers market.
- Locally owned food co-op.
- A hub for unique, successful businesses and culture.
- More pizza places -from an 8 year old.
- Skyway should be part of Renton only if the city invests in it.
- Expand farmer's market
- Neighborhood watch – partner with Renton City Police.
- The City of Renton needs to work on providing more affordable housing. The City needs to protect existing neighborhoods by making certain that the present residents can continue to live there. The City needs to follow the GMA to provide assistance to increasing the number of affordable homes.
- Bring Skyway along.
- Renton 2023

Food

- Sufficient farmland within 20 miles of City of Renton
- Year-round infrastructure for sale of local farm products
- More community garden space
- Grocery store in Landing
- Elimination of "food deserts"

Items in (parenthesis) are comments or notations added by other commenters.

Comments- VISION Public Open House- February 28, 2013

Water

- Rainwater harvesting on all public buildings sufficient for landscape maintenance
- Stop fluoridation of drinking water
- Greywater systems

Energy

- Renewable energy on large and small scale, perhaps public private partnership like Real Goods Solar to make solar affordable
- All government buildings energy efficient
- Building codes to allow green roofs, require super insulation, rainwater harvesting

Economy

- Small manufacture and repair; new, green tech local manufacturing e.g., Styrofoam replacement and resourcing plastic repair rather than toss
- Work within walking/biking distance
- Local retail and infrastructure for local retail including 3rd space; indoor year-round 'public market' featuring local grocery and produce, crafts, eateries, small businesses (similar to Public Market in Bellingham) in addition to Farmer's Market

Environment

- Retail (including grocery) within 2 miles
- Wildlife corridor
- Fix limits on sprawl (single family homes)
- Restaurants and all eating facilities required to use food waste pickup

Education

- Emphasis on conflict resolution
- Everyone knows how to cook 10 recipes by graduation
- School gardens
- Free breakfast for all children including rich ones (no stigma)
- Lunches cooked on premises using local food where possible
- No more printed books – all e-books – readers provided
- All schools have greenery (trees and shrubs)
- Job training

Infrastructure

- Zone changes to allow small retail within residential areas
- Cisterns to catch/hold/filter rainwater for landscape and gardens