

City of Kenmore  
Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Planning Commission Members – In Attendance (the meeting was held onsite and virtually using the Zoom online platform)

Tracy Banaszynski, Chair

Kara Macias

David Dorrian

Edouard Lasalle

Absent

Dwight Thompson, Vice Chair

Mike Vanderlinde

Chris Olson

Staff

Todd Hall, Principal Planner

Shannon Tipple-Leen, Planning Commission Clerk

Michelle Kang, Co-Clerk

Consultants with Beckwith Consulting

Julie Blasek

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Banaszynski at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Olson and Vanderlinde were excused from the meeting. Vice Chair Thompson was unexcused.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Land Acknowledgement was read.

4. FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was done.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public comment was given.

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2025, were approved. The consent agenda was accepted with unanimous consent.

## 7. AGENDA ITEMS

Staff brought more updates to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. In addition, Julie Blasek from Beckwith Consulting was in attendance.

Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Dorrian - Likes the order of P-1 GOPs.

Chair Banaszynski - Regarding statement at top of the goals, policies, and objectives. Remove the first statement as it implies goals and policies can be updated.

Commissioner Macias - Add statement that there is flexibility to change as needed.

Commissioner Lasalle - Needs assessment to inform the goals. If policies are general, then ok. Authority to change goals comes more from the Council.

Staff response - Goal could change over time. Redraft the statement in the positive to imply that the goals can change to reflect changing conditions.

### Goal 1

Chair Banaszynski - Propose new policy, Policy 1.2.3 allow sufficient space from the shoreline for natural ecosystem processes when considering Water Walk trail locations, especially those involve hardscapes. For example, asphalt, concrete, boardwalk, etc.

### Goal 2

Commissioner Macias - Goal P-2 add the word "equitable" after quality to read ..."to ensure quality and equitable recreational opportunities exist."

Chair Banaszynski – Grammar suggestions will be sent to staff.

Commissioner Dorrian - Old P-1.2.3 looks to be inadvertently removed. Add back: Policy P-1.2.3 Identify and retain important public access and view corridors to Lake Washington and the Sammamish River.

Chair Banaszynski - P-2.1.4, line 42, reword "Develop a Master Plan to explore opportunities for continuing habitat and riparian corridor, restoration, and opportunities that include public access where appropriate."

Chair Banaszynski - P-2.1.7, separate this one out? Policy P-2.1.7 Identify resource management agencies, such as the WRIA8 Salmon Recovery Council, and volunteer partners to steward critical areas in parks and open spaces. WRIA does not provide labor so separate volunteer partners into a separate policy.

Commissioner Lasalle - Maybe additional policy after 2.1.8 encouraging connection to First Nations culture.

Commissioner Macias - Agree, but maybe this is more appropriate in Goal 5.

Chair Banaszynski - Add policy about indigenous history so add a separate policy. Policy 2.1.8 add language about indigenous and community history.

### Goal 3

Commissioner Macias - Objective 3.1, add" ....transportation, destinations, and recreation."

Commissioner Lasalle - 3.1.1, "Prepare and actively communicate and post a safe routes plan....."

Chair Banaszynski - 3.1.5, concern about Tolt Trail through wetlands as this section of trail was removed from the Transportation Element.  
Staff response- Crossing the wetlands, it's not to exclude all connections, but specifically through the wetland.

Commissioner Dorrian - should we include something about ADA compliance?

Chair Banaszynski - Include inclusivity and accessibility throughout the Goals and Policies.

Chair Banaszynski - Really likes Policy 3.1.

#### Goal 4

Commissioner Lasalle - 4.1.3 "expected or comparable baselines and other levels of service" add reference to baseline/benchmarks about what the expectations are for residents; rest is good but not calling out the requests and not the benchmarking with our neighboring cities. Metrics to make it clear why we are adding things and what is missing.

Chair Banaszynski - Question on P-4.2.2, confused on both local and community-wide needs.

Commissioner Lasalle - Maybe change "community-wide" to "city-wide" needs.

Commissioner Dorrian - Change to "localized".

Commissioner Macias - Objective 4.3, should be put more emphasis on broader reference to school districts.

Commissioner Lasalle - P 4.3.3, expand to be more active in supporting volunteers.

Commissioner Dorrian - Old Goal P-4, does that end up anywhere else in the policies? This seems to be a guiding policy and may need to add back.

#### Goal 5

Commissioner Macias - Do we duplicate Goal 2 regarding the indigenous heritage?

Commissioner Dorrian - Goal P-5 , reword "diverse need of the community" at beginning.

#### Goal 6

No comments

#### Goal 7

Chair Banaszynski - Policy 7.1.1 - can we allow for the acquisition of property

before capital operations, maintenance, and site mitigation is budgeted. Draft new language.

City Staff clarified about adding new data, survey, and further clarifying PROS Element and Plan from Beckwith Consulting and also timing of approval of both.

Commissioner Lasalle - In order for us to be most efficient in providing recommendations where Kenmore should invest, and where we see the major gaps; sometimes gaps are accepted because we're over indexing on certain areas because we have benchmarks.

City Staff - Some data is available that the Beckwith team has collected. Typical benchmarks; not a pure science, based on personal needs; sometimes the city may choose to do something else than what's indicated in benchmark; as data comes forward, if adjustments need to be made, we can do that over time; PROS plan is a living document.

#### General comments

Chair Banaszynski - Infusing equity and inclusivity throughout; also about when talking about playground, thinking about how we are going to incorporate disability inclusivity; and include references to climate in the element - climate resiliency strategy.

Beckwith Staff - Recommendation in the crosswalk document prepared by Beckwith team adding language about a priority.

Commissioner Lasalle - Scope of PROS plan, greenery important in terms of heat islands, adequate greenery important as a contribution to parks and recreation outside of parks.

Beckwith Staff response - There is a heat island map.

City Staff - Could add something about "greenery" or "shade" to tie in as a theme.

Chair Banaszynski - Climate resiliency, strategy.

Beckwith Staff - Move away from the term Master Plan to a long-term strategic plan.

Chair Banaszynski - Stakeholder can be viewed as a derogatory term, transition language.

Commissioner Lasalle - Some tables that refer to percentages of residents, these aren't clear, should be converted.

Commissioner Dorrian - Element still reference to expanding Log Boom beach but that has been completed. Reference to special use amenities does not include The Hangar.

Commissioner Dorrian - PROS Plan, data and tie to decisions is not yet clear.

Commissioner Dorrian - Assessment of equity in previous plan there was an analysis of location of affordable housing.

Commissioner Dorrian - Implementation plan is very extensive for PROS but not PROS element should there be a better crosswalk between the two.

Chair Banaszynski - Always have been some projects in some part of the city (proposed) and would like to have opportunity to discuss those particular things. Beckwith response - Maybe after community input, could have more input for discussion in document.

Chair Banaszynski - Looking at some very old Master Plans, as what point can we just drop them and not resurface them (i.e. sports court); and need to annotate and define the purpose of the park.

Chair Banaszynski - Still need to talk about each park, something like guiding principles for each park location that would then inform decisions at park and looking at developing.

Chair Banaszynski - Long term plans (master plans), need to be annotated, a living reminder.

Beckwith response - Agree, should keep factual updates over time.

Commissioner Lasalle - If we have guiding principle or purpose of a park, then making decisions makes more sense (i.e., Log Boom Park purpose is to improve Lake WA access), having purpose of the park up front would help focus what we "should" have instead of "could" have.

Chair Banaszynski - Agree with Commissioner Lasalle statement but still want to talk about being sensitive to the land, environment, and what the land and water is telling us.

Commissioner Lasalle - Environmental situation defines the purpose of the park, environmental constraints inform purpose.

Commissioner Dorrian - What's happened at Kenmore Elementary, highlights challenge of wetland and reducing the playground area, trying to balance recreation and nature.

Commissioner Lasalle - Kenmore Elementary arboretum not accessible during school hours.

Chair Banaszynski - At next meeting, 9/23, need to be clear on what is going to the 10/7 public hearing and what is not.

Next Steps:

9/23 meeting: Additional Discussion (Final Comments on All Drafts)

10/7: Public Hearing/Make Recommendation for City Council Meeting

10/20: Recommendation to City Council

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Banaszynski adjourned the meeting at 8:28PM.

*Shannon Tipple-Leen*

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Planning Commission Clerk

9/23/25

Approved by Planning Commission on: \_\_\_\_\_