

**City of Kenmore
City Council Special Meeting
Kenmore Village Public Forum
Minutes
July 24, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Baker called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor David Baker, Deputy Mayor Bob Hensel, and Councilmembers Brent Smith and Laurie Sperry

Councilmembers excused: Councilmembers Allan Van Ness, Milton Curtis, and Glenn Rogers

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mayor David Baker and City Manager Rob Karlinsey welcomed everyone to the second Kenmore Village Public Forum.

RECAP TO THIS POINT

Debbie Bent, Community Development Director, gave a brief recap of the downtown development process thus far, noting that one of the dates not currently listed on the key milestone dates is the June 11, 2012, when the City announced the purchase and sale agreement with Kenmore Camera for the sale of 1.24 acres of the Kenmore Village property. On June 14th, Council began discussion of a proposed action strategy that will lead to the sale of the Kenmore Village properties in a way that advances the downtown goals. She noted that those goals are integrating existing business and adding new commercial business; promoting high density residential development that supports transit and a variety of incomes; strengthening connections between the downtown quadrant and the waterfront and capturing pass-through traffic; creating a destination, unique community gathering space; and promoting community events that bring residents together and meet the needs of a range of ages and interests; improving and beautifying the physical environment through design guidelines, sidewalks, landscaping, street trees, art, and signage; and providing development that is responsive to the market and is fiscally responsible. She summarized that the main purpose tonight is to think about what would create a sense of place and identity in Kenmore's downtown.

PRESENTATION

Rod Stevens, Spinnaker Strategies, was present to give a brief slide presentation showing some of the ways other cities have successfully developed gathering places and encouraged economic development, and giving some ideas of what might be possible and successful in Kenmore. He stressed programming as a way to draw people to the downtown, and asked citizens to consider what they would like to see that would make life in Kenmore richer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

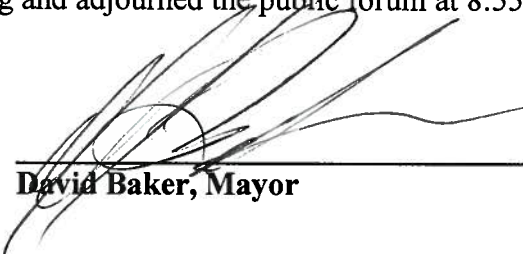
A number of citizens spoke about their visions for Kenmore Village and the development of Kenmore in general. Ideas included building a pedestrian bridge across SR 522 to link the

downtown with the Burke-Gilman Trail and Lake Washington; a park with a water feature; a place to sit outside and meet others, and possibly eat, with lots of greenery; lots of activities for families; a walkable downtown; services that are uniquely suited to Kenmore's position, such as a bike shop at the top of the Burke-Gilman Trail; stores with good exposure, good location, and low rents; buying some property to allow us to build a direct connection to SR 522 and the downtown area. Some concerns expressed by the speakers included figuring out a balance between bringing in economic development and giving residents what they need and want; connecting the downtown to the waterfront; and funding mechanisms.

City Manager Karlinsey pointed out that multiple developers have already contacted the City, and that they will contribute ideas as well. He asked for ideas from citizens about what they would like to have in the downtown if they lived or worked within walking distance and where they currently take out of town visitors.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Baker thanked the citizens for coming and adjourned the public forum at 8:55 p.m.



David Baker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patty Safran, City Clerk