

From: [John Saunders](#)
To: [Olympia2045](#)
Cc: [South Capitol South Capitol Board](#)
Subject: Comments on Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the 2045 Olympia Comprehensive Plan
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:34:30 AM

Dear Ms. Phillips and Mr. Ginther:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed updates to the Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the 2045 Olympia Comprehensive Plan. My comments reflect my personal opinions not that of the South Capitol Neighborhood Association.

Here are my comments:

1. GP4 - Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

Please add a sub-goal to meet or exceed the commitments of the City and the Registered Neighborhood Associations under Olympia Municipal Code (OMC) 18.86.100 H.6 to conduct at least 4 policy forums on topics of mutual interest each year. This is a concrete action that is already required under the OMC but which has not been used in recent years. Public forums organized through the neighborhood associations would be an extremely effective way to gain input on policy and/or budget choices. They would help the community understand and support the direction taken by the City on major issues such as transportation, public safety, fiscal planning, and more. Such a sub-goal would clearly support the main goal of assuring community members that “their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.” Perhaps the sub-goal could be: *“PP4.6 Partner with recognized neighborhood associations to conduct quarterly forums on upcoming policy and budget issues of common interest”*

2. GP7 Logical boundaries and reasonable service areas are created when areas within the Urban Growth Area are annexed.

This goal and its sub-goals do not appear to have anything to do with this chapter. The Chapter title is ‘Public Participation and Partners’. The goal addresses how jurisdictional boundaries are defined within the Urban Growth Area. This goal and its sub-goals would be more appropriate in the Comprehensive Plan chapter on Land Use and Urban Design. I suggest that this goal and its sub-goals be moved there.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

best regards,

John Saunders
President, South Capitol Neighborhood Association
301 18th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
m: 360 259-0288

From: jacobsoly@aol.com
To: [Olympia2045](#)
Subject: Comp Plan Comment -- Public Participation and Partners Chapter
Date: Sunday, August 4, 2024 8:34:53 AM

David --

For the record, I support the following problem statement and suggestion by Larry Dzieza regarding the goal statement in the Public Participation and Partners Chapter:

Personally, I will be suggesting a change to a goal statement (see phrase below in red) related to the oft heard complaint that when feedback is provided, we seldom hear about whether the comments were considered and if so to what end.

GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and **are informed how they were considered or** used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

Public comments too often get the black hole treatment. We are urged to comment but don't get any feedback. So we often just don't comment. Is that really what the city wants?

Bob Jacobs

360-352-1346
720 Governor Stevens Ave. SE
Olympia 98501

From: [Larry of Nottingham](#)
To: [David Ginther](#); [Joyce Phillips](#); [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Comments and Suggested Changes to the Public Participation and Partners chapter
Date: Friday, August 9, 2024 2:49:01 PM
Attachments: [LD Draft Public Participation and Partners chapter Clean.doc.rtf](#)

Please see attached. It was done with "track changes" on.

If you have any questions about why I suggested a particular change, please feel free to call me at 360.556.6070 or email me.

Although these suggested changes are not the official position of the CNA membership, I do want to highlight one recommendation for change that has long been raised by RNA members at CNA meetings, item GP4.

GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and **are informed about **how they were considered** and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Larry Dzieza

[Comments from Larry Dzieza 08/09/2024](#)

Public Participation and Partners



Community members talk about their priorities at an Imagine Olympia event

What Olympia Values:

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Our Vision for the Future:

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Read more in the [Community Values and Vision chapter](#)

Introduction

Successful communities face their challenges collectively and ~~harness~~ employ the energy of different stakeholders. Without diverse participation in community decision-making, it is all too easy ~~for the public~~ to descend into ~~indifference or alienation~~ political gridlock over complex problems.

The voices of residents, local business owners and organizations provide the perspective and information that are absolutely essential to effective planning and decision-making regarding issues that will shape our community for generations to come. For this reason, the City ~~has a strong, ongoing program to~~ reaches out and ~~partners~~ with all sectors of the community.

The City has found cooperative relationships between members of the community and policy-makers ~~that will~~ continue to be essential if we are to achieve the collective vision and goals described in this Plan. It ~~understands and makes use of effective and tested~~ will continuously work to improve upon methods for encouraging community members to engage at multiple levels as we continue to look for creative solutions to the challenges we all share.

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Public Participation is Essential

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[Comments from Larry Dzieza 08/09/2024](#)

government policies are essential to ensure residents, business owners, employees and other community members are able to effectively participate in any number of issues.

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[page 3] To address these challenges, the City is always looking for new and creative ways to engage the community, including using technologies, such as social media, online discussion portals and high-quality visual maps. The City will continue to evaluate engagement methods to ensure they are equitable and inclusive. The City will ~~outreach~~ reach out to the community using methods that will reach those most affected and those with the least ability to participate. The City will work to go into the community to meet with people where they are at. The City strives to create clear, concise, and jargon-free information so that people can easily and quickly understand the issues and provide input. The City hopes this will inspire partnerships that will help the community to pool its resources so that needed changes can be made more quickly and efficiently.

...

[page 5]
PP1.2 Annually measure and highlight progress towards achieving the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies including how well we are achieving our engagement goals in this chapter. Engage the community in updating the strategy, publish performance reports, and recognize community partners who contribute to achieving the vision.

...

[Page 7]

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From: [Oly CNA](#)
To: [David Ginther](#); [Olympia2045](#)
Subject: CNA Recommended Changes to Participation Chapter
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:23:51 PM
Attachments: [LD Draft Public Participation and Partners chapter Tracked Changes.doc.pdf](#)

Please find attached the CNA Executive Committee recommended changes to the Draft Public Participation and Partners Chapter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Larry Dzieza at 360.556.6070 or email.

These changes include a recommendation for change that has long been raised by RNA members at CNA meetings, item GP4.

GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and are informed about how they were considered and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

--

Larry Dzieza, Chair

CNA

cna.olympia@gmail.com

Public Participation and Partners



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government policies are essential to ensure residents, business owners, employees and other community members are able to effectively participate in any number of issues.

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GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and are informed about how they were considered and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

From: [Melissa Allen](#)
To: [Olympia2045](#); [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: My comments on the Draft Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 4:10:11 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest draft of the Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan. City government and its advisory committees have an established communication network through which, I presume, there is two-way sharing of information and perspectives. There is no such pathway for communication between the City and RNAs/CNA.

Since its beginning (2014?) the evolving Comprehensive Plan has always referenced RNAs as key participants but, in practice, this consists of informing RNAs/CNA of developed plans or one-way testimony at Council and Advisory Committees. This approach does not allow for the back and forth communication which is essential for building trust in government. I would like to see a more reciprocal relationship between the City and its neighborhoods. I am not an urban planner but my social work experience tells me that people generally are more cooperative when they feel heard. Not always agreed with, but heard! *There must be similar cities with such a feedback mechanism.*

That said, here is my proposed revision of **GP4** in the draft Public Draft Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan and Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan:

Current language: GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

My suggested revision: GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard and valued. **This is demonstrated by the City informing community members and stakeholders on how their opinions and ideas were considered and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.**

I also would like to comment on the **sub-area planning** referenced in GP5. I represented my RNA when we developed the **Sub-Area A plan** several years ago. Sub-area A, later known as Olympia Northeast Neighborhoods Alliance (ONNA), submitted a detailed plan for addressing our hopes & concerns for the Northeast side (I have a copy if anyone would like to read it). There was no response from the City beyond "thank you". The collaborative effort stopped as soon as the plan was submitted. There was certainly benefit from the harmonious work group we developed, but forward movement was stymied by our lack of access to City resources.

That said, here is my proposed revision of **GP5** in the draft Public Draft Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan and Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan:

Current language: GP5 Sub-area planning is conducted through a collaborative effort by community members and the City, and is used to shape how neighborhoods grow and develop.

My suggested revision: GP5 Sub-area planning is conducted through a collaborative effort by neighborhood representatives and the City, and is used to shape how neighborhoods grow

and develop. **The City's on-going recognition of sub-area planning work is demonstrated by active two-way communication between sub-area representatives and City planning staff.**

Thank you,

Melissa Allen

1702 Prospect Ave NE

Olympia 98506

From: [Peter Guttchen](#)
To: [Melissa Allen](#); [Olympia2045](#); [CityCouncil](#); [Oly CNA](#)
Subject: Comments on the draft Public Participation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan Update.
Date: Friday, August 16, 2024 10:27:17 AM

Good morning - I discovered this morning that the email below that I thought I sent last night did not leave my outbox. I understand the deadline to submit these comments was yesterday, but I hope you will still consider them as you prepare for the Public Hearing on the Comp Plan in October.

Thank you,

Peter Guttchen
360-970-0009

Dear City Councilmembers and the Olympia 2045 team,

As a member of the Olympia Northeast Neighborhoods Alliance (ONNA) that drafted the City's first subarea plan, I am writing to express my strong support for the changes recommended by Melissa Allen and by the Council of Neighborhood Associations Executive Committee that were shared with you earlier today on the draft Public Participation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan (Plan). I am also writing to share my personal comments on this essential chapter of the Plan.

I recommend this chapter begin with a clear-eyed, honest assessment of how well the city has implemented the policies in the 2014 Plan and the progress the City has made toward achieving the goals it set in this chapter of the Plan. This should include a review of the results of the City's Community Engagement and Public Opinion surveys over the years and an analysis of what's working and not working in how the City currently engages with the community. [Here's the Executive Summary of the 2023 survey](#). It includes this finding:

Olympians want to see the City improve its communication with residents. While residents generally know where to find information and how to share feedback with the City, residents believe the City could be more open and transparent and do more to incorporate the feedback it receives from residents. To ensure all residents receive information from the City, residents recommend using a variety of communication channels including social media, the city website, and regular newsletters.

I am disappointed to see no substantive suggested revisions to the updated draft of this chapter - and no revisions at all to the policies and goals. The chapter feels stale and out-of-date and doesn't acknowledge the dramatic and rapidly evolving ways we communicate and engage with each other and the risks and opportunities that come with those changes. This

includes strategies to address the public participation challenges we face related to equity and climate issues, and the growing threat of disinformation and the use of AI to create deep fakes, etc.

I was actively involved in the 2014 Plan update. To prepare these comments on the current update I reviewed the comments I submitted on the Public Participation chapter at that time. They can be found in [this PDF](#). The document includes the formal comments I submitted in October 2012 and March 2010 and a set of follow-up comments on the 2014 Comp Plan update engagement process and how poorly the City kept the community engaged and informed once the Plan was given to the Planning Commission to finalize recommendations for the Council. Here's how those comments start:

As I mentioned in comments I submitted to the Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) on October 29, the only thing more expensive than effective community engagement on important issues, is bad public process. Imagine how much City and community time and money has been spent on addressing the consequences of poorly designed and poorly executed community engagement on issues like the isthmus, the Boys and Girls Club, the 7-11 project, and more recently the SMP and the Comp Plan update. And with each public process failure, the level of community cynicism, distrust, and polarization increases. And, as you know firsthand, a great deal of the blame and the burden of “fixing” the mess ends up getting dumped at the feet of the City Council.

Most of the recent OPC meetings I’ve been to have been painful. Everyone involved in this process including OPC members, City staff, and the few remaining citizens who have decided to stay involved seemed frustrated and tired. It's sad to see so many good people with good intentions so unhappy and unproductive.

It's painful to read these comments again. Here's how those follow-up comments end:

And for many of us, it’s easier to give up than to stay engaged and many people have thrown up their hands and said they’ve had enough. The challenge is finding a way to change the conversation and acknowledge to each other that the current process isn't working. We each need to own the role we are playing in this dysfunctional drama and start to rewrite the script. Unfortunately, we can't do this in Council Chambers with clocks and podiums as props.

I know there are others in the community who share my frustration and who are willing – despite all of the time we’ve already spent haranguing the City on these issues without seeing any improvement – to explore ways to strengthen the relationship between the City and the people it serves. To make any progress in addressing these challenges, the City needs to publicly acknowledge the seriousness of the problem and accept its role and responsibility for creating and

addressing the problem. Until that happens, we are sentencing ourselves to a future that's similar to our recent past, a future in which our community becomes more polarized and more cynical as one critical issue after another ends in finger-pointing and resentment.

I appreciate the efforts the City has made to improve its community engagement since 2014. However, the lack of any new recommended ideas, policies, or goals in the updated Public Participation chapter demonstrates to me that the City has not been exploring and experimenting with new and more innovative and inclusive ways to fully engage with the community to address the pressing challenges we face today and into the future.

Public participation and community engagement are core local government functions. To that end, I recommend new policies and goals be included in this chapter related to hiring staff who have these skills and in training existing staff to acquire and enhance their capacity to do this work well. The end of the *For More Information* section of the current chapter concludes with this:

The City often references information from The International Institute for Public Participation (Iap2) has developed a core set of public involvement principles, and a Spectrum of Public Participation that outlines participation approaches along a continuum. *The link to IAP2 in the current draft is broken.*

<https://www.iap2.org/mpage/Home>

I recommend the City do more than simply reference information from IAP2, but ensure key staff are certified as public participation professionals by IAP2 and other organizations doing similar work. IAP2 has an active PNW chapter that regularly [offers training and certification programs](#). To that end, I recommend including a new goal in this chapter to develop a core in-house team of highly trained public participation professionals to strengthen the City's capacity to engage and build trust with the community it serves.

Thank you for the opportunity provide comments on this essential chapter of the Plan update.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

With appreciation,

Peter Guttchen
1310 Central Street NE
Olympia, WA 98506

360-970-0009

From: jacobsoly@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 12:31 PM
To: David Ginther
Cc: larryofnottingham@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Comments and Suggested Changes to the Public Participation and Partners chapter
Attachments: [LD Draft Public Participation and Partners chapter Clean.doc.rtf](#)

David -- For the record, I agree with Larry Dzieza's suggested edits shown as track changes in the attachment to his email below. They are excellent.

Bob Jacobs
360-352-1346

720 Governor Stevens Avenue Olympia

From: larryofnottingham@gmail.com
To: dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us, jphillip@ci.olympia.wa.us,
citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us
Sent: 8/9/2024 2:48:58 PM Pacific Daylight Time
Subject: Comments and Suggested Changes to the Public Participation and Partners chapter

Please see attached. It was done with "track changes" on.

If you have any questions about why I suggested a particular change, please feel free to call me at 360.556.6070 or email me.

Although these suggested changes are not the official position of the CNA membership, I do want to highlight one recommendation for change that has long been raised by RNA members at CNA meetings, item GP4.

GP4 Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and are informed about how they were considered and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Larry Dzieza

From: CityCouncil
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 3:15 PM
To: Larry of Nottingham
Cc: Councilmembers; Jay Burney; Debbie Sullivan; Stacey Ray; Kellie Braseth; Tim Smith; Joyce Phillips; David Ginther
Subject: FW: Comments and Suggested Changes to the Public Participation and Partners chapter
Attachments: [LD Draft Public Participation and Partners chapter Clean.doc.rtf](#)

On behalf of the Olympia City Council, thank you for your comments. I will forward them on to all Councilmembers and appropriate staff. By way of copy I will ask staff to respond to your concerns.

Susan Grisham (*she/her*)
Assistant to the City Manager
Legislative Liaison
City of Olympia | P.O. Box 1967 | Olympia WA 98507
360-753-8244 | sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us

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Please note all correspondence is subject to public disclosure.

From: Larry of Nottingham <larryofnottingham@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 2:48 PM
To: David Ginther <dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us>; Joyce Phillips <jphillip@ci.olympia.wa.us>; CityCouncil <citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Subject: Comments and Suggested Changes to the Public Participation and Partners chapter

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Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Larry Dzieza

Public Participation and Partners



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[Page 7]

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From: Pate, Nathan (COM) <nathan.pate@commerce.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 8:01 AM
To: David Ginther
Subject: RE: Olympia Public Participation and Partners Chapter update

David, good morning.

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me regarding the City of Olympia's proposed amendments to the Public Participation & Partners Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan (2024-S-7229).

As mentioned on the phone, many of the goals appear to read similar to that of a general statement. In many cases, goals are generally a broad statement of purpose and "the object of a community's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result." A good "check and balance" for each goal and specific policy is to return to the vision and value statements within the introduction and confirm *how, when, and where* "Olympians value their right to participate in city government, and to engage in meaningful, open and respectful community dialogue regarding decisions that affect our community". Basically testing how, when, and where each goal or policy is meeting or achieving the values and vision for the future.

As discussed, we recommend referring to the requirements and considering the recommendations outlined in [WAC 365-196-600](#) as you continue to develop your *Public Participation and Partners* chapter of the city's draft comprehensive plan. Doing so will help ensure consistency with other City public participation plans, consistency with state statutes, and general community outreach objectives. We recommend the overall *Public Participation & Partners* chapter include general polices and goals to achieve RCW 36.70A.140, which addresses comprehensive plans "ensure public participation."

While the City has notice provisions and individual public participation plans for differing actions, the city may also consider including general polices and goals to achieve the public participation notice provisions within [RCW 36.70A.035](#) to strengthen the chapter. There is also an opportunity to augment the goals and polices to include participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. [RCW 36.70A.020\(11\)](#) states, "Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process, including the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts as part of the goals and policies".

We appreciate the City of Olympia strong collaborative statement within the "Our Partners" section with regard to working collaboratively with the Squaxin Island Tribal Council. We encourage the city to refer to WAC 365-196-600(3)(a)(vi) as you continue to develop your policies and regulations: "The public participation program should include outreach and early coordination with state and tribal agencies with subject matter expertise. Coordination with state agencies and tribes is recommended as draft policies and regulations are being developed."

As discussed, Goal GP7 and all associated supporting policies appear misplaced in the *Public Participation and Partners* chapter. We understand that it may be relocated to a different chapter/element of the draft comprehensive plan. The Land Use Element may be an appropriate section for such goals and policies.

While we did not discuss PP3.8, regarding property rights, we do want to point you to RCW 36.70A.020(6) which states, "Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions."

If you have questions, let me know.
Nate

Nathan Pate, AICP | SENIOR PLANNER
Growth Management Services | Washington State Department of Commerce
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525
Cell: (360) 725-2846

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Email communications with state employees are public records and may be subject to disclosure, pursuant to Ch. 42.56 RCW.

From: Pate, Nathan (COM)
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 5:12 PM
To: David Ginther <dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Olympia Public Participation and Partners Chapter update

David, good afternoon. I have a final thought that I wanted to incorporate.
Nate

From: David Ginther <dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 4:20 PM
To: Pate, Nathan (COM) <nathan.pate@commerce.wa.gov>
Subject: Olympia Public Participation and Partners Chapter update

External Email

Greetings,
I didn't receive an email from you after our phone conversation yesterday so I wanted to reach out to you. If you have written comments, please let me know.
Thank you,
David

David Ginther (he/him), Senior Planner
City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development

601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967
360.753.8335 | olympiawa.gov

Note: Emails are public records and are eligible for release.

From: John Saunders <johnosaunders@me.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 2:44 PM
To: David Ginther
Subject: Re: Comments on Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the 2045 Olympia Comprehensive Plan

Yes, I think these changes are both very good and make for a better chapter.

Thank you for your consideration on this.

Best regards,

John O. Saunders
m: 360 259-0288

On Sep 27, 2024, at 2:06 PM, David Ginther <dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us> wrote:

Hi John,
These are really good comments that are well thought out. Thank you.

I was looking at the GP3 section and realized that PP3.4 and PP3.2 somewhat complement the language you proposed. It seems like that is a good location for the new policy. I made a couple adjustments to the language and added it as PP3.5.

GP3 City decision processes are transparent and enable effective participation of the public.

PP3.1 Support ~~and encourage~~ City staff and encourage other community leaders to strengthen their capacity to design and implement effective public involvement strategies.

PP3.2 Help the general public understand the structure of local government, how decisions are made, and how they can become involved.

PP3.3 Give community members, neighborhoods, and other interested parties opportunities to get involved early in land use decision-making processes. Encourage or require applicants to meet with affected community members and organizations.

PP3.4 Create structured opportunities for people to learn about city issues, share their experiences and motivations, and discuss public issues productively.

PP3.5 Partner with recognized neighborhood associations to conduct forums, or other similar engagement opportunities, on upcoming policy and budget issues of common interest.

PP3.65 Develop public participation plans when amending or updating the Comprehensive Plan or master plans. Develop public participation or communication plans for other major projects.

I also adjusted the language on PP5.6 to more closely match the rest of the policies in that section. I have a couple of comments on 5.6 so I've had to try to figure out a compromise between the comments while making it consistent with the section in which it is located. I've included here for your reference.

GP5 Sub-area planning is conducted through a collaborative effort by community members and the City, and is used to shape how neighborhoods grow and develop.

PP5.1 Work with neighborhoods to identify the priorities, assets and challenges of designated sub-area(s), as well as provide information to increase understanding of land-use decision-making processes and the existing plans and regulations that could affect them.

PP5.2 Encourage wide participation in the development and implementation of sub-area plans.

PP5.3 Define the role that sub-area plans play in City decision-making and resource allocation.

PP5.4 Allow initiation of sub-area planning by either neighborhoods or the City.

PP5.5 Encourage collaboration between neighborhoods and City representatives.

PP5.6 Engage in active two-way communication with sub-area representatives.

— —
Thank you again for your comments. They are appreciated and quite helpful.
Best regards,
David

David Ginther (he/him), Senior Planner
City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development
601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967
360.753.8335 | olympiawa.gov

Note: *Emails are public records and are eligible for release.*

From: John Saunders <johnosaunders@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 5:12 PM
To: David Ginther <dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Cc: Olympia2045 <Olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Subject: Re: Comments on Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the 2045 Olympia Comprehensive Plan

Thank you, David, for the timely response.

I do have some comments on the updates to the Public Participation chapter you mention below.

Regarding the new PP4.6, I think this is a very good addition. However, I don't think it relates to my proposed new goal regarding communication with Recognized Neighborhood Associations and other neighborhood organizations. PP4.6 says that the City will strive to communicate with the public after comments have been received; my suggested goal encourages the City and recognized neighborhoods to have 2 way dialog about issue of mutual interest in the context of city/neighborhood forums. The new PP4.6 would come into play after a forum occurs. So I think the PP4.6 and my proposed new goal are complimentary but not overlapping.

I also think the new PP5.6 is a good addition, but it only covers sub-area plans. There are many more Recognized Neighborhood Associations than there are sub-area plans, as I understand it. I think PP5.6 should either be expanded to include Recognized Neighborhood Associations or a separate goal related to communication with Recognized Neighborhood Associations and other neighborhood groups would be beneficial.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

best regards,

John Saunders

On Sep 23, 2024, at 4:00 PM, David Ginther
<dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us> wrote:

Hi John,
All of the public comments received, including yours, will be in the Planning Commission packet for the public hearing. Planning Commission will have the opportunity to review and discuss the comments and they could change it to include your suggestions.

I received a few other comments on section 4 and as a result I added a new policy based on the varied input I received. It is a broad statement but I believe it supports the intent to keep the community, including the RNAs, informed.

PP4.6 Strive to inform the community about how their comments are considered and used in the decision-making process.

Section 5 is focused on neighborhoods and a new policy was added regarding active two way communication between the city and neighborhoods. It was added based on public comments as well.

PP5.6 The City's on-going recognition of sub-area planning work is demonstrated by active two-way communication between sub-area representatives and the City.

We try to keep specifics and details to a minimum in the Comprehensive Plan because it is a broad guiding policy document. Specific details such as meetings per year are usually in the city code or other more focused plans or agreements.

For the SJEC, the staff report and presentation focus on how the amendments are consistent with their core mission statement which is about racism, human rights, and equity.

I hope this helps convey the reasoning for the way the draft amendments are written.

Sincerely,
David

David Ginther (he/him), Senior Planner
City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development
601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-1967
360.753.8335 | olympiawa.gov

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From: John Saunders <johnosaunders@me.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 3:18 PM
To: David Ginther <dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Cc: Olympia2045 <Olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Subject: Re: Comments on Public Participation and Partners Chapter of the 2045 Olympia Comprehensive Plan

Hello, David. I read over the draft of the Public Participation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and accompanying materials for the Social Justice and Equity committee meeting this evening. I didn't see any reference to my first comment below nor a copy of my comments in the meeting materials. I just wondered where my comments stand and if the Committee will have a chance to consider them?

Thank you,

John O. Saunders
m: 360 259-0288

On Jul 25, 2024, at 2:43 PM, David Ginther
<dginther@ci.olympia.wa.us> wrote:

Greetings,
Thank you for the insightful and thorough comments.
I've included them in the agenda item for the
Planning Commission briefing on August 5th. A public
hearing is tentatively scheduled for October 21st.
If you have any further questions or comments,
please let me know.
Thank you,
David

David Ginther (he/him), Senior Planner
City of Olympia | Community Planning and Development
601 4th Avenue East | PO Box 1967, Olympia WA 98507-
1967
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**Note: Emails are public records and are eligible for
release.**

From: John Saunders <johnosaunders@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Olympia2045 <Olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Cc: South Capitol South Capitol Board <south-capitol-neighborhood-board@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Comments on Public Participation and Partners
Chapter of the 2045 Olympia Comprehensive Plan

Dear Ms. Phillips and Mr. Ginther:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the
proposed updates to the Public Participation
and Partners Chapter of the 2045 Olympia
Comprehensive Plan. My comments reflect my

personal opinions not that of the South Capitol Neighborhood Association.

Here are my comments:

1. GP4 - Community members and other key stakeholders feel their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.

Please add a sub-goal to meet or exceed the commitments of the City and the Registered Neighborhood Associations under Olympia Municipal Code (OMC) 18.86.100 H.6 to conduct at least 4 policy forums on topics of mutual interest each year. This is a concrete action that is already required under the OMC but which has not been used in recent years. Public forums organized through the neighborhood associations would be an extremely effective way to gain input on policy and/or budget choices. They would help the community understand and support the direction taken by the City on major issues such as transportation, public safety, fiscal planning, and more. Such a sub-goal would clearly support the main goal of assuring community members that “their opinions and ideas are heard, valued, and used by policy makers, advisory committees, and staff.” Perhaps the sub-goal could be: *“PP4.6 Partner with recognized neighborhood associations to conduct quarterly forums on upcoming policy and budget issues of common interest”*

2. GP7 Logical boundaries and reasonable service areas are created when areas within the Urban Growth Area are annexed.

This goal and its sub-goals do not appear to have anything to do with the this chapter. The Chapter title is ‘Public Participation and Partners’. The goal addresses how jurisdictional

boundaries are defined within the Urban Growth Area. This goal and its sub-goals would be more appropriate in the Comprehensive Plan chapter on Land Use and Urban Design. I suggest that this goal and its sub-goals be moved there.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

best regards,

John Saunders
President, South Capitol Neighborhood
Association
301 18th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
m: 360 259-0288