From: Rad Cunningham
To: Olympia2045
Subject: Re: Olympia 2045 - Introduction Chapter
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 11:46:58 AM

Hi! I wonder if a sentence or two in the forward defining what a comprehensive plan is would be helpful for readers less familiar with planning terminology?

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Cell: 206.898.7661
Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/in/radcunningham

On Fri, Mar 21, 2025 at 10:09 AM Olympia2045 <Olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us> wrote:

> You are receiving this email as a Party of Record for the Olympia 2045 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update planning proposal.
>
> If you no longer wish to receive updates for this planning proposal, please reply to this email and ask to be removed from this list.
>
> Greetings.
>
> The Draft Introduction Chapter of the City Comprehensive Plan is available for review and comment. This is part of the Olympia 2045 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, as required by the Growth Management Act (GMA).
>
> The City is using a phased approach to complete the update. Each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan is being updated individually, with its own public participation process and opportunities to provide feedback. The Introduction Chapter revisions have been drafted to reflect the new timeline (year 2045), the new population projections, and to reflect changes to the organization of the plan.
>
> Comments will be accepted until the end of the public hearing, which may occur as soon as May 5, 2025. Comments accepted by April 18, 2025 will be considered prior to any revisions issued for the public hearing.
>
> The attached draft is shown in "track changes" which shows new proposed text in underline and text proposed to be deleted in ~~strikethrough~~.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us or 360.570.3722.

Joyce

Joyce Phillips, AICP, Planning Manager (she/her)

City of Olympia | Community Planning & Economic Development

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Joyce Phillips

From: Sandler & Seppanen <Laurel.Lodge@Comcast.Net>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 8:25 PM
To: Olympia2045
Cc: SMcLaughlin@ci.olympia.wa.us
Subject: feedback on Intro to Comp Plan
Attachments: Feedback on Intro Comp Plan - LSeppanen.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Joyce,
Here are my thoughts about changes needed in the introduction. I am surprised that staff has not already made more updates to reflect that change in vision and actual changes on the ground in the past decade or more. I hope you are open to making significant changes in this introduction to the Comp Plan.

Loretta Seppanen
Olympia resident

Olympia

Page 4 –"As many as 20,000 additional people are expected to join our community over the next two decades." = 20,000 is the comparison of the population in 2020 to 2045 – that is 25 years. I think you will want to stick to the 2024 to 2045 numbers and say: "Nearly 18,000 additional people are …" (data are shared below – source is TRCP.

Page 4 – "Most readily-buildable parcels in the City are already developed to some degree. Thus, over the next 20 years, we expect to see more infill and redevelopment of existing developed areas." I request that you mention not only infill and redevelopment but indicate the need to have denser redeveloped areas (you could use the Capital Mall Triangle subarea as an example). Also clarify that infill means both new housing on an occasional vacant lot in a well-developed area, but more importantly adding additional housing such as ADUs on what are not single-family developments.

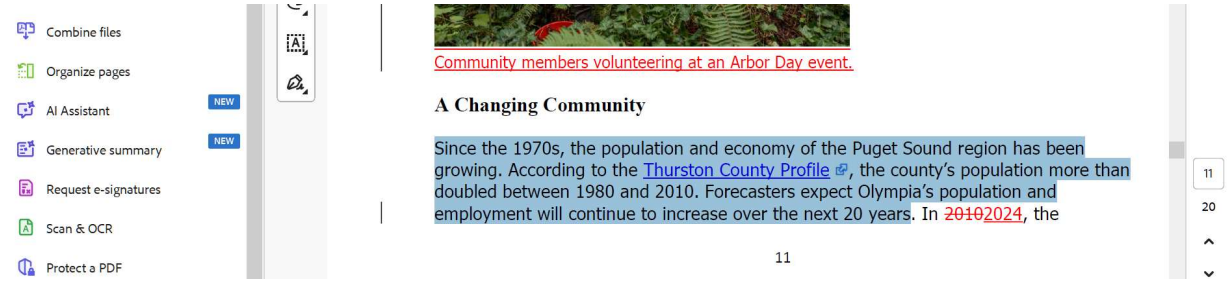
Page 7 – rather than focus only on the need for balance when goals are in conflict change this discussion to emphasize that the City prefers actions addressing one goal area that have co-benefits for other goals. (or whatever term you use for actions to help achieve multiple benefits at that same time.) I am assuming that City Council members would pick the option that address multiple goals rather than putting itself in a position of deciding between one option that only addresses a single goal versus another incompatible option that address a single different goal.

Page 9 – please describe how the community can engage in the City Work Plan – be as specific as possible.

Page 10 – "Community involvement in Comprehensive Plan updates and amendments to the City code are encouraged and are the most effective way of guiding future development." We deserve to have at least a sentence about why working on the comp plan through this update or the amendment process is "most effective." I think most residents can see the results of their actions for or against specific development projects as more "effective" than working goals, objectives, and policies of the Comp Plan. I suggest two active sentences rather than this sentence.

- The City Council, Planning Commission, and Planning staff encourage community involvement in ….
- Residents can meaningfully shape future development projects by engaging in the Comp Plan amendment process because all future projects are evaluated based their fit to the City goals, objectives and policies as articulated in the Comp Plan.

Page 11 -The following section of the Introduction needs to be updated so as not to imply that the plan is about the period after 2010.



I do not find it of value to reference 50 years ago (the 1970s). The year 2000 could be a set point for recent population comparisons. It confused me to have the reference to the Puget Sound Region, then TC in this chapter about Olympia. In my quick read, I thought the doubling figure was for Olympia since this is an Olympia document. The Thurston County Profiles is not a good source for data is the profile provides Olympia only data and apparently your aim is talk about Olympia + the UGA (evidence on the next page). TRPC provides the Olympia and the UGA data HERE and copied here.

Jurisdiction		2010	2020		2024		2030	2035	2040	2045
Olympia	City	46,478	55,382		57,450		62,980	66,960	69,760	72,040
	UGA	11,840	12,703		13,410		13,390	13,730	14,610	15,610
	Total	58,320	68,085		70,860		76,370	80,690	84,370	87,650

This section of the document makes no mention of employment other than saying than throwing in the words "and economy" and "and employment" after the word "population." This is about population only – so delete the extra words.

> *The population of Olympia (including the Olympia UGA) has been growing at the rapid rate of 1.5% a year between 2000 and 2024 – from 58,320 residents to 70,860. Forecasters expect our population will increase at a slightly slower 1.1% a year from 2024 to 2045 reaching 87,650 residents.*

On page 12 the word "in-migration" is a technical demographic term that confuses people thus it needs to be explained. As an example of how it can be misunderstood, I saw a recent LWVWA document that included an "in-migration" statistic in a paragraph about the number of foreign born immigrants in the state. It is more accurate to say that net in-migration – not in-migration accounts for most of the population growth. Net in-migration is the difference between in-migration and out-migration (or if more people are moving out than in this difference is called net out-migration. There is always considerable migration in and out of Olympia – not just movement into the city. It might be clearer to say all of what is I share below or just the last sentence:

> *Population growth results both from natural growth (more people born in Olympia than dying in Olympia) and when more people from outside Olympia (other parts Thurston County, Washington State or elsewhere) move into Olympia than the number who move out of Olympia – called "net in-migration." Most population increases are a result of more people moving in then moving out of Olympia.*

Page 13 - "During development of this Plan, many people expressed a desire to maintain a "small town feel." This is wording from 2014. Even today the many new 4 and 5 story buildings downtown and many 3 story apartment complexes have NO connection to the feel of a small town (which is wording that typically fits with two story buildings with a single main street.) You did outreach for the Comp Plan – please reflect what people said during that outreach about a city that does not require a car to get to services, that is sustainable, that is a healthy environment for all of us – etc.

Page 14 – "Olympians expressed that they are willing to accept growth as long as our environment and sense of place is preserved. That means protecting the places and culture that we recognize as "Olympia," even if those things are a little different for each of us. It also means focusing on our community values and vision as we grow." – This wording does not make me glad to live in Olympia! It sounds provincial and unwelcoming. This is the land of people now called the Squaxin Island Tribe. They believe in hospitality – being welcoming to others. I want to see language that picks up the welcoming spirit and the sense of gratitude that Squaxin people display.

Page 15 – Climate change. This is written as if climate change is a future challenge. Of course that is not true – the challenge has been with us for several decades. We are finally paying attention. Please rewrite to admit that we are in the midst of climate change impacts that we still struggle to address.

Page 18 – Downtown – It is time to move away from this 1960s vision! The City aims for most of us to live near to places that have some of the amenities that formerly were thought of as part of "downtown" – near the urban center, corridors, or neighborhood centers. Thus we are not aiming for the small town feel. I suggest a bullet that is about the Historic urban center, neighborhood centers, and urban corridors. Then discuss walk and bike access, busses, density and vibrancy. Don't forget Capital Mall Triangle subarea.

Page 18 - Fund the long-term vision – This needs a rewrite - see the Economy chapter - **City Expenses Growing Faster Than City Revenue** and other wording on collaboration to meet the challenges.

Joyce Phillips

From: Ryan Burton <r_p_burton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 10:01 PM
To: Olympia2045
Subject: Re: 2045 CP

Thank you Joyce - I appreciate the reply.

However, it would be interesting if there was data from a previous comprehensive plan (let us use the 1994 plan) to verify the sea level predictions made then to what has actually happened.

Fires are not a result of climate change - it is poor forestry management. Green house gas emotions have actually not been assessed enough to put policies in place that have an adverse effect on growth and resource management.

Simply put - the old climate change CP did not fix or prevent anything other than more government bureaucracy (which equals tax and spend policies).

Thank you for your reply and your
Professionalism. I would like to continue to stay involved and educated on this topic - I hope you will include my thoughts with the various stakeholders.

Have a great week.

Very Respectfully,
Ryan Burton.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Monday, March 24, 2025, 16:48, Olympia2045 <Olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us> wrote:

> Hi, Ryan.
>
> Thank you for your questions.
>
> The primary reason we propose to remove the text about Sea Level Rise in the Introduction Chapter is because there will be a new chapter in the Comprehensive Plan that is specific to climate change. It will emphasize efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and taking action to be prepared for the impacts of climate change. The text is broader now because sea level rise is only one of the impacts we expect. Other impacts we're addressing include smoke from wildfires, extreme heat, and greater

precipitation. For more information about the Climate Action and Resilience Chapter, please visit https://engage.olympiawa.gov/olympia-2045-climate-action-resilience.

I hope that answers your question. If not, please let me know and I can put you in touch with the staff members working on the climate chapter.

Thank you.

Joyce

Joyce Phillips, AICP, Planning Manager (she/her)

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

From: Ryan Burton <r_p_burton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 11:12 AM
To: Olympia2045 <Olympia2045@ci.olympia.wa.us>
Subject: 2045 CP

Sir or Ma'am,

Can I ask why the last few pages regarding sea level rise is crossed out? Is it because the sea levels have not risen as predicted and simply changing the verbiage to "Climate Change" allows for more ambiguity?

Or, is it another way to appeal to the politicians that have run this city into the ground?

Thank you,

Ryan Burton