Neighborhood Character – Proposed Language
OPC Continued Deliberations
October 4, 2021

This document is provided for the Commission's convenience to see the three proposals under consideration (not including the language proposed in the Commission's Pending Motion). For full context or positioning of these text amendments in the Comprehensive Plan, please see the Council's application materials, staff Character Discussion handout, and the comments submitted by the Council of Neighborhoods Association dated July 15, 2021, and July 22, 2021. These documents are part of the existing record for this application and are available upon request.

New Language as Proposed in the Application Materials (Submitted by City Council)

Our community defines "neighborhood character" as accessible, sustainable, and culturally inclusive neighborhoods. These are defined as:

- Accessible: Includes ADA compliancy, multi-mobility, and housing affordability.

- Sustainable: Promotes a healthy environment, a diverse and resilient local economy, and historic preservation, including, reuse, and adaptability of existing buildings.

- Culturally inclusive: Recognizes, supports and promotes diverse housing types, strong arts and historic preservation, and the various contributions of diverse Olympians past and present.

As proposed by Staff

Our community defines "neighborhood character" as accessible, sustainable, and culturally inclusive neighborhoods. These are defined as:

- Accessible: Includes ADA compliancy, multi-modal mobility, and housing affordability.

- Sustainable: Promotes a healthy environment, a diverse and resilient local economy, and historic preservation, including, reuse, and adaptability of existing buildings.

- Culturally inclusive: Recognizes, supports and promotes diverse housing types, strong arts and historic preservation, and the various contributions of diverse Olympians past and present.

- Physical characteristics of neighborhoods are not stagnant and will change over time. Consideration of neighborhood character will be made for attributes such as design elements of buildings (mass, scale, materials, setting, and setbacks), parking, parks and open space, provision of City utilities, street grids and connections, and street trees. These will be balanced with other plan goals and policies, such as increasing the variety of housing types and providing pedestrian oriented streets, and implemented through the City's development regulations.

Recommendation by Council of Neighborhoods Association

To be included in the *Community Values and Vision* Chapter:

Our community values accessible, sustainable, and culturally inclusive neighborhoods. These are defined as:
- Accessible: Includes ADA compliancy, multi-mobility, and housing affordability.
- Sustainable: Promotes a healthy environment, a diverse and resilient local economy, and historic preservation, including, reuse, and adaptability of existing buildings.
- Culturally inclusive: Recognizes, supports and promotes diverse housing types, strong arts and historic preservation, and the various contributions of diverse Olympians past and present.

To be included in the *Land Use and Urban Design* Chapter:

Neighborhood character is an amalgam of various elements that give a neighborhood its distinct "identity." Neighborhood characteristics are not stagnant and will change over time. Consideration of neighborhood character will vary by the unique features of a neighborhood and includes its physical, social and economic attributes that contribute to its sense of place and identity. These elements may include, for example, a neighborhood's land use, urban design, visual resources, historic resources, socioeconomics, traffic, and/or noise. This includes design elements of buildings (mass, scale, materials, setting, and setbacks), parking, parks and open space, provision of City utilities, street grids and connections, and street trees.

The City will balance its goals and policies by considering potential impacts to the unique geography, character or historical context of a residential neighborhood to provide the best outcome for the community as a whole and consistent with our values. (Read more in the Community Values and Vision chapter).