Commenter Signup:

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Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: All the older people I have meet so far are moving out when they retire or have already moved mostly because they are tired of the traffic and tell me it was not like this before. Some have moved farther out towards the passes and some are trying a condo in the city with no yard to take care of and walking to restaurants and shops. Maybe if the downtown Sammamish ends up having condos, restaurants, and shops, they would try living there instead. Most I have talked to want to try something different after the kids are gone. But maybe then you would attract retirees form the bigger cities to try a less hectic life out here.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: I just moved to Sammamish 4 months ago. My husband and I were born and raised on the Eastside. I have lived in multiple communities all over the US and overseas and have seen communities get it right for the people and I have watched them destroy a good thing. Part of our reasoning to move here was to get away from traffic, better schools, be surrounded by trees yet just a 10 minute drive to most major store and freeways. Before buying here I spent time driving between the house and the schools the kids would be attending at different times of the day to get a feel for the commute.(In August) On average their schools were 6 minutes from my house. I was so excited and looking forward to a life with less driving and stress. Then school started. On
average it is taking me 1 1/2 hrs. in the morning to drop my kids off and 3 hrs. in the afternoon. The depression set in quickly. I realize not many people probably have 3 kids at 3 different schools so this is most likely not a common problem. Also in the afternoon my kids get out of school at 3,4, and 5pm. The sad part is I do not have time to do the 6 minute drive down the hill to my house in between their pick-ups because it takes 20 to 30 minutes one way. I spend a lot of my time sitting in my car and so do my kids. Now I do have the option for one of my children to take the bus in the morning, but the bus comes at 6:35 and that is way to early for a athletic, growing teenager. Now with all this extra time on my hands driving around I started going around and reading all these land notice signs. My heart sank quickly, and wondered why so many were filed last summer. Was there a rule change? Did developers find some kind of loop hole and needed to buy quick and get permits before anyone caught on. In all my travels I have never seen so many land use signs. As I started doing the math at how many houses most builders wanted to add to the different areas I was wondering what the cities plan is to handle the traffic problem they already have and looking at the future do they consider what quality of life people will have in these new communities if this is not addressed. Do the builders have to help pay for road improvements? Or do they get to come in knock down every tree cram a whole bunch of cheaply made houses together and over charge people for what they are getting in return. I was so impressed that Sammamish had really had a vision for what future communities are interested in when I first moved here. In my experience people are happiest in communities where they are planned and thought out. Where most housing developments and apartments are hidden behind a greenbelt so you get the feel you are living in harmony with your surroundings. And have a central small downtown focal point with small shops and restaurants. I am not sure anymore that this is the direction of Sammamish. I am wondering if some rules have changed recently. Because all the new developments seem so different then what was being built in the past. I lived in one similar community for 4 years. They were known for good schools, nice neighborhoods, a great place to raise the kids. So they let builders come in and build lots of big neighborhoods. They never thought about the traffic problem that was going to happen or that once their schools were overcrowded they were no longer ranked very high. I watched it rise and fall. Ten years later people are still very unhappy even though they tried to widen roads and build more schools. Most people I know have given up and moved somewhere else. It is sad, it started out so great but then greed got in the way of reality. My hope is that Sammamish does not end up making the same mistakes.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: I have not meet anyone yet who is concerned. But maybe that's because they would not live here if they where concerned. Or maybe people are just not comfortable talking about it. It also may be a factor that people may feel like they are paying for good schools and a safe place to raise their children and the money is well spent to them. If the schools were not good they would have to factor in private schools or a poor education for their kids. This way they get a nicer house in a great community and a good education. Everyone I have talked to so far is very happy to raise their kids here in Sammamish.
Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: I have mixed feelings on this one. In Seattle they just built all these green, work, live, play type housing that before the buildings were even finished they had to retro fit them differently. They were not selling because as it turns out most people want to get away from where they work. They reported that they did not want to run into people they work with or for on their off time. It would feel like work never ended and would not relax but watch their behavior much more closely because you never know who you might run into. Most people do not live where they work. Also there are not a lot of jobs in Sammamish so most people will be working somewhere else.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Can I see somewhere on a web sight or in city planning all the current land proposals that are in Sammamish. Half the signs papers are missing. I am not sure if they are just old and not going to happen or if no one cares. If everything that is proposed to be built by my kids schools happens with out a solution to the traffic life will be unpleasant for many people. We will probably have to come up with other ideas for the younger kids education. Is the proposed downtown going to take out some of the wetlands? Are you guys taking into consideration the health of the streams, lake and wildlife? Are you keeping open the different wild life corridors that go through Sammamish with access from the mountains to the lake. I think residents do a good job being aware of the wild life and trying to protect it. It would be sad if we will have to explain to our grandchildren how deer use to roam free in the old days before they all got killed or chased out of the area. What's the solution for the traffic problem. And if you do not fix it will the downtown Sammamish really be a place anyone wants to drive to? If Issaquah goes through with their new plans for building I 90 will also be a freeway to avoid which will impact Sammamish. Why are builders able to level all the trees. Wasn't there a rule in the past that there had to be so many feet between the road and the new developments. If some of these issues are not planned for I am also afraid that people will laugh that at one time Sammamish was voted the friendliest city in America. People are already upset about Petco the loss of the hardware store and the rising prices for retail space. I do not think most people that I have talked to want big chains up in Sammamish either. Redmond and Issaquah are so close and most come to Sammamish for a different feel. More small town and community involvement. In all my moves around the country this is the first place I have wanted to settle down and stay for 20 years. I am just hoping it stays a nice place to live and that Sammamish can find a nice balance between growth and preserving what makes it unique and special.

Question:

As we start planning for the future, please share your thoughts on the Vision Statement contained in our current Comprehensive Plan. Does it represent your vision for our future?
The vision of Sammamish is a community of families. A blend of small-town atmosphere with a suburban character, the City also enjoys a unique core of urban lifestyles and conveniences. It is characterized by quality neighborhoods, vibrant natural features, and outstanding recreational opportunities. A variety of community gathering places provide numerous civic, cultural, and educational opportunities. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place.

Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: The vision I think is everything people I meet and myself want it to be. I am hoping when making decisions it is weighed heavily by this vision. I am also hoping greedy rule breaking builders are not allowed to come in and destroy the vision for the rest of us to live with the rest of lives while they o live somewhere else. They must help pay for the traffic problems they will be causing.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: no. Just stick to it.

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: Green space even when it is just 20 feet along the road. The schools minus the traffic. Convince to freeways and shops. We can live in this small town feel with wonderful neighbors yet drive 5 to 15 minutes and be at a Costco or Wholefoods yet I can live where there are trees and kids riding bikes.

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: You will destroy everything with too much building and no infrastructure to deal with crowded schools and traffic.

From: RProebsting@sammamish.us [mailto:RProebsting@sammamish.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 10:01 AM
To: Robin Proebsting; Cynthia Tiwana; Debbie Beadle
Subject: New Comprehensive Plan Comment

Commenter did not sign up for project updates.

Comment Form Results:

Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?
Answer: NO

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Keep R1 zoning...that's why we moved here...that's why we lice here...there are plenty of other nearby places where people can live like an infestation of rats in a cage...

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: NO...you choose to live where you can afford to live...why should that be other peoples problems?...

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: ...only a handful of people work here not counting government workers...let's not make major changes for the few who don't even live here...if businesses can't find workers...they will pay more...supply and demand...

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: ...this was a rural community...that's why we live here...you politicians only care about more revenues...

Question:

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?
Answer: Yes...don't see anything about multi-housing...rezoning...and jamming more people per acre and over crowding our schools and roads...

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Add the above

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: ...a rural community...close enough to urban centers...

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: ...over development of condensed housing...
Question: Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

Answer: I don't think Sammamish is a favorable retirement city. If needed, that kind of housing needs to be centered around the amenities not around the estate properties.

Question: Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

Answer: Growth should harmonious with the existing zoning structure and not intrusive. Different zones need to be gradient and not sudden downgrades within a close vicinity.

Question: About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

Answer: There are other cities that have less percentages. Nothing wrong with having a city with a large % of incomes spent on housing!

Question: Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in
Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

Answer: Affordable housing can be accommodated without jeopardizing or negatively affecting the home values of existing housing. City development experts can do a nice job making affordable Sammamish housing a possibility without diminishing values of those who paid a prime for their homes. Things need to be neatly engineered and thought of. Negatively influencing the home values of these prime homes and developments because of poorly thought of developments is not fair and not a good testimonial to those in charge of making such decisions.

Question: Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

Answer: Zoning sizes (R1//Rn) needs to be gradient and not cramped. It doesn't make sense to cramp an R4 next to R1/R2... R4 and R5 need to be erected in areas where traffic could be managed.

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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: "Harmonious communities" need to be added. The overall picture needs to be accommodating yet distinctive with a nice gradient flow.

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Sammamish should be an accommodating community with a distinct character and style that flows through all different levels of architecture/price and size without jeopardizing the identity and the category of each level. Mixing levels or closely cramping things together gives Sammamish a bad name and an unfavorable desirability.

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: Class, distinction zoning the feel of the rural country close to the city that is still preserved.
Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: Bad zoning decisions, expansion that would cause traffic jams.. loss of property value due to cramping low income/affordability communities next to high value homes while still raising taxes. The city doesn't seem to care much about how the owners feel as it cares about income and tax revenues...
Commenter did not sign up for project updates.

**Comment Form Results:**

**Question:** Most of the places to live in Sammamish are housed in developments, designed for two-parent households with children. In the next ten to twenty years, do you think we need other kinds of housing for our increasing numbers of empty nesters, retired people and single parents?

**Answer:** Absolutely Not!

**Question:** Some residents believe Sammamish should not allow any more new development while others want restrictions on growth lessened. Given that that state law requires every city to accommodate a share of new growth, how and where should we focus that growth?

**Answer:** Very Slowly and no R1 to R4 changes

**Question:** About 1/3 of Sammamish residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Is housing affordability a concern to you or someone you know in Sammamish? What do you think should be done?

**Answer:** Not a concern and it keeps the integrity of our area and attractiveness to be noted as one of the best communities to live in the USA

**Question:** Housing in Sammamish is generally not affordable to those who work in Sammamish. For example, about one-quarter of the Sammamish workforce works in public education and the average entry-level teacher’s salary is about $40,000. Overall, average private-sector wages in Sammamish were the fourth lowest among King County. Is it important for the community to have housing that is affordable for these workers? What do you think should be done?

**Answer:** No, many teachers live in near by areas and can easily commute.

**Question:** Do you have other ideas or concerns about housing in Sammamish?

**Answer:** Yes, the growth Sammamish has seen in the last 10 years has gone totally out of control. Roads, schools, and infrastructure have not been able to keep up. We need to protect the integrity of the area and resist builders who want to profit by building postage stamp lot homes and contribute to our already over crowded area.
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Does this vision for Sammamish feel correct to you?

Answer: Yes except for the Small town atmosphere- the way the city is going we are like the Issaquah Highlands if we continue building

Question: Are there aspects you would change?

Answer: Yes- no more postage size homes on R4 type lots

Question: What do you most value about Sammamish?

Answer: small town feel

Question: What concerns do you have for the future?

Answer: Traffic, over crowding