



2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Key Policies & Community Visioning Workshop Summary

Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00PM at Edgewood City Hall

Purpose

AHBL supported the City of Edgewood's Community and Economic Development Department to host a community workshop, focusing on getting public input on key policies and the community's preferred vision for Edgewood's future. The meeting was held in the evening on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the City Hall. This memorandum summarizes the purpose of the workshop, the materials prepared for the workshop, and a summary of public comments.

The Workshop was advertised in several ways. The event was listed on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update page that is nested within the City's Community and Economic Development Department page. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update page includes an introduction to the work, identifies opportunities for public participation, and includes links for additional information. Additionally, the City provided Facebook and Instagram posts about the event beginning on October 18, 2023. The City also e-mailed the distribution list of interested parties.

The purpose of the open house was to gather public input on the desired vision for the future of Edgewood, as well as five (5) key policy areas: 1) Housing, 2) Active Transportation and Recreation, 3) Natural Environment and Open Space, 4) Utilities and Public Services, and 5) Equity and Inclusion.

Materials Prepared

The following materials were available at the workshop:

Welcome Station

- Sign-in sheet with option to be added to the interested parties list
- Worksheet with prompts for community members to respond to and provide written feedback
- An information sheet requesting contributions of art and photographs

Comprehensive Planning and GMA

- Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Overview
- Future Land Use Map (FLUM)

Housing

- Planning for Housing Needs at All Income Levels and Middle Housing Board

Other Related Efforts

- Meridian Corridor Study
- Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails

Attendance

- The workshop was held in-person only. The meeting was recorded, and the recording is now available on the City's website so that people can watch the information that was presented and hear the input that meeting attendees provided.
- There were three (3) community members in attendance. Although the attendance and turnout was not as expected, the people who did come to the meeting were highly engaged and asked many in-depth questions.
- Additional coordination with City staff may be necessary to increase public involvement and participation at subsequent meetings. AHBL staff will connect with the city staff prior to public events to coordinate logistics, especially when there is a potential quorum of one or more official City boards, commissions, or the council.

Facilitation and Presentation

Lauren Balisky, CED Director, provided introductory information, introducing the project team and city staff. She stated the workshop was being recorded, and provided a recap of the Growth Management Act, the Periodic Update process, and a progress report details what work has been done and what work will be completed next. Wayne Carlson, Principal, and Elizabeth Espinoza, Planner, (AHBL Inc.), were in attendance to help facilitate the workshop and respond to questions.

Evan Hietpas, Senior Planner, provided a presentation covering the current Vision Statement and the community's preferred vision for the future, healthy community planning principles, and the five (5) key policy areas:

- 1) Housing
- 2) Active Transportation and Recreation
- 3) Natural Environment and Open Space
- 4) Utilities and Public Services
- 5) Equity and Inclusion

Input and Feedback Received

Several topics came up when community members shared their thoughts on the future of Edgewood.

Town Center

- Look into expanding the zoning district further off of Meridian (too narrowly focused, resulting in a linear neighborhood). Increase area to make it investments more feasible.
- Build out the parallel road network for connectivity around Town Center
- Large mixed use would be good and allows money to go back into the community
 - Mixed-use preferred over commercial only
 - Allowed uses need to serve community as a whole, not just tenants

- Vibrant, buzzing downtown that makes people slow down and want to get out of their car to enjoy the atmosphere
 - Variation in scale and heights of buildings
 - Avoid a “tunnel” of density along Meridian where buildings are directly on the street and the environment feels closed off
 - Preserve strategic open spaces between buildings to retain a sense of “openness” even in dense developments

Public Places

- Meaningful community gathering places to meet other people
- Welcoming to all ages (multi-generational design and activities)
- Community events led by the City and community groups taking place
- More dog facilities needed

Culture and History

- Historic preservation of buildings
- Plaques and signage telling history and acknowledging notable people and groups
- Cultural educational programming

Business Retention, Recruitment, and Support

- How do we know which businesses exist so we can support them?
- How can the City support business looking to grow or simply maintain their scale?
- Need another grocery store
- Promote efforts like the Milton bazaar or local farmers’ market
- Organize a “Support Local Businesses” campaign
- Look into allowing “neighborhood commercial” businesses that fit into residential-scale neighborhoods (personal services, coffee shop, etc.)

Other

- Edgewood’s own school district
- Fiscally responsible City operations
- Planes are flying over more frequently and closer to the ground recently

Community members also provided input on the five (5) key policies.

1) Housing - “Promote a mix of housing types to meet the needs of current and future residents.”

- Housing is very expensive and hard to find. It makes sense that we should be thinking hard about having more affordable housing for the community.

2) Active Transportation and Recreation – “Establish a land use pattern that supports physical activity, including biking and walking.”

- Increased and improved walking and biking pathways and routes
 - Some people may enjoy the isolation from adjacent communities
- Sidewalk connection from City Hall to Edgewood Community Park (36th and Meridian)

3) Natural Environment and Open Space – “Promote development that respects and preserves the natural environment.”

- Farms, open spaces, natural areas, forested areas, lower density development
- Consider both natural and built environments

4) Utilities and Public Services – “Support the provision of quality utility services that are reliable, efficient and financially and environmentally sustainable.”

- *No specific public comments received.*

5) Equity and Inclusion – “Ensure equity is at the forefront of planning decisions.”

- We want to make everyone feel safe and welcome Edgewood is not very diverse right now, compared to neighboring communities, and is fairly conservative/unwelcoming
- How can we promote and support diversity?
- Expand outreach to the greater “community” to hear from more than just “citizens/residents”

Relevant City Webpages

2024 Periodic Update Project Webpage - cityofedgewood.org/434

Town Center - cityofedgewood.org/317

Historic Planning Resources - cityofedgewood.org/320

General Sewer Plan (GSP) – cityofedgewood.org/424

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) - cityofedgewood.org/189