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## Town Hall Public Comments Received

*The following comments were collected at the Tualatin Tomorrow Town Hall event on October 25, 2006. They have been transcribed in their raw form. At the event, after an initial introduction, participants broke out into smaller groups to discuss the draft vision ideas. After a polling exercise on these vision ideas, participants discussed the results and registered comments. The comments are grouped below according to the six topic areas. Also included are general comments, comments on the broader vision statements and comments submitted via comment cards that were handed out at the Town Hall event.*

*These comments along with the polling or "scorecard" results will provide additional community input for review and discussion by the steering committee and will be used in community action planning discussions.*

*NOTE: some comments below refer to the vision idea number shown on the scorecards. To view the scorecards, go to [www.tualatintomorrow.org](http://www.tualatintomorrow.org), Town Hall Results for a link to the scorecards or call Elizabeth Stepp at 503-691-3028.*

## PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREAS

### VISION IDEAS

#### **5) Local Global Warning Impact**

- Too vague (admin regulations or citizen policy)
- Focus on alternative energy
- Ethics vs. specific goal
- Placing emphasis on government/city council, more bike paths a priority
- Business planning, what type of businesses do we bring to city
- Developer's responsibility on environment (preserving trees, etc) is directly proportionate to their impact.
- Building moratorium

#### **10) Natural History Preservation**

- Re-designate bldg for designated for destruction,
- Too vague, needs to more specific, would have directly changed votes
- Be more specific, bldg vs. area
- Use existing infrastructure and combine resources

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREAS - continued**

### **10) Natural History Preservation - continued**

- Better location of structures
- Preserve trees/better consideration the impact bldg/industries have on health
- Keeping greater picture in mind
- Integrating existing trees and buildings, utilizing them in development rather than tearing them down
- Volunteerism, education, get schools involved

### **11) Natural and Inviting Trails**

- really enjoys trails, would like to see them expanded/improved

### **13) Diverse Bicycle Paths**

- Better connectivity between bicycle paths
- What kind of path, paved, gravel, etc.
- Trail connecting Cooks park and pedestrian bridge over Tualatin River

### **14) Designated Dog Parks**

- Problem with wording 'ample', if changed (i.e. to one) would have seen more agreement on both ends of the spectrum
- Shared designated times for off leash for parks not designated as a dog park
- Change wording – specify which area, idea of sponsorship
- Designate even just one park as a dog park, possible location of Jurgens Park
- Address city regulations
- More discussion on the location and use of a dog park, considering impact on surrounding areas (intersecting trails, etc), important to be non-invasive
- Multi-Use areas
- Better integration of open areas/park spaces
- Suggestion dog park not being a 'city' park

### **15) Recreational Opportunities for All**

- Re-word, not using the word 'coordinated' which would imply only team, organized or sponsored recreational opportunities, be more specific.
- Better variety of recreational activities (i.e. dance classes, etc) addressed better in Arts area.
- More diverse recreational opportunities, especially teen oriented
- Encourage business to be more teen oriented
- Indoor multi-purpose building, none in Tualatin, much agreement on the need for one, especially given the lack of things to do at night
- Include leisure not just sports in definition
- More options, more options, more options.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

- Most agreed the statement was comprehensive, well written
- 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph change 'sports and recreation users of all ages and backgrounds have diverse facilities available' to 'residents of all ages and backgrounds have facilities available for diverse sports, recreation and leisure activities'
- 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, add 'and holds developers responsible for mitigation as well as minimizing damage to natural areas'.

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREAS - continued**

### **VISION STATEMENT – continued:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph change ‘preserving the environment’ to ‘preserving Tualatin’s natural areas’
- 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, add the word safe in the sentence, Tualatin’s parks and trails are natural, inviting, ‘safe’ and well used.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Fix old problems before creating new things
- Agreement on most vision ideas.
- Disagreement where the wording was vague or not understood (i.e. natural history vs. historical bldg)
- If one or two words were changed, i.e. dog parks from ample to one, agreement
- Diverse or specific items with regards to recreational opportunities and type of facilities

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### VISION IDEAS

**2. Reducing Poverty.** There was much discussion about whether or not this is a local function, although #12 ranked it as important or very important. There is concern that local services are leaving (Tualatin Resource Center, etc.) for Tigard. Also, poverty is hidden in Tualatin. Seniors are reluctant to apply for services. 50% of Tualatin students qualify for subsidized or free lunches. Actions need to be local. It's good to keep the need to acknowledge that poverty exists in the statement.

**5. Access to Health Care.** Some wanted a definition of "comprehensive" and "access." There was a feeling that #5 should be combined with #19.

**8. Effective Youth Services** and **9. Graffiti-free Tualatin.** The group wants #9 to be considered a part of #8 and deleted. They felt that graffiti is a symptom that should be solved with the services in #8.

**16. Care for All Residents. 17. Services for Aging Residents 18. Services for Low-Income Residents.** The group wants these three combined into #16. It was felt that specific groups (low-income and seniors) shouldn't be targeted specifically but combined into one area. Group wanted to remove the word "affordable" from #17.

**19.** Combine with #5.

**20. Compassion for People with Mental and Physical Disabilities.** A disabled member of the group strongly requested a language change. She felt people needed to be aware of and educated about people with disabilities.

### OTHER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- If the vision statement is unrealistic, will that kill the vision?
- Concern about what Tualatin can really do.

## **GROWTH, HOUSING & TOWN CENTER**

### **VISION IDEAS**

#### **4. Development Choices**

- Covered under #1
- Not specific enough, too broad

#### **5. Balance of Land Use**

- Make own decisions
- Do not listen to metro

#### **6. Proactive Intergovernmental Communications**

- Don't listen to metro
- Have Tualatin Agenda not Metro
- City needs to have opinion on issues with other cities and metro

#### **7. Urban Growth Boundary**

- "What's appropriate"
- Too vague
- Head strong voice

#### **12. Affordable Housing**

- Need affordable rentals
- High density not good
- No infrastructure to support
- Affordable – ok
- Not high density
- Good mix
- Need mobile home parks to have affordable housing – zoning laws?

#### **13. Vibrant Town Center**

- Building not paying taxes
- In Town Center, on fringes
- "Governmental/Social Services"
- Have identity downtown

#### **15. Diverse Retail Opportunities**

- Needs to be ample parking
- Diverse retail not a lot
- 3 or 4 stories up and down
- Don't compete with Bridgeport retail wise

#### **16. Pedestrian/Bicycle Friendly Town**

- Not keying on bike lanes no one uses

## **GROWTH, HOUSING & TOWN CENTER - continued**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

- Vision does not address “in fill” housing/development
- We need a glossary of terms

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Noise level important as it's getting too loud
- How do we pay for this, can't be all paid by tax
- Grow smart and balanced
- City needs to assess the need now for infrastructure, determine what is the need
- Would like to take high density housing out of Town Center, can be on fringe
- Some want density in Center, fringe, mixed use
- Define and get examples of high density

## **TRAFFIC, TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY**

### **VISION IDEAS**

- Linkages to Services
- Missing truck movements
- Solve other problems this wouldn't be an issue
- Difficult in not driving put services and residents together
- Quality of community
- Impact on economic development of the city
- Aging population
- Walking between shop instead of driving

#### **7. Traffic Enforcement**

- One police officer dedicated to traffic
- Having police around solves multiple problems, how about cameras
- Enforcement is only part of it – need education
- Police looking for speeders not traffic
- More of a right now-not for the future. Can avoid this issue with residential/physical design
- Fix existing problems
- Police \$ not spent on enforcement

#### **8. Minimal Construction Delays**

- Other things more important
- Construction communication good
- This is just policy and shouldn't take resources
- Deal with pain up front, don't delay
- Lots of pollution from traffic construction

## TRAFFIC, TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY - continued

### 10. Local Access to Freeways

- Another interchange closer to High School on I-5 (+)
- Would help local traffic to more people faster to freeway (+)
- Norwood is a logical place for a ramp – second that (+)
- Connector is a factor (-)
- Don't want local traffic in neighborhoods (-)

### VISION STATEMENT

- Feels like all things to all people, too broad (-)
- Doesn't hit the big issue, vehicular traffic is the issue (-)
- Other alternatives to the "connector" (-)
- Why not more commuter rail to downtown (-)
- Too much that Tualatin can't control (-)
- Not focused on the critical issues (-)

### GENERAL COMMENTS

- More options = less frustration (+)
- Don't move traffic where it shouldn't be, especially high speed traffic (-)
- Will take a lot of money to this, too many things in the question, connected to 14 (-)
- Alt routes are good
- How does everyone react as part of the transportation system
- City's responsibility to provide good transportation planning (+)
- Pedestrian safety is an issue

## GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### VISION IDEAS

#### 17. Dialogue with non-English Speakers

- Cautions of catering to small groups rather than masses
- Responsibility of schools
- What about adults?
- What role does city government play?
- Library as resource
- Don't duplicate government efforts
- Bilingual teachers? Principals?
- Health is safety

#### 20. Animal Control

- Pales by comparison in level of importance
- Safety issue
- Belongs in different group

## GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - continued

### 14. Inclusivity in Government

- “We feel invited”
- Work sessions on cable
- Too much resources spent on this
- “What’s next” on council agenda?

### VISION STATEMENT

- It has put in place a comprehensive strategy to work efficiently and effectively
- Within a two-county system and is (involved) neighbor to surrounding cities.
- (HH?)
- Tualatin builds on its identity as a family-friendly (generalize) community with services and amenities that support local families. The City works to keep all
- City government (recognizes) the growing diversity of the community. Residents feel invited and included in the governance process regardless of their differences. The City works to ensure its diverse populations receive necessary services. (see new #17) Non-English speaking community members have established easy-to-understand avenues to express their needs and concerns.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

- No mention of Metro, Federal, State, amend: local; regional governments
- No mention of feedback loop on city actions
- If we concentrate on #5, rest will follow??
- Equality among councilors
- Image & Identity
- Success already?
- Crime is image
- Don’t know what family-friends means (nuclear family not necessarily thrust of community)
- Jiggles sign as a gateway - ?
- Too vague

# ARTS, CULTURE, EDUCATION, YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

## VISION IDEAS

### 3. Local Higher Education

- Is it our job to add another campus with so many around us?

### 5. Accessible English Classes

- Right now language is an issue for kids/families in our schools
- In future 2030 will language still be an issue?
- Lack of communication impacts
- Volunteer group activities (i.e. haunted house example)
- Low cost service; need is there
- Are there other players in this issue
- Are there cultural issues with people, who do not wish to learn English
- What about English kids learning a language, cost is now \$200.00

### 13. Arts Commission

- There is a committee but it has not been funded as an entity
- Content of the programming needs to meet needs of individual groups
- Will a 1%? Go to arts or could it go to youth sports?
- There are many arts opportunities in the area
- Redefine what is included in “arts” for Tualatin

### 17. Public Communications

- Technology will take care of this issue
- City newsletter delivered electronically BUT someone needs to collate and develop the communication

### 18. Diverse Families

- Is this just a “feel good” issue or are we serious?
- Mixed development does encourage diversity, are homeless included here?
- Education of the public on diversity is important
- What is the YAC? (Youth Advisory Council)
- Are there teen activities? (yes 6-10<sup>th</sup> graders)
- There is a “city person” in charge
- Library will have a teen room
- VanRaden was donated for youth activity but it’s not happening now

## VISION STATEMENT

- Brief is better, first two sentences are the same
- School issues on boundary, country club residents go to Bridgeport...not neighborhood
- Historical/Heritage Preservation – not mentioned in this section, does it belong here, see attached note from Tualatin Historical Society
- Preserve the YAC

## ARTS, CULTURE, EDUCATION, FAMILIES AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES - continued

### GENERAL COMMENTS

- Where is the youth sport category, city needs to support tournaments etc., no venues to “showcase” our kids
- There are resources but they are connected to school property and the city does not utilize them
- Seek relationship agreements with school district
- Diversity in our youth sports
- How would you like to be involved?
- #[unreadable] needs to include more detail

## COMMENTS RECEIVED – COMMENT CARDS

### Governance:

- Please keep the word “family” in the vision statement! I understand people define the word “family” different, but that doesn’t negate the fact that the family is the central unit in a community.

### Growth:

- By 2030, there won’t be any trees or farmland left, at the rate Tualatin is (over) building at the present time, Traffic is a joke, this needs to be addressed NOW, well before 2030 gets here!
- Part of vision idea is Tualatin’s use of alternate sources of energy in our city. We must have a goal of a certain percentage of energy in our buildings, parking lots, and streets come from alternate sources to be less dependent on fossil fuel
- Please growth in check/density issues. Big houses on 5,000 sq. ft. lots is not what many of us want in Tualatin. And make developers share in the cost of education issues due to increase needs due to development.

### Parks:

- Force new developments to place great emphasis on keeping existing trees. Need multi-use facilities for recreational and leisure activities. More options for teen activities so they aren’t forced to go elsewhere. Bring more activities downtown so our downtown is inviting and alive.
- Use a building moratorium until some of the traffic problems are resolved is a good idea.
- Many people may not know what ‘natural history’ is, so may not be clear on why it is important to preserve it.
- More trails-can we expand the creek trail by Ibach Park? Can it extend to railroad track? The trail by the “lake” by the railroad track is one way and goes nowhere, any chance of looping around quarry for bike/walking paths? Also, other cities designate a portion of land (e.g. 1/6) to parks. Can we do this?
- City/School District/Sports Clubs Partnership modeled after Sherwood. Utilizing existing school district fields, maintenance funds from the clubs facilitated by the city.
- We need a dog park. Less lawns-outlaw them. Tree plant-get a tax break. I have a lawn-keeping up with the Jones’ unfortunately.
- How can we connect with like minded to do something now, before ex. all old growth
- Even though there was limited restoration, I think there is much to be said for the amount of knowledge and awareness about wetlands, noted during the voting process. It shows that wordage is clear and that the community has shown it’s support for wetlands.

**Parks - continued**

- My primary focus is support preservation of the natural environment and creating opportunities for education and appreciation. Parks and Recreation can play an important role in this process. Please add the historical element to Parks and Recreation, i.e., a regular town or advertised history path/trail to historic sites. More discussion of both subjects are very important to Tualatin's future livability.

**Traffic:**

- Tualatin residents are ready to raise their voices for I5/99W connector, the city needs to show us how to raise our voice and to whom. It's now or never. Flyers/mailers, etc. Let's empower everyone to put on the pressure.
- This is a great idea, but a little late. I wish this was done years ago.
- Need to continue micro improvements in traffic flow to provide immediate relief of traffic congestion.
- I do not see how anyone can say any of the ideas are less than a 2. If we don't fix traffic, etc. nothing else matters.

**Arts:**

- I would like to see a Community Center that would support the arts, sports, culture and youth activities for all Tualatin residents.
- Vision Idea #3, I wonder if higher ed. Classes would best begin through the input of local employers who want specifically trained workers.

**Miscellaneous:**

- See written testimony of the Tualatin Historical Society for historical preservation.
- This process (coming after we voted on the vision ideas and discussed them) of reviewing the vision statements felt rushed and confusing. Questions remain about the priorities of the various vision ideas that are in the statement. Maybe less time in introduction and more in the process.
- We need a town center that is inviting, charming, perks to artists, Tualatin needs a tree program to prevent cutting up clear cut for development i.e. Lake Oswego
- Use existing resources, school district should be as responsible and save open spaces, buildings for recreation and open space.
- Regarding facility, needed break out ROOMS. It was too hard to hear and work. Facilitator group wrap ups didn't work.
- This Town Hall meeting was a great process. Only problem, too noisy and hard to hear everything during break-out groups. In future use classrooms so we can hear, thanks!
- Tualatin needs an identity, "energy"/trees/something
- Unable to hear a lot of what students had to say but great to have them involved.