

Economic Vitality and Town Center Task Force 2018 Process Recap

May 18, 2018 – Economic Vitality and Town Center Workshop Focus on Future of Mountlake Terrace: Over 40 people attended a public workshop on the Economic Vitality Strategy and Town Center at the Mountlake Terrace Library this week. The purpose of this planning effort is to identify and develop recommended updates to the City’s Economic Vitality Strategy, development codes and Town Center Subarea Plan to support and encourage the types of development desired by the community with a specific focus on the Town Center Subarea. The goal of the May 15 workshop was to obtain input from the community to help SCJ Alliance prepare recommendations for review by the Town Center Task Force on potential updates to these strategies, codes and plan.

Comprehensive Plans and their related elements are designed to be reviewed on a periodic basis by the community to assess the goals and visions contained within the plans and make adjustments to reflect changes for the future. The Town Center Subarea Plan was adopted over ten years ago and the city and region have experienced many changes over the last several years....including the approval to extend Sound Transit’s light rail line northward into Snohomish County; a Mountlake Terrace Rail Station, located at 236th and Interstate 5, is scheduled to be operational in 2024.

Over the next several months, SCJ Alliance and the Task Force will conduct three more meetings, an open house and submit recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council for their consideration before the end of 2018. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the discussion about the future of the community and the Town Center area. The next Economic Vitality Strategy and Town Center Task Force meeting will be held on May 30, 2018 in the Council Chambers of Mountlake Terrace City Hall (6100 219th Street SW, Suite 220); all meetings are open to the public. For more information about the Economic Vitality and Town Center planning process, please visit the city’s website at www.cityofmlt.com/1936 or contact Community and Economic Development at (425)744-6207.

May 11, 2018 – Public Workshop on Economic Vitality and Town Center Planning: A Public Workshop is planned for Tuesday, May 15, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Mountlake Terrace Library, 23300 58th Avenue W, to obtain input from the community on potential updates to the city’s Town Center Subarea Plan and Economic Vitality Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plans are designed to be reviewed on a periodic basis by the community to assess the goals and visions contained in the plan and make changes to reflect changes for the future. The city has experienced many changes over the last several years and is planning for future changes including the pending Sound Transit light rail station, and interest in Mountlake Terrace as an attractive and affordable place to live and work.

The Economic Vitality and Town Center Task Force appointed by the City Council will be working over the next several months to discuss the wants and needs of residents and business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force will make recommendations on updates to existing codes and standards to the Planning Commission and City Council to consider by the end of this year.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the discussion about the future of the community and the Town Center area. For more information about the Economic Vitality and Town Center planning

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process you can visit the website at www.cityofmlt.com/1936 or contact the Community and Economic Development at (425)744-6207.

May 4, 2018 – Public Workshop on Economic Vitality and Town Center Planning: A Public Workshop is planned for Tuesday, May 15, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Mountlake Terrace Library, 23300 58th Avenue W, to obtain input from the community on potential updates to the city’s Town Center Subarea Plan and Economic Vitality Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

It has been over ten years since the Town Center Subarea Plan was adopted. An evaluation of possible changes to the plan and development standards are anticipated. Comprehensive Plan are designed to be reviewed on a periodic basis by the community to assess the goals and visions contained in the plan and make changes to reflect changes for the future. The city has experienced many changes over the last several years and is planning for future changes including the pending Sound Transit light rail station, and interest in Mountlake Terrace as an attractive and affordable place to live and work.

The Economic Vitality and Town Center Task Force appointed by the City Council will be working over the next several months to discuss the wants and needs of residents and business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force will make recommendations on updates to existing codes and standards to the Planning Commission and City Council to consider by the end of this year.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the discussion about the future of the community and the Town Center area. For more information about the Economic Vitality and Town Center planning process you can visit the website at www.cityofmlt.com/1936/Economic-Vitality-Town-Center-Task-Force or contact the Community and Economic Development at (425)744-6207.

April 27, 2018 – Council Appoints the Economic Vitality and Town Center Task Force: On April 2 the City Council appointed eleven individuals to serve on the Economic Vitality & Town Center Task Force to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan (amended in 2009) and the city’s Economic Vitality Strategy.

The Task Force’s first meeting was held Tuesday, April 10. Task Force members were given a notebook with the background information and reviewed the history of the Town Center Plan. The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development.

Over the next several months, the Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider. Consideration of possible changes to the plan could include expanding the Town Center core, increases in building height and residential density, and additional incentives to encourage redevelopment. Any changes would require amendments to Town Center development regulations and building and site design standards to implement plan updates as well as amendments to the city’s Comprehensive Plan.

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Visit www.cityofmlt.com/1936/ to find more information on the project. The City Council invites everyone to participate in the process and provide input for the updated plan. For more information about the Town Center Plan, please contact Community and Economic Development Services at (425) 744-6207.

April 20, 2018 – Council Appoints the Economic Vitality and Town Center Task Force: On April 2 the City Council appointed eleven individuals to serve on the Economic Vitality & Town Center Task Force to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan (amended in 2009) and the City’s Economic Vitality Strategy. Their next meeting will be on April 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Mountlake Terrace City Hall Council Chambers, 6100 219th Street SW, Suite 220.

The Task Force’s first meeting was held Tuesday, April 10. Task Force members were given a notebook with the background information and reviewed the history of the Town Center Plan. The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development.

Over the next several months, the Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider. Consideration of possible changes to the plan could include expanding the Town Center core, increases in building height and residential density, and additional incentives to encourage redevelopment. Any changes would require amendments to Town Center development regulations and building and site design standards to implement plan updates as well as amendments to the city’s Comprehensive Plan.

Visit www.cityofmlt.com/1936/ to find more information on the project. The City Council invites everyone to participate in the process and provide input for the updated plan. For more information about the Town Center Plan, please contact Community and Economic Development Services at (425) 744-6207.

April 6, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: At their April 2 meeting, the City Council appointed eleven individuals to serve on an 11-member Town Center Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan (amended in 2009). The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development.

The Task Force’s first meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10 in the Council Chambers at Interim City Hall, 6100 219th Street SW. Over the next several months, the Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider.

March 30, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: Members of the City Council interviewed applicants on March 22 and 27 to serve on an 11-member Town Center Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan

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(amended in 2009). The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider. A resolution to appoint the members of the Task Force is scheduled for consideration at the April 2 City Council meeting and was reviewed at the March 29 work/study session.

March 23, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: Members of the City Council are interviewing applicants this week and next to serve on an 11-member Town Center Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan (amended in 2009). The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider. Appointment of the Task Force is anticipated to take place at the April 2 City Council meeting.

March 16, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: The City Council will be interviewing applicants to serve on an 11-member Town Center Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan (amended in 2009). The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider.

March 9, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: The City Council is discussing the interview process for candidates who applied to serve on an 11-member Town Center Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force is to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center Plan (amended in 2009). The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider.

March 3, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: The city received 11 applications for appointment to the Town Center Task Force by the 5:00 p.m. deadline on February 28. Following an interview process, the City Council will appoint six members to the Task Force; the remaining five positions are to be identified by the CLEAR group.

The purpose of the Task Force is to assist in the development of an update to the 2007 Town Center plan (amended in 2009). The Task Force will serve to bring the community together to discuss the wants and needs of residents and Mountlake Terrace business owners and balance them with development feasibility to help generate economic development. The Task Force is expected to make recommendations for updates to existing codes and standards for the Planning Commission and City Council to consider.

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February 23, 2018 – Town Center Task Force: The Mountlake Terrace City Council seeks interested residents, property owners and business owners to serve on a Town Center Task Force to assist in updating the Town Center Plan. The plan was adopted in 2007 to create a Town Center that reflects the community’s values and identity, and provides a stimulus for growth and redevelopment. The plan was amended in 2009 and can be found on the city’s website at www.cityofmlt.com/documentcenter/view/750.

The original plan gathered the community’s thoughts on what the Town Center should look like in 20 years (2026), and put those thoughts into a vision that was subsequently adopted into Chapter 19.50 (the zoning code for the Town Center) that states “The purpose of this chapter is to provide for a vibrant downtown (or “Town Center”) area where businesses thrive and people of all ages enjoy gathering. A vibrant downtown is pedestrian-oriented, provides efficiently for multiple modes of transportation, and contains a mix of uses, including commercial and residential uses...”

The city has been investing in infrastructure to facilitate the plan. However, due to the slow pace of redevelopment caused by the Great Recession, and few large parcels available for sale, relatively little private development has taken place towards the vision. The city has contracted with SCJ Alliance to update the city’s economic profile, gather community input, and update zoning and/or design standards. In addition, the City Council will be selecting an 11-member Task Force to represent a balance of backgrounds from Mountlake Terrace residents, property owners and business owners that would meet in the evening, about three times per month from mid-March through possibly December with some weekend meetings possible.

As part of the update the city will have extensive community outreach and neighborhood meetings to receive citywide input and answer questions about the Town Center Plan.

Applicants must be current residents of Mountlake Terrace or own a business or property in Mountlake Terrace, at least 18 years of age, and able to attend evening and some weekend meetings in 2018. Ideal candidates will include those familiar with land use, design standards, small business operations or marketing. Individuals interested in serving should submit an application (available online at www.cityofmlt.com/1936 or at City Hall) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28 to the City of Mountlake Terrace, City Manager’s Office, 6100 219th Street SW #200, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043 or via email at cityhall@ci.mlt.wa.us. To have a form emailed to you or for any questions, contact the City Manager’s Office at cityhall@ci.mlt.wa.us or (425) 744-6266.