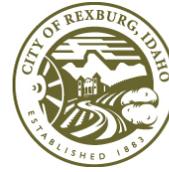


City Council Meeting

March 28, 2012



CITY OF
REXBURG
America's Family Community

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March 28, 2012

Mayor Richard Woodland

Council Members:

Christopher Mann	Jordan Busby
Donna Benfield	Jerry Merrill
Bruce Sutherland	Sally Smith

City Staff:

Stephen Zollinger – City Attorney
Richard Horner – Finance Officer
John Millar – Public Works Director
Val Christensen – Community Development Director
Scott Johnson – Economic Development Director
Blair Kay – City Clerk

7:00 A.M. City Hall

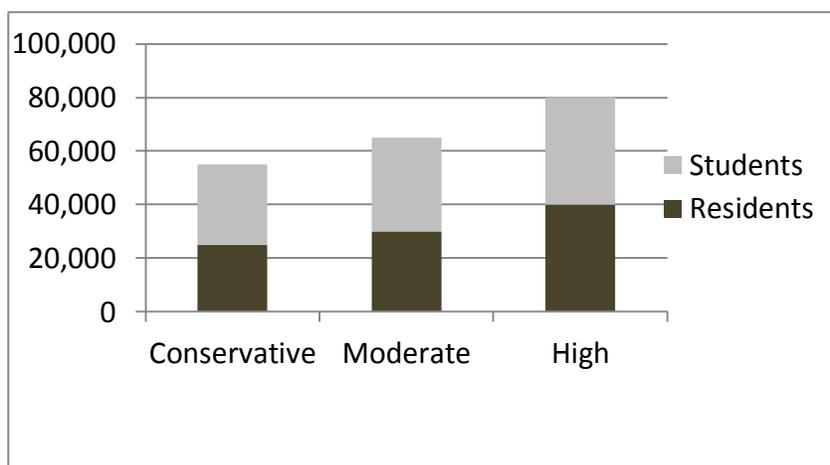
Attending: Council President Mann, Council Member Benfield, Council Member Sutherland, Council Member Merrill, Council Member Smith; **STAFF:** Scott Johnson, Craig Rindlisbacher, Val Christensen; Planning and Zoning: Corey Sorensen, Jedd Walker, Richie Webb, Scott Ferguson, Marilyn Rasmussen, Dan Hanna; **BYU-I:** Phil Packer; and **Mayor Woodland.**

Jordan Busby asked to be excused.

Mayor Woodland thanked the group for coming to the early morning meeting.

Economic Director Scott Johnson - Welcome and recap of the last meeting. He presented an overhead presentation, "Preparing for 2030, A Vision for Quality Growth."

Economic Director Johnson reviewed the Rexburg Vision Statement, and then presented the 2030 growth assumption chart:



Total City Population

Conservative

- 55,000
- 30,000 students

Moderate

- 65,000
- 35,000 students

High

- 80,000
- 40,000 students

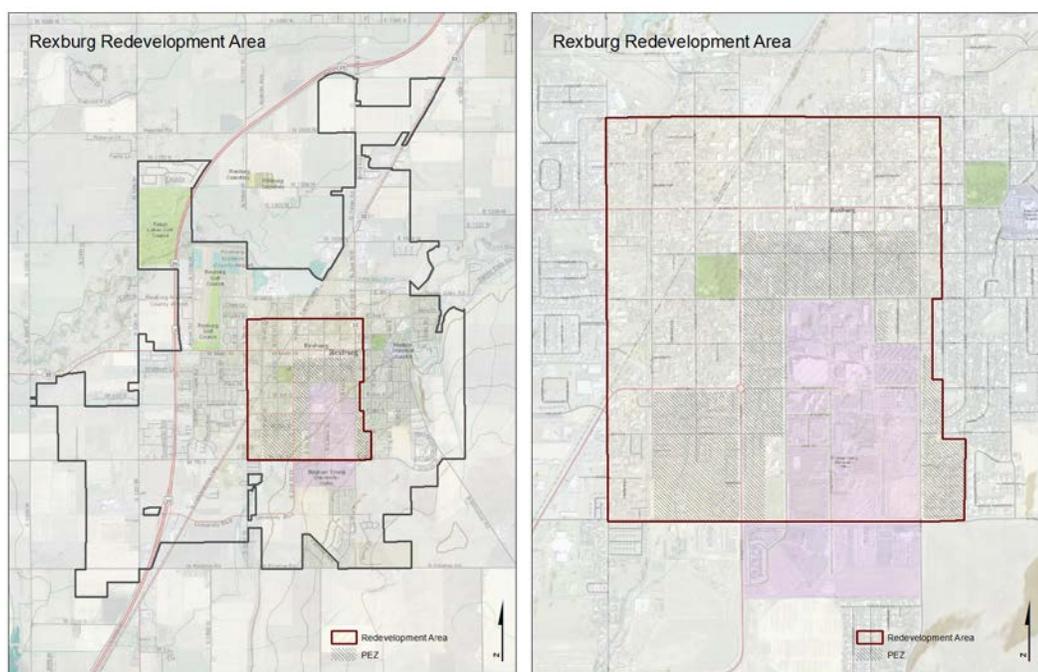
Economic Director Johnson reported on the growth challenges that exist in Rexburg. He reviewed three challenges: financially planning for the future in a resource limited environment, educating and engaging the public in a vision that improves the quality of the community, and protecting community values such as frugality. He then listed seven strategies to these challenges:

staying ahead of growth (acting not reacting), increase investment, redevelopment, mixed-use, public private collaboration, place making, and effective land use.

Economic Director Johnson reviewed the strategies in detail.

1. **Staying Ahead of Growth (Acting not Reacting).** Rexburg has a history of forward looking investment in its infrastructure. Rexburg needs to anticipate BYU-Idaho's growth, and efficiently use existing capacity.
2. **Increase Investment.** It will take place when the city continues to look at innovative streams of revenue or investment through broadening the tax base, and encouraging development that enhances quality and tax base.
3. **Redevelopment** creates a cost effective opportunity to accommodate rapid growth and can be accomplished by the infrastructure already in place, and when new developments accommodate future developments.

Proposed Map of Infill Focus Area



4. **Mixed-Use** supports higher density development and provides higher quality experience by leveraging proximity of uses to one another. A mixed use model is a return to the planning of our city founders such as capitalizing on the proximity of downtown to campus.
5. **Public Private Collaboration.** Rexburg needs to partner the leadership vision of the community with the capabilities of the private sector. Quality development must respond to more than the short term return of an individual project. Partnering with the private sector will bring credibility to this vision. It will also share the risk, protect the public, university, private interest, and increase employment opportunities.
6. **Place Making** creates a unique experience that is diverse, walkable, and compact; with vibrant public spaces. The gathering places will be inviting, and will create a shared identity among students and residents.

Economic Director Johnson suggested moving the airport and redeveloping the land for industry, and reviewed the items listed on the action list. He closed the presentation – moving forward will need a strategy that will engage policy makers and the general public.

Scott Ferguson asked about the population numbers 10 years ago. He was concerned the current graph is not accurate.

Community Development Director Val Christensen presented an overhead presentation, “Redevelopment, Infill and the Mixed Use Model – Preparing for 2030 and Beyond.”

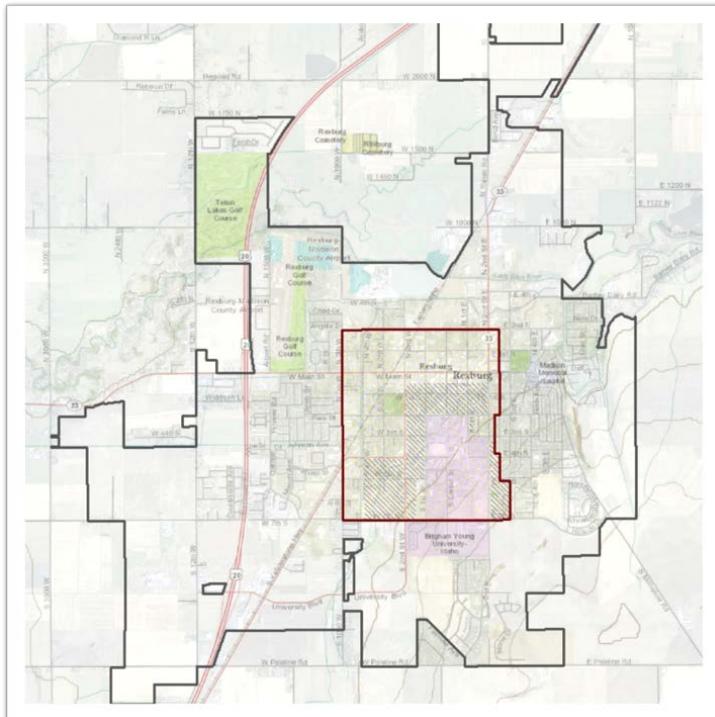
Community Development Director Christensen indicated their model will increase property values. He referred to his youth in Pocatello, Idaho where his mother did not drive. She used the city’s bus system to shop and get around in Pocatello. Val Christensen indicated Pocatello was the size (30,000) of current day Rexburg when he grew up.

Community Development Director Christensen presented the issues that face the City of Rexburg: the city is growing at a rapid rate, BYU-I student housing used most of the undeveloped sites, resources are limited, transportation and street costs are greater as housing is constructed farther from campus and Downtown Rexburg, and leap-frog developments create vacant and undesirable areas. Three planning tools were proposed as solutions: infill, redevelopment, and mixed-use.

Why Infill and Redevelopment? It creates an invigorated downtown. There are limited properties that are close to campus and to Downtown Rexburg, older single-family homes converted to dormitories are an inefficient use of valuable land, and may be unsafe. Infill and Redevelopment also increases tax revenues and property values. It enhances circulation and walkability, reduces growth and pressures on rural areas, energy is conserved through the reduced reliance on the automobile, etc.

Community Development Director Christensen proposed the location of a focus area for redevelopment and infill. The area is close to the BYU-Idaho campus and Downtown Rexburg.

Proposed Area of Focus



Why Mixed-Use? Mixed-use developments often have higher property values. It creates independence of movement, eases traffic congestion, maintains air quality, lowers traffic speeds, provides safety through around-the-clock presence of people, and provides economic viability.

Community Development Director Christensen proposed that now is the time to act, and good planning is a part of Rexburg’s heritage. If we don’t act now we will lose our chance to influence well thought-out development, and we will be left with random and inefficient results.

Community Development Director Christensen identified strategies to proceed: work with the Rexburg Planning and Zoning Commission, and the City Council in a joint planning effort. Other strategies include: creating sub-committees, exploring ideas, working with BYU-Idaho staff, and looking to other communities for ideas and solutions.

Community Development Director Christensen reviewed “The Infill and Redevelopment Code Handbook” (IRCD) and the seven conclusions that work well for infill and redevelopment projects: need for planning, audit codes, physical constraints require flexible standards, design based, planning, incentives, neighborhood support, and the human element.

Community Development Director Christensen shared a couple of passages from the IRCD book on more ways in which infill and redevelopments can be promoted:

“Neighbors will support good projects when they feel that the project benefits them. Public education and good examples to point to are critical” (IRCD)

“Staff and local policy makers need to have a favorable attitude toward infill and redevelopment to get good results” (IRCD)

Community Development Director Christensen closed presentation – this model will need input, leadership, and support.

Jedd Walker referred to an entity sponsored by the Architecture Association.

What can R/UDAT do for your community?

Communities across the country are constantly changing. Some of the challenges they encounter include the loss of major employers, new bypass roads, gridlock, unfocused suburban growth, crime, loss of open space, regional conflict, unaffordable housing, abandoned mills and industrial plants, environmental problems, vacant storefronts, and loss of identity. A R/UDAT can help you to respond to these kinds of issues, develop a vision for a better future for your community, and implement a strategy that will produce results. Because the R/UDAT process is highly flexible, it is effective in communities as small as villages and urban neighborhoods and as large as metropolitan regions.

Marilyn Rasmussen asked about older established neighborhoods.

Scott Ferguson said there will be families frustrated with growth pressures.

Council President Mann said they have already identified larger lots needing infill. He referred to developers seeking cheaper ground outside the infill areas.

Corey Sorensen indicated neighbors can be affected more with distant developments than closer in developments targeted for infill.

Council Member Smith felt there was a disconnect between City Council and staff. She wanted to have more information from staff concerning new development.

Council Member Sutherland would not want to live on Center Street where he grew up. He felt the identified area was areas the City Council could work with infill.

Community Development Director Val Christensen presented an overhead presentation, “A Walkable Community.”

C D Director Christensen reviewed what makes a successful pedestrian street: safety, comfort and attention to detail. A good mixed-use project utilizes store fronts, landscaping and other public features to create a welcome effect. He reviewed what makes walkable and livable mixed-use community:

- “Human scale”, which is created through a sense of enclosure and when the ground level is distinctive and includes entrances and display windows.
- Commercial on lower level with wider sidewalks and other landscaping features creates a “sense of place”.
- Well thought-out landscaping is critical for “place-making”.
- Well defined front entrances, attractive lighting and landscaping features help an all residential project “feel” more pedestrian friendly.

C D Director Christensen also reviewed items that make an undesirable mixed-use community:

- A commercial project pulled to the street without retail, and with limited landscaping creates a sterile uncomfortable pedestrian feeling.
- A commercial building without windows or landscaping does not make for an inviting walkway.
- A commercial project pulled to the street without retail and with limited landscaping creates a sterile uncomfortable pedestrian feeling.

- Attractive building facades alone may not be enough to invoke a comfortable pedestrian environment.

C D Director Christensen asked the council and members of the meeting if they could visualize the mixed-use model in Rexburg, if so, where does it fit? Could Rexburg be more walkable?

Corey Sorensen said sooner or later the size of the community will change with the growth. This issue will be having enough jobs, etc.

C D Director Christensen said planning is the right thing to do.

Council President Mann said you need strong design standards to make it work.

Dan Hanna was concerned with developers developing small pieces of a block instead of an inclusive development for the entire neighborhood or block.

Jedd Walker reviewed the target market for mixed-use. Currently the target market is students. Val Christensen said there are elderly people wanting to stay in Rexburg in a twin home, condo, etc. As the city grows with more jobs, there will be an interest in urban housing.

Richie Webb said in 20 years the development will follow the money. Pro growth business friendly standards are needed. Developers need to know what the community wants and where the community wants to go. There is a need to create an acceptable theme and direction.

Discussion to set the next joint meeting on planning. April 19th at 6:00 P.M.

Adjournment at 8:22 A.M.

Richard S. Woodland, Mayor

Attest:

Blair D. Kay, City Clerk