

# **BLACK DIAMOND**

## **MEETING GUIDELINES**

**Phones/pagers on "off" or "vibrate"**

**Respect each other & our differences**

**There are no stupid ideas or questions**

**Keep an open mind**

**Allow people to change**

**Raise hand to be recognized**

**No side talking**

**One person talks at a time**

**Be honest**

**The duty of the facilitator is to make sure YOU are heard**

## **Black Diamond Interview Summaries**

Interviews conducted as pre-session input for the Special Meeting to be held on 08 MAR 13

Most interviews in person, two were conducted later by telephone.

### **Question 1: In a BIG Picture world – one viewed from 30,000 feet – what is the desired end product of this session?**

Responses:

Mayor & Council clearly know their roles, staff is bound by law – we have no personal position. Is what we are doing helping move us to the (corporate) goal? The goals, as they exist today are set forth in the Comprehensive plan, CIP & TIP, annual budget and the long-range financial plan. Staff does not know what the City Council wants for the future vision. Is it disincorporation, going bankrupt after fight, fight fight the MPD's, is it to implement the MPD's and get the best deal we can, is it growth beyond the MPD's?

Having the city work better together. In the past the city was run by the Mayor and the Council (members) was figureheads. It would be better to work together. Example: the item placed on the Agenda that had no previous discussion – Acceptance of donations. Advance notice would have been appreciated. Example: when elected officials attend the Enumclaw School foundation events, we might sit together.

What are the vision and goals of the Council? They have not really indicated their priorities for the last 2-3 years – staff has not a clue as to the Council priorities.

The task that was expressed to staff, at the time of our arrival, was to help the City prepare itself for growth, slated to begin in the next year or two (this was mid-year 2008). Then, the Mayor, Council & staff put forth effort to make sure that standards for development were up to date and met while at the same time allowing growth to proceed utilizing the “rural by Design” principles. This issue has seen some re-focused attention and it is my hope that the session on March 8<sup>th</sup> will allow us to make this issue a bit clearer in order to align our (staff) work programs....

Direction – Council's vision of priorities. The staff is still working on old priorities because Council has not given direction – this may be from a lack of trust. It is time to move on from the past – staff will work on Council priorities as long as they are legal.

Need to know the Council's vision – they all ran against something rather than for something – no good policy direction to staff. Examples: No direction as to what services to provide; the Comprehensive Plan probably has a lot the current Council does not support. How can the Council communicate their vision?

The current communication flow (lack thereof) is a big problem. Direct Council to staff contact puts the staff in a tough situation.

Shared priorities by all – Council, Mayor & staff.

Revenue issues as they relate to fairness. Focus on vital infrastructure – rebuilding the springs, resolving Abrams Avenue, decommission sewer lagoons and finalize the water service area.

Desire for all to work together with trust & respect. Example: when Council meets with staff, we get one way of responding; when such a meeting includes the Mayor, we get another way of responding. Friction between Council and the Mayor (needs) to be addressed. Look beyond the 2014 Budget – a future “add” may mean a “deduct” elsewhere.

See a decision from the Council on their short- and long-term goals. A plan from the Council Members and the Mayor on how they will communicate with staff.

That the Council understands the financial realities of this City – it seems like a lot of things are glossed over. Setting: the poor economy world-wide, all it takes is a loss of faith in the Dollar or the Euro (for a crash). A positive economy, despite small positive indications, is not a given. While national economy & state may rise, the local area may stumble.

Would like to see a Council & staff that are working together. What is the (future) policy direction from the Council? In 2012 it was four things: turn around (repeal) the CFD, ask that a declaratory judgment against YB be initiated, a minor change in the Comp Plan for development outside of the three MPD's dealing with gross land density to net density and the 2013 Budget. The Budget is an annual task, so there were just 3 key policy directions given all year.

To understand the general direction of the city over the next several years, how this direction (will/could) impact the services provided by the Fire Department. What direction does the City intend to take related to long-term needs for fire/emergency services? Determine how to proceed with the Fire Services Agreement (Interlocal) that calls for determining the “fair rate of compensation.”

Hope the Council would look at how BD would look in 5/10/20 years with growth occurring over time and not happening all at once. How would this affect parks, streets, open space trails and public safety? What will our service level become over time?

**Question 2: What specific policy issues or over-all direction for the city would you like to have discussed at this session?**

Responses:

Besides fire, Comprehensive Plan, Transportation & water as they all affect fire/medical services. Identify the experience that you/your neighbor will have when you call 9-1-1.

For 2014: What kind of public participation efforts are expected for upcoming Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update (completion by DEC 2014)? In-house, use of a consultant, or? Note: the Plan must be done by the date noted in order to maintain eligibility for outside financial assistance in carrying out that Plan. Beyond 2014: Federal Register and finding that Rock Creek is a critical habitat for Steelhead Trout; the three cities regional Council meetings and potential for a regional Park District; In-lieu fee program for Lake Sawyer impacts – how does this fit with potential for development of the regional park at southern end of the lake, how about the regional trail network?

Council expectations on service and levels of service. Need to prioritize Mission, Vision and Goals.

General direction for emergency services and will there be any impacts in 2014. Ensuring that the City is attempting to meet its level of service according to the current Comprehensive Plan. See Comp Plan policies CF-17 through 21.

Discussion of roles & responsibilities. Avoiding what appears to be decisions made outside of open public meetings. Example: Stating before a Council Meeting was even held who would be the next Mayor Pro-Tem. Understanding and maintaining Attorney-Client privilege. Example: shortly after a message from an attorney was provided to the Council, a litigant to the matter called the Mayor arguing a particular point. The Council is the same as a corporate Board of Directors – the Council represents that Corporation.

Recommendation: Prepare this year – prior to July – a no-growth, severely reduced Funding Agreement contingency plan. Address the lack of \$ to repair & replace infrastructure. Example: if we continue to replace only 2000 ft. of water line a year, it will take us about 100 years to replace it all. Example: WE are using state grants to fund operations – what if the grants go away? Example: in streets, major capital \$ are from state grants – what if the grants go away?

A better understanding of the Council wishes as to how the City will develop. The build-out of the City has been over-riding issue for some time – what are the Council's goals?

Financial health/structure, including risks and issues - there is a lot of uncertainty out there. Implementing the master planned developments.

Fire: need to look at \$, review options and pros and cons. CFD: If we are going to take this on we need to understand the status of the law, the process necessary, pros and cons and most of all start early on the Council and public education process (months long) Parks: look at designating Lake Sawyer Park as "passive;" not "active" uses.

Plans regarding pedestrian connectivity.

Our precarious funding. There is a lack of understanding of our fiscal reality – in June YB could issue a notice of "wind down." What if they remove funding for four positions? What does the Council want to get done with a City Administrator on board? What are their priorities?

Comp Plan: Is the current vision statement the vision of the Council? There are discrepancies in service levels stated. TBD: is the Council on board with this – if not – let’s make it clear so we can focus on other things. Health benefits for employees: need to have a picture of what is desired as an end result and that this represents all of the Council, not just the one member who spoke to this.

Fundamental understanding of how we have been putting \$ into the GF. Does the Council understand SEPA and the Funding Agreement and all that comes to the City from the FA? Do we have a doomsday plan – for partial or total wind down of the FA? Big picture: the three MPD’s for YB are vested – how can we make this the best we can?

2014: it would be nice to have a written vision as to what areas are important. For example: designate projects and then plan for and designate funding. Understand the pre-activities that are needed to get outside assistance. Example: the CIP and the need to keep certain plans updated annually or every 5-6 years. For all years: a reminder that on-going activities still need to be done – even if they are not in the work plans.