

“Elections & Directions + EIE” Weds, March 30, 11 am - with Paul Stickney – notes PaulS & DawnS

Paul is the originator of a growth initiative called “Enrich & Sustain”.

Enrich & Sustain Executive Summary:

Alleviate Imbalances ◇ Add Assets ◇ Appropriate Benefits

Relative to the housing needs of those living and/or working in Sammamish over their lifetime, and from the perspective of future generational planning - internal housing supplies are imbalanced – far too many large single-family homes and not near enough different, diverse, and smaller homes.

Enrich & Sustain is a growth solution to optimally alleviate/balance housing misdevelopment in Sammamish by: 1) decreasing future amounts of large single-family homes. 2) increasing current and future amounts of different, diverse and smaller housing options 3) enabling additional community enrichments far greater for our residents and city - then for development interests.

Think of our housing supplies as a circle. Since Sammamish incorporated the size of that circle has notably shrunk, mainly by regulatory means. However, many parts of that circle are missing and have never been filled in, yet. It's time to remedy this fundamental ailment in appropriate ways.

Data and opinions are essential to obtain:

- A) Uniquely appropriate, internal housing needs analyses
- B) Informed statistically valid surveys
- C) Contrasting over 40 'consequence topic' outcomes based on varied, notably different, growth direction options
- D) Enlightened citizen inputs.

With vital data and informed opinions known, our community can then determine to what degree Sammamish modestly balances local housing supplies for life. Optimizing our housing supplies will enable holistic, community enrichments that improve livability, lifestyles and legacies – sustainably.

Optimal Growth and Prosperity ... Now and for Posterity

Paul's message today was EIE – Emotion, Information, Emotion. What he has noticed is that the housing growth situation in Sammamish is based too much on emotion, especially much of what we see on social media – where many opinions are based on ideologies without sufficient information or understanding holistic consequences of which community growth direction is best to take.

Paul's hope is to inform growth narratives with facts, and then help residents tap into another set of emotions based on deeper understandings of growth ... and opportunities for sustainable, far-reaching 'net positive' effects for residents and the City.

Important facts on growth span what has happened in the past, what is happening now and what the future could look like with “housing supplies for life” for local residents, if planned appropriately.

There is a big difference between 'direction' and 'elections'. Direction is fundamental policy that spans multiple elections ... such as Women's Right to Vote, Social Security and the Civil Rights movement. Another example ... National Defense. Our country has strong National Defense, this is a direction. Every 4 years when there are presidential elections some changes in how defense is carried out occurs, but its general direction continues.

The Direction he refers to in this presentation is whether or not our community chooses to alleviate housing mis-development and provide adequate local housing options for life, which we do not have at this time. Elections in the future would deal with the degree of implementing internal housing balance, should our community adopt this direction.

What assets does Sammamish currently have and what do we need to build a future community that is inclusive, provides services, and allow its residents to continue to live here as they age. In his research he believes that EIE informed development can provide far more added benefits for residents and the City - than to developers investing in Sammamish.

Some steps to alleviate housing mis-development by optimal internal housing balance are:

- Obtaining lacking information – gather all housing needs and wants for past, present and future for ‘Different, Diverse and Smaller’ housing supplies over ones cycle-of-life.
- Reduce Traffic Congestion - in Sammamish the main traffic problems are due to school traffic. Priority would be to reduce traffic for drop off and pick up at schools.
- Determine capacity for additional single-family housing based on zoning and regulations
- Alleviate Housing Imbalances – as 85% of homes here were permitted by King County
- Enable Holistic Enrichments over and above those we appreciate and enjoy today.
- Inspiring Visions – suggest that we create two visions for our City. ‘Sammamish Style Suburban’ for 95% of the City and ‘Sammamish Style Urban’ for 5% of the City. Different aims and outcomes in each vision that are exciting, mutually beneficial, symbiotic, and support/advance each other.

By optimally alleviating past housing mis-development, we can improve tree canopy, enrich conservation, enhance wildlife habitats, provide more appropriate housing development with more opportunities for housing variety for life, increase financial benefits for the City and residents, plus provide convenient and appropriate local services.

Paul provided us this summary: “Our City needs to be more data driven, creative and thoughtful in our housing plans. It is time to modestly attain housing supply balance, adding more different, diverse and smaller homes going forward, and adding fewer large single-family homes in the future. Doing this can help us attain local ‘housing affordability through balanced sustainable housing’ as called for in our Sammamish Comprehensive Plan”

Below are some next steps that Sammamish Seniors volunteers and community members can do to help build a vision that includes beneficial ‘Housing Balance’ directions for Sammamish:

- Now is the time to work with city council and let them know you support optimal housing balance. Don’t get “stuck” by some of what you see on social media.
- Develop presentation on what housing options Sammamish Seniors need and want
- Realizing the housing needs/wants of all economic and demographic groups over life.
- Look for growth option solutions that are ‘net-positive’, not ‘net negative’.
- Support Housing Needs Analyses to identify all shortage and surplus housing gap #'s.
- Develop a sub-committee to compare consequences of optimal growth with other growth directions being proposed. Which growth direction yields the most civic benefits?