

**King County Panel Discussion Summary
Hosted by Seattle City Club
June 25, 2004
Noon – 2pm
Seattle, Washington**

Facilitator:

Charles Royer, former Seattle City Mayor

Panelists:

Sam Anderson, Master Builders Association

Phyllis Campbell, The Seattle Foundation

Gene Duvernoy, Cascade Land Conservancy

James Veseley, The Seattle Times

Major Outcomes of Discussion:

Our Community, Our Waters and the Cascades

We face the challenge of arranging our community under a common vision for the future within the limited space and resources of our region.

We share a common culture living in the Northwest. Together, we identify and relate with such common markers as salmon, rivers, forest, and mountains.

These natural landscapes and communities surround us and play an essential role in our culture and economy.

We acknowledge the need to create livable communities in an urban area by recognizing our limited resources and the needs of future generations.

Dramatic Changes

As the population grows, the region is constantly faced with increasing suburban sprawl and density. Single family homes are still a strong market desire, yet more people are choosing to live in urban environments such as downtown Seattle.

To address the issue of living in a region with limited space, we need to address the constant tension in government and society between different special interest niches. We must come together under common values to move forward.

Many members of the community do not know how to help. As a result, our confusion often transfers to a lack of action or apathy.

Planning

Cooperative:

We must cooperate to find smart solutions for our changing region. Most importantly, we need to actively pursue these solutions.

To reach a common ground, all members of the community need to be engaged. Leadership should extend beyond a handful of big leaders and come from all levels.

Comprehensive and Inclusive:

Interest and leadership need to extend beyond the neighborhood level to a greater vision for the whole region. The Dialogues help form conversation about such visions.

Education will be a vital avenue towards livable and healthy communities with a high quality of life for everyone. We must take this challenge and opportunity to invest in our future by educating our youth.

Regional:

It will be necessary for the community and local bodies of government to work together as a region. We should strive towards the Tri-County process in which we have the most politically correct crowd around the table where both public and private partnerships will be essential.

Creative:

We have great processes for creating livable communities in the region, but often lack products of our effort. We must move forward with a single vision (map) with short-, mid-, and long-term strategies and actions.

Our solutions need to be non-ideological and extend beyond philanthropic reasons to include market based incentives that integrate a path towards a healthy economy and environment.

“It will be an on-going process as well as an initial path forward.”