Meeting Introduction and Overview
Scott Greenberg provided introductions and an overview of the meeting agenda.

Stakeholder Group Survey
Alison Van Gorp summarized the results of the Stakeholder Group Survey. The presentation included a summary of issues identified for further discussion, including: traffic, parking, transit, sidewalks, building height & density, design, retail, and plazas. The survey results also showed strong support for maintaining the proposed meeting schedule of 3 additional 3 hour meetings. There was also strong support for small group discussion, in terms of meeting format.

Current Town Center Vision
Scott Greenberg presented a summary of the current Town Center Vision, which was drawn from a number of documents, including the Comprehensive Plan. The Current vision was described as including the following elements:

• Diverse land uses
• Attractive, accessible, economically healthy
• Cater to needs of Islanders
• Mixed use center
• Attractions and pedestrian amenities
• Programmed
• Urban, yet human-scaled sense of place
• Public amenities for more than two stories
• Convenient, accessible parking and transit
• Varying heights in subareas
• Decreasing density moving south

The question “is this accurately reflected” was then posed to Stakeholders. A number of people commented, but most comments focused on what they would like to see changed or updated in the vision. These comments were directed to the next discussion, of the future vision.
Future Town Center Vision
Scott Greenberg provided a brief introduction to the next exercise – stakeholders were asked in advance of the meeting to prepare news articles, written from the year 2035, describing the qualities of the town center and the process through which it was created. Stakeholders were then asked to go around the room and read the headline and first paragraph of their news articles.

Future Town Center Vision
After a brief break, stakeholders reconvened at their tables in groups of about 6 stakeholders, plus 1 staff member. Together they discussed what they had heard in the news article exercise, and worked to understand points of agreement and/or disagreement amongst the table members. After about 30 minutes of discussion, the tables reported their finding to the larger group.

Table 1
DISAGREE:
- Height – some want 2-3 stories, others want 5 stories – lets be careful, not expand it much beyond.
- Some like 5 stories just want to fix sidewalks
- Parking – afraid of losing, don’t want to park underground, on street parking, don’t like the look of on street parking, don’t want to invest in big central garage – invest in transit instead-look 20 years ahead

AGREE:
- Affordable housing
- Town houses
- Retail rents lower
- Who center for? Locals, kids, other like beer joints, what do you care – you don’t live downtown
- Economic development – City should have active role working w/ chamber other partners

Table 2
- This process is reversed, we are talking about vision after specific code details
- In agreement with what’s on screen [summary of current vision] –those are things we’ve been talking about for past 5 months. Don’t want to reopen door.
  - 6 bullet points on left – good vision statement kind of words, bullets on right - strike out urban, add “significant” public amenities
- Urge everyone to think about where we are in this process – is this where we should be in this process.

Table 3
- Multimodal model of transportation
- Want people hanging out in Town Center, family and community oriented
- Height – need clarification there – differing opinions
Some ok with 5 stories, some ok with 5 stories with significant amenities, do you want to have 2 story buildings or 2 story building feel?

- Studies show retailers will not be successful unless we provide street parking – consider if we want certain levels of amenities
- Light rail – while there are risks and impact, we should frame it as positive. Light rail will bring opportunities.
- Want to see Town Center being patronized by 75% islanders, 25% off islanders.
- A lot of what we are talking about was provided for by the 1994 model (on map)
- Need more definition around codes and what will protect our communities from what we don’t want.

Table 4

- Mercer Island is an independent gem, between 2 large metropolises
- Town Center should offer community gathering places – 3rd place concept
- Multi-modal destination for cars/bikes/feet
- Variety of restaurants and parks
- Playing to strengths – need to build green connections between parks
- Encourage on-street/underground/camouflaged parking instead of surface lots
- Town Center should be accessible

Summary of Stakeholder Group Vision Points

Topics with more areas of agreement than disagreement:

- Agreement with current vision
- Affordable housing
- Retail interests
- Restaurants
- Mix of on-street and structured parking
- Multimodal transportation
- Parks/green spaces
- Connectivity between parks

Areas of disagreement or mixed opinion:

- Heights
- Additional on-street parking or a parking garage and how it relates to transit.

Next Steps

Scott Greenberg concluded the meeting by reviewing the schedule of upcoming meetings and thanking everyone for their input.