

**From:** [Shaffer White \(City Volunteer\)](#)  
**To:** [David Lee](#); [! PLN DRB Members](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Council Comments/Feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:48:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Hi David and all,  
Sorry for the late reply.

I agree, I do think we've done tremendous work over the years, and part of that is definitely the iterative process.

Definitely understand the limitations of a single DRB meeting.  
I'm not fully up to speed on what's allowed and what's not, and how much interaction and/or "meetings" with staff is possible under this new process/law.

My only suggestion then would be if possible, to recreate the iteration as best as we're able.

- Meeting 1: Staff to meet with Applicant for first "meeting", initial comments/review from the Staff.
- Applicant to make revisions, develop further, based on initial discussions with Staff
- Meeting 2: Single DRB meeting, intent is not to approve (unless Staff feel it's a slam dunk) but to provide design professional/resident comments/feedback, raise any additional questions or suggestions that applicant should consider
- Applicant to make revisions, develop further, based on DRB comments/discussion
- Meeting 3: Staff to meet with applicant for third "meeting", review incorporation/development from DRB meeting, make determination if Staff is ready for approval.

So in general, there's still an opportunity for DRB to weigh in at a reasonable midpoint of the project, provide feedback, which is great as we have a diverse group who comes up with a variety of good suggestions, questions, and concerns.

It is then up to Staff to take the project the final distance and at their discretion on how far to take DRB comments, and final approval.

May also be worth revising the threshold for DRB, which I think currently is anything larger than a single family home.

Perhaps a quadplex or larger.

Do want to say we really appreciate how hard staff works day in and day out. You guys do a fantastic job in teeing things up so it's easy for us to weigh in.

Cheers,  
Shaffer

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**From:** David Lee <dlee@redmond.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 3:14 PM  
**To:** !\_PLN DRB Members <!\_PLNDRBMembers@redmond.gov>  
**Subject:** Council Comments/Feedback

Hi DRB!

As I mentioned at our last DRB meeting, Council is seeking any comments/feedback on the potential disbanding of the Design Review Board based on Washington State House Bill 1293. The House Bill limits the DRB to meeting only once on a project. As the DRB well knows, it is a rarity that any project beyond a simple facade upgrade or a master sign program have only one meeting. The DRB is an iterative process and yields great results because of it! However, in order to comply with House Bill 1293 (and its companion bill Senate Bill 5290 which sets strict time limits and financial penalties on cities), staff has recommended that the DRB be disbanded.

During the staff report presentation to the Council, City Council asked for DRB's feedback on the idea of the disbanding of the DRB, any comments or feedback the DRB would like to share regarding their experiences on the DRB, or anything else the council should consider before making a decision on the matter. Any feedback will be shared with the council at its September 10 study session.

If you'd like to share any feedback or comments, please email them to me **by August 26<sup>th</sup>**. You can also share any comments at the September 5<sup>th</sup> DRB meeting, however, we would have to provide the council with notes of what you had shared as the council packet would have gone out by that time.

As always, thank you so very much for your time, consideration, and expertise!

Sincerely,  
David Lee



**David Lee**

Development Review Planning Manager

| City of Redmond

| 425.556.2462 (O) | \*: [dlee@redmond.gov](mailto:dlee@redmond.gov) | [Redmond.gov](http://Redmond.gov)

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Regular In-Office Schedule: Mon/Tues/Weds



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**From:** [Ana Cisneros \(Volunteer\)](#)  
**To:** [Shaffer White \(City Volunteer\)](#); [David Lee](#); [!\\_PLN DRB Members](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Council Comments/Feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 5:36:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Hi David and DRB members

Thank you for reaching out and for providing the detailed context regarding the potential disbanding of the Design Review Board. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on this important matter.

As someone who has had the privilege of serving on the DRB, I have seen firsthand the value that the iterative review process brings to projects. The Board plays a crucial role in ensuring that developments meet not only technical standards but also align with the character and needs of the community. By having multiple touchpoints on more complex projects, we have been able to guide developers through adjustments that benefit both their plans and the broader environment they impact.

I believe there is great value in the depth of review that the DRB offers. Limiting the DRB's engagement to a single meeting may hinder our ability to provide the comprehensive feedback that leads to better project outcomes. Many developments require careful consideration and refinement, and a single meeting simply doesn't offer enough opportunity for this.

If the council is seriously considering disbanding the DRB, I would urge them to think about the long-term impact this could have on the quality of developments in the city. Perhaps alternative solutions could be explored that maintain some form of iterative review while still complying with the new legal framework.

Thank you again for giving us the chance to provide feedback. I look forward to hearing the council's decision and remain committed to contributing to the future of our city in any way I can.

Best regards,

**Ana Cisneros**

DRB Volunteer, City of Redmond

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[acisneros@redmond.gov](mailto:acisneros@redmond.gov)

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**From:** Shaffer White (City Volunteer) <[swhite@redmond.gov](mailto:swhite@redmond.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:48:37 AM

**To:** David Lee <[dlee@redmond.gov](mailto:dlee@redmond.gov)>; !\_PLN DRB Members <[!\\_PLNDRBMembers@redmond.gov](mailto:!_PLNDRBMembers@redmond.gov)>

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