CITY OF RIDGEFIELD
Council Retreat

Monday
April 7, 2008
Tri-Mountain Golf Course
Ridgefield, Washington

Monday, April 7, 2008 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Mayor Onslow

Review of Ground Rules – Mayor Onslow

Review of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) Analysis Completed at the February 1 Retreat – David Mercier, Kenbrio Incorporated

Goal Setting and Prioritization – David Mercier, Kenbrio Incorporated

Wrap up – Justin Clary

**One 15-minute Break is anticipated mid-afternoon

Note: Unless otherwise noted above, there will be no public comment at Council Work Sessions. However, Council always reserves the right to request information from the public and staff as appropriate. During meetings held by the City of Ridgefield Council, the Council reserves the right to take "action" on any item listed or subsequently added to the agenda. The term "action" means to deliberate, discuss, review, consider, evaluate or make a collective positive or negative decision.

List of Attendees

Ron Onslow, Mayor
Matt Swindell, Councilmember
David Taylor, Councilmember
Lee Wells, Councilmember
Darren Wertz, Councilmember
Justin Clary, City Manager
David Mercier, Kenbrio Incorporated

Retreat Ground Rules

Share all relevant information. When the group is discussing an issue, it is helpful for all the members to share all information they have that is relevant to understanding the issue or solving the problem at hand. The information may be facts, feelings, reactions, opinions, etc. Each person must take responsibility for sharing whatever information he or she holds and not assume that others in the group know it already. The group cannot use it until it has it.

Be specific and use examples. Speaking in generalities often makes it difficult for others to understand because each person's experience is different. Saying specifically what you mean increases the chances that you will be understood. Using an example can give each person who is listening a common reference point.

Test assumption and inferences publicly. If someone makes a statement that seems to you to include an unsupported assumption, you can avoid a lot of misunderstanding by verifying that the person made that assumption and finding out why he or she made it. You can also test out your own assumptions by asking the group if your assumption is correct.

Define what important words mean. Often words mean different things to different people. If a word or a term is important in the discussion and if there seem to be different meanings applied to the word, it is usually worthwhile to stop and establish a common meaning for the whole group.

Discuss interests before positions are taken. People establish their positions on issues on the basis of their interests. However, it is sometimes possible for differing interests to be satisfied by a position or solution that nobody has thought of yet. To find out whether that is possible, people have to say what their interests are. On the other hand, if people just argue for their positions without stating their interests, it is often difficult or impossible to find a common solution that might meet everyone's needs.

Don't take cheap shots or in other ways distract the group. When members take cheap shots at one another, it often takes the group off track and distracts members receiving the cheap shot. Likewise, the group may be distracted by side conversations or individuals doing "off-task" activities.