



Seattle Neighborhoods



Roosevelt High School Design Departure Advisory Committee

Members

Betsy Amick
Mike Barrett
Bruce Rowland Johnson
Diana McFarlane
Sandy Miller

Ex-Officio Members

Maureen Sheehan,
Department of Neighborhoods
Holly Godard,
Seattle Department of Construction &
Inspections

Roosevelt High School

(SDCI Project # 3033689)

Development Standards Design Departure Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #1

May 2, 2019

Roosevelt High School
1410 NE 66th St.
Seattle, WA 98115

Members and Alternates Present

Mike Barrett	Bruce Rowland Johnson	Sandy Miller
Diana McFarlane	Betsy Amick	

Staff and Others Present

Maureen Sheehan	DON
Holly Godard	SDCI
Alex Rolluda	Rolluda Architects
Jennifer Barnes	Heffron Transportation

I. Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Ms. Maureen Sheehan from the City of Seattle, Major Institutions, and Schools Program. Ms. Sheehan welcomed all in attendance and briefly summarized the agenda. Brief introductions followed.

II. Overview of the Process

Ms. Sheehan stated that this process is governed by the Land Use Code Sections of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC Title 23), which specifies how the process works. Ms. Sheehan noted that the City of Seattle does not have a school zone, subject to the development standards of the underlying zone. Since most schools are in residential neighborhoods zoned "single family," schools do not normally meet the underlying zoning requirements. Thus, the Land Use Code contains provisions that allow the Seattle School District to request departures from various development standards.

The Committee is meeting tonight to develop recommendations concerning the School District's requested departures for departures from provisions of the SMC related to land use.

The Committee receives information on the departures being requested from the Seattle Public Schools and its consultants, public testimony, and then the Committee discusses the requested departures.

The Committee may do one of the following:

- 1) Recommend granting the departure as requested;
- 2) Recommend granting the departure with modifications or specific conditions, or
- 3) Recommend denial of the departure.

Conditions or modifications identified should be clearly related to the requested departure and enforceable on the District.

The Committee may develop recommendations at this meeting, or if time does not allow, additional public testimony is desired, or additional information is needed, the Committee may hold up to two additional meetings. If the Committee concludes they have enough information and there is no further benefit from additional public testimony, the Committee can determine to move forward at the end of this meeting in establishing their recommendations; in that case, this would be the only public meeting.

Ms. Sheehan emphasized that the Committee's will make recommendations that will be put into a report that will be reviewed by the Committee and forwarded to Ms. Holly Godard of the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI), who will take it into consideration when drafting the Director's decision.

III. Presentation

Ms. Christina Rodgers, the principal of Roosevelt High School talked about the portables, enrollment and capacity of the school. Currently, the school is enrolling 1,930 students. With the opening of Lincoln High School to relieve the enrollment overload for Roosevelt, Ballard and Garfield High School, the School District projected 300 less students when the school began its budget process in February.

Seattle Public School (SPS) completed its enrollment, registration, and appeals process for students who want to transfer or move to the school, and the result was a projection for Roosevelt to increase up to 175 students. Staff were brought back to accommodate the growth in enrollment and the school will be at maximum capacity within the coming year or sooner. The school was slated to have 10 portables in the parking lot, but due to creative mitigation, only 6 portables were retained.

In the past year the school provided ORCA cards to all students and bike racks were full. She understood the parking impacts around the neighborhood because of the recent growth and changes in the City and the neighborhood. She is open to work with the neighborhood to find creative ways to mitigate parking issues. She also added that removing the portables knowing that more students may decide to enroll at this school will bring a tremendous burden to the school in accommodating educational needs.

The Project:

Ms. Sheehan introduced Mr. Alex Rolluda of Rolluda Architects and the Design Team to present the project.

Mr. Rolluda shared that at the last year's departure request, the school was granted to allow 10 classroom portables, but only 6 portables remained. He added that due to the recent projections, enrollment at Roosevelt will not decrease significantly as previously projected despite the additional capacity at Lincoln High School. SPS does not recommend the removal of the six existing portables. The School District is recommending a departure request of 31 parking spaces for a total of 141 on-site Parking Spaces.

Ms. Jennifer Barnes of Heffron Transportation provided an overview of the parking analysis around the school area to support the School District's departure request.

She noted that their analysis included an inventory of the on-street parking supply within a 800' walking distance per City of Seattle's guidance, performed on-street and on-site parking occupancy counts during weekday periods, mid-afternoon counts were conducted on days with and without school in session, adjusted baseline parking to account for future projects that could affect on-street capacity, calculated parking demand generated by portables and future parking utilization with and without the portables.

The analysis concluded that the portables and the associated increase in enrollment will likely contribute a small amount of parking impacts in the surrounding area. SPS will continue to implement the mitigation measures already in place to help limit the potential impact to on-street parking demand.

Summary of the Requested Departure:

1. Reduced on-site parking

Seattle Public School is requesting a departure for reduced on-site parking of 31 parking spaces for a total of 141 on-site parking spaces.

IV. Committee Clarifying Questions

Ms. Sheehan opened the floor for Committee clarifying questions.

A question was asked if the Transportation analysis considered new Roosevelt residents who do not have on-site parking and now use street parking. Ms. Barnes responded that it was included in the construction projects and its workers and multi-family residents.

A question was asked about the number of staff at the school and Ms. Rogers noted that there are 105 including part-time staff and the parking lot is about 120 cars a day. The parking lot is staff only in the morning except for three visitor stalls and four disabled parking spaces.

V. Public Comments and Questions

Ms. Sheehan opened the floor for public comments and questions.

(Editor's Note: The comments shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in voice recording (.mp3) form)

Comments from Chris Jackins: Mr. Jackins, coordinator for the Seattle Committee to Save Schools provided a list that summarizes why this Committee should reject the departure being requested. He commented on making a meeting rule change that would allow the public to ask questions to the Committee. He also commented that there was no parking analysis done on evening events around the school.

Comments from Michael McKenney: Mr. McKenney strongly disagrees with the parking analysis presented. He noted that he was part of the Committee at the last departure and mentioned about the condition regarding the field lights in relation to the removal of the portables.

Comments from Jake Macias: Mr. Macias lives on 17th and commented about the School District's problem of not keeping their promises regarding the portables. He questioned the accuracy of the parking analysis and he would like to know the scope of the boundaries and if the residential parking zones were included in the analysis.

Comments from Christina Rodgers: Ms. Rodgers commented that she and the school are very open to find creative ways to work with the neighbors to tackle the parking issues. She stressed that the business of the school is to educate the kids that come to Roosevelt and they cannot control if they enroll at the school. She and the school would like to continue to work with the neighbors and the City to mitigate impacts of parking around the school.

VI. Committee Deliberation

Ms. Sheehan opened the discussions for committee deliberation. She asked the Committee to deliberate on the need for the departure and then discuss on whether to recommend or deny with or without conditions.

Mr. Barrett responded to questions heard in public comment. The boundaries used for the parking analysis and he noted that it was referenced in one of the slides in the presentation. The condition on the field lighting SEPA Master Use Permit is that the School District is not allowed to use the field for non-scholastic uses.

Mr. Johnson commented that he is looking at from the standpoint of the children and SPS. He noted that the problems in enrollment and having the portables is not Roosevelt High School's problem. He heard and listened to the public comments about the issues. They should not be blaming the kids who are going to the school and emphasized that eliminating the six portables will not resolve the parking problem.

Ms. Miller commented about the history of the school and the issues discussed in 2004. The reason for tonight's discussion is about the constant change that is happening in the City and its growth and population. She noted

that this community needs to support the school. She understands the severe impact on traffic but emphasized that quality education has to come first for all the kids who enroll in the school.

Ms. Amick reiterated what her fellow Committee members stated. She added that this discussion needs to happen because of the continued growth and progress that is happening in the neighborhood.

Ms. McFarlane commented that her concerns about parking is about the growth of Seattle and not SPS using the parking for portables. She noted that the parking situation is not going to get better if there is growth, new construction, and people moving in the neighborhood. She added that the SPS is obligated to accept every child that walks in and enrolls at the school.

Committee Recommendations

Ms. Sheehan opened the discussion for Committee recommendations.

She briefly summarized the requested departure and advised the Committee members on how to proceed with their recommendations. Mr. Barrett clarified that the official departure request is for the 31 parking spaces.

Ms. Godard commented that the field lighting condition is attached to the field lighting decision and not related to the current departure.

Mr. Barrett noted that the request is about educating students in six classrooms that will take 31 parking stalls. These stalls are only needed during the school day and not for after school hours. He cautioned about connecting the parking departure to the field lighting condition.

He also noted about the analysis that was done by the Heffron Transportation only allows 800 ft. of walking distance as a focus point for school staff.

A comment was made about the impact to the school when the light rail station becomes available and more streets go to restricted zone parking there will be less parking. SDOT is looking at the impact to the neighborhood and will continue to evaluate the situation. SDOT may put signage or restrictions in place to discourage parking around the area.

Ms. Sheehan, noting that the Committee is leaning towards supporting the departure, asked if there are any conditions the Committee would like to add to the departure. A comment was made that the Transportation Communication and Operation Plan should continue.

Mr. Barrett commented that the Transportation Communication and Operation Plan is a necessity, he is encouraged by the analysis and benefits about the students access to ORCA cards, and agreed to continue the school's communication to staff and students about transportation and parking alternatives.

Mr. Johnson commented that last year, the school was asking for 10 portables and school only kept 6 portables. He noted that the school made the effort to efficiently use the space that is available to them.

Departure: Reduced on-site parking

Mr. Barrett made a motion to approve the requested departure of 31 parking spaces with a condition to continue the Transportation Communication and Operational Plan that was developed in 2018, and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson.

By show of hands, a quorum being present, and the majority of those present voted 5 in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment and scheduling of next meeting

Ms. Sheehan mentioned that she will send out the draft recommendation report for feedback and comments as soon as possible and have the final report submitted to SDCI by June 1st.

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.