APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 19, 2010
Convened 9:00 am
Adjourned 4:00 pm

Projects Reviewed
King Street Station
Discussion with Mayor Mike McGinn
Midvale Stormwater Facility
Tree Regulations Update
West Seattle Wayfinding System
Walk Bike Ride

Commissioners Present
Mary Johnston, Chair
Andrew Barash
Graham Black
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Staff Present
Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Tim Trujillo

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SUMMARY

Today’s discussion revolved around the Design Commission’s role and function within the larger planning realm in the City of Seattle. Commissioner’s explained how their role is to review CIP projects, street vacations and projects in the ROW, but that with their mandate they are responsible to consider the public realm throughout the city in the broader sense as well. Because they review and follow so many projects, they are in a unique position to recognize and point out where synergies lie. From this position they are able to encourage the various City departments and other agencies such as WSDOT, King County and Sound Transit, with projects in Seattle, to consider how their plans tie into other projects nearby. This also makes them an excellent source of advice to the Mayor and Council. Because of the independent nature of their role, they are also able to constructively encourage the various parties involved in planning City projects, including City staff, their consultants, artists and the community, to work collaboratively.

The Mayor and Design Commission then discussed ways in which the Commission can become further engaged in shaping the design of the city on a broader scale, such as possibly providing public education on design, potentially through an online medium.

All in the room agreed that the expanding mass transportation network is a significant opportunity to reshape the public realm, particularly around station areas.