November 4, 2010
Convened 8:30 am
Adjourned 2:30 pm

Projects Reviewed
Swale on Yale
Sustainable Building Policy
Shared Streets
Discovery Park Capehart Restoration Project

Commissioners Present
Mary Johnston
Julie Bassuk
Graham Black
Brendan Connolly
Malika Kirkling
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Incoming Commissioners Present
Tom Nelson
Osama Quotah

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tera Hatfield
ACTION
The Design Commission thanked the Swale on Yale Capitol Hill Water Quality design team for its concept design. The team was applauded for the public-private partnership with adjacent property owner, Vulcan, Inc., who is contributing funds toward the project as part of their street improvements package. For the next meeting, the Commissioners would like to see more material selection (such as bench details and plant selections), roadway sections as well as more details on the composition of the first floors of the surrounding buildings. With a unanimous vote of 8-0, the Design Commission approved the 30% concept design with the following recommendations:

- Carefully consider edge treatments of the swale and the transition from public to private space, how the street meets with building frontages and how the other side of the street can be incorporated into the design to create space (i.e. look at the culture of the stoop and how it can build community).
- Provide unique spaces along the swale with “more tooth to the edges” (the level of detail at the swale edge is very important), and how those places might present varied opportunities for pedestrians to congregate.
- Use the bridges over the swales as an opportunity for placemaking (i.e. a “tooth to the edge”).
- Keep the swale area low, free and open without too many vertical elements. Avoid a cramped look, such as by strongly limiting railings to just the most necessary places.
- Consider the additional use of trees on the non-swale sides of the streets, particularly east/west streets and Pontius Avenue. There is a lack of trees in this part of town.
- Incorporate art at the bridges and bridge railings