APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 20, 2011
Convended 8:30 am
Adjourned 4:00 pm

Projects Reviewed
Mercer West II
Neighborhood Planning and Station Area Planning
Seattle Fun Forest
SR520 Improvement and HOV Corridor Project

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

Incoming Commissioners Present
Osama Quotah

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Tera Hatfield
January 20, 2011

Project: Neighborhood Planning and Station Area Planning

Phase: Briefing

Last Reviewed: Nov 5, 2009; Nov 20, 2008

Presenters: Lyle Bicknell, DPD

Attendees: Kate Elliott, KCHA, AmeriCorps

Time: 10am – 11am

DISCLOSURES
Commissioner Bassuk of Makers and Commissioner Vehige of GGLO disclosed that they have both worked on neighborhood plans.

SUMMARY
The Commission would like to thank Lyle Bicknell of DPD for his informative presentation on the station area plans for Rainier Beach, Mt. Baker, North Beacon and Othello. The plans focused on transit oriented development (TOD) opportunities, in which station areas are used as a catalyst to build robust town centers. The commissioners praised DPD’s use of Planning Outreach Liaisons to provide a cultural and linguistic bridge to engage the community in ways the city never has before. The Liaisons went into local communities and homes to communicate directly with citizens of diverse backgrounds.

The commission recommended that the plans provide room for variation to accommodate the individuality of the neighborhoods, allow for communities’ civic evolution, and provide current civic spaces where community and culture can be built. DPD should feel empowered to make the decisions necessary to set aside central space for civic engagement. The Design Commission is excited to follow the upcoming Heinz Foundation Urban Land Institute student design competition, which may address not just the usual development practices but may also provide ideas about the development of civic spaces.