APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 18, 2011
Convoked 8:30am
Adjourned 2:00pm

Projects Reviewed
Bell Street Park
SDOT Art Plan
Universal Design and Public Open Space

Commissioners Present
Julie Parrett, Chair
Malika Kirkling
Tom Nelson
Osama Quotah (excused from 12:00pm-2:00pm)
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige
Debbie Wick-Harris

Excused Commissioners
Julie Bassuk
Laurel Kunkler

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast

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Briefing
Karen Braitmeyer, Jocelyn Freilinger and Emory Baldwin presented the discipline of universal design. According to Ron Mace at The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University, universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. It goes beyond ADA. The ADA standards for accessibility are limited in application and set minimum design requirements focused largely on mobility aid users. Universal design is a framework for rethinking the design of all environments, products, information and communication for the widest possible spectrum of users. In only one segment of life do we have full capacity; everyone at some time is limited in ability in some way. An example is the design of Millennium Park, where the transit ticket stations are all lowered not just one section. Taller people can use lower counters too.