APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 19, 2012
Convened 8:00am
Adjourned 4:30pm

Projects Reviewed
Sustainable Building Policy
Bicycle Master Plan
Rufus 2.0 Alley Vacations at Lenora and Westlake

Commissioners Present
Julie Bassuk, Chair
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah (excused from 9:00 to 9:30)
Debbie Harris (excused from 9:00 to 9:30)
Laurel Kunkler (excused from 9:00 to 10:30)
Tom Nelson
Norie Sato
Mary Fialko
Don Vehige
Julie Parrett (excused from 9:00-12:15)

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented the proposed revisions to the 2007 Bicycle Master Plan, which it expected city council to adopt in early 2013. The 2007 plan was being updated because new ideas for bicycle infrastructure, such as neighborhood greenways, cycle tracks and bike boxes, had emerged and been implemented since 2007. The 2007 plan also lacked a prioritization framework, which the updated would rectify. The updated plan would also include a gap analysis, policy framework, network map, design standards and implementation strategies.

As part of the update, the team conducted research of bicyclists, including web and telephone surveys. People rated the Ballard “missing link” and Rainier Ave S. as in most need of improvement.

SUMMARY (by Loew)

The Seattle Design Commission appreciated the team’s briefing on the proposed update to the Bike Master Plan. The commission made the following recommendations:

- Increase ridership by encouraging people to get on bikes once.
- Connect with communities and develop plans for areas of the city that are underserved for biking. Given the proper infrastructure, community members in these areas would likely embrace biking.
- Develop your communication strategy to stress bicycling’s affordability and benefits. Also, develop graphics which show a vision of what a city with exemplary bike facilities could be.
- Create incentive programs for property owners and city CIP project managers to develop bike infrastructure.
- Launch a bike share program. Use it as a means to increase ridership. Focus on local use, the first and last mile on a transit trip; link and launch with the removal of the free ride area. Consider the impact of the helmet law on the program.
- Encourage bike infrastructure to be visible, including those components that are part of private projects such as bike parking.
- Release the customer research data on bicycling so that the market has the opportunity to stimulate and create innovative infrastructure for bicycles.
- Encourage children to ride bikes, and promote the virtues of bicycling’s contribution to the city’s livability and accessibility.
Return to the commission to review future updates to the plan, design standards, and anything related to the design of the public realm.

The commission also asked the team for advice on the planning and design of a bike connection along 520 between the floating bridge and I-5 and for an easy to use guide for the commission to refer to when reviewing bike facilities proposed as public benefits or public realm amenities.