



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

Josh Brower, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
JANUARY 27, 2011
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chair – Josh Brower, Vice Chair – Leslie Miller, Kadie Bell, Catherine Benotto, David Cutler, Colie Hough-Beck, Mark Johnson, Martin Kaplan, Bradley Khouri, Kay Knapton, Jeanne Krikawa, Kevin McDonald, Radhika Nair, Christopher Persons

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Amalia Leighton, Matt Roewe

COMMISSION STAFF

Barbara Wilson-Director, Katie Sheehy-Planning Analyst, Robin Magonegil-Administrative Staff Assistant, Diana Canzoneri-Demographer

GUESTS

IN ATTENDANCE

Please Note: Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript but instead represent key points and the basis of the discussion.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Leslie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- **Approve: January 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

ACTION: Commissioner Kevin McDonald moved to approve the January 13, 2011 minutes; Commissioner Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- **Chair's Report**

Vice-Chair Miller noted the upcoming committee meetings.

- **Commissioner updates**

- **Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee (Commissioner Josh Brower)**

Chair Brower noted that the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee has been meeting for about a year, it is a large group and they have done some great work. He added that the big question has been – do you lead with the designer or engineering team and they decided to hire the design team first and then the design team would help choose the engineering team. Chair Brower noted that James Corner seems ready to do a good job and that SDOT is the actual contracting agency. He stated that there needs to be coordination with utilities and the seawall and prior to the redevelopment of the central waterfront. Chair Brower mentioned that the next challenge will be to establish a stewardship group that will maintain the project in the next decades.

- **West Seattle Triangle Advisory Group (Commissioner Catherine Benotto)**

Commissioner Catherine Benotto stated that the group started a little over a year ago and is comprised of local groups, businesses, design review board members, and residents. She described the location of the West Seattle Triangle and noted that it is mostly zoned Commercial 1. Commissioner Benotto reported that their discussions and guiding principles focus on creating a strong pedestrian environment and maintaining businesses. She added that parking has dominated the discussion most of the meetings. Commissioner Benotto noted that the City has been working with Hewitt to develop streetscape concept plans for the area. She added that the Hewitt plan takes advantage of the wide right-of-ways and would create a boulevard with large trees and a median. She explained that the project does not currently include improved connections to the Junction. Commissioner Benotto noted that there was a special meeting about Rapid Ride, which will take out some of the parking along SW Alaska Street.

- **Light Rail Review Panel Technical Advisory Group (Commissioner Kevin McDonald)**

Commissioner Kevin McDonald stated that the light rail review panel is comprised of the Design Commission with support from the Planning and Arts Commissions. He stated that, a couple years ago, the group reviewed and approved design of the Capitol Hill and the University of Washington stations. He added that subsequent meetings between ST, UW, WSDOT, and SDOT resulted in a different solution for the bridge connection across Mountlake Blvd; they were asked to review changes to the bridge structure. Commissioner McDonald shared with the Commission images that illustrate the approved and revised designs. He added that new design provides for some separation of pedestrians and bicyclists, but that attention should be paid to the “landing” on the Montlake Triangle where additional separation should be provided. He ended with noting that the next stations to be reviewed are Brooklyn, Roosevelt and Northgate stations.

- **Transit Master Plan Technical Advisory Group (Commissioner Kevin McDonald)**

Commissioner McDonald reported that the Transit Master Plan Technical Advisory Group is comprised of staff from SDOT, DPD, and Metro, with the Planning Commission being the only commission represented. He added that their role seems to be a sounding board for technical issues that are brought to a larger citizen advisory committee. Commissioner McDonald stated that they have had substantive conversations related to the foundation of the master plan, which includes land use, demographics, transit propensity models, and tries to identify where people are more likely to take transit. Director Barbara Wilson noted that the Mayor’s office has indicated that the Commission’s input on the update of this plan will be important.

– **King Street Station Hub Workgroup (Commissioner David Cutler)**

Commissioner David Cutler stated that SDOT convened a charrette around King Street/Union Station and the surrounding area. He noted that in 2016 buses will stop running through the transit tunnel and the elevated streets in the area will be renovated. Commissioner Cutler described the four themes that arose from: (1) circulation and curb space, (2) transfers and connections, (3) open space network, and (4) historic and cultural significance. Commissioner Cutler mentioned that Greyhound might relocate to the area. Ms. Wilson added that the project team will present their work at the next full commission meeting.

APPROVAL & DISCUSSION

▪ **APPROVAL: ANNUAL COMP PLAN AMENDMENTS**

Chair Brower called for any disclosures and recusals.

Disclosures:

- Commissioner Martin Kaplan disclosed that his firm, Martin Henry Kaplan, Architects AIA, might do work for clients on projects within the proposed neighborhood planning areas.
 - Commissioner Mark Johnson disclosed that his firm, Environmental Science Associates, has contracts with the Port of Seattle.
 - Commissioner Kadie Bell disclosed that she represented Public Health on the neighborhood planning interdepartmental team.
 - Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that her firm, Weber Thompson, might do work for clients on projects within the proposed neighborhood planning areas
 - Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, is working with SHA on the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace and that his firm, GGLO, might do work for clients on projects within the proposed neighborhood planning areas.
 - Commissioner Leslie Miller disclosed that she is a voting member of the Southeast District Council for the Rainier Othello Safety Association, on the steering committees of Othello Station Community Advisory Team and Othello Park Now, on the Neighborhood Advisory Committee for the Othello Playground and Lighting Improvements, a member of the Othello Park Alliance and South Precinct Advisory Council, a proponent for Othello 2011 funded Bridging the Gap Project, and a MLK @ New Holly Neighborhood Advisory Committee Member. Commissioner Miller also disclosed that her firm, Girl Friday Productions, has a current contract with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.
 - Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Brower Law, represents clients that own property in industrial and neighborhood planning areas. He also disclosed that he is on the board of Elder Health Northwest, which has an interest in the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace and that he lives on Beacon Hill.
 - Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa disclosed that the SODO Business Association is currently one of her clients.
 - Commissioner Colie Hough-Beck disclosed that her firm, HBB, has contracts with the Port of Seattle and might do work for clients on projects within the proposed neighborhood planning areas.
- Commissioner Brad Khouri disclosed that his firm, b9 architects, designs and develops single and multifamily housing in Seattle and may work for clients on projects within the proposed neighborhood planning areas.

ACTION: Commissioner Kevin McDonald moved to approve the letter with the suggested changes; Commissioner Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The revised letter was approved unanimously.

Chair Brower called for discussion.

Commissioner Kaplan asked the Commission's recommendation for proposed amendment B could be to postpone approval. Ms. Wilson replied that waiting until OSE's work is complete makes sense. She added that there is a question about whether or not specific metrics related to per capita reductions in vehicle miles traveled belong in the Comprehensive Plan or another plan, which is stated in the letter. Commissioner Johnson suggested reordering two of the paragraphs. Chair Brower agreed with the proposed edit and noted that City Council has clearly indicated their intention to adopt something into the Comprehensive Plan this year and that it would be helpful to provide an alternative to the proposed amendment.

Vice Chair Miller suggested reiterating the Commission's support for the proposed neighborhood plan updates. Chair Brower and Commissioner McDonald agreed and offered specific edits. Chair Brower indicated that the Commission should continue to encourage elected officials to address broader areas around the light rail stations. Ms. Wilson noted that the Commission will continue working with City staff on these and other neighborhoods. Commissioner Johnson added that the recommendation should be clear that Council should approve the proposed amendment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brower adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.