



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

Amalia Leighton, Chair
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
JULY 9, 2015
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Austin, Luis Borrero, Lauren Craig, Sandra Fried, Yolanda Ho, Grace Kim, Kara Martin, Jake McKinstry, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Lauren Squires, Spencer Williams, Patti Wilma

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, David Shelton

COMMISSION STAFF

Jeseca Brand - Policy Analyst, Robin Magonegil, Administrative Assistant, Vanessa Murdock – Executive Director

GUESTS

Geoff Wentlandt, DPD; Lisa Rutzick, Design Review; Katie Sheehy, DPD;

IN ATTENDANCE

Cindi Barker, Sara Belz, Eric McConaghy, Aly Pennucci, Sarajane Siegfried

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

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Vice-Chair Marj Press

Vice-Chair Press called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Commissioner Spencer Williams moved to approve the June 25, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Tim Parham seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with Commissioner Michael Austin abstaining.

Design Review Evaluation

- **Geoff Wentlandt, DPD ; Lisa Rutzick, Design Review**

Geoff Wentlandt and Lisa Rutzick from the Department of Planning and Development briefed the Commission on the evaluation of the Design Review program currently underway.

Review Process Advisory Group Goals :

1. Cultivate the program's purpose of encouraging better design
2. Improve the level of consistency, efficiency and predictability in how the City administers the program
3. Increase accessibility to encourage better dialogue between the boards, applicants and community
4. Use communication strategies and tools (both traditional and emerging technologies) to improve how information is presented, shared and reviewed throughout the entire design review process

Current thinking includes a two track process with building and neighborhood context driving the applicants track – Administrative or Full Review.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioners discussed the required outreach component of the presentation, stating that the outreach must, in a meaningful manner, engage residents and not just check the box. Commissioners also discussed with presenters the toolbox concept and what could and should be included to reach true engagement.

Commissioners expressed concern with the number of Design Review board meetings and if the outreach could help alleviate extra time and meetings. They shared their concern with making the outreach overly cumbersome and lacking community context. For example in some communities it might be appropriate to have interpreters or use the Public Engagement Liaisons and in others it leafletting may be more effective.

Commissioners discussed the decision points for each track and cautioned presenters on keeping it out of the political process.

Commissioners expressed some concern with the removal of the initial Early Design Guidance (EDG) meeting with the board. They noted that as presented the initial EDG meeting could be presented to the City planner and not to the board. Commissioners cautioned that removal of this first meeting may create more conflict in the final meeting after the design is further along. Commissioners discussed the removal of the EDG at the board.

Public Comment on Draft Equity Letter

No public comment.

Approve: Equity Analysis Comment Letter

Staff presented four edits proposed by Commissioner's to clarify the Commission's recommendations regarding meaningful outreach, the Commission's concerns on the risks of displacement should the mitigation strategies not be pursued and the Commission's recommendations regarding the development of a data driven approach.

All edits were accepted with no further discussion.

Commissioner David Shelton moved to approve the Equity Analysis Comment Letter with the suggested edits and corrections. Commissioner Spencer Williams seconded the motion. The letter was approved.

Update: Urban Design Framework Lake City

July 9, 2015 Approved Meeting minutes

- **Katie Sheehy, DPD**

If you would like to view the power point presentation on the Urban Design Framework Lake City, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioners commented on the thoughtful outreach by staff and their obvious commitment to the community. In response to a request from the presenter, the Commission suggested using graphics as a better tool for delivering complex information noting that graphics provide needed information in a format that is easily translatable and understandable.

Commissioners discussed the new Office of Planning and Community Development and how that office may help in guiding some of the changes the community is requesting. They added that the plan could and should effectively lay out the vision for this neighborhood and it should not be held back by current funding.

Commissioners discussed the neighborhood context and how the underlying zoning was affecting the community vision. The discussion included concerns with how Commercial, more auto-dependent uses, were integrating with increased residential uses, particularly pedestrian heavy senior housing. The Commissioners expressed interest in crafting a solution to the highway/housing issue and suggested that Lake City may be a great opportunity for a pilot project.

Commissioners discussed how involved the Washington Department of Transportation was in the Urban Design Framework considering Lake City Way is a state highway.

Commissioners suggested looking at Columbia City as a model for leveraging a small business district on an active corridor.

Commissioners discussed the Pierre Master Plan its components as well as how much land in total would be part of the plan. The impact would be significant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarajane Siegfriedt commented that she had been a homeowner in Lake City for 18 years. She suggested that Peter Steinbruek's presentation is really important and should be watched by all Commissioners. Ms. Siegfriedt added that when the Commission is reviewing Lake City it should be known that this area has doubled in density and gone from 25 to 50 % in residents of color. She noted that the area has lots of families and people of color and the neighborhood needs more attention from the City than they have gotten in the past in order to help them be successful. She continued that the problem is that the neighborhood has not received jobs. Ms. Siegfriedt stated that the community is hoping for a tech school or medical offices to locate there and that a splash feature for the park at Lake City Way and 125th would attract families and would displace the homeless who currently gather there. She noted that sidewalks are needed throughout the neighborhood, and that the 130th station is transit for Lake City Way so please support that. She expressed concern with an Urban Village at 130^t noting that there should not be an Urban Village where there is no station planned currently, wait until there is a station planned.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Press adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.