



City of Seattle Seattle Planning Commission

Linda Amato, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION JUNE 25, 2009 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Chair- Chris Fiori, Catherine Benotto, Josh Brower, Mark Johnson, Marty Kaplan, Kay Knapton, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Leslie Miller, Matt Roewe, Michelle Zeidman

COMMISSION STAFF

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Chair-Linda Amato, David Cutler, Jerry Finrow, Colie Hough-Beck, Christopher Persons

IN ATTENDANCE

Rebecca Herzfeld, City Council Central Staff; Chris Leman

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 Fiori called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Minutes approval

ACTION: Commissioner Josh Brower moved to approve the June 11, 2009 minutes. Commissioner Martin Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

- **Chair's Report** - Commission Vice Chair Fiori

Vice Chair Fiori noted the upcoming meetings and reminded the Commissioners that the July 23 Full Commission meeting will be cancelled.

ACTION

- **APPROVE: 2009/2010 SPC Leadership**

- Presentation by SPC Nominating Committee - Commissioner Kevin McDonald

Commissioner Kevin McDonald presented the slate of candidates for the Commission 2009/2010 Officer Positions.

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Johnson moved to approve the slate of officers as presented. Commissioner Michelle Zeidman seconded the motion. The motion to approve the slate of officers passed unanimously.

The 2009/2010 (term of one year to begin July 1, 2009) Planning Commission officers are as follows:

- Chair: Josh Brower
- Vice Chair: Leslie Miller
- Housing, Neighborhoods, Urban Centers Committee Co-Chairs: Mark Johnson & Amalia Leighton
- Land Use & Transportation Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin McDonald & Colie Hough-Beck
- At-Large Executive Committee Members: Kay Knapton & Martin Kaplan

BUSINESS

Commission's Recommendations for 2009 Proposed Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan

Vice Chair Fiori stated that the Commission today will consider the proposals to amend the Comprehensive Plan. Proposals for new amendments are considered annually and the Planning Commission is expressly asked to provide recommendations to City Council throughout the process.

- **Public Comment** *on Comprehensive Plan proposals only*

Vice Chair Fiori noted that the Commission would take public comment before its discussion on the matter of 2009 Comprehensive Plan threshold recommendations. He noted that one person signed up for public comment and the Commission policy is to allow 2 minutes per person for public comment.

Chris Leman asked for and was granted an extended comment period of six minutes (2 minutes is the usual comment period per person but because he was speaking to 3 amendments Vice-Chair Fiori offered him 2 minutes per proposal, a total of 6 minutes).

Mr. Leman began by questioning the Commission's independence and objectivity. He said that the decision to deny a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment at the threshold level, before it has had a chance to be studied, is very serious because there has not been an opportunity for adequate research or study. He noted that the deadline of June 20 called out in Resolution 31117 has already passed and urged the Planning Commission to hold another meeting to study his proposed amendments before rejecting them. He said that the Planning Commission has changed so much in the past decade that it is now being run by staff. He reiterated that it is important for proposed amendments be approved during the threshold review process so that they can be studied further.

He took exception to the Commissions claim that the Plan specifically addresses how the City will accommodate growth over the next 20 years and suggested that there are many purposes to the Comprehensive Plan that are not related to growth and physical development. He also asked what could be more fundamental to the city than for our streets and bridges not to be damaged by heavy vehicles. He asked whether or not there are any engineers on the Commission. [Commissioner Leighton noted that she is an engineer.] Mr. Leman stated that the heaviest vehicles using our roads are transit vehicles and that without a policy related to heavy vehicles the Comprehensive Plan is out of balance. He noted that the City is failing to catch up with the backlog of necessary repairs. He suggested that if the Commission talked to the engineering department at the University of Washington, they would realize the importance of this issue. Mr. Leman noted that a similar amendment was proposed last year, but that SDOT is in disarray and that the amendment deserves to be studied. He urged that the vision of the Seattle Planning Commission is needed to help protect the city's infrastructure.

Mr. Leman stated that his proposed amendment related to VMT¹ would simply bring the City in line with State law and include in Policy 17 similar numerical goals that have been approved by the State. He said that if the Commission must allow this proposed amendment to be studied because that without a strategy for implementation in the Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Policy 17¹ is worthless. He said that the Planning Commission needs to stand behind numerical goals otherwise the Comprehensive Plan is meaningless.

Mr. Leman took exception to the Planning Commission's recommendation that indicates his proposed amendment related to "Open and Participatory Government" is the same as what was proposed last year. He noted that his current proposal allows for the proposed amendment to be an appendix rather than specifically a new element to the Plan. Mr. Leman stated that the Planning Commission's draft letter is not objective. He noted that [Resolution 31049](#) calls for the development of "a coordinated plan and policy on open and participatory government" but that no plan has been developed. He noted that the development of the plan has not been started and that there have been no public meetings. He also noted that [Resolution 31049](#) states that "Council's review will include consideration of possible Comprehensive Plan policies for the 2009 Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle." Mr. Leman stated that Council should consider this amendment or another variation. He stated that Council has failed to establish a plan for open government and that the Planning Commission should recommend that his amendment be included on the 2009 docket so that the plan for open government can be created.

Mr. Leman also stated that he recently attended a neighborhood planning workshop and feels that due to the Planning Commission's involvement in the Neighborhood Open Houses, it has neglected its duties in advising City Council. He stated that the Planning Commission has gotten too involved in implementation and is neglecting its role as an advisory body.

After testimony by Mr. Leman, seeing that no others who wished to speak, Vice Chair Fiori ended the public comment period.

ACTION

Seattle Planning Commission Recommendations on the 2009 Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendments

¹ T17 Provide, support, and promote programs and strategies aimed at reducing the number of car trips and miles driven (for work and non-work purposes) to increase the efficiency of the transportation system, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Recusals & Disclosures:

- Commissioner Leslie Miller asked that the disclosure listed on the draft letter be amended as she clarified she is a member of OSCAT, the Othello Station Community Advisory Committee .
- Commissioner Josh Brower modified his disclosure to state that his firm has clients who own and/or develop commercial property.
- Commissioner Marty Kaplan disclosed that in addition to the fact that he is currently a candidate for City Council, he is also the principle architect and owner of Martin Henry Kaplan Architects.
- Commissioner Michelle Zeidman amended her earlier disclosure on the letter to note that she is no longer working with Sound Transit to design bicycle parking around light rail stations but is working instead working with the agency to revise their Transit Oriented Development program.
- Commissioner Chris Fiori recused himself from #6 (*Amend the FLUM in the Roosevelt Residential Urban Village in anticipation of zoning proposal developed by the Department of Planning and Development in consultation with the Roosevelt neighborhood plan*) and #19 (*Amend the FLUM to redesignate the Yesler Terrace site from Multifamily Residential to Commercial/Mixed Use*).
- Commissioner Mark Johnson disclosed that his firm, ESA Adolfson, is preparing the EIS for the Northgate rezone.
- Commissioner Amalia Leighton disclosed that her firm, SvR, is working on the Yesler Terrace project.
- In previous discussions on this matter, Commissioner Colie Hough-Beck disclosed that her firm, Hough-Beck & Baird, works with the Port of Seattle, which could be impacted by the proposal amendment to *Amend the FLUM to redesignate an area east of Harbor Ave SW and North of SW Spokane St, known as the Harbor Avenue Corridor Property, from Industrial to Commercial/Mixed-Use and remove the area from the Duwamish MIC..* (This proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.)

Ms. Wilson noted that the timing for the Comprehensive Plan amendment process changed earlier this year and that while [Resolution 31117](#) indicates that the Planning Commission should submit its recommendations to Council by June 20, Councilmember Clark has granted an extension until July 1. She noted that the review process to date included a briefing from Commission staff at the June 13 Full Commission meeting on all of the proposals that have been submitted. This was followed up by a work session and Q&A with the Commission Executive Committee meeting on June 16. She noted Council Central staff and DPD staff were on hand to answer any clarifying questions.

Commissioner McDonald noted that this would be the only Commission meeting prior to the July 1 deadline. Ms. Wilson noted that the draft letter under review by the Full Commission today is based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee for Full Commission review and approval.

Vice Chair Fiori reminded the Commission that the recommendations being discussed today relate to the threshold guidelines regarding which proposals we feel should be considered and further analyzed. Later in the year, we will review the final set of proposed amendments and provide our recommendations regarding adoption of each. In the following recommendations, the Planning Commission used the well-established criteria for considering a Comprehensive Plan amendment *Guidelines for Amendment Selection* that are also included in [Resolution 30976](#) adopted by Council on May 14, 2007. He reminded Commissioners that a recommendation to include proposed amendments in the threshold resolution should not be interpreted as approval of the specific proposal itself – it is instead a finding that this amendments meets the criteria for a Comprehensive Plan amendment and should be studied further for possible inclusion as an amendment later in the current amendment cycle. In

addition, the recommendations include comments on several of the amendments and make suggestions for further analysis.

Vice Chair Fiori began the discussion and approval of the SPC executive Committees proposed recommendations.

Proposed Amendment # 1 - Establish a working group to recommend strategies to reduce light pollution.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **not include** on 2009 Amendment Docket. The rationale being that the proposed amendment does not address a framework level policy as is appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan and would be more suitably addressed as a budgetary or programmatic decision (Guideline A.4.) or through another process (Guideline A.5). The intent of addressing the issue of light pollution does have merit as a livability issue as well as an urban habitat issue and a LEED certification issue.

Commissioner Johnson noted that no policy language was proposed as part of the application. Commissioners generally agreed that the intention behind the proposal has merit. Catherine Benotto noted that light pollution reduces overall quality of life in addition to being an urban habitat and LEED certification issue.

Commissioner Kevin McDonald suggested that the sentence related to the budget in the draft letter could be moved to the overall discussion because it applies to more than this specific amendment.

ACTION: Commissioner Kevin McDonald moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed changes. Commissioner Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 2 - Adjust the boundary of the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village to include the area south of S. Henderson St. between MLK Way S and the Chief Sealth trail.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner Leslie Miller suggested that the Commission's comments be strengthened to emphasize the need for additional outreach and to make sure any proposed boundary adjustments comply with the neighborhood plan vision. Commissioner Zeidman questioned whether the proposed amendment meets the guideline criteria D. Commissioner Brower replied that the application section 3.C. states that the "proposal will be subject to a neighborhood review process conducted by the DPD prior to a Council vote." Commissioner Kaplan noted that the Executive Committee suggested that the review process should consider a comprehensive review of the neighborhood. Commissioner McDonald suggested that the Commission's recommendation be revised to allow for the expansion of the geographic scope if warranted based on further analysis.

Commissioners recommended including the following: 'While we believe this proposal meets the criteria to move forward for further analysis, we recommend that that the boundary adjustment be considered

in the context of the neighborhood status reports currently being prepared by DPD. In addition, the analysis should consider the entire station area and have thorough community and neighborhood review.’

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Johnson moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed changes. Commissioner Matt Roewe seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 3 - Establish a placeholder for consideration of Comprehensive Plan amendments proposed through the North Beacon Hill neighborhood plan update process, to the extent they become ready for action in 2010.

Proposed Amendment # 4 - Establish a placeholder for consideration of Comprehensive Plan amendments proposed through the North Rainier neighborhood plan update process, to the extent they become ready for action in 2010.

Proposed Amendment # 5 - Establish a placeholder for consideration of Comprehensive Plan amendments proposed through the MLK at Holly (Othello) neighborhood plan update process, to the extent they become ready for action in 2010.

The Executive Committee’s recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner McDonald suggested that the phrase “23 days” be replaced with the actual date of July 18.

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Johnson moved to approve the Executive Committee recommendations for proposals 3, 4, 5 with the proposed change suggested by Commissioner McDonald. Commissioner Marty Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendations passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 6 - Amend the FLUM in the Roosevelt Residential Urban Village in anticipation of zoning proposal developed by the Department of Planning and Development in consultation with the Roosevelt neighborhood plan.

The Executive Committee’s recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

ACTION: Commissioner Chris Fiori recused himself from discussion and left the room. Commissioner Mark Johnson moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Marty Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 19 - Amend the FLUM to redesignate the Yesler Terrace site from Multifamily Residential to Commercial/Mixed Use.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

ACTION: Commissioner Chris Fiori had recused himself from discussion with the previous amendment and was not in the room. Commissioner Josh Brower moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Matt Roewe seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 7 - Amend the Roosevelt Neighborhood Planning Element and the FLUM to redesignate certain properties in the southeast area of the Roosevelt Residential Urban Village from single family residential and multi-family residential to commercial/mixed use.

The proponent has informed the Planning Commission that they have withdrawn this proposal from consideration from the 2009 docket and until the EIS is complete.

Proposed Amendment # 8 - Amend goals and policies to increase emphasis on ecological protection and restoration, address the requirement to complete a shoreline restoration plan, prohibit new overwater structures that are not water dependent, and include more details on when non-water-oriented uses would be allowed on waterfront lots.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner Johnson noted that there are many updates to the Shoreline Master Program, some of which are not included in the summary. Commissioner Knapton asked about the prohibition of overwater structures. Commissioner Johnson replied that while the code is very simple, there are a lot of exceptions, including for certain types of overwater structures. Commissioner Johnson noted that the City is required by the State Shoreline Management Act to prepare a program that balances goals of public access, accommodation of water-dependent uses and ecological function. Ms. Wilson noted that the Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Management Plan need to be consistent. Commissioner Brower noted that this is a required update and that there is a lot of case law related to shoreline management.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin Kaplan moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 9 - Amend the FLUM to redesignate areas east of I-5 between S Main St and S Dearborn St, and west of I-5 between S Dearborn and the urban center's southern boundary from Commercial/Mixed-Use to Downtown Mixed Residential and Downtown Mixed Commercial.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner Leslie Miller requested that the Commission's comments acknowledge the cultural significance of the area in addition to the potential impact to the industrial areas and the Port of Seattle.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin Kaplan moved to approve the recommendation with the amended language suggestions proposed by Commissioner Miller. Commissioner Kay Knapton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 10 - Amend the Northgate Neighborhood Planning Element to guide design through neighborhood specific design guidelines. Support to increase height and density and rezone from multifamily to mixed-use along NE Northgate, provided that impacts are mitigated by property owners or developers.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner Kaplan suggested that the Commission's comments acknowledge that the onus of mitigating impacts would not solely fall to developers and property owners. Commissioner Johnson suggested that the Commission's comments include reference to the City's role in making investments in the neighborhood. Commissioner Zeidman suggested that the City also consider the impacts of the light rail station on the neighborhood.

ACTION: Commissioner Kay Knapton moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed changes. Commissioner Josh Brower seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 11 - Adopt a policy to incorporate the precautionary principle to assess current and potential alternatives to city action.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **not include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

ACTION: Commissioner Josh Brower moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Kevin McDonald seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 12 - A proposal to remove land in the Interbay area from the BINMIC (north of Dravus to Emerson, approximately between 15th on the East, and west of 17th on the West).

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

ACTION: Commissioner Kay Knapton moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Martin Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 13 - Create a new element of the Comprehensive Plan entitled “Open and Participatory Government.”

The Executive Committee’s recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **not include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Ms. Wilson noted that the Executive Committee concluded that because a similar amendment was proposed last year, that amendment does not meet threshold criteria C.4. Commissioner Johnson asked Ms. Herzfeld whether or not Council was likely to submit proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as indicated in Resolution 31117. Ms. Herzfeld replied that although she was not absolutely certain Council would not submit any related amendments this year, Council has formed a special committee related to open government that is reviewing specific City policies and practices. Commissioner Zeidman asked if other jurisdictions have similar elements in their Comprehensive Plans. Commissioner McDonald replied that the City of Bellevue has related policies in their Comprehensive Plan that provides overall guidance but that it does not include a level of detail similar to the proposed amendment. Vice Chair Fiori noted that the Comprehensive Plan fundamentally deals with the built environment and that he does not think the details outlined in the proposed amendment fit with the scope of the Plan. Commissioner Brower agreed with Vice Chair Fiori. He noted that State law applies consistently across the state and that it would not be appropriate to add policies to the Comprehensive Plan that could potentially conflict with State law. He suggested that the intent of the proposed amendment would be more appropriately addressed in other venues. He also noted that the Executive Committee discussed this proposed amendment at length. Commissioner Miller suggested that the comments be reworded to emphasize criteria A.4. more than C.4. Commissioner Johnson suggested that the comments include reference to [Resolution 31049](#).

ACTION: Commissioner Leslie Miller moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed changes to the language. Commissioner Kay Knapton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation with proposed language changes passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 14 - Add a goal requiring a reduction in vehicle miles traveled in and through the city, and a policy favoring highway projects that produce little or no such increase.

The Executive Committee’s recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **not include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Ms. Wilson noted that the Executive Committee stated that the SPC generally supports programs and strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and as such supported an amendment in last year’s cycle that resulted in an update to Transportation Policy 17 that focused on reducing miles driven. She continued that while the committee recognizes and supports regional efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), they understand that the City is currently analyzing how to implement new guidelines recently adopted at the state level.

Commissioner Zeidman noted that the summary of the proposed amendment does not seem to match the recommendation. Commissioner Brower reiterated his concern about including regulatory guidelines in the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner McDonald suggested that Transportation Policy 17 adequately addresses the issue. Commissioner Miller noted that last year, DPD indicated that while reductions in VMT are one way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they recommended against placing these specific targets in the Comprehensive Plan.

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Johnson moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Leslie Miller seconded the motion. Commissioner Josh Brower made a friendly amendment to reference Transportation Policy 17 in the Commission’s comments. The motion to approve the recommendation with the friendly amendment passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 15 - Add a policy discouraging extra-heavy transit buses and solid waste trucks that unacceptably damage Seattle’s roads and bridges.

The Executive Committee’s recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **not include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner McDonald suggested the Commission’s comments note that A.4. also is applicable and that if disproportionate damage is caused by extra-heavy vehicles, it becomes a maintenance and budget issue. Commissioner Brower suggested that Transportation Policies 7, 8, 9 and 70 address this issue adequately. The Commissioners debated the relative merits of including the proposed amendment and agreed that it does not meet criteria C.4 as a very similar amendment was rejected last year. There was also general agreement that while the proposed amendment might be suitable for the Comprehensive Plan, criteria A.4. also applies in that there are more appropriate ways to address this issue.

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Johnson moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed amendment. Commissioner Kay Knapton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation with as amended passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 16 – Amend the FLUM to redesignate an area east of Harbor Ave SW and North of SW Spokane St, known as the Harbor Avenue Corridor Property, from Industrial to Commercial/Mixed-Use and remove the area from the Duwamish MIC.

The proponent has informed the Planning Commission that they have withdrawn this proposal from consideration from the 2009 docket.

Proposed Amendment # 17 - Amend Sand Point amendments to allow housing and limited commercial use in Building 9 at the former Sand Point Naval Station.

The Executive Committee’s recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner McDonald suggested that the first sentence of the Commission’s recommendation include the word ‘existing’ prior to Sand Point amendments.

ACTION: Commissioner Marty Kaplan moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation as amended passed with one abstention (Commissioner Brower).

Proposed Amendment # 18 - Amend the FLUM to redesignate a one block area, bounded by 15th Ave NW to the east, NW 50th St to the north, 17th Ave NW to the west, and NW 49th St to the south, from Industrial to Commercial/Mixed Use.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner Kaplan noted that this property is inside the HUB urban village.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin Kaplan moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed amendment. Commissioner Josh Brower seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 20 - Promote housing affordability in coordination with the Seattle Transit Plan, create a new policy to consider access to transit and transportation costs when developing affordable housing and promote attached and detached accessory dwelling units.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin Kaplan moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed amendment. Commissioner Leslie Miller seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

Proposed Amendment # 21 - Add new goals to encourage cultural districts, and to allow regulations and incentives to be adopted for them.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is for the Commission to recommend that Council **include** on 2009 Amendment Docket.

Commissioner Roewe noted that there are a number of overlapping strategies in this neighborhood. Ms. Sheehy noted that Council is currently reviewing changes that would eliminate the conflicting overlays. Commissioner Brower suggested that the Commission's recommendation specifically reference the conflict between the pedestrian designation and auto-oriented uses that the proposed conservation overlay district would protect.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin Kaplan moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed amendment. Commissioner Kay Knapton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendation passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Leman had additional public comment in addition to his previous comments on the matter of the Seattle Planning Commission Recommendations on the 2009 Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendments. Mr. Leman stated that although the Commission says that it is in favor of open and participatory government, their actions are contradictory. He said that the open public meetings act is not a replacement for the proactive measures called for in his proposed amendment. He indicated that the Commission just killed changes to the Comprehensive Plan that would not allow public boards to regulate their public comment periods to the end of the meeting and would require them to provide copies of their documents earlier. Mr. Leman stated that there was not time to talk about the incredible failure of public outreach for the Neighborhood Plan Status Report meetings. He said that documents were not available in a timely manner and are still not available. He indicated that Commissioner Brower told his group [at the June 22 Neighborhood Plan Status Report open house meeting] that if they did not address the questions that were the focus of the meeting, there was no guarantee that the comments would be included in the summary report. Mr. Leman stated that there is an incredible conflict of interest for the Commission to receive money to host meetings. It was pointed out that the Commission has not received any money to host the Neighborhood Plan Status Report meetings. Mr. Leman stated that it is no wonder that the meeting was a failure. He said that by getting involved in the operation of the neighborhood planning process, Commissioners have put themselves in an inappropriate position because they would have to criticize their own Commissioners and staff. Mr. Leman stated that we have been trying to get the Commission to support for the neighborhood planning to continue under the 1990's model. He stated that the first role of planning is first do no harm. He indicated that the Commissioners are violating their Hippocratic Oath.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Fiori adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.

Guidelines for Amendment Selection

The City Council considers a variety of factors in determining whether a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment will be placed on the amendment docket for a given year. Among those factors are the following:

- A. The amendment is appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan:
 1. The amendment is consistent with the role of the Comprehensive Plan under the State Growth Management Act;
 2. The amendment is consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies;
 3. The intent of the amendment cannot be accomplished by a change in regulations only;
 4. The amendment is not better addressed as a budgetary or programmatic decision; or
 5. The amendment is not better address through another process, such as neighborhood planning.

- B. The amendment is legal – the amendment meets existing state and local laws.

C. It is practical to consider the amendment:

1. The timing of the amendment is appropriate and Council will have sufficient information necessary to make an informed decision.
 2. Within the time available City staff will be able to develop the text for the amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and, if necessary, the Municipal Code, and conduct sufficient analysis and public review.
 3. The proposed amendment is consistent with the overall vision of the Comprehensive Plan and well-established Comprehensive Plan policy, or the Mayor or Council is interested in significantly changing existing policy.
 4. The amendment has not been recently rejected by the City Council.
- D. There has been a neighborhood review process to develop any proposed change to a neighborhood plan, or a neighborhood review process can be conducted prior to final Council consideration of the amendment.