

News Advisory

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Planning Commission Announces New Planning Commissioners

Seattle - The Seattle Planning Commission is pleased to announce a new slate of Commissioners effective September 30, 2014. Commissioners are appointed for three year terms and serve as volunteer advisors to the Mayor, City Council, and various city departments on long range planning issues.

“We are very excited to welcome such a qualified slate of new Commission colleagues. These new commissioners with talents and skill sets round out our Commission and we are happy to say that these qualified individuals will make great contribution to the Planning Commission.” Amalia Leighton, Seattle Planning Commission Co-Chair.

Welcome, Michael Austin. Michael is an urban designer for the firm MAKERS Architecture and Urban Design, LLC. He recently served for one year as a “Get Engaged” member of the Design Review Board East District. He holds a Master of Arts Degree in Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning.

“I hope to bring my expertise as an urban designer to improve our City’s built environment. I am also excited by the Commission’s leadership on Equitable Development and advising on the Comprehensive Plan update.” Michael Austin

Welcome, Kara Martin. Kara is a Principle at Urban Food Link, LLC, a firm that focuses on healthy food policy and planning. She has also served on the American Planning Association Food Interest Group steering committee, Washington State Food System Roundtable, as well as the South King County Food Access Working Group. She holds a Master Degree in Urban Planning.

“I am honored to serve on the Seattle Planning Commission. I have a unique voice and a passion for integrating health into our city’s planning discussions.” Kara Martin

Welcome, David Shelton. David is currently a Senior Supervising Transportation Planner for Parsons Brinckerhoff. He has also served for several years as a board member for Transportation Choices Coalition, a non-profit, that advocates throughout Washington for better access to transportation choices. He holds a Master Degree in City and Urban Planning.

“I am excited to bring my years of experience as a transportation planner as well as my commitment to sustainable development and the environment to my service on the Commission.” David Shelton

Welcome, Patti Wilma. Patti currently serves as the Community Development Manager for the City of Bellevue. She has served on the Design Review Board, the Queen Anne Community Council, as well as the Wedgewood Community Council. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design.

“As a neighborhood activist and planner for 30 years I am looking forward to bringing my architectural and planning experience to the Planning Commission.” Patti Wilma

Welcome, Lauren Squires, Get Engaged. Lauren is a Planner for SvR Design Company. Lauren also serves as the Rainer Valley representative on the Seattle Neighborhood Greenways Coalition a citywide initiative. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning.

“I am eager to serve on the Seattle Planning Commission because I am invested in Seattle’s growth and development as a livable city for all.” Lauren Squires

This year the Seattle Planning Commission’s work plan includes advising on: the major update to the Comprehensive Plan; changes to affordable housing programs; urban design frameworks in Lake City, Uptown, 23rd Avenue and Delridge; and transportation initiatives like Move Seattle.

“I am thrilled to have such a great group of dedicated individuals join the Seattle Planning Commission. This year is an incredibly important one with the adoption of the major update to the citywide Comprehensive Plan on the horizon. This Commission has the skills and expertise to properly advise on city planning for the next 20 years.” Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

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