



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Grace Kim, Chair

Valerie Kinast, Interim Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michael Austin, Keiko Budech, Sandra Fried, Grace Kim, Kara Martin, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Julio Sanchez, David Shelton, Lauren Squires, Jamie Stroble, Patti Wilma

Commissioners Absent: Eileen Canola, Lauren Craig, Jake McKinstry,

Commission Staff: Katy Haima, Planning Analyst, John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Valerie Kinast, Interim Executive Director

In Attendance: Cindi Barker, Maria Langlais, Ian Morrison

Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript, and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/when-we-meet/minutes-and-agendas>

Chair's Report

Vice-Chair Kara Martin called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. She reminded the Commissioners of several upcoming meeting dates.

Minutes Approval

Commissioner Tim Parham moved to adopt the October 27, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Michael Austin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

Valerie Kinast, Seattle Planning Commission Interim Executive Director, made several announcements. She reminded the Commissioners that there will be no meetings in late November or December, due to the holidays. She announced that the City Council's Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee will be holding a public hearing on the University District Urban Design and Zoning recommendations on November 16. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend. She also reported on recent meetings with City Councilmembers Mike O'Brien and Lisa Herbold.

Discussion: Mandatory Housing Affordability

Commissioner Parham reviewed a series of preliminary draft recommendations from the Seattle Planning Commission on the Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) regulations, including the proposed urban village rezones and boundary expansions. The recommendations are intended to be sent in an e-mail to the Director of the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) to help shape their work on the Environmental Impact Statement for MHA. The Commissioners provided some feedback on the recommendations and approved sending them to OPCD.

Briefing: Office of Planning and Community Development

Sam Assefa, Director of OPCD, provided the Planning Commission with an overview of his department's recent work. He thanked the Commissioners for their input on the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Assefa described several components of the ongoing Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) workplan. The University District Urban Design and Zoning Recommendations are the first to incorporate MHA. The Downtown and South Lake Union MHA proposal was recently transmitted to the City Council for review. The proposed regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units and Detached Accessory Dwelling Units were recently reviewed by the Hearing Examiner and a decision should be issued soon. OPCD has hired a new HALA manager, Sara Maxana. Five public open house meetings will be held in December and January to solicit public feedback on the proposed urban village rezones and boundary expansions. The Department of Neighborhoods will coordinate these meetings. Mr. Assefa also provided some highlights of the City's emerging Equitable Development Initiative. He briefly mentioned other projects that OPCD is working on, including One Center City, Seattle Center/Uptown, and the first pilot project of the Mayor's Capital Cabinet in South Park/Duwamish.

Briefing: Climate Change Preparedness Strategy

Tracy Morgenstern from the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) provided an overview of the City's work to coordinate a comprehensive climate change preparedness strategy. Her presentation covered all aspects of the strategy, including preparing for a range of issues from sea level rise and flooding to food system security. The Commissioners asked about the City's strategy to anticipate sea level rise, inquiring whether it makes sense to continue making investments in communities that may receive the most significant sea level rise impacts. Ms. Morgenstern replied by saying that Seattle Public Utilities will continue to make significant drainage investments in those areas, and OSE is hoping to conduct a coastal analysis to provide the necessary information for ongoing community-level strategies. The Commissioners inquired about the City's strategy related to water quantity and dams as temperatures rise and snowpack levels decrease. Ms. Morgenstern replied by saying that Seattle City Light is working on this issue. She also talked about the role of the City in partnerships with King County, the Puget Sound Regional Council, and Sound Transit to determine a comprehensive resiliency strategy.

Discussion: Industrial Lands Panel

The Planning Commission welcomed two former Commissioners, Amalia Leighton and George Blomberg, to provide their perspectives on the issue of industrial lands protection. Ms. Leighton described her experience as a Planning Commissioner with the subject of industrial lands, including discussions about commercial uses, especially big box retail stores, in areas zoned for industrial uses; annual Comprehensive Plan amendments that proposed removing land from those zones; and ongoing pressure to convert industrial lands for housing. Mr. Blomberg talked extensively about the importance of Seattle's two Manufacturing and Industrial Centers (MICs) – Ballard/Interbay and the Duwamish – for commerce, employment, and tax revenues. He stated that the MICs provide a balance of industrial jobs, transportation infrastructure, environmental protection and restoration, and equity considerations. He described his employer, the Port of Seattle's work to utilize and enhance the MICs for the benefit of the regional economy and the environment.

Public Comment

Ian Morrison encouraged the Commission to continue to review the work of the Mayor's Task Force on Industrial Lands and to review the work being done by other cities on industrial lands policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.