



City of Seattle Seattle Planning Commission

Josh Brower, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION MARCH 25, 2010 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chair – Josh Brower, Vice Chair – Leslie Miller, Catherine Benotto, David Cutler, Chris Fiori, Mark Johnson, Martin Kaplan, Kay Knapton, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Matt Roewe, Amanda Sparr

COMMISSION STAFF

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Colie Hough-Beck, Christopher Persons

GUESTS

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

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 Josh Brower called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Minutes approval

ACTION: Commissioner Leslie Miller moved to approve the March 11, 2010 minutes; Commissioner Kevin McDonald seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with Commissioners Martin Kaplan and Josh Brower abstaining.

- Chair's Report

Chair Brower noted the upcoming meetings: the next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 30; the next HNUC Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 6; the next Full Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, April 8; and the next LUT Committee

meeting will take place on Thursday, April 15. He also noted that he and Ms. Wilson have been meeting with Diane Sugimura, Marshall Foster, and Councilmember Clark to discuss a strategy for sustainable communities and long-range planning. Ms. Wilson indicated that having the Commission help set the city's urban planning agenda will be a major focus of the retreat on May 13.

Chair Brower indicated that a letter was sent to City Council earlier in the week regarding the Commission's recommendations about updates to the lowrise zones. He also said that Commissioners Benotto, Kaplan and Johnson attended a special meeting of the Committee on the Built Environment this past Saturday and asked them to share their thoughts about the meeting. Commissioner Johnson said that the meeting seemed effective, was well attended and that attendees expressed a range of opinions. He suggested that the Commission needs to keep advocating for progressive change. Commissioner Benotto agreed that there was a really broad range of opinion expressed at the meeting – some expressed support for eliminating minimum parking requirements while others argued against. She said that there were a lot of comments about Administrative Design Review. Commissioner Kaplan said that the setting for the meeting was great but noted that people came to the meeting with their opinions already formed.

- **DISCUSSION: Seattle Transit Communities funding strategies**
 - LUT Co-Chair Kevin McDonald

Recusals and Disclosures

- Chair Brower disclosed that his firm, Tupper Mack Brower, represents developers of multifamily housing, which may or may not be located within a transit oriented community.
- Commissioner Roewe disclosed that his firm, Via Architecture, works for developers of projects within transit oriented communities in Seattle.

Chair Brower reminded the Commission that sections one and two of the Transit Communities report were approved at the March 11 meeting and noted that goal for today's discussion would be to approve the concept of section three – funding and implementation strategies. Commissioner McDonald briefly summarized the first two sections of the report and explained that section three would identify funding programs and implementation strategies that help create successful transit communities. He indicated that the concept would be to create a toolkit of strategies, which identified at the November 2008 roundtable discussion as something that would be very beneficial. Commissioner McDonald explained the organization of the matrix and noted that the final report would have a more graphic layout.

Chair Brower suggested that it would be helpful to list programs in order of usefulness. Commissioner Roewe agreed that listing the programs in order of usefulness or accessibility would be preferable to alphabetic order.

Commissioner Kaplan suggested that when calling out local examples, such as the Mercer Corridor project, it would be helpful to illustrate how projects leverage funding from one source to generate support from additional sources.

Commissioner Sparr suggested that it could also be helpful for the Commission to strongly advocate for funding sources that are not currently being used as much as they could be, such as impact fees.

Commissioner Cutler suggested including processes that streamline development, e.g. elimination of minimum parking requirements, in the implementation matrix.

Commissioner Fiori said that while the list was really helpful, it might be more useful for City departments if it includes more specific information. He also reiterated previous comments about reorganizing the list by usefulness and illustrating how funds from one source can help leverage funds from other sources.

Commissioner Knapton agreed that funding programs should be in order based on how easily they can be used. She also suggested that the Commission advocate for using parking revenue generated within a business district as an incentive that could be given back to areas that have established Business Improvement Areas. She also noted that the 1% for Art program is missing from the matrix.

Commissioner Leighton also expressed support for reordering the programs based on usefulness. She suggested that the matrix clearly illustrate who can apply for each program. Vice Chair Miller concurred. Commissioner Leighton proposed adding transportation benefit districts to the list.

Commissioner Sparr proposed that the Commission also advocate for a VMT tax. Commissioners Roewe and Cutler suggested that congestion pricing could also be added. Commissioner Johnson noted that there are a lot of things being done in other places for which the Commission could advocate.

▪ **WELCOME: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw**

Chair Brower welcomed Councilmember Bagshaw, who said that she was planning to just talk about three things but her list kept getting longer as she listened to the Commission's discussion. Councilmember Bagshaw said that her first 90 days at City Council have been the best of any job she has ever had. She also thanked the Commissioners for their work both collectively and individually.

Councilmember Bagshaw indicated that she is the chair of the Parks & Seattle Center Committee; vice-chair of the Public Safety & Education Committee; a member of the Committee on the Built Environment; and an alternate on the Housing, Human Services, and Health & Culture Committee. She noted that people throughout the city commonly advocate for better sidewalks. She also requested an electronic copy of the Seattle Transit Communities funding and implementation matrix and said that it is a fabulous tool.

Commissioners then took a few minutes for a round of introductions.

Councilmember Bagshaw noted that parking is probably one of the more contentious issues in Seattle and said that the Commission could be helpful in advocating for flexible solutions. She noted that there are times in one's life where a car is essential. She said that most people are willing to accept more density in their neighborhoods if they still have a place to park their cars.

Councilmember Bagshaw expressed interest in establishing a vision for south downtown that could balance freight mobility, preservation of the maritime industry and the needs of Georgetown residents.

Councilmember Bagshaw said that there will be a public hearing on March 30 about the proposed Chihuly museum at Seattle Center. She noted that of the vast majority of almost 500 comments she has received expressed opposition to the project.

Chair Brower thanked Councilmember Bagshaw for her time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Josh Brower adjourned the meeting at 8:58 am.