



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

Amalia Leighton, Chair
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2014
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Austin, , Luis Borrero, David Cutler, Brad Khouri, Grace Kim, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, Kara Martin, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Matt Roewe, David Shelton, Lauren Squires, Patti Wilma

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Catherine Benotto

COMMISSION STAFF

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

Guests

Becky Edmonds, Michael James, Meghan Shepard, SDOT; Patrice Carroll, Tom Hauger, Dave LaClergue, Katie Sheehy, DPD

IN ATTENDANCE

Cindi Barker, Brian Epley, Susan McLain, Roger Pence, Tom Walker, Lish Whitson, Alex Zimmerman

* A delegation of planers from Albania were also in attendance but did not sign in.

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**
 - Chair Amalia Leighton

Chair Amalia Leighton called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. She reviewed the upcoming meetings.

Action: Commissioner Marj Press moved to approve the October 23, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Tim Parham abstaining.

- **Briefing: Curbspace Study**
 - Becky Edmonds, Michael James, Meghan Shepard, SDOT

If you would like to view the power point presentation on the Curbspace Study, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

- SDOT has begun a study on the creation of a multimodal decision making framework. This is different from a citywide multimodal hierarchy because it will guide City decisions but allow for flexibility and project specific focus.
- SDOT is also conducting a curb space study on how the curb is being utilized within the downtown core now and projected into the future based on the permits and projects currently approved by DPD.
- The curbs pace study will help create policy that will be incorporated into the final adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Comments and Questions

Commissioners requested from SDOT staff, data on the amount of feet or number of parking spaces currently in the downtown core as they felt this would help frame the use percentages that were outlined in SDOT's presentation.

Commissioners noted that on-street parking is a major revenue source for the City of Seattle and wondered with all of the competing uses for curb space, what might replace this revenue. SDOT staff responded that revenue from all sources is part of the discussion.

Commissioners asked for clarification on the study area and if it includes South Lake Union? SDOT staff responded that the study area is South of Denny and includes Pioneer Square and the International District. They added that funding for the study was the limiting factor for why it does not include South Lake Union.

Commissioners expressed interest in better understanding how alleys were handled in the study as well as loading zones and their importance to freight delivery. They also discussed intersection typologies and whether or not this was to be a part of this work. There was also interest expressed in better understanding the role the sidewalk played in the study. SDOT staff responded that there is an interdepartmental team that includes members having sidewalk and pedestrian specializations.

In the discussion it was expressed that the Comprehensive Plan update is a great opportunity to give more nuance to downtown streets that are currently all categorized as the same. There was general sentiment that north and south streets played a different role than east and west and that both played different roles during different times of the day. Commissioners suggested the Right of Way Improvement Manual would be a good opportunity to help clarify these roles and that the Comprehensive Plan should help guide these new typologies. The Comprehensive Plan will also include a new section on Complete Streets and it is likely that the multimodal framework will live in it.

- **Briefing: Urban Design Framework Updates - University District & Lake City**
 - Dave LaClergue & Katie Sheehy, DPD

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

- Briefed on community outreach process in Lake City and University District.

Commissioner Comments and Questions

University District

Commissioners were particularly interested in the proposed boundary change for the University Urban Center. With the understanding the neighborhood has put forth the proposal; Commissioners were interested in the justification for shrinking the boundary. They cautioned that it could set a precedent for future neighborhood petitions and would accomplish little if the zoning is not reconsidered.

Commissioners asked about the integration with the upcoming light rail and Metro bus service. They shared their concern that this could continue to be overlooked.

Lake City

The Commission was interested to hear that the community is looking for more height in their neighborhood and ground floor retail and open space, as well as the fact that there is a potential study to build a new community center in the area.

Commissioners shared their interest in better understanding the vision for Lake City. They wondered if the intention is to continue to be a highway with some businesses or create a more walkable pedestrian friendly neighborhood. DPD staff commented that SDOT is conducting a study on Lake City Way with the purpose to better understand the business district and overall safety.

- **Briefing: Comprehensive Plan**
 - Tom Hauger & Patrice Carroll, DPD

If you would like to view the power point presentation on the Comprehensive Plan, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

Commissioner Comments and Questions

Commissioners suggested looking at other cities of similar size that might be good models for how to better align spending in CIP with the Comprehensive Plan. Portland was suggested as a good example.

Commissioners also suggested investing in a tracking system that was easily accessible for the public. Noting that this information is available but it is separated by department and hard to access. They noted that it would allow departments to better track the investments of others as well as the public.

Commissioners were particularly interested in infrastructure and how the lack of infrastructure may constrain economic development. They noted that the Industrial areas do not have adequate infrastructure and major employers are investing in places like Everett because of this. They also mentioned that the cost to privately upgrade infrastructure on infill sites may stand in the way of new development. The Commission suggested the City should also have a plan for this work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindi Barker reminded the Commission that each Urban Village had a steward of its neighborhood plan, the sector implementation manager from the department of neighborhoods. She noted that their job was to track and be a champion for the investments outlined in the neighborhood plan. She stated that they would

regularly meet with the community and it was a way to stay connected to the work of the City. Ms. Barker noted that the program was a good one but was incredibly staff dependent and as the downturn hit it was eliminated. She suggested that the City could and should make a real commitment to better communication with neighborhoods and the adopted neighborhood plans. She added that in the original Comp Plan measurements were called for but were eventually pulled it out and no longer funded.

Roger Pence stated that he continues to be interested in neighborhood land use issues and any potential expansion of zoning around transit centers.

Alex Zimmerman asked for those running for Council to attend an open forum on Sunday at noon in Bertha Landes room, so that community members can talk to them and ask any and all questions they may have.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Leighton adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.