



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

Josh Brower, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
AUGUST 26, 2010
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Chair – Leslie Miller, David Cutler, Chris Fiori, Colie Hough-Beck, Mark Johnson, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Radhika Nair, Christopher Persons, Matt Roewe

COMMISSION STAFF

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Chair – Josh Brower, Catherine Benotto, Martin Kaplan, Kay Knapton, Jeanne Krikawa, Amanda Sparr

GUESTS

Marshall Foster, John Skelton, DPD

IN ATTENDANCE

Ketil Freeman, Council Central Staff; Bill Bradburd

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

Commission Vice-Chair Leslie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Minutes approval

ACTION: Commissioner Kevin McDonald moved to approve the June 10 and July 22, 2010 minutes; Commissioner Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

- **Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Miller noted the upcoming meetings: the next Executive Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, August 31; the next HNUC committee meeting will be on **Wednesday**, September 8 (rescheduled from Tuesday because of the Labor Day holiday); the next Full Commission meeting will be on Thursday, September 9; and the next LUT committee meeting will be on Thursday, September 16.

Ms. Wilson reminded the Commissioners that Jeanne Krikawa was recently appointed to the Commission and noted that it is again time to start thinking about the recruitment for next year's Commissioners.

Commissioner Hough-Beck asked when we would be notified about whether or not the Transit Communities presentation has been accepted for the national APA conference. Commissioner McDonald said that we would be informed by November 15 at the latest.

Ms. Wilson provided brief updates about the Commission's review of the proposed South Downtown legislation and the proposed tree regulations. She explained that the projects continue to be tracked by Commission committees, which will bring recommendations forward for the approval of the Full Commission in September and October. She also noted that Commission staff is working diligently to complete the Transit Communities report and hopes to hold a release event in October.

BRIEFING:

- **Green Futures: budget priorities for City Planning**
 - Marshall Foster & John Skelton, DPD

Vice Chair Miller explained the Commission has been working closely with DPD's City Planning division to help prioritize their 2011/2012 work plan; she noted that the Executive Committee has recommended that the Full Commission assist City Planning in working to gain approval for the work plan from the Mayor and City Council. Vice Chair Miller welcomed Mr. Foster and Mr. Skelton.

Mr. Foster indicated the City Planning division is interested in building a long-term work plan that creates a clear road map for City leadership and the general public. He noted that due to the City's projected budget shortfall, a lot of tough decisions must be made in terms of the City Planning work plan. Mr. Foster expressed interest in the Commission's support for a shared vision for the 2011-2012 work plan and assistance in articulating the vision to the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Foster and Mr. Skelton then described the draft work plan. Mr. Skelton explained that the draft work plan was created in part to help elected officials understand the difficult choices that need to be made in terms of allocating dwindling resources.

Commissioner Roewe expressed support for the work plan. He also noted the Capitol Hill light rail station sites provide a tremendous opportunity for the neighborhood and expressed support for the City's continued work on this project. Mr. Foster explained that the City is pursuing funding

opportunities to expand the scope of planning around the light rail station and transit oriented development opportunities.

Commissioner McDonald asked if projects such as the ‘Street Master Plans’ would be coordinated with SDOT staff. Mr. Skelton indicated that SDOT and City Planning meet regularly to coordinate their efforts around these types of projects and identify potential funding sources. Commissioner McDonald indicated that that one of the recommendations from the forthcoming Transit Communities report would relate to complete streets and suggested that street master plans would vary by location. Mr. Foster responded by explaining that the street master plans are typically prepared for major arterials that connect multiple neighborhoods. He indicated that City Planning is working to more thoroughly integrate urban design within the work of the rest of the division and noted that Lyle Bicknell is developing a set of streetscape design standards for neighborhoods.

Referring to the work plan handout, Commissioner Johnson asked about ‘the line’ that divides funded and unfunded projects. Mr. Skelton replied that ‘the line’ helps illustrate that with very limited resources, not all projects can be completed and that there will have to be tradeoffs.

Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification about the congregate housing project. Mr. Skelton explained that a few less scrupulous property owners thwart the City’s regulations related to congregate housing, so they require regular review. Commissioner Persons expressed concern about dismissing congregate housing across the board. Mr. Skelton indicated that is not the City’s intention and noted that there are successful models of congregate housing that would serve as the basis for revised regulations.

Commissioner Fiori said that the work plan is easy to understand and seems comprehensive. He suggested that the staff is probably spread a little thin and suggested it might be useful to include an ideal staffing level for projects in addition to the actual staffing level. Mr. Foster noted that if the division drops below 37.5 FTE, projects would have to be removed from the work plan; he also indicated that he liked the idea of including an ideal staffing level. Mr. Skelton agreed and noted that City Planning managers continue to provide input about optimal staffing.

Vice Chair Miller noted that while there would not be an official vote to approve the City Planning work plan, she did want to see if there was consensus about endorsing the plan. Ms. Wilson explained that the Executive Committee’s recommended endorsing the plan and working with Mr. Foster and Mr. Skelton as they meet with the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Foster noted that there has been a lot of interest in the Commission’s leadership and support, which would help elected officials understand City Planning’s work plan and priorities. Commissioners expressed support for endorsing the City Planning work plan.

DISCUSSION:

- **Seattle Transit Communities report recommendations**
 - Review & approve recommendations
 - Next steps

Disclosures and Recusals:

- Vice Chair Miller disclosed that she is a voting member of the Southeast District Council, a steering committee member of the Othello Station Community Advisory Team (OSCAT),

represents ROSA on the South Precinct Advisory Committee, and is a steering committee member of Othello Park Now.

- Commissioner Mark Johnson disclosed that his firm, ESA Adolfson, works on multiple planning projects for the City, including at Northgate and other neighborhoods that could be affected by the Commission's recommendations.

- Commissioner Colie Hough-Beck disclosed that her firm, HBB, regularly contracts with the City of Seattle, King County, the Port of Seattle, and WSDOT, as well as non-profit and private entities on projects located in Seattle.

- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, is currently working on projects at the planned Roosevelt station and Yesler Terrace and has previously worked on projects in Columbia City, Mt. Baker and Beacon Hill.

- Commissioner Amalia Leighton disclosed that her firm, SvR Design, is on the Nelson Nygard team that will update the Transit Plan.

- Commissioner Chris Fiori disclosed that his firm, Heartland, is currently working on projects in the Roosevelt and Columbia City neighborhoods and has previously worked on projects in Northgate.

- Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that her firm, Weber Thompson, has worked on projects in most of these neighborhoods and assisted with the urban design framework for South Lake Union and that she serves on the West Seattle Triangle advisory group.

- Commissioner Matt Roewe disclosed that he is involved with the Uptown Alliance and Greater Queen Anne Community Council and that he serves as a member of the Capitol Hill Housing board. He also disclosed that his firm, VIA Architecture has been involved in planning around the light rail stations in Capitol Hill and the University District.

- Commissioner Chris Persons disclosed that his firm, Capitol Hill Housing, develops affordable housing other community development work throughout the city.

Ms. Wilson reviews the draft recommendations with the Commission. She explained that each Commissioner would be assigned primary review of one neighborhood and secondary review of another neighborhood. She noted that it is important to keep the recommendations concise because even with one page for the 14 neighborhoods, the report already includes close to 20 pages of recommendations. Ms. Sheehy suggested that because of the time, assignments should be made on-line. She asked Commissioners to let her know if they had any preference for which neighborhoods they are assigned.

Commissioner Fiori expressed support for including maps in the recommendations and suggested that Commissioners focus their recommendations around the appropriate planning tools. Commissioner Hough-Beck agreed that she would caution against making the neighborhood recommendations too detailed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Bradburd noted that it would be good to have the draft Transit Communities report made available to the public. Ms. Wilson replied that the drafts are made available on the Commission's website and reiterated that because the drafts are a work in progress, many things are likely to change before the final documents are published.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Leslie Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.