



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Mary Johnston
Chair

Andrew Barash

Julie Bassuk

Graham Black

Brendan Connolly

Lauren Hauck

Laurel Kunkler

Julie Parrett

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

April 1, 2010

Convened 10:00am
Adjourned 4:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Waterfront Planning
1200 Stewart
Thomas Street Concept Design
Council President Richard Conlin
Councilmember Sally Clark
Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Brendan Connolly
Julie Bassuk
Lauren Hauck
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jenny Hampton



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April 1, 2010 **Project:** **Council President Richard Conlin**

Phase: Discussion

Last Reviewed: Jun 4, 2009; Mar 20, 2008; Sep 5, 2002

Presenters: Richard Conlin, City Council

Attendees:

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

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SUMMARY

The Design Commission thanks Council President Richard Conlin for his update and briefing about new directions that the Council is taking. The Commission looks forward to future discussions as topics arise where it can be of assistance.

Presentation

City Council member Richard Conlin updated the Design Commission on his current role and relevant issues he is involved with as Council President and member of a number of Council committies. With his work, he deals with issues of sustainability, emergency management, economic development, and carbon neutrality among other things. He chairs the committee on SR-520 and is active in promoting food policy for the City.. He is also leading initiatives on conservation, energy use, stewardship programs and the City Council's public relations and decision making process. Lastly, he is playing a role in the development of the SR520 project.

Conlin discussed some of the core priorities the Council had identified for this year, which include, economic recovery and budget issues; smarter building and infrastructure design incorporating sustainability; developing regional partnerships; and creating a stronger relationship with the state legislature.

Commissioners' Questions/Comments

Can you update us on the 520 project?

The work on 520 has reached a very critical point. We have now received recommendations to make the design less impactful to the neighborhoods and arboretum and make more connections for pedestrians and bicyclists within the plan. We will be having a full briefing on this at a public meeting the second week of April. I'm hopeful that some of the changes that we have suggested will be made.. This is a state project and they are ready to go ahead with the design. Key components of the new option include:

- significant change in pedestrian and bike structure. Pedestrian connections from the UW to 520 would be much better than they are right now and the second bridge would be pedestrian and bike focused.
- connection from across Montlake and to Portage Bay would be a full bike path
- removal of off-ramps in the arboretum
- proposal of HOV transit only lanes on Montlake to ease north and south movement

With regard to the new 520 option, the second bridge would have cars on it still?

Yes, two car lanes going north and pedestrian and bike traffic.

Could you talk about the carbon neutrality and the goals?

This was very bold goals that we are taking to ultimately reach carbon neutrality. This year, we are taking strides in defining what carbon neutrality means for Seattle. We will want to develop a community outreach plan and education campaign to encourage people of Seattle to embrace this movement and make changes. We will also want to develop a vision for what a carbon neutral city is and entice people to get excited to live in one. Making significant structural changes in the city is important in moving this action along.

What model are you using for this goal?

No one has really come up with a model that we are really excited about yet, we will be bringing in academic community and organizations focused on this issue.

What are some of the specifics you are thinking about on economic recovery?

We are first looking at the Department of Economic Development as a place that is active instead of reactive. We also want to deploy some of the opportunities we have through the stimulus packaging to start a number of projects in the city. To go beyond, we need to put together a strategy of green jobs because that is where the economy is headed. Also, we will continue our work in training for the unemployed. I also have some particular interest in the food sector and how that can boost the economy.