



## 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

**February 18, 2010**

Convened 9:00am  
Adjourned 3:00pm

### Projects Reviewed

Bell Street Park  
DPD Planning Division Update  
Waterfront Planning Briefing  
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement – Portal Area Planning  
9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Park

### Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair  
Andrew Barash  
Brendan Connolly  
Julie Bassuk  
Graham Black  
Lauren Hauck  
Laurel Kunkler  
Julie Parrett  
Norie Sato  
Donald Vehige

### Staff Present

Guillermo Romano  
Valerie Kinast  
Tom Iurino  
Jenny Hampton



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**February 18, 2010**      **Project:**      **DPD Planning Division Update**

**Phase:**      Briefing  
**Last Reviewed:**      N/A  
**Presenters:**      Marshall Foster, DPD

**Attendees:**

Katie Zemtseff, Daily Journal	Cele Fortier, GHD
Lloyd Douglas, Cascade Neighborhood Council	Brian Steinburg, Allied Arts
Bob Cowin, Capitol Hill Community Member	Vanghn Bell, SDOT/Arts
David Skinner, HDR Engineering	Christi Skinner, HDR Engineering
Christina Bollo, Pedestrian Advisory Board	

**Time:** 30 minutes

(000/RS0000 )

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## **ACTION**

The commission thanks Marshall Foster for the update on the DPD Planning Division and has the following comments:

- The new priorities for the city will take the issue of sustainability to a deeper level and DPD will be taking a new leadership role in this agenda .
- The commission appreciates and welcomes the plans to include the Design Commission for expertise earlier in projects and the department’s decision process.
- The Commission appreciates the plans to work more inter-departmentally and with other agencies, such as WSDOT. Bringing those organizations in early helps bring the design issues to the forefront in the beginning of the project.
- In prioritizing work, include public and community outreach as a key component. The Commission encourages the Planning Division to focus the budget in areas of high density and transportation connections.
- The Commission encourages the development of flexible codes and rules so that designs can also be flexible and not redundant.

## **Project Presentation**

The new City Planning Director in the City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development, Marshall Foster brings new ideas to his role and the city. In this presentation, Foster discusses his background, new role, and the potential to collaborate with the Design Commission.

Foster’s background includes work at Mithun Architects, work within the Mayor’s Office of Policy and Management, efforts in South Lake Union and public space planning, and collaboration across departments to highlight activation of public space within Seattle. More recently, he has worked on waterfront issues addressing how this space can be at the forefront of Seattle’s public amenities. As the new City Planning Director, these interests will continue to be a key part of his work. Moreover, the new focus for city planning will be on sustainable development and strengthening urban design. Central will be the questions of how to bridge city planning work and sustainability. There will be a focus on sustainability as an organizing element, such as strategic

rezoning and planning for climate action. The role of planning will become important in implementation, setting the policy and vision, and then setting up the implementation framework.

The tasks ahead include conducting a comprehensive plan update and work plan revision. There will be a review on how the city is approaching neighborhood planning with a focus on becoming more forthcoming in public outreach and expanding the neighborhood plan teams experience by taking that practice into the depth of the Planning Division's work. Developing relationships with the Department of Neighborhoods will be crucial to this work. Additionally, the role of design will play a greater part in planning. The Design Commission will play a role in providing expertise and a strong framework for the projects going forward.

### **Commissioners' Comments and Questions**

*The commission welcomes the opportunity to be more involved in the beginning of projects.*

DPD would love to work with the Design Commission on a pilot project or two.

*It is important to work with some of the other agencies that are not the city, such as WASDOT and cities on the edge of Seattle so that they are brought on early on in the process and the design intentions can be expressed throughout the project.*

*In prioritizing your work, public outreach and community outreach is a key component.*

*It will be important to focus the budget in areas where there are transit connections and building density, such as the downtown core. Recognize that when creating the zoning capacities and density models, the design portion needs to develop in tandem. The two components need to work together and emerge as one design.*

*The Design Commission is one of the few groups that see a broad range of projects and therefore have seen trends in designs throughout. We encourage the city to use this knowledge to enlighten decisions on future projects.*

*There is a fear that due to regulations designs will become redundant. The commission encourages DPD to develop more flexible documents allowing design to be flexible.*

We have been working on this issue by improving relationships with SDOT and pushing the limits on what can be done with design.