



Minutes #184

(Adopted July 16, 2019)

City of Seattle/University of Washington Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC)

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

UW Tower

4333 Brooklyn Avenue, 22nd Floor

Seattle, WA 98105

Attendees/CUCAC Members:

John Gaines	Barbara Quinn	Ashley Shook	Colleen McAleer
Sarah Swanberg	Jon Berkedal	Ashley Emery	
Amanda Winters	Kerry Kahl	Julie Blakeslee	

Staff and Other Present:

Nelson Pesigan	Sally Clark
Sarah Morningstar	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. John Gaines opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

2. Housekeeping

A motion was made to adopt the October 9, 2018 minutes, and it was seconded. The Committee voted and the motion was passed.

A motion was made to adopt the March 12, 2019 minutes as amended, and it was seconded. The Committee voted and the motion passed.

Ms. Sarah Morningstar announced that Ms. Maureen Sheehan had her baby, Sunday, May 12th. Mr. Nelson Pesigan will be a temporary fill-in for Ms. Sheehan until her return in November

3. City University Agreement & CUCAC Moving forward (06:29)

Mr. Gaines commented about looking at the fundamentals of this Advisory Committee and identify if the Committee is still on track on what they suppose to do in helping shape the neighborhood in accordance to the Ordinance and the bylaws. He introduced Ms. Sarah Morningstar of the Department of Neighborhoods to discuss and provide more context.

Ms. Morningstar acknowledged the important work this Committee has accomplished regarding issues that matter to the University and the surrounding neighborhood. She understood the concerns of the Committee regarding its current and future direction now that the Campus Master Plan (CMP) work is

complete. She commented that this is a typical discussion that happens to every Committee or Commission and added that each member has a different perspective or experience on where they would like to go moving forward.

Mr. Gaines mentioned that members of the Committee expressed frustration about the work, and any comments and suggestions that they did during the CMP process were not incorporated. He asked the City if there is a mechanism that allows the Committee to have more influence in the decision-making process that justifies that time and effort the members put forth.

He added that members care very deeply about the University and the community and wanted to ensure that the work efforts are being used in the right direction. He commented about having the tools and resources that this Committee can utilize to adequately understand the process.

Mr. Jon Berkedal commented about the role of this Committee and asked about the value of having these meetings other than communicating back to their constituents about community issues. He added that there were times that the conversation among the Committee members are contentious, and it comes from a misunderstanding about the roles and responsibilities of this Committee. He asked Ms. Morningstar if there is a better way to address these issues.

Ms. Morningstar mentioned that the City and the University listened and took the feedback, and she understood the frustration about not seeing the recommendations incorporated. She asked the Committee that this is a great opportunity for the Committee to identify what they want to get out from this work under the guidelines of the bylaws and the agreement. She suggested shifting the focus and identify what is important for this Committee moving forward.

Ms. Colleen McAleer commented about Mr. Matt Fox's letter and echoed his concerns and frustrations about the lack of tools and resources that the Committee can utilize to do their work. Mr. Gaines added that the Committee can only use the resources that are available to them. Ms. Morningstar commented that she will investigate this and see if DON or the City can address these concerns.

Ms. Sarah Swanberg commented that as a member of the Seattle Children's Standing Advisory Committee, she observed several presentations from the hospital about their upcoming projects and how it interacts or engage with their surrounding neighbors.

Ms. Morningstar noted that she would investigate and will reach out to other DON staff on how to better accommodate the advisory committees. She asked the Committee about their ongoing interest and ways DON can help navigate and facilitate the presentations.

Mr. Kerry Kahl commented about having a conversation about changes to the upzones, light rail station, transportation, housing, primary and secondary impact zones, etc. and engaging the City into these conversations to bring the neighbors together.

Ms. Barbara Quinn commented about having the City and University cooperatively discuss traffic and development around the surrounding neighborhood.

Ms. Clark mentioned that looking back at the previous minutes, CUCAC did achieve items in the CMP, and added that there were briefings and discussion from WSDOT, SDOT, Montlake Mobility, Northgate

link that was dropped off. She noted that she had conversations with Ms. Sheehan about asking for report contents and the City was not able to provide in a timely manner.

Mr. Kahl commented about having this Committee review early design guidelines, projects in the pipeline, and propose projects and have the Committee assemble them.

Ms. Clark commented that the early design guidelines are happening at the design review board and the University organizes community engagements. She asked if the Committee has the capacity to do the review work that is already being done in other venues.

Ms. Morningstar commented that it is up to the Committee if it decides to investigate the early review of the projects knowing that there are other Committees already oversees the process.

Ms. Quinn commented about having the Committee a choice to be involved in the process, and Ms. Morningstar agreed that is a fair asked. She asked the Committee members to step back and re-evaluate their level of interest and why do they come to these meetings.

Ms. Swanberg commented that she comes to this meeting because of the informative presentations, and to hear what other people are experiencing around their neighborhood. She added that the Committee does not have to meet every month if there are no important or critical issues to discuss.

Ms. Quinn commented that she comes to the meeting because she cares about the community and the University and anything that happens around here is very important because it is her home.

Ms. McAleer commented that she is concern about what happens to the University and how to overcome the growing traffic issues, building construction, light rail, etc. She added that the neighborhoods support the University, and she would like to see more creative ideas to mitigate these issues and having the University as a good source of information is important.

Mr. Gaines commented that the University is a tremendous resource for the neighborhood with the amazing open space, good architecture, etc. He added that preserving the facilities and amenities is very important and the University is doing an excellent job. He wants the University to continue creating pathways, openness and making sure that it is preserved and developed.

He commented about having an architectural walking tour around the campus to better understand the building context, open space and make better decisions about building projects. Ms. Quinn suggested the Seattle Architectural Foundation (SAF) tour.

Mr. Berkedal appreciates Ms. Morningstar coming to the Committee and providing a different lens and ask her about any expectations about this Committee. Ms. Morningstar responded that being an advisory committee represents different perspectives and interest. She appreciates everyone's input and sentiment about the direction of the Committee.

She noted that the Committee's advisory role is helpful to the City, and she understands that being an advisory role without any decision-making authority is a challenge, but she appreciates and values the work that the Committee does for the City and the University.

Mr. Kahl commented about having a presentation from the City about their services in the surrounding communities, issues and action plans.

Ms. Clark suggested having the City talk about investments and plans about safe injection sites, tent city, etc. Other topics that would interest the Committee include transportation and understanding the collaboration between the City and Sound Transit to address transportation.

Mr. Berkedal appreciates hearing that the Committee brings value being an advisory role but added that the CMP process was a painful process knowing that all the work and recommendations, feedback were rejected. He noted that he likes coming to this meeting because he is interested in what is going on the University and its impact on the community that he represents.

Ms. Clark commented that not all the Committee's recommendations were rejected and added that there were important issues that the Committee presented during the walkthrough process. She noted that the Committee knew that any language that was presented outside the land use law will be a challenge.

Ms. Amanda Winters commented that her interest coming to this meeting is to represent a different lens and having no affiliation with the University. Her challenge is finding the time to attend the meeting with the current schedule and structure and suggested if there are any available technology that they could use to have more people attend or participate in these meetings.

Mr. Gaines mentioned about the following items for this Committee to look at including: identifying the geographic regions within the community and their issues and concerns, reviewing the types of projects and issues and the strategy on how to address them, and ways the City and the University can help the Committee.

Ms. Morningstar commented that having a brainstorming session is a good start identifying all the topics this Committee would want to pursue.

Ms. McAleer commented about having a roster with everyone's email or contact information will be helpful to foster communication among members.

Ms. Clark commented that representatives from several community groups and councils have not participated in these meetings due to lack of interest and other priorities.

Ms. Winters commented that the public should always be welcome to attend this meeting even though they are not affiliated or represents any of the community groups or councils.

Ms. Morningstar agreed that this Committee must decide and do its due diligence and reach out to these community groups about their issues and concerns that affect the neighborhood and encourage having different voices at the table.

4. Public Comments (03:42)

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for public comments. There were no public comments.

5. New Business (1:21:28)

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion on new business.

Ms. Clark commented about the upcoming meeting agenda topics and the question about the frequency of the meetings.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that she would like to get an update on the Burke Museum and pathway connections to the campus.

Ms. Clark suggested if the City can present any updates on the work at 43rd and the connections to the Light Rail station.

Ms. Morningstar suggested having the Committee prioritize the topics they want to discuss whether it is community issues or capital projects around the University.

Mr. Gaines added that some of the topics for discussion he had in mind includes a method of communication among Committee members and how information is distributed, election a co-chair, a summary of comments that summarizes how the Committee had an impact on the CMP, a brainstorming session to identify and focus on where, what and how the Committee will function and have a summer walking tour around the campus.

Ms. Clark suggested that she can reach out to Ms. Kristine Kenney, the Campus Landscape Architect for a walking tour or have the Seattle Architecture Foundation (SAF) or both.

The Committee decided that there will be no meeting in June, a walking tour session in July, no meeting in August, and do a work planning session in September.

6. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.