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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 4, 2010

Convened 10:00am
Adjourned 2:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Mayor's Office Briefing
Delridge Skatepark

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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March 4 2010**Project: Mayor's Office Briefing****Phase:** Discussion**Last Reviewed:** N/A**Presenters:** Phil Fujii, Deputy Mayor**Attendees:****Time:** 10:00-11:00am(000/RS0000)

ACTION

The Commission thanks Deputy Mayor Phil Fujii for the briefing on the Mayor's Office work and the projects and changes occurring in the new administration. We appreciate the update so early in a new administration and applaud the efforts for interdepartmental work coordination, as it maximizes resources. The commission has the following comments:

- Emphasize an integrated approach across departments and stakeholders in order to boost process and design for all projects.
- Balance gathering input from the community with providing clear leadership and promoting a vision for the city.
- In addition to smaller beautification projects, the commission encourages the city to invest in larger anchor projects and street life. Think about what mechanisms help to drive the quality of Seattle's unique neighborhoods.
- Reference existing precedent and model projects that have been successful in implementing neighborhood plans and ideas.
- Include support for small business development in the larger vision of neighborhood planning.
- Encourages the city to use the Design Commission's expertise and experience in projects as they develop.

Presentation

The Deputy Mayor of Operations, Phil Fujii reviews his new role with the Design Commission. In this presentation, Fujii discusses his background, new role, and the potential to collaborate with the Design Commission.

Phil Fujii started the presentation by reviewing his professional background. He has worked as a relationships manager, in real estate and land use planning and with project developments and entitlements. His work on some major Seattle projects includes the South Lake Union streetcar, Metro transit tunnel and strategic plans to reduce gang related crime in Seattle.

Before his roles within the city, he worked as an urban designer and developed plans focusing on the placement the Metro Transit tunnel site. He also worked on the location of the convention center, the Union Station design plan and City Light capital projects. In addition, he worked in historic preservation for 6 years prior.

In the Mayor's office, there are currently six senior team leads that work collaboratively. As Deputy Mayor of Operations, Fujii will be in charge of operations for the following departments: Budget and Finance, Executive Administration Fleets and Facilities, Parks and Recreation, Personnel, Planning and Development, Seattle Center, SDOT, and Seattle Housing Authority.

In this new role, Fujii expressed that the Mayor's Office is excited about taking public transit to an advanced level, integrating systems of open space, parks, and the downtown while bringing sustainability to the core of all

projects. The Mayors Office also will develop a strategic plan concerning CIP planning to help neighborhoods that are going to endure density keep a standard quality of life.

In this new agenda, the Mayors Office aims to function better by including the help and support of the Design Commission.

Commissioners' Questions/Comments

One of the things we as a Commission have been struggling with is the balance between city planning and visioning with today's current economic struggles and lack of resources.

The City has to get smarter with CIP planning. There are certain things we can do in some neighborhoods. For example, creating action steps and funding opportunities for public safety and lighting would take some initial steps towards improving life for the public. The plan is to review some of the larger projects and find opportunities where we can carve out funding for these neighborhood scale improvements.

One project that the commission has championed is the current Bell Street Project as it is a successful model where many departments have collaborated in creating a public resource. As a leader, sometimes the city has lost nerve when it comes to making a built environment that defines a city and is for everyone. There is a balance in terms of funding that needs to be considered.

This is a great time to look at an integrated planning approach and CIPs across departmental lines. I would like to hear about interest in key plans and projects early in order to involve your role at the beginning of projects.

In the Commission's effort of drafting a letter concerning TOD priorities, we want to provide insights that can be the most helpful and impactful for the city's planning process.

We can still make some of this planning for TODs happen with collaboration across departments

Streetscapes are very important and valuable in making these areas more lively and pedestrian friendly.

Through the years, the commission has seen the city invest so much money for smaller beautification projects, but what is also needed is planning that attracts anchors for the neighborhood. We need to review what mechanisms help to drive the quality of our neighborhood districts.

We need to be unapologetic in our planning steps, but also need to be clear and have a vision for the city as a whole.

The commission has seen some good examples of neighborhood planning projects that have been implemented and are successful; these precedents need to be referenced in new projects.

In planning the larger vision of neighborhoods and the city, support small-scale businesses growth and temporary use of spaces for local use.

There will be a new federal tax benefit to help small businesses. In putting these pieces together, we, have to start looking at all tools to help produce this larger vision

One of these types of tools that can be used is the Center City Public Realm Guide. It is a great tool for helping get all the departments together and see where and what areas need work.

The Design Commission has a unique skill set and reviews many projects during a range of stages. We encourage you to incorporate us in your work wherever you see most helpful.

It would be helpful for the Design Commission to create a list of projects that are important for detailed review. I would like to have lunch and carve out some time to talk with the commission about projects and ideas.

There are models and precedents in the city that people tend to forget about. These should be looked at and reviewed in new developments.

I am a firm believer of having community members review similar projects that are successful before they disapprove of a project idea.

One item that is on our agenda as a commission is figuring out a strategy that addresses some temporary use in the current vacant lots in downtown.

The mayor is in sync with these concerns and ideas. Please involve me in your discussion in work on this topic.

The commission is also very interested and excited to work on the waterfront, tunnel, and the 520 projects. We want the waterfront to be an emblem for the city to signify that we can get something done for the city and people.

Make the project process orderly and exciting.