



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

David Cutler and Amalia Leighton, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2014
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

David Cutler, Catherine Benotto, Keely Brown, Colie Hough-Beck, Bradley Khouri, Grace Kim, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Matt Roewe, Morgan Shook

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Luis Borrero, Josh Brower, Jeanne Krikawa, Maggie Wykowski

COMMISSION STAFF

Jessica Brand - Policy Analyst, Diana Canzoneri-Senior Analyst, Robin Magonegil – Administrative, Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

GUESTS

Gary Keese, City of Seattle Ethics and Elections; Patrice Carroll, Tom Hauger, DPD

IN ATTENDANCE

Martha Lester, Eric McConaghy, Lish Whitson

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

Co-Chair David Cutler called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

- **Approve November 14 and December 12, 2013 Minutes**

ACTION: Commissioner Brad Khouri moved to approve the November 14 and December 12, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Catherine Benotto seconded. The minutes were approved with Commissioner Colie Hough Beck and Commissioner Grace Kim abstaining.

- **Chair's Report**

- Co-Chair David Cutler

Co-Chair Cutler went over the upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission noting that at the upcoming Executive Committee meeting the committee will get a media training by DPD staff in preparation for the release of the Family Sized Housing white paper. He added that they will also have a conversation regarding Commissioner recruitment for 2014.

▪ **Introduction of Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director**

Co-Chair Cutler introduced the new Executive Director of the Commission, Vanessa Murdock. He asked Ms. Murdock to tell the Commission a little bit about herself. Ms. Murdock talked about her plans for her first 100 days, the changing of the mayoral administration and the rollout of the Family Sized Housing white paper.

Commissioner Roewe asked about the new districts and City Council and wondered if it would enable the Commission's role to be elevated. Ms. Murdock noted that it was an excellent point and that it would give the Commission a chance to show how as a body they are representative of the city as a whole.

▪ **Planning Director Update**

- Marshall Foster, City Planning Director, DPD

Co-Chair Cutler welcomed Marshall Foster.

Mr. Foster reported on some of the major projects that DPD has been working on including the Waterfront, the Comprehensive Plan Major Update, annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, the Uptown Urban Design Framework, and Transit Oriented Development implementation. He added that there have been some staffing changes at DPD with Laura Hewitt Walker coming from the City's Office of Housing and Susan McLain replacing John Skelton as the Deputy Director. Mr. Foster noted that they are in the process of hiring someone to lead and coordinate the City's Transit Oriented Development implementation efforts.

Commissioner Brad Khouri asked about the status of the Seattle Design Commission/Seattle Planning Commission joint group that used to meet to talk about the Waterfront. Mr. Foster noted that the group has transitioned to the Design Oversight Subcommittee and the Waterfront Design is now at 30% thus the Seattle Design Commission will assume review going forward. He added that David Cutler is part of the subcommittee.

Co-Chair Cutler asked about the funding of plan elements. Mr. Foster replied that the Friends of the Waterfront were in the process of fundraising for elements of the plan such as a barge pool, a lap pool and hot tubs.

Commissioner Roewe asked if there were any strategies regarding the EIS. Mr. Foster answered that it would not have preferred alternatives and that the statements would study benefits as well as impacts.

Co-Chair Cutler thanked Mr. Foster.

▪ **Commission Ethics Training**

- Gary Keese, Seattle Ethics & Elections

Co-Chair Cutler welcomed Gary Keese.

Mr. Keese gave a presentation describing the difference between disclosing potential conflicts and recusing oneself from a review and discussion of a project or proposal. The presentation contained several scenarios to help the Commissioners understand when to disclose or recuse. You can view that presentation by clicking the link below.

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattlePlanningCommission/MinutesAndAgendas/ethicsforplanningcommjeopardy.pptx>

- **Mt. Baker Rezone**

Commissioner Tim Parham briefed the Commission on the Executive Committee request to participate in public testimony at the City Council Planning, Land Use and Sustainability (PLUS) committee on the Mt. Baker, sometimes referred to as North Rainier, rezone proposal, . The Commission has historically supported the Mount Baker rezone, and will be giving supportive testimony when it comes before PLUS committee.

Commission discussion was supportive of Commissioner Parham to testify when the rezone comes before the PLUS committee.

- **Major Comprehensive Plan Update**

- Patrice Carroll & Tom Hauger, DPD

Co-Chair Cutler welcomed the presenters.

Ms. Carroll and Mr. Hauger gave a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed by clicking the link below.

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattlePlanningCommission/MinutesAndAgendas/spc20140109.pptx>

Commissioner Khouri, stated that in regards to the EIS scoping, he recommends looking at other cities along the West Coast as part of the process for drafting growth alternatives to be studied - particularly cities that have been able to address affordability with focused growth.

Commissioner Roewe was interested in understanding the history of Urban Villages and Urban Centers, and specifically when boundaries were drawn and implemented. Mr. Hauger responded that they were incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan updates in the 1990's.

Commissioner Cutler reiterated the Planning Commission's interest in boundaries that reflect Transit Communities and specifically walk sheds within frequent and reliable transit. Mr. Hauger responded that it is DPD's intention to have an alternative supporting Transit Communities.

Commissioner Kim commented that growth would continue within single-family areas that are outside of Urban Villages and Urban Centers because this is a desirable lifestyle for some. Commissioner Kim noted that it should be a goal to make this lifestyle available to more people at a variety of incomes and household composition.

Specific to Comprehensive Plan Public Engagement:

In regards to the Public Engagement Plan, the Commission expressed interest in guiding public engagement activities to ensure that messaging was clear and inclusive. The Commission is also very interested in

participating in the organization and composition of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan composition is important to ensure that it is approachable and clear for the reader.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Barker, citizen, spoke to the need to better understand the work that went into neighborhood plans and the importance of these plans to those involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Cutler adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.