



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Director, OPCD

Jill Crary, Chair

Kevin O'Neill, Vice Chair

Adam Amrhein

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Caitlin Truong

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
Strategic Advisor

Windy Bandekar
Planner

Juliet Acevedo
Administrative Staff

January 16, 2025

Convened 9:00 am

Adjourned 12:30 pm

Projects Reviewed

Commission business

Memorial Stadium

Commissioners Present

AP Amrhein

Jill Crary (attended virtually)

Kate Clark (attended virtually)

Ben Gist (attended virtually)

Brian Markham (attended virtually)

Kevin O'Neill (attended virtually)

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Commissioners Excused

Phoebe Bogert

Caitlin Truong

Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Juliet Acevedo

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Commission Business (9:00 – 10:00 am)

The Commissioners received a staff briefing on the Memorial Stadium project. The Commission also adopted minutes dated November 7 and November 21, 2024. The Commission discussed an upcoming roundtable with City staff on light rail. The Commission discussed topics for their February 20, 2025 retreat.

Memorial Stadium - public realm enhancements (10:00 – 12:30 pm)

The Commission received its final presentation on this project. The focus of the meeting was to hear from the design team how the project has been advanced following the Commission's October 17, 2024 meeting.

The following people were presenters:

- Lance Lopes, One Roof (attended virtually)
- Barbara Swift, Swift Company
- Tom Probstle, Generator Studio
- Brad Tong, SOJ
- Angie Nygren, Generator Studio
- Jill Cody, DarkLight Design
- John Liams, Generator Studio (attended virtually)
- David Kunselman, Seattle Center (provided comment)

The following people attended:

- Jackie Kirn
- Gaelen Lee (attended virtually)
- Julia Levitt, Seattle Center (attended virtually)
- Maija McKnight, Office of Arts and Culture (provided comment)
- Valancy Blackwell, Seattle Center (attended virtually)
- Carly Guillory, SDCI (attended virtually)
- Glenda Rader, SDCI (attended virtually)
- Morgan Littlefield, Seattle Kraken (attended virtually)
- Erin Gilbert
- Erin Doherty, Landmarks - DON

Department Comments:

Erin Doherty (Landmarks Program Coordinator, DON): While acknowledging that concrete relief panels can provide compatibility with the Seattle Center campus, she strongly encouraged the design team to develop a more contemporary design language distinctly different from Paul Thiry's 1962 World's Fair aesthetic, noting that the current approach risks creating confusion between historical eras.

Commission Discussion:

Art Integration & Funding: The Commission strongly advocated for expanded art opportunities through increased funding, recommending both Seattle Center's full 1% contribution and a potential voluntary 1% from One Roof. They emphasized the importance of involving indigenous artists, including non-federally recognized tribes, and suggested hiring a teaching artist to coordinate student art programs for the interior spaces.

Architecture & Materials: Commissioners focused on the need to refine the precast concrete wall design to be more distinctly contemporary rather than referential to mid-century forms. They praised the addition of the café while suggesting further study of its scalability and emphasized the critical role of integrated lighting in the project's architectural success. Discussion included concerns about entry gateway designs and the technical aspects of precast panel connections.

Campus Integration: The Commission commended the project's thorough integration with the Seattle Center campus, particularly praising the landscape design's 360-degree approach and improvements to the Harrison Street corridor. They noted the successful connection to the International Fountain area and the project's overall contribution to campus cohesion.

Sustainability & Education: The discussion centered on making sustainable design elements more visible and educational, emphasizing their importance as teaching tools for students. Commissioners encouraged incorporating learning opportunities around systems like stormwater management and other sustainable features that could engage students directly with environmental stewardship.

The Commission voted 6-0. The Commission adopted the following condition.

The Commission unanimously approved the project with one key condition requiring subcommittee review of the final precast wall design development. Their approval acknowledged the project's strong evolution and success in creating a student-focused facility that enhances the Seattle Center campus while providing valuable community amenities.