



## Ballard Urban Design || Advisory Group

### MEETING MINUTES

4-5:30 p.m. – May 1, 2014 – Ballard Landmark

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#### **Attendees**

Tom Malone, UDaT CoChair	Robert Drucker
Catherine Weatbrook, UDaT CoChair	Scott Ingham
Mike Stewart, Ballard Chamber of Commerce	Michelle Rosenthal
Aditi Kambuj, City of Seattle	Mike Stewart
David Goldberg, City of Seattle	Andrew Nagel
Cyndi Wilder, City of Seattle	Brian D. Scott
Katherine Ball	<i>Others – please add name</i>
Mindy Byers	

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#### **Introduction**

Introductions were made. Mike Stewart opened up the meeting.

#### **Urban Design and Transportation Advisory Group Objective**

The group discussed what the overall objective of this advisory group should be. Looking through the 2013 Framework recommendations, Mike Stewart suggested they come up with four principles and organize the list of guidelines according to which principle it relates to.

#### **Strategic Direction Discussion: Group Objective Ideas**

- Preserve historic Ballard, market street, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 26th
- Recommendations to change city code in regard to maintaining ambiance of area (setback limitations, limitations on height, etc. that can be changed)
- How to make this place easy to get to, fun to come to, for a lot of people. To create a desirable place and preserve the character of the neighborhood.
- How to incorporate transit and urban design into our strategic objective
- Look into the quality and type of transit in Ballard instead of just focusing on access, addressing design of transit

#### **Final Strategic Direction**

- "Preserve and Enhance the Quality and Character of Ballard" best encompasses the group's objective

#### **Four Principles and Guidelines**

As a starting point for organizing the guidelines set forth in the 2013 Framework, the group discussed each guideline and classified it under one of the four principles (Character of Development, Mobility, Economy, and Livability).

### **Character of Development**

- Create hierarchy of great streets and public spaces (with special attention to Market Street as well as Ballard Avenue)
- Preserve the historic character of neighborhoods areas while encouraging design quality and variety in build environment

### **Mobility**

- Balance the mobility needs of pedestrians, bicycles, cars, freight, and transit
- Prepare for potential high capacity transit investment

### **Economy**

- Support a vibrant Downtown Ballard business district
- Protect and enhance Ballard's thriving industries while ensuring appropriate balance between maritime/industrial, office, retail, restaurants, nightlife, and livability of residents
- Support affordable housing

### **Livability**

- Create effective connections between private and public spaces (also filed under Character of Development)
- Protect and support sustainability and green spaces (also filed under Character of Development)
- Embrace community health as a fundamental planning philosophy
- Consider views and connections to iconic streetscape, nature, and the water (also filed under Character of Development)

### **Guidelines and Four Principles Discussion Highlights:**

- Design review should encompass street, exterior of building, and the space in between
- Preserving neighborhoods, what does this mean? Should we push for Market street to be protected?
- Should we create an inventory of building to be protected? Those outside of the core?
- Connections between neighborhoods, open up parks that have been walled off, how to do that?
- Livability should be separate from development
- Childcare and affordable housing are needed in the area
- Discussion over quality vs thoughtful affordable housing. Should we strive for thoughtfully built housing that fits in the neighborhood or quality that doesn't match
- Affordable childcare would be a good attraction to the area

### **Open House Boards Review**

The group looked over the boards for the Open house that David Goldberg and Aditi Kambuj prepared. Comments and discussion took place about how to improve upon the boards before the upcoming meeting.