Capitol Hill Design Guidelines Update – Work Group meeting #3

Meeting Summary
September 19th, 2017

Work Group Members present
☑ Leslie Bain  ☐ Jess Blanch  ☑ Whitney Fraser  ☑ Mike Mariano
☑ Brian Baker  ☐ Lana Blinderman  ☐ Hannah Faires  ☐ Erik Rundell
☑ Matthew Benedict  ☑ McCaela Daffern  ☐ Phyllis Gretchenuk  ☑ Saunatina Sanchez
☑ Don Blakeney  ☐ John Feit  ☑ Rob Ketcherside  ☑ Alicia Daniels Uhlig

Staff present
☑ Christina Ghan (SDCI)  ☑ Patrice Carroll (OPCD)  ☑ Janet Shull (OPCD)  ☑ Aaron Hursey (OPCD)

Additional Attendees
☑ Melissa Wechsler (Consultant)

On September 19th, 2017, the Third work group session was held at 12th Ave Arts (1620 12th Ave) in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle. The meeting was cohosted by the City of Seattle’s Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD) and Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) and the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict, a project of Capitol Hill Housing. The work group, which consists of over a dozen renters, homeowners, and business owners who live, work, and/or socialize in the Capitol Hill Neighborhood, will help with the update/revision of the current Capitol Hill Neighborhood Guidelines. The goals of this meeting were to 1) Review feedback and identify key themes from the walking tours, 2) discuss how key themes relate to design guideline categories, 3) Discuss key themes that are missing from the existing design guidelines, and 4) Discuss community outreach and engagement process.

The meeting was attended by 12 work group members, 4 city employees, and one staff member from Runberg Architecture Group, the project consultant. The meeting was facilitated by Melissa Wechsler, of Runberg Architecture Group; McCaela Daffern, of Capitol Hill Housing; Janet Shull, of OPCD; and Christina Ghan, of SDCI. The meeting began with a summary of the walking tours held on Tuesday, August 22nd and Thursday, August 24th. Work group members and staff introduced themselves, reviewed housekeeping rules, approved meeting minutes from the July 25th work group meeting, and began discussing how to approach the community engagement phase of the design guideline update process.

Melissa Wechsler introduced key themes that were identified in previous mapping exercises and walking tours. Identified themes were placed into the following three categories, which exist in the current design guidelines:

- Context & Site
- Public Life
- Design Concept
After the presentation, the work group divided into three sub groups based on the three categories. Each sub group, which consisted of at least three members and one staff member, discussed how to better address neighborhood specific issues associated with their category. The exercise lasted 30 minutes, after which everyone reconvened to share and discuss their ideas with the whole group.

Staff then discussed the community outreach and engagement process with work group members. The community outreach process will include a community meeting. Staff and work group members discussed possible meeting dates and meeting structure as well as the role work group members will have during the meeting. Group members recommended conducting broader outreach through the use of online tools and surveys. Group members also suggested coordinating meeting with other city lead neighborhood initiatives and/or attending other community meetings within the Capitol Hill Neighborhood to increase awareness.