



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Rick Mohler and Jamie Stroble, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, September 08, 2022

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Mark Braseth, McCaela Daffern, Roque Deherrera, David Goldberg, Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Rick Mohler, Radhika Nair, Dhyana Quintanar, Julio Sanchez, Lauren Squires, Jamie Stroble, Kelabe Tewolde

Commissioners Absent: Patience Malaba, Alanna Peterson

Commission Staff: Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Olivia Baker, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission Coordinator

Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/meetings>

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Co-Chair Jamie Stroble called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Co-Chair Stroble offered the following land acknowledgement:

'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, we'd like to actively recognize that we are on Indigenous land, the traditional and current territories of the Coast Salish people who have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We acknowledge the role that traditional western-centric planning practices have played in harming, displacing, and attempting to erase Native communities. We commit to identifying racist practices and strive to center restorative land stewardship rather than unsustainable and extractive use of the land.'

Co-Chair Stroble asked fellow Commissioners to review the Color Brave Space norms and asked for volunteers to select one or more of the norms to read aloud. She reminded Commissioners that they have collectively agreed to abide by these norms.

ACTION: Commissioner McCaela Daffern moved to approve the August 25, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner David Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting where some Commissioners are participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff are participating in person in the Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall. She noted that public comment could be submitted in writing at least eight hours before the start of the Commission meeting or provided in person by any members of the public attending the meeting at City Hall. Ms. Murdock announced that Dalton Owens has joined the Commission as its latest Get Engaged member. Mr. Owens introduced himself and provided an overview of his background.

Briefing: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Wayne Barnett, Executive Director, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Mr. Barnett provided a brief history of the relationship between the Planning Commission and the Ethics Commission. He stated that the Ethics Code is intended to provide confidence in government. Mr. Barnett provides advice about the Ethics Code as well as enforcement of the Code. He provided an overview of relevant aspects of the Code that apply to the Planning Commission.

- Conflicts would result when an issue before the Commission specifically relate to an individual Commissioner's financial interest, whether that be their family or business.
- Disclosures are required when a Commissioner's judgement might be impacted by an outside influence or an interest in an external matter.
- Gifts cannot be accepted by Commissioners because that might be seen as influence.

Mr. Barnett stated that a general rule for Commissioners is to be aware of misusing their position for their own benefit or for influence.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners asked for more information regarding gifts, specifically examples such as whether Commissioners are prohibited from buying dinner for another Commissioner. Mr. Barnett stated that this is not prohibited unless a Commissioner is attempting to buy influence in an election for Commission Chair or any similar situations.
- Commissioners asked whether there are any rules around talking about Commission business outside of meetings. Mr. Barnett stated that this is not a concern related to the Ethics Code, but it is an Open Public Meetings issue.
- Commissioners inquired whether a disclosure is required if a Commissioner is a member of a consultant team, but not an owner or co-owner of the consulting firm, working on a project that the Commission is discussing. Mr. Barnett stated that his recommendation would be for disclosure. Whether recusal is necessary would be a matter for individual Commissioners and the Commission to discuss.

In conclusion, Mr. Barnett stated that just because something does not violate the Ethics Code, Commissioners should keep in mind that the public is paying attention.

SPC upcoming and work to date on the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan major update

DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS: Commissioner Radhika Nair disclosed that her employer, Berk Consulting, is the lead consultant for the City on the Comprehensive Plan Major Update. Co-Chair Jamie Stroble disclosed that she is a subcontractor for one of the community-based organizations that received a Comprehensive Plan community engagement grant from the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD). Commissioner McCaela Daffern disclosed that her employer, King County, is establishing a new Comprehensive Plan review process and will be reviewing the housing-related components of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan when completed. Commissioner Roque Deherrera disclosed that he works for a lender and developer that works in Seattle, and that he also personally develops properties in Seattle. Commissioner Mark Braseth disclosed that he is a general contractor building primarily multifamily housing.

Ms. Murdock provided an overview of the Commission's recommended overarching themes for the Comprehensive Plan Major Update. The Commission sent a letter to the Mayor with these themes. In 2022, the Commission has been working on a series of topic-specific issue briefs as follows:

- Growth Strategy Issue Brief, February 2022
- Anti-Displacement Issue Brief, March 2022
- Repurposing the Right-of-Way Issue Brief (working title), in development
- Affordable Housing Issue Brief, in development

The Commission has already and will continue to participate in Environmental Review of the Plan. The Commission submitted its scoping comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2022, will review and comment on the Draft EIS in 2023, and will review the Final EIS in 2024.

Ms. Murdock reviewed a list of the elements that may be included in the Major Update. The Growth Management Act requires many of these elements. She stated that, in the past, the Commission has provided input on several elements of the Comprehensive Plan. During the Seattle 2035 update, the Commission chose to review and provide input on the growth strategy, land use, transportation and housing elements. She noted that the Commission will continue its work on the Comprehensive Plan during the remainder of 2022, including a briefing from the Office of Sustainability and the Environment on how they will engage with the Major Update, a briefing from OPCD on the Growth Strategy alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners asked for more information about what has been heard from the community regarding what they would like the Commission to review. Ms. Murdock stated that OPCD discussed their community engagement efforts and early results at the August 25 meeting.
- Commissioners inquired about the Community Involvement element. Ms. Murdock stated that element was new in the last Comprehensive Plan. It pertains to community involvement in all of the City's planning efforts, not only the Comprehensive Plan.

- Commissioners asked about the next steps for the Repurposing the Right-of-Way issue brief. John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, stated that the latest draft of the issue brief will be reviewed at the September 15 Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting.
- Commissioners asked about opportunities to learn more about the Seattle Transportation Plan (STP) from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). Ms. Murdock stated that Commission staff are working on scheduling a joint briefing from OPCD and SDOT on the relationship between the Major Update and the STP.
- Commissioners asked if the list of elements provided represents those likely to be included in the Plan. Ms. Murdock stated that the scoping report has not yet been released. OPCD staff will be reviewing comments received during the scoping period and community engagement. A climate change element may be added a separate chapter or included in the Environment element.
- Commissioners expressed the need for caution when saying “the community” as there is not only one community. OPCD shared a summary of their initial community survey including demographic information that only represents a subsection of the community – for example, those who have internet access. OPCD should identify who they are not hearing from.
- Commissioners stated that climate change should be included in multiple elements of the Plan. Recent trends including flooding and reliability of the electric grid demonstrate the importance of including these issues. Likewise, public health should be included in multiple sections, not only in the community well-being element.
- Commissioners requested more information on the OPCD timeline for development of the Plan and how the Commission will provide input. Ms. Murdock stated that the Commission will begin substantial review and comment on the Plan next year.
- Commissioners expressed interest in another briefing with OPCD staff to hear more about community engagement efforts and, more specifically, how the voting results from the community engagement hub will be included in the Plan alternatives.
- Commissioners discussed the overarching theme related to reparations and racial equity outcomes. Commissioners who worked on the overarching themes letter stated that the theme of reparations in this context is intended to identify opportunities for racially specific harms that can be repaired. For example, neighborhoods that were divided by transportation infrastructure projects.
- Commissioners requested more information about the overarching theme related to graphic design. Ms. Murdock stated that was a carryover from the last Comprehensive Plan update. At the time, Commissioners had requested that OPC make the document easier to read and navigate.
- Commissioners noted that people are moving to our region because of climate change; this will affect our growth strategy and housing prices. Commissioners stated that the data on this issue is inconclusive at this point. The Puget Sound Regional Council does not currently make any accommodations for climate migration in their data collection and analysis.

Resources

[One Seattle Plan Phase 1 Engagement Report: Early Engagement, January-June 2022](#)

[Seattle – Future City: Resilience Roadmap](#), 100 Resilient Cities

[Seattle’s Resilience Roadmap Lacks a Cohesive Vision for the Future](#), The Urbanist, September 9, 2019

[Seattle Planning Commission letter on overarching themes for the Comprehensive Plan Major Update](#), August 13, 2021

[Governor Jay Inslee signs legislation to end exclusionary housing policies in Washington](#), Futurewise, May 12, 2021

[Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1220, Emergency Shelters and Housing—Local Planning and Development](#), Washington Legislature 2021 Regular Session

[2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies](#): policies H-6 and H-10 (pp. 40-41)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.