



**City of Seattle  
Seattle Planning Commission**

Amalia Leighton, Chair  
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 11, 2014  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Austin, Luis Borrero, David Cutler, Grace Kim, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, Kara Martin, Marj Press, Matt Roewe, David Shelton, Lauren Squires, Patti Wilma

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Catherine Benotto, Brad Khouri, Tim Parham,

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Jesseca Brand - Policy Analyst, Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**GUESTS**

Patrice Carroll, David Goldberg, Tom Hauger, Dave LaClergue, Nora Liu, Susan McLain, DPD

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Irene Wall, Bill Bradburd, Stephen Yamada, 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**

- **Chair's Report & Minutes Approval**
  - Chair Amalia Leighton

Chair Leighton called the meeting to attention at 3:08pm

Action: Commissioner Michael Austin moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Marj Press seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Briefing: Area Planning Approach**

- Dave LaClergue, Nora Liu, Susan McLain, DPD

- Seattle had Neighborhood Planning as far back as 1970's, but it was very limited in scope.
- 38 neighborhood plan in total in the first run in 1994-1997 created by community with City financial support.

- The current program is separated into two tracks 1. Community Development working with communities that are historically disadvantaged and 2. Urban Design Frameworks which focus in communities that have experienced a lot of change to the physical environment.

If you would like to view the power point presentation on the Area Planning Approach, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

### **Commissioner Comments and Questions**

Commissioners stated that they were grateful for the update and asked that this information be more readily available to the public. They noted that there was confusion on whether or not the information was located within DPD's website or if you had to go to the Department of Neighborhoods website to find the relevant information.

Commissioners expressed their concern with the amount of time that an Urban Design Framework process can take from scope to rezone can be as long as 8 years. Commissioners noted that they were curious if there was a means to speed the process up so that community could participate without exhaustion.

Commissioners expressed interest in individual neighborhood plans and whether or not the addition of more and more diverse communities around the table changed the vision for these plans. Department staff responded that visions remained almost entirely the same. Commissioners questioned the panel on the inclusion of social equity and health in the vision conversation. Department staff replied that the visions were too high level for that kind of detail.

Commissioners asked for clarity on the Urban Design Framework (UDF). They wondered if it goes before council and is it an adopted piece of work. They also asked if there were some advantages to making it regulatory if it is not. Department staff answered that the Council is briefed throughout the UDF process but the only regulatory tool is a rezone and Design Guidelines.

### **Briefing: Comprehensive Plan**

- Patrice Carroll, Tom Hauger, DPD

If you would like to view the power point presentations on the Urban Design Framework, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

### **Commissioner Comments and Questions**

Commissioners shared that they continue to be interested in incorporating equity into the final adopted plan and requested any best practices that could be beneficial to see before their review of the draft.

Commissioners expressed their interest in how the work of the Equitable Development Initiative might be incorporated into the draft. Department staff responded that the equitable work is ongoing and that how it will be incorporated is still unknown at this time.

Commissioners expressed interest in the upcoming equity analysis. Department staff clarified that the equity analysis would be part of the Environmental Impact Statement and evaluating the impacts of each of the growth alternatives.

Commissioners expressed concern with the current adopted plans duplicative and overly prescriptive policies. Department staff responded that they had many different levels of scrutiny on this issue and had hired an editor to address this concern.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Bradburd introduced himself as a member of the Seattle Neighborhood Coalition. He stated that the Neighborhood Plan process was good and that there were many dedicated individuals that are still as committed to their neighborhoods now as they were then. He added that he felt that the Department of Planning and Development could do a better job of outreach to neighborhoods as many still don't understand the Urban Design Framework process and rezones often come as a surprise to some. Mr. Bradburd noted that the Comprehensive Plan should include metrics. He added that home ownership is still the American Dream and building equity in a home is still the best way to achieve that dream. He concluded that it is important not to allow new growth and changes to the community to jeopardize this fact.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Leighton adjourned the meeting at 5:08pm