



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

Josh Brower, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2011
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chair – Josh Brower, Vice Chair – Leslie Miller, Kadie Bell, Catherine Benotto, Colie Hough-Beck, Mark Johnson, Martin Kaplan, Bradley Khouri, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, Radhika Nair, Christopher Persons, Matt Roewe

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

David Cutler, Kay Knapton, Kevin McDonald

COMMISSION STAFF

Barbara Wilson-Director, Katie Sheehy-Planning Analyst, Robin Magonegil-Administrative Staff Assistant, Diana Canzoneri-Demographer

GUESTS

Ethan Raup, Doris Koo, Mayor's Office; Marshall Foster, Brennon Staley, Kristian Kofoed, DPD; Darby Watson, Sara Robertson, SDOT; Tracy Morgenstern, OSE; Ketil Freeman, Council Central Staff

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 Josh Brower called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- **Approve: January 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

ACTION: Commissioner Leslie Miller moved to approve the January 27, 2011 minutes; Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- **Chair's Report**

Chair Brower noted the upcoming committee meetings. Executive Director Wilson called attention to the upcoming training that will happen in lieu of the next Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Wilson also noted the "Save the Date" for April 13th Comp Plan/Sustainable Initiative Kick off.

BRIEFINGS

- **Briefing: Sustainable Communities Initiative and 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update**
 - Ethan Raup, Doris Koo, Mayor's office; Marshall Foster, DPD

Chair Brower welcomed Ethan Raup, Doris Koo and Marshall Foster.

Mr. Raup gave a brief overview of the Sustainable Communities Initiative. He noted that Marshall Foster from DPD and Jill Simmons from OSE are both working on it. Mr. Raup stated that the vision is very consistent and there is an effort to reach out to underserved communities that have been traditionally been left out. Mr. Raup expressed that the Commission has a major role in the update of the Comprehensive Plan. He encouraged the Commissioners to follow the Transit Master Plan closely as it will be the blue print for transit going forward. Mr. Raup noted that they are nearing the first phase and will be briefing City Council early this month and that phase 2 should be done in June. He added that this also coincides with looking at the blueprint more broadly for funding options and for a long term funding strategy.

Marshall Foster reported on the Comp Plan schedule and noted that they want the Comp Plan to be a tool for the entire City. He stated that they wanted to start off with a broader structure for the vision. Mr. Foster noted that this provides a lens for a tool to talk about a whole set of issues – shared prosperity, climate and energy, things that we don't know how to talk about yet – public health, cultural values, education, and ideas that are a way to reframe the discussion around how growth can improve cities. Mr. Foster noted that they know that they want a more tangible vision and that they will have to wrestle with some of the conflicts and to find ways to focus our policy direction. Mr. Foster stated that infrastructure is another big topic and the alignment with necessary and essential components of livability. He added that they would like to put forward an urban design element. Mr. Foster reported that in the fall there would be public outreach and that by the fall they would like to see regulation around what the scope of the update should be. He added that, based on that, they will draft revisions to the elements with the first draft in March of 2012. Mr. Foster continued that by the first quarter of 2013 the full update should be brought forward for adoption. He finished with noting that he really wants to work with the Commission regarding putting together a strategy.

Doris Koo introduced herself and noted that she has recently joined the team as an advisor to the Mayor's office. She added that she believes that a great City is one where you have seamless integration, festive market place, and equal opportunity in harmony with Nature. Ms. Koo stated that one her of tasks to help create civic ownership and to work with other stakeholders.

Ms. Wilson asked if there was anything that they would like to ask the Commissioners. Mr. Raup replied that he was curious to hear their thoughts about the vision for the Comp Plan update.

Commissioner Hough Beck asked about parks and open space and how they fit into the vision. Brennon Staley responded that parks are a critical element of the urban form and also serve as gathering places. He noted that the challenge is to show how parks and open space fit lots of different categories.

Commissioner Mark Johnson noted that, with 37 urban villages/centers, he feels that we have lots of places that we focus on. He added that the Comp Plan is more for the bigger picture and that we want all of these places to be great but we can't do all 37 communities as once as there are not enough resources. Commissioner Johnson asked if they saw this as a part of the process. Mr. Raup responded that he had forgotten to mention the goal of better connecting the CIP with plans and they have just started to do that.

He added that there has not been a lot of that direct connection in the past but that they are getting their hands around the broader issues of lack of central oversight and trying to make the linkage more direct.

Commissioner Bradley Khouri encouraged the visibility of parks and open space and noted that we lack really sizable, quality open spaces that are accessible to lots of people. He wondered what happens if the word sustainable is crossed out and if that is the identity that Seattle wants. Commissioner Khouri added that it is very neighborhood orientated and that is both a strength and a weakness.

Commissioner Amalia Leighton noted that she appreciated the infrastructure component but that we don't have capacity in the sewer system. She suggested that they think about reasonable statements, look at what SPU has done and make the document usable.

Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa noted that the graphic is very important. She suggested making the City the bigger circle and having everything else within it. Ms. Koo responded that it is the first impression and that they really don't want on the wrong foot. Ms. Wilson added that it was her understanding that the Commission will have an opportunity to review and that they are working with a communications consultant.

Commissioner Martin Kaplan expressed his excitement and noted that while he was running for City Council everyone asked him about the strategic plan. He stated that it was a real problem that there wasn't a strategy and he is very excited that they are talking about strategy and the comp plan at the same time. Commissioner Kaplan wondered what happens when you take away the idea that the comp plan is something for everyone. He added that it might take longer than a couple of years and that the Commission is here to help. Mr. Raup responded that if it is not everything to all people there will be controversies and noted that this pointed out how important it would be for the Commission to take a leadership role in this as the Commission has a broader vision than any specific neighborhood would.

Commissioner Catherine Benotto noted that the natural systems underlying Seattle gives this City a strong character and a sense of place. She suggested marrying the natural systems with new development. Mr. Foster replied that is one of the strongest themes coming out of the urban design element. He added that they want to elevate ideas about the role of nature in our city.

Commissioner Matt Roewe stated the he loved the idea of the 20 minute neighborhood and suggested that they acknowledge Seattle's place in the region, state and the world. Mr. Foster replied that they have been working with Barbara, Josh and Leslie and that they would like to come back with a more focused discussion regarding usability and an update of specific elements.

Commission Radhika Nair stated that she was really excited about the urban design element and could not believe that we had not had one yet. She added that it would be great to have analysis and that if you can see how the city has evolved it helps people make better decisions.

Commissioner Chris Person noted that the more the Comp Plan is actionable the more useful it will be. He added that regarding density, to make sure the CIPs are coordinated and make the larger goals clear.

Chair Brower thanks Marshall, Ethan and Doris for their time.

- **Briefing: King Street Station Multimodal Hub**
 - Darby Watson, Sara Robertson, SDOT

Chair Brower called for any disclosures and recusals.

Disclosures:

- Commissioner Bradley Khouri disclosed that his office, b9 architects, is across the street from King Street Station.
- Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that her firm, Weber Thompson, worked on the North Lot for SHA and a private developer.
- Commissioner Colie Hough Beck disclosed that her firm, HBB, has a contract with SDOT.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that he has passive ownership interest in a building that is near the HUB.

Sarah Robertson gave a brief overview of the King Street Station Multimodal Hub covering the planning horizon, strategy, the scope of work, and outreach. She noted that this is one of three hubs in downtown Seattle and that this hub encompasses buses, light rail, commuter rail, streetcar, pedestrians, bicyclists, traffic and freight. She also noted its close proximity to Colman Dock. Ms. Robertson shared her excitement regarding the planning study and noted the goals for the Hub: easy to use, accessible, connected, embedded and iconic. Ms. Robertson noted that they are currently doing a lot of public involvement. She concluded with talking about their goal of having a plan, recommendations, and project sheets in order to have an initial sense of the costs in order to get grants and to leverage funding from other projects.

Darby Watson reported on the idea of closing the 2nd Ave extension to traffic and the options for how to do this. She also reported that the King Street Station restoration includes a grand stairway and connections once the 2nd and 3rd floors are finished. She added that these connections will eventually have weather protection. Ms. Watson stated that they would like to improve the bicycle-pedestrian connection between King Street and the Chinatown/ID. She mentioned alleys and the hopes of making the alleys clean, green and focusing on prioritizing pedestrian improvements. She concluded with stating that they appreciate the comments of the Commission.

Commissioner Radhika Nair wondered how buildings could be the front door to the civic spaces and asked about the planning study. Ms. Watson replied that it is a transportation plan and since there is not money for it they are hoping to get it on someone's CIP list. Commissioner Nair asked if there were recommendations about uses and Ms. Watson replied that is for the Livable South Downtown Plan.

Director Wilson asked if, regarding the roadway structures, retrofit and replacement, would that be City funded and could it be moved up? Ms. Watson answered yes it would be City funded but that they would have to ask the structures folks and she was not sure that they could be done at the same time.

Commissioner Kaplan noted that he believed there had to be consensus around building in those gaps and couldn't that move ahead. Ms. Watson replied that they are getting info from the Daniels development and figuring out the numbers to know what it would take to do the other projects. She added that 2030 seems realistic. Commissioner Kaplan noted that they had not mentioned the deep bore tunnel and he wondered about the need for the 2nd Ave extensions. Ms. Watson responded that they had thought about that and they have a model that includes the tunnel and the impacts. She added that when they look at alternatives, they will include that.

Commissioner Colie Hough Beck noted that whenever alleys are mentioned, she thinks of Post Alley and wondered if the City owns that? Ms. Watson answered that the City owns Post Alley up to the Pike Place Market. Commissioner Hough Beck asked what the permits for uses are there. Ms. Watson replied that they

are looking toward festival streets legislation. They would like to have it set up like food market permits and they are trying to make it easier to permit those. She added that they are also moving forward with mobile food vending.

Commissioner Bradley Khouri stated that his office is at the alley between 2nd and 3rd on Jackson. He wondered why, since Occidental is on the map, that street can't grow and what other ones could be created. He added that there is not much activity but the pedestrian activity could be increased by improving the sidewalk.

Commissioner Matt Roewe stated that it was a great plan and that he liked taking the street out of the equation. He wondered if the street car would be stopping there. Ms. Robertson explained the location and noted that there are lots of transit stops and limitations to ROW about what can be put there. She added that they did not want to put a street car on the lidded structure. Commissioner Roewe stated that it seemed like it would make sense to put the stops at the station.

Commissioner Khouri asked if green streets included looking at the paving surfaces. Ms. Watson answered that it includes the whole range and could include paving.

Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa noted that they mentioned the kiss & ride drop off and wondered if that occurs on Jackson along with the streetcar, bikes and etc., how they work together. Ms. Watson responded that it would be a signage change for kiss & ride.

Ms. Watson noted that draft recommendations will be in May and the final recommendations by the end of the year.

Chair Josh Brower thanked Darby and Sarah.

▪ **Commissioner Business**

Ms. Wilson asked if there were any issues that the Commissioners would like to discuss.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the draft shoreline master program came out with policies and regulations to replace the existing shoreline regulations. He noted that it tries to do a better job of restoring habitat values but added that the houseboat community went to their state representative to ask that houseboats be taken out of the regulations. Commissioner Johnson stated that their argument is that the rules are just too hard and it would displace them.

Ms. Wilson noted that in regards to the discussion with Ethan, Doris and Marshall, that there will be an ad hoc committee convened that may include other stakeholders and asked if any commissioners were interested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brower adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.