



City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission

Grace Kim, Chair
Valerie Kinast, Interim Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Eileen Canola, Lauren Craig, Sandra Fried, Grace Kim, Kara Martin, Tim Parham, Marj Press, David Shelton, Lauren Squires, Patti Wilma

Commissioners Absent: Michael Austin, Keiko Budech, David Goldberg, Jake McKinstry, Julio Sanchez, Jamie Stroble

Commission Staff: Katy Haima, Planning Analyst; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst

Guests: Wayne Barnett, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission; Diane Wiatr, Seattle Department of Transportation; Gary Johnson, Office of Planning and Community Development

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:

<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/when-we-meet/minutes-and-agendas>

Chair's Report

Chair Grace Kim called the meeting to order at 7:33 am. She provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Minutes Approval

Chair Kim asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes from the January 26 meeting. Commissioner Marj Press proposed revised language to the section of the minutes describing the Planning Commission Officer Elections.

Commissioner Eileen Canola moved to adopt the revised January 26, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Tim Parham seconded the motion. The motion to approve the revised minutes passed.

Announcements

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission Policy Analyst, made several announcements and provided a brief overview of the Commission's mini-retreat on February 9th. The primary outcome of the mini-retreat was to confirm many of the Commission's ongoing work plan priorities while also identifying some new operational items and Commission-generated issues for further exploration. The next steps for these work plan priorities will be discussed at the next meeting on March 9th.

Briefing: Boards and Commissions Ethics

Wayne Barnett, Executive Director, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Mr. Barnett provided a brief overview of the role of the Ethics Commission as related to City boards and commissions. He discussed the importance of disclosures and recusals for Planning Commissioners to identify and disclose any

potential conflicts of interest when taking action on topics addressed by the Commission. Commissioners must recuse themselves if they have financial interest in the action. Otherwise, Commissioners must disclose any other involvement in the topic. For example, a Commissioner would need to disclose if they have served as a consultant on the subject being addressed by the Commission.

Discussion: Pedestrian Master Plan draft letter

Commission staff John Hoey

If you would like to view the draft letter on the Pedestrian Master Plan, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes' section of our website.

Mr. Hoey presented an overview of the draft letter, including areas for support and additional recommendations.

Commission Discussion

- There is a significant need for pedestrian improvements and not enough funding. Increase funding options beyond the Pedestrian Master Plan implementation fund.
- Recommend compiling a sidewalk conditions inventory to serve as the baseline for performance monitoring.
- Coordinate timing of multiple infrastructure improvements in specific locations.
- Support Safe Routes to Schools as a priority, but also should focus on other high-priority opportunities.

Briefing: One Center City

Diane Wiatr, Seattle Department of Transportation; Gary Johnson, Office of Planning and Community Development

If you would like to view the presentation on the One Center City project, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes' section of our website.

Ms. Wiatr and Mr. Johnson provided an overview of the One Center City project. This integrated planning project will create a 20-year plan for how residents, commuters, and visitors move through, connect to, and experience Seattle's Center City neighborhoods. One Center City is a public/private partnership between the City of Seattle, King County, Sound Transit, and the Downtown Seattle Association. The project is currently in the early process of developing recommendations. Over the next year, the plan will set priorities for how we use our streets, make sure that all the pieces of our transportation system work together, and identify opportunities to enhance the public realm.

- Approximately ¼ million people currently move through the Center City every day; this number is expected to grow significantly over the project's planning period.
- This project will identify an action plan for the near-term, mid-term, and 20-year planning horizons.
- A 35-member Advisory Group has been meeting since September to discuss issues and form recommendations.
- New Downtown Seattle Association data showed that 70% of downtown commuters travel by modes other than single-occupant vehicles. That percentage has not increased despite tremendous growth in downtown jobs.
- Near-term mobility strategies are being considered to address the planned removal of buses from the downtown tunnel in 2019. Options include transit restructuring to keep as many buses as possible out of downtown.
- Metro and Sound Transit will need to conduct extensive community engagement.
- Online open house will collect public input on near-term mobility strategies and options.
- The project will identify opportunities to improve the public realm in coordination with transportation projects.
- Mobility hubs provide opportunities to incorporate evolving transportation technology and integrated trip planning.

Commission Discussion

- The removal of buses from the downtown tunnel is planned to accommodate expansion of the convention center. Consider shifting convention center construction to 2021 when additional light rail stations open, reducing the need for a significant number of buses to come into the downtown core.
- SDOT should be more aggressive in getting the message out around the reductions in single-occupant vehicle use that this project will require.
- There are a lot of opportunities to improve the public realm. Prioritize areas that continue to attract illegal activity and feel unsafe, such as 3rd Avenue and between 1st and 4th Avenues/Pike and Pine.
- Include homelessness perspectives in the Advisory Board discussions.
- Cities such as London have implemented congestion pricing to reduce personal vehicle use and are very livable. Consider tools to discourage single-occupant vehicles within the Center City project area.
- Conduct outreach to neighborhoods outside of the Center City project area. All regional traffic will be affected.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Wiatr and Mr. Johnson for their presentation. Recognizing that the One Center City project is still in the early phases of developing recommendations, the Planning Commission will look forward to additional presentations as the project moves forward.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.