



**City of Seattle  
Seattle Planning Commission**

Amalia Leighton, Chair  
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION  
JULY 23, 2015  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Austin, Lauren Craig, Sandra Fried, Yolanda Ho, Grace Kim, Kara Martin, Jake McKinstry, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Spencer Williams, Patti Wilma

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Luis Borrero, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, David Shelton, Lauren Squires

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Jeseca Brand - Policy Analyst, Diana Canzoneri - Demographer, Robin Magonegil - Administrative Assistant, Vanessa Murdock – Executive Director

**GUESTS**

Gary Johnson, DPD; Paul Gracy, Sgt. SPD

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cindi Barker, Molly Esteve, Kevin McDonald

***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**

Vice-Chair Marj Press

Vice-Chair Press called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Commissioner Grace Kim moved to approve the July 9, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Kara Martin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Executive Director, Vanessa Murdock briefly reported on previous meetings and called attention to upcoming meetings.

Ms. Murdock introduced the new incoming Get Engaged Commissioner, Molly Esteve.

## **Discussion: Response to Housing Affordability and Livability Advisory Committee (HALA) recommendations and Mayor's Plan Briefing**

If you would like to view the documents presented on the HALA recommendations, they are included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

### **Commission Discussion:**

The Commissioners discussed the potential for additional HALA workgroups and advisory committees that may be formed to further refine the recommendations, although none have been created to date. Several Commissioners expressed interest in participating and agreed to forward to staff their individual interest.

The Commissioners expressed their interest in gaining a basic knowledge of all of the 65 HALA recommendations even if there is not time to formally weigh in on them all. There was general agreement that extra work may be necessary and acceptable to review and comment on the recommendations.

The Commissioners discussed the Commercial Linkage Fee specifically and staff recommendation to forgo detailed analysis of the new program. They also expressed interest in reviewing the Commercial Linkage Fee and directed staff to continue tracking the issue and identify ways for the Commission to provide input within the short timeline of Council deliberation.

### **Briefing: Downtown Livability**

- Gary Johnson, DPD ; Sgt. Paul Gracy, SPD

If you would like to view the documents presented on Downtown Livability, they are included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

- The 9 ½ block strategy was born out of deep concern by businesses, community members and the City over the concentration of the open air drug market, and the trafficking of stolen goods and prostitution within a small area of the City.
- The strategy was to radically disrupt the environment in just those 9 ½ blocks – moving the heavily used bus stops one block day-lighted the crime and disrupting the physical space with barriers helped to keep individuals moving. There was additional work by the Seattle Police Department to increase police presence and address criminal behavior.

### **Commission Discussion:**

The Commissioners expressed concern with the area before these measures were implemented and commended the City and Police Department on their efforts, noting in particular their work in making the streets less hospitable for criminal activity and the public private partnership created to activate the plan for Westlake Park.

The Commissioners requested information on future funding for the program, and inquired whether or not the criminal activity has dispersed. The Commissioners were supportive of the collaborative approach that the City, Police and social service organizations were taking to approach these issues and they reiterated that it is not an issue that the City can arrest its way out of.

The Commissioners discussed the need for this kind of intervention in both Pioneer Square and Peter Steinbrueck Park. They also discussed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cindi Barker spoke to the HALA recommendations and commented that the Commission has a role in educating people on the entire package. She noted that the City Neighborhood Council is reviewing the HALA recommendations alongside the major Comprehensive Plan update and will be helping to educate residents about both as well. Ms. Barker challenged the Commission to focus on those strategies that create the most affordable housing and to lend creative thinking to addressing the issue of displacement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Press adjourned the meeting at 8:58 am.