



**City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission**

Amalia Leighton, Chair
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 22, 2015
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Austin, Luis Borrero, Lauren Craig, Molly Esteve, Sandra Fried, Yolanda Ho, Grace Kim, Amalia Leighton, Kara Martin, Jake McKinstry, Tim Parham, Marj Press, David Shelton, Spencer Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Patti Wilma

COMMISSION STAFF

Diana Canzoneri - Demographer, Robin Magonegil, Administrative Assistant, Vanessa Murdock – Executive Director, Katie Sheehy - Policy Analyst (on loan from DPD)

GUESTS

Robert Feldstein, Office of Policy and Innovation

IN ATTENDANCE

Cindi Barker, Gary Johnson, Molly Lawrence, Tony Mazzella, Aly Pennucci, Natalie Quick, 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 order at 7:31 am.

Commissioner Marj Press moved to approve the October 8, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Spencer Williams seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Commissioner Amalia Leighton abstained.

Chair Leighton reviewed the upcoming meetings and events with the Commissioners. She mentioned the Seattle 2035 meeting at Miller Community Center and asked Commissioner Press to give a brief report.

Commissioner Press noted that there was good information presented. DPD Deputy Director, Nathan Torgelson did not get a lot of questions, but several statements were given in the Q & A portion of the

meeting. Commissioner Parham added that it was well attended and seemed positive. Chair Leighton stated that there are four more of these meetings and encouraged Commissioners to attend.

Briefing: Proposal – Proposed Mayor’s Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD)

- Robert Feldstein, Office of Policy and Innovation

Chair Leighton welcomed Robert Feldstein from the Office of Policy and Innovation.

If you would like to view the document presented on the Mayor’s Office of Planning and Community Development, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute’s section of our website.

Presentation overview: The objective of the proposed OPCD is to help ensure the City supports thriving communities with a mix of amenities, open space, transportation, affordable housing, and educational and economic opportunity to meet current and future community needs, ensuring healthy, sustainable, equitable development across the City.

Two primary divisions, or functions within new Office:

- Research & Analysis - Guide data-driven decisions related to strategic capital investments and planning for growth. Facilitate City-wide data collaboration
- Planning & Implementation- Develop, update and implement plans and citywide initiatives, as informed by the Research and Analysis Division's assessment of data on growth, equity, and other topics.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioners asked how many existing FTE’s (Full Time Equivalent positions) would move from DPD to the new Office. Mr. Feldstein replied that there were 34 from DPD and nine new positions proposed.

Commissioners wondered if every department was going to have a liaison to the new Office. Mr. Feldstein responded that the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Information Technology might not but most other departments would have a liaison.

Commissioners discussed the community plans and public/private partnerships. They suggested that it would be good for the City to more actively pursue those partnerships. Mr. Feldstein noted that Steven Shai, Transit Oriented Development Manager in DPD and staff from the Office of Housing are doing more in this arena. He added that these staff are looking for development opportunities.

The Commissioners asked how the Mayor planned on changing the way DPD Planning Division staff currently functions. Mr. Feldstein replied that staff will be supported by training to promote greater cross department collaboration as well as coordinated data analysis to inform decisions and work.

Commissioners wondered about all the long range planners moving over to OPCD from DPD and whether or not they then become the one point of contact that Mr. Feldstein had referred to. Mr. Feldstein responded that DON will help facilitate discussions within the communities and make sure that a diversity of perspectives are at the table.

The Commissioners shared their concern with the budget proposal that moves one of three and a half full time Planning Commission staff to OPCD. Commissioners added that they are discussing the matter with City Council noting it will impede the Commission’s ability to do all the work that they currently do.

Commissioners expressed the need for coordination of planning efforts within and across neighborhoods, giving an example of adopted street concept plans not being implemented. There was also some discussion regarding ongoing maintenance costs that are not always considered. Mr. Feldstein stated that there will be some aspects of the work coming out of OPCD that will feel really different next year but others may take a while.

Commissioners asked about the liaison model and wondered how it will work. Mr. Feldstein stated that the specific details had not yet been worked out. He added that liaisons might be housed in OPCD some of the time and that there will be IDTs supervised by OPCD.

Chair Leighton thanked Mr. Feldstein for coming.

Discussion: Draft Letter re: Seattle 2035 Public Draft

- **Vanessa Murdock, SPC Executive Director**

If you would like to view the document presented on the Seattle 20135 Public Draft Letter, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minute's section of our website.

Presentation Overview

Major Update to Comprehensive Plan

Overall Comments:

- Appreciate meaningful effort to eliminate redundancy
- Appreciate responses to SPC previous comments
 - ✓ Plan is largely focused on and incorporates equity
 - ✓ SPC comments are particularly reflected in Housing and Transportation
 - ✓ Vast improvement in flexibility in Land Use Element

Urge Mayor to:

- articulate a more explicit vision for an equitable Seattle
- make the plan more accessible and relevant
- monitor our progress to achieve racial and social equity in Seattle

Commission Discussion:

Ms. Murdock explained that the plan was to discuss this letter today and to take action next month. She noted that the proposed structure of the letter mirrors the memo that was sent to Diane Sugimura in April on the internal draft. Ms. Murdock asked if the three main themes seemed right. Commissioners generally agreed that they did.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for all the work that went into the letter. They appreciated that it struck a balance and wondered if it were possible to give more examples of equitable policies in the letter. Ms. Murdock stated that she could send out the drafting of the equity statements for each of the elements that were put together by an IDT from change teams.

Commissioners offered some edits and additions to the letter. They also suggested referencing some language regarding homeless, youth and criminal justice and people who are below the displacement level. Ms. Murdock replied that the Housing element touches on the homeless a bit.

There was some discussion on land use and single family zones, transit communities, walkshed and urban village boundaries.

Commissioners suggested using words that are more accessible to make the letter clearer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Leighton adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am.