



## City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Grace Kim, Chair

Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

### SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Approved Meeting Minutes

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**Commissioners Present:** Michael Austin, Eileen Canola, David Goldberg, Grace Kim, Ellen Lohe, Tim Parham, Marj Press, David Shelton, Patti Wilma

**Commissioners Absent:** Sandra Fried, Kara Martin, Julio Sanchez, Lauren Squires, Jamie Stroble

**Commission Staff:** Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Katy Haima, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Administrative Assistant

**Guests:** Dave LaClergue and Patrice Carroll, Office of Planning and Community Development; Nathan Torgelson and Christina Ghan, Department of Construction and Inspections

*Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript, and represent key points and the basis of discussion.*

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Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

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

#### Chair's Report and Minutes Approval

Chair Grace Kim called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. She provided an overview of the meeting agenda and upcoming Commission meetings. She reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming training sessions on group decision making.

**ACTION: Commissioner Patti Wilma moved to approve the October 12, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner David Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.**

#### Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, announced upcoming community events and meetings. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Office of Planning and Community Development's Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Accessory Dwelling Units Environmental Impact Statement scoping open house meeting later that evening.

#### Discussion and Action: Draft Accessory Dwelling Units EIS Scoping Letter

*John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission Staff*

Mr. Hoey provided an overview of revisions to the draft Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping letter. Revisions were made based on comments made by the Commissioners at the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***If you would like to view the Draft Accessory Dwelling Units EIS Scoping Letter presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.***

The Commissioners suggested several additional revisions to the draft letter.

**ACTION: Commissioner David Shelton moved to approve the Accessory Dwelling Units EIS Scoping Letter with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Wilma seconded the motion. The motion to approve the letter passed.**

### **Briefing: Outside Citywide**

*Dave LaClergue and Patrice Carroll, Office of Planning and Development*

Mr. LaClergue and Ms. Carroll provided an overview of the Outside Citywide inter-departmental open space planning process. Highlights of their presentation included:

- A chart showing Seattle's park system acres vs. population growth since 1960, demonstrating that parkland acquisition can't keep pace with growth.
- A map showing Seattle's public spaces, including parks, shoreline access, linear public spaces, and open space owned by other agencies (e.g. Port of Seattle, Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Housing Authority, etc.)
- Key drivers for the Outside Citywide planning process are racial equity, growth and density, and climate change
- Cross-cutting planning process themes include Connect People + Nature, Cultivate Community Co-Ownership, and Integrate Public Space + Infrastructure
- A series of strategies and outcomes under each of these themes involving various departments

***If you would like to view the Outside Citywide presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.***

### *Commission Discussion*

- Commissioners stated that this project is an opportunity to see how shifts in mobility trends influence public space planning, citing Copenhagen as an example of this influence.
- Commissioners expressed concern that the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) was not included in more of the strategies, including to addressing polluted stormwater runoff. It was stated that transportation-related stormwater runoff is a significant pollutant source and SDOT should have a primary role in addressing this problem.
- Commissioners stated this this planning process is an opportunity to think about challenging land use issues such as how to reduce the number of surface parking lots across the city.
- Commissioners inquired how the City will pay for the additional open space necessary to meet population growth and suggested that this planning process may be an appropriate mechanism to recommend impact fees.
- Commissioners asked about the role of the school district, major institutions, and the Port of Seattle in this planning process. Mr. LaClergue stated that this effort has mostly included City departments to this point, but they have started preliminary conversations with Seattle Public Schools about how school playgrounds and playfields can be included.

Ms. Carroll stated that the planning process will likely have an 18-month timeline leading to a series of formal recommendations for consideration by the City Council. The Commissioners thanked Mr. LaClergue and Ms. Carroll for their briefing and encouraged them to return with regular updates as the Outside Citywide project moves forward.

**Update: Department of Construction and Inspections**

*Nathan Torgelson, Director, and Christina Ghan, Department of Construction and Inspections*

Mr. Torgelson and Ms. Ghan provided an overview of several recent initiatives of the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI). Topics discussed included:

- Recently adopted Design Review legislation, including new thresholds and community outreach process
- New Executive Order on tree protections, including exceptional and hazardous trees standards/review process
- Revised vacant buildings restrictions and demolition standards
- Proposed residential parking requirements that would allow shared parking options
- Policy recommendations for unreinforced masonry buildings
- HALA recommendations for Type 3A construction
- Streamlined permitting for affordable housing projects

Mr. Torgelson stated that SDCI's permit activity for 2017 to date has been about the same as 2016. SDCI issued approximately 6,100 permits between January and August of this year. Ninety percent of those were in Urban Villages, demonstrating that the Comprehensive Plan's Growth Strategy is working well. SDCI is involved with the following notable projects: Rainier Tower, Washington State Convention Center expansion, draft University of Washington Master Plan, and the Key Arena Environmental Impact Statement.

*Commission Discussion*

- Commissioners expressed interest in reviewing the frequent transit map that is being used to determine the proposed residential parking regulations. Commissioners asked if "reliable" transit service is included in those regulations. Mr. Torgelson stated that developers are not required to provide that information and collecting that data is very time consuming for staff.
- Commissioners asked whether the new residential parking regulations include provisions for new high-density parking options that may come with autonomous vehicles. Mr. Torgelson stated that he does not believe that has been incorporated into the new regulations.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Torgelson and Ms. Ghan for their briefing and stated that they look forward to the next regularly-scheduled update.

**There was no public comment provided.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.**