



City of Seattle Seattle Planning Commission

David Cutler and Amalia Leighton, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Catherine Benotto, Luis Borrero, Keely Brown, Brad Khouri, Grace Kim, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Marj Press, Matt Roewe

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

David Cutler, Tim Parham, Morgan Shook

COMMISSION STAFF

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

GUESTS

Scott Kubly, SDOT; Kathy Nyland, Mayor's Office; Nathan Torgelson, DPD

IN ATTENDANCE

Lauren Squires

Please Note: The Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes represent key points and the basis of the discussion.

CALL TO ORDER

- **Chair's Report**
 - Co-Chair Amalia Leighton

Co-Chair Leighton called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

Co-Chair Leighton introduced Lauren Squires, Get Engaged member for the Planning Commission to be appointed at the end of September. Lauren briefly introduced herself.

- **Update:**
 - Nathan Torgelson, DPD Deputy Director

Mr. Torgelson started with staff updates and new hires as well as the record number of permits that have been coming into and through the department - applications representing \$483 million in construction in July, and 72 MUPs a month (2013 average was 57) thus far in 2014. As part of the Comprehensive Plan update DPD invited Manuel Pastor to present on equity and growth. The presentation was well attended and there were some new good insights for the department to consider in the city-wide plan. Also as part of the Comprehensive Plan department staff are working with outreach partners to assist in reaching a new audience. The department is spearheading planning efforts in several neighborhoods at present: Little Saigon, Delridge, Uptown, Central/23rd Avenue and is very close to finishing planning work in Bitter Lake and Haller Lake. Council approved legislation on minimum density and microhousing continues to be discussed.

Commission discussion and questions

Commissioners were interested in better understanding the permit numbers as well as the Department's plan to address citizens' concerns with new growth. In response Mr. Torgelson pointed to the number of planning processes throughout the City and the additional meetings being held in areas of the City that are experiencing the most growth. Mr. Torgelson also commented on the changing demographics of the city as well as the demand for certain types of development.

Commissioners briefly discussed the Design Review process and its role in shaping the quality of development throughout the city. There is a continued interest in Design Review better serving the public while also allowing for a transparent process for developers.

Commissioners requested more clarity on the Comprehensive Plan adoption timeline. Commissioners were particularly concerned with the suggestion that June 2015 may not be achievable.

Commissioners were excited by the Manuel Pastor event and were hopeful that many of the great suggestions would find their way into the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Introduction:**
 - Kathy Nyland, Mayor's Office

Ms. Nyland briefly discussed her work on the Neighborhood Summit, 650 people in attendance, and a continued interest in increasing the number of people involved in civic life. While in the Mayor's office she hopes to foster a collaborative dialogue with the community and truly tackle how the City utilizes translation services for communities that need a voice. She will also be working with the Department of Neighborhoods on the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Commissioner discussion and questions

Following a round of introductions, Commissioners expressed their interest in being involved in the annual Neighborhood Summit and helping to engage communities of color.

Commissioners discussed the need for collaborative design within communities. Understanding the established Design Review process, Commissioners wondered if there are ways in which there can be more effectual dialogue between the applicant, Design Review board, and the community.

- **Introduction:**
 - Scott Kubly, SDOT Director

Commissioners went around the room and introduced themselves.

Mr. Kubly introduced himself and his work experience.

Commissioner discussion and questions

Commissioners were interested in the Freight Master Plan, timeline and how corridors might be prioritized. In addition, the Commission discussed the common issue within all functional plans of maintenance and properly investing in basic upkeep of infrastructure. Without this investment much of the infrastructure becomes inaccessible to users of the system.

Mr. Kubly agreed that there needed to be a long term commitment to maintenance.

Commissioners discussed the need particularly in bicycle infrastructure to have facilities that are fully connected. Without these connections a user can be dropped into an unsafe situation.

Mr. Kubly agreed that there is a tension between taking advantage of opportunities while still prioritizing those intersections and spaces that are most unsafe for users. His previous experience in other major metropolitan areas will be a big help in working within this tension.

Commissioners discussed our regional transportation model and what might be done to increase the collaboration between local and regional systems.

- **Updates:**
 - SPC staff

Commissioner McDonald requested a change in the August 14, 2014 draft minutes. The draft minutes were too brief and he requested a better representation of the conversation.

Ms. Murdock agreed to modify and send back to the Commission for review and approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Leighton adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.