



City of Seattle

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Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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Rexford Brown

Jeff Dvi-Vardhana

Douglas Holtom

Alex Hudson

Ted Klainer

Tammy Lord/Laura Mills

Betsy Mickel

David Nemens (Alternate)

Carl Tully

Ex-Officio Members

Beverly Barnett,

Department of Transportation

Tammy Garrett,

Department of Planning and
Development

Maureen Sheehan,

Department of Neighborhoods

Sherry Williams,

Swedish First Hill, Community
Engagement

**Swedish Medical Center – First Hill
Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #4

November 5, 2015

Adopted January 20, 2016

Swedish Orthopedic Institute (SOI)

601 Broadway – Main Floor

Seattle, WA 98122

Members and Alternates Present

Rexford Brown

Jeff Dvi-Vardhana

Doug Holtom

Alex Hudson

Ted Klainer

Betsy Mickel

Tammy Lord

Carl Tully

Presenters

Brad Hinthorne

Mark Brands

Perkins + Will

Site Workshop

Staff and Others Present

Nancy Rogers

Maureen Sheehan

Aubrey Weeks

Sherry Williams

Brandon Macz

Michelle Sarlitto

Cairncross & Hempelmann

DON

Site Workshop

Swedish

Capitol Hill Times

EA EST

I. Opening and Introductions

Mr. Carl Tully opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

II. Housekeeping

With a quorum present, the Committee voted and unanimously adopted the minutes from Meeting #3 dated October 8.

III. Design Team Presentation

Mr. Tully introduced the presenters to provide an update on the presentation. Ms. Nancy Rogers of Cairncross & Hempelmann, mentioned that the Design Team is here to request a review and support from the Committee for the detailed public benefit package for the alley vacation, two sky bridges, and tunnel. A color coded sheet was provided as a reference to the public benefits. She asked the Committee to vote to show its support on these public benefits at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Rogers provided a brief walkthrough of Wayfinding Plan. This plan, adopted by the CAC (Citizen Advisory Committee) and adopted by DPD (Department of Planning

and Development) in 2007, summarizes the implementation schedule that Swedish proposed to accomplish before major projects are built as outlined in the MIMP (Major Institutions Master Plan). For these projects, the Wayfinding Plan Implementation Schedule is focused on traffic, pedestrian lighting, emergency vehicle access and service loading and unloading.

Mr. Tully expressed concern that the committee may not yet be familiar with the Wayfinding Plan to where they can vote on their support. A short discussion ensued regarding past review of the Wayfinding Plan.

Mr. Brands began his presentation by providing a brief background of the project, its broad vision, the various community outreach that has been happening, neighborhood initiatives, and the proposed public benefit package.

The project vision is an important element for the Design Team, and it was a major area that the Design Commission and City Council are looking for. Swedish is acquiring a 3,841 sq. ft. alley, with term permits for skybridges and a tunnel. Swedish plans to consolidate services and loading that is currently on Minor Avenue, as well as improve access for patients and visitors and efficient parking.

Mr. Brands went through the four petitions: Block 95 alley vacation, Minor and Marion skybridges, and Minor Tunnel. He then proceeded in summarizing the proposed public benefits within these four petitions and highlighted the MIMP project requirements that set the standards for the Block 95 project.

The project team has been very meeting with community groups, such as: First Hill Improvement Association, the Trinity Church, First Hill Chamber of Commerce, O'Dea High School, and the Frye Museum.

At the last SAC meeting on October 8th, the Design Team gathered public and Committee comments to determine what the needs and focus areas were. The Design Team also met with neighboring institutions and city departments to solicit their comments and concerns.

He highlighted the neighborhood initiatives such as street improvements in the Yesler Green Loop, Green Streets/Greenways, transit nodes and the Swedish Mile. He also noted that one of the other street improvement is the First Hill Public Realm Action Plan (PRAP) loop which connects parks and public space to enhance mobility and livability in the First Hill neighborhood.

Mr. Brands talked about the current design. It is the same information that they have seen in the past, and the Design Team continues to add more detail.

He then proceeded to talk about the proposed public benefits, the vision, and implementation. The team will continue to utilize the PRAP as the basis for the proposed public benefits, as well as working with stakeholders and user groups to identify and implement long term improvements on and off the campus.

The public benefits summary and its categories include: a) Swedish Mile; b) Public Open Space; c) Art; d) Pedestrian Safety; and e) Transportation. The Public Benefits also were divided between the Alley Vacation, the two skybridges, and the Tunnel, as shown throughout the presentation and on a handout listing the benefits by Petition. (See attached)

Swedish Mile

Mr. Brands noted that the Swedish Mile is exactly 1 mile and shows the metrics for each of the Swedish Mile Concept Plan that is a requirement for their presentation to the City Council as well as the Design Commission. The First Hill PRAP Active Loop, neighboring connections, pedestrian crossings, and street elements, tree view and wayfinding signage along the Swedish Mile were shown in more detail.

Public Open Space

The Public Open Space improvements discussed were to First Hill Park, Minor Avenue Healing Garden, enhanced ROW along Minor Avenue, Minor Street, Columbia Street and Cherry Street, and setbacks at Block 95.

Art

The Public Art Program involves establishing a Swedish Art Program through engaging ideally one local artist to implement exterior publicly accessible artwork. Mr. Brands noted that they have engaged 4Culture to manage the selection process for the Public Art Program Manager to oversee the program.

The Public Art Program Manager will lead and seek a committee of volunteers to select artists for these public art projects.

Pedestrian Safety

Raised crosswalks and parking bulbs, as well as the project team continues to have discussion with SDOT about the Minor and James Street intersection because of the safety issues.

Transportation

Mr. Brands talked briefly about transit and the bike share locations and custom bus shelter on Boren Avenue.

Mr. Brands then discussed the Wayfinding Plan Implementation Schedule items. He described the Wayfinding Plan call for installing pedestrian lighting along Minor Street. The plan also includes traffic flow and removing traffic from Minor Street and no parking on the east side of Minor Street.

Emergency vehicle routes and service access are another part of the Wayfinding Plan. The process involves changing the signs when emergency parking is repositioned. With regards to service access, the plan ensures signs are changed, and drivers are directed to the appropriate loading dock and parking location. The plan also encourages north-south access through the Building 95 project and the project designs adhere to that, with larger trucks to use Minor Avenue and smaller trucks/cars to use Boren Avenue.

IV. Public Comment and Questions

Ms. Alex Hudson read Mr. Erickson's comments regarding funding implementation on the active loop strategies, and to make sure that it is coordinated and not overlapping with other funding activities.

V. Committee Deliberation and Direction

Mr. Tully began Committee deliberation and asked the Committee if the neighborhood would use the Swedish Mile.

Ms. Hudson commented that the neighbors will definitely use them and she heard the desire for active loops and an activation of the pedestrian realm. There is an overwhelming public support and the public is enthusiastic about the project.

Mr. Rexford Brown commented that he was not present at the last meeting, but the presentation he heard tonight was outstanding and a refreshing concept.

Mr. Ted Klainer commented that he would prefer that the Wayfinding and artwork still be recognizable ten to twenty years from now, and would like to see that the money is spent to solidify the public right of way for long term identification.

Ms. Tammy Lord commented that she has had patient family members ask her if they want to go for a walk, where would they go. This would be a great answer to that need.

Mr. Jeff Dvi-Vardhana asked if there was a consideration of a story to be told during the walk. Mr. Brands noted that this is what the artists will explore and provide in order to orient the public.

Mr. Douglas Holtom commented that he is very supportive of the active zone loop, but not necessarily about the exercise equipment. He expressed his support for additional seating, artwork and better landscaping.

Mr. Dvi-Vardhana asked if there could be drinking fountains and who would maintain those, and Mr. Brands noted that Swedish can only maintain if it is on Swedish' property and the City would not be open to this.

He also voiced his concern regarding slippage due to the wet weather and asked how this is mitigated as well as lighting along the mile. Mr. Brands mentioned that these are mitigated through the street concept plans.

He commented about what makes the exercise equipment successful and Ms. Hudson noted that there were a lot of enthusiasm about the seating especially along the University stretch where disabled and elderly housing exist. She also voiced her trepidation about the exercise equipment.

Mr. Klainer asked about resources and any challenges that the Design Team has encountered. Mr. Brands noted that there are several buckets, but the main challenge was the loop.

Mr. Tully made a comment about the art work implementation along the Swedish Mile and how it will be managed. Mr. Brands mentioned about Public Art Program Manager and the committee of volunteers will lead this implementation and maintenance discussion.

Mr. Dvi-Vardhana asked about using a softer walking/running surface. Mr. Brands commented that it is a standard 2x2 of street of way. He was advised by SDOT to not do anything fancy, but look at the markers and the wayfinding elements.

Ms. Hudson expressed her excitement about having First Hill Park as part of the proposal. She understood that it is a multi-year process and she would like to know how this is going forward to the Design Commission. Mr. Brands noted said they are working with Parks to come up with a dollar value based on similar park projects the City has completed.

She also asked about any contingencies and how does the project deal with flexibility. Mr. Brands noted that each Public Benefit package the team assembled can stand on its own in the event the alley vacation or skybridge is not approved.

Mr. Tully commented about improvement and pedestrian crossings on Boren as well aesthetics along Boren. Mr. Brands noted this can be achieved through setbacks and there have been numerous discussions among stakeholders to come to a solution. He mentioned that one of the great examples they used is the Allen Brain Institute along 9th Avenue. He also commented on the positive responses about improvements to the tangible, physical elements.

Mr. Brown commented on the transit shelter along Boren on how tightly the sidewalk currently is. Mr. Brands mentioned that they are in the initial discussions with Metro regarding a creative solution to build a bus shelter here.

He mentioned the Design Commission meeting in two weeks and the Commission may request more details about the solution. The Commission has seen the designs and they are very comfortable with the plan. The Design Team will need to provide further details about the plans, but the Commission knows exactly where the project is heading. The challenges so far are that there is a process that needs to occur and the budget uncertainty.

Mr. Brands commented that they are comfortable about the sky bridges and tunnel design plan, and reminded the Committee that the Design Commission has their own process to go through, but felt confident on the Design Team's presentation.

Mr. Dvi-Vardhana commented that if the Committee approved the plans today and there are changes, it would be beneficial for the Committee to know what these changes are. Mr. Brands responded that they will come back to the Committee to present those changes.

Mr. Tully commented on the development timeline and the overall implementation schedule. Mr. Brad Hinthorne mentioned demolition on the two sites will begin July 2016 and occupancy in 2019. Construction of both Block 95 and the Northwest Tower will occur at the same time, together with construction of the on-site public benefits and that the Swedish Mile that may be implemented at a different time. The projects will be tracked separately.

Ms. Hudson made a motion to approve support for the Block 95 public benefit package for the alley vacation; it was seconded by Ms. Lord. A quorum being present and the majority of those present having voted in the affirmative; the motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Hudson made a motion to approve support for the Northwest Tower public benefit package for the Marion Street Skybridge; it was seconded by Mr. Brown. A quorum being present and the majority of those present having voted in the affirmative; the motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Hudson made a motion to approve support for the Block 95 public benefit package for the Minor Avenue Skybridge; it was seconded by Mr. Brown. A quorum being present and the majority of those present having voted in the affirmative; the motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Hudson made a motion to confirm support for the Block 95 public benefit package for the Minor Avenue Tunnel; it was seconded by Ms. Lord. A quorum being present and the majority of those present having voted in the affirmative; the motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Hudson made a motion to confirm support for the Swedish plan to meet Wayfinding Plan implementation milestones; it was seconded by Mr. Tully. A quorum being present and the majority of those present having voted in the affirmative; the motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

VI. Adjournment and scheduling of next meeting

Ms. Sheehan informed the committee that there is not another meeting scheduled yet. She noted that all are welcome to come and attend the Design Commission meeting on November 19th.

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.