



**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2004
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners in Attendance

John Owen, Chair; George Blomberg, Vice Chair; Jerry Finrow, Matthew Kitchen, Jeanne Krikawa, Lyn Krizanich, Joe Quintana, Mimi Sheridan, Paul Tomita.

Commissioners Absent

Anjali Bhagat, Angela Brooks, Ray Connell, Tom Eanes, Steve Sheehy, Tony To.

Commission Staff

Marty Curry, Executive Director; Barbara Wilson, Commission Analyst.

Guests

Mahlon Clements, Planning Commissioner-Designee; Lisa Rutzick, DPD City Planning; Scott MacColl, Council Central Staff; Martha Lester, Council Central Staff

Call to Order

Chair John Owen called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Mimi Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jerry Finrow to approve the February 26, 2004 Commission minutes. Commissioner Paul Tomita noted he was not in attendance as was indicated in the minutes. The motion to accept February 26 minutes with correction of Commissioner Tomita's absence was unanimously approved.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commission Housekeeping

Chair Owen reminded Commissioners that Hours Logs are due and asked that people fill them out and turn them in at the end of the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Owen reminded Commissioners of the following upcoming meetings and activities:

• **Northgate Pedestrian Connections Workshop – Thursday, March 25, 4 – 9 p.m.**

The Planning Commission is sponsoring this workshop and the following Commissioners will be presenting and/or facilitating work sessions: George Blomberg, Tom Eanes, Jerry Finrow, Jeanne Krikawa, Mimi Sheridan, and John Owen. Planning Commission Director Marty Curry noted that former Planning Commissioners; Denise Lathrop, Roger Wagoner and Mel Streeter will also participate and help

facilitate small group sessions and that our two interns, Chelsea Galano and Gloria Kim, have provided excellent support in preparing for the session and would be assisting staff at the workshop. Ms. Curry thanked the Northgate subcommittee for their excellent work in putting together what looks to be a great public workshop.

- **Waterfront Charrette Presentation, April 7, at Pier 66**

Barbara Wilson reported that all 22 charrette teams will present their results at this event and that DPD expects about 500 people to attend. Chair Owen noted that the Planning Commission and the Design Commission will be talking about the Planning Commission's future activities on the Waterfront project later in today's Work Plan discussion or in the near future.

- **Nominating Committee**

Chair Owen announced that the Commission needs to form a Nominating Committee to develop a slate for the Commission's 2004 - 05 Officers and Executive Committee. This Committee should begin its work in April, so we are soliciting volunteers for this short but important task. He noted that three Commissioners are needed for this committee and they will work with staff. Commissioner Krizanich volunteered to be on the committee. Marty Curry will recruit two more Commissioners for the committee.

- **Update on SPC letter to City Council on 2004 Comprehensive Plan Amendments**

Chair Owen reported that the Planning Commission letter on the Council Resolution on the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Amendments has been submitted to Council. He thanked all who contributed to reviewing the Council's draft resolution and helping to craft the Commission's comments. Ms Curry gave a short update on the Council timeline for approving the resolution and on DPD sponsored public meetings in April and May.

SPC Retreat Debrief

Chair Owen asked Commissioners for their assessment of the retreat and noted that the Commission should identify outcomes and next steps. He began with his own comments, stating that the biggest messages he got out of the retreat involved the Commission to be more self determining of its role, especially in helping the City define significant emerging issues. He cited the Center City strategy as a good example of where the Commission can get out in front of an issue and help the City define its approach and focus.

Commissioner-designee Mahlon Clements asked whether staff or the Executive Committee was able to clarify Deputy Mayor Ceis's statements at the Commission Retreat that the Center City strategy will be an important initiative for the City of Seattle and the Mayor's office. Ms. Curry noted that she did follow up with DPD Director Diane Sugimura who acknowledged that this is an initiative that the Mayor's Office has been focusing on so it was likely on his mind. Both Ms. Sugimura and Planning Director John Rahaim have encouraged the Commission to help define the Center City strategy and what it means. Commissioner Owen stated that the Planning Commission should further explore how it can add value to City Planning's work on this initiative.

Chair Owen noted that he would like to get more clarity about the Mayor's economic development strategy and how it fits into the regional development strategy. Commissioner Quintana stated that there was a recent study released on regional economic development by PSRC. Commissioner Kitchen noted the document is titled "Foundations for the Future" and contains some excellent analysis. Commissioner Quintana agreed but observed that it does not outline a strategy or recommendations. Commissioner Owen observed that the City needs better tools for maintaining and improving economic vitality.

Commissioner Blomberg stated that he viewed Deputy Mayor Ceis' comments as a green light to the Planning Commission to engage in helping the City think big and that SPC's role is to help in exploring and illuminating the debate on issues like Center City strategy. Commissioner Finrow suggested that the

Commission identify three things that the Commission could take on, starting with an information session that will lead the Commission in a certain direction. Commissioner Sheridan stated that she supported an earlier idea that the Commission identify key players in the City and host a preliminary discussion to help map out how all the pieces fit together to form a strategy. She also encouraged the Commission to help facilitate the development of clear goals and objectives for the City Center strategy.

Action: The Planning Commission will send a thank you letter to Tim Ceis and outline how it will follow up with his suggestions for involvement in Center City strategy. This might include a preliminary presentation and discussion with key players within the City. The letter will also respond to his request for Commission involvement in choosing a preferred alternative for the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct. Other retreat follow up will be approval of the Commissioner 2004 work plan and assignments.

SPC Work Plan Priorities and Assignments

Chair Owen referred Commissioners to the 2004 Work Plan, explaining that the task today is to review all of the items and Commissioner assignments, and to set priorities.

Monorail: Chair Owen asked the Commission's MRP members to comment on the Review Panel effort and suggest the best places for the Planning Commission to weigh in on Monorail issues. Commissioner Tomita stated that the Planning Commission should or could weigh in on the following issues that the Council will need to address in the Transitway agreement: Seattle Center route, Westlake configuration and pedestrian walkway, King Street station, and deferred stations. Ms. Curry noted that staff has invited Council Central staff Martha Lester to brief the Commission later in the meeting to help the Commission better understand how and where the Commission's input might add value to the City Council's decision making process on the Transitway Agreement.

Housing Choices: Ms. Curry reported that according to DPD staff there is a potential hold on the detached ADU legislation being transmitted from the Mayor to Council. Chair Owen stated that moving this legislation should be a high priority for the Commission. He reminded Commissioners of the long history the Commission has had in the scoping of the project, conducting the public involvement process and making recommendations on crafting the proposal.

ACTION:

The Planning Commission will seek feedback from DPD Director Diane Sugimura and DPD staff on how the Commission can help move the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit legislation forward. The Commission will meet with City officials as appropriate to discuss the Commission's findings and recommendations from its public process.

The Planning Commission approved the 2004 Work Plan. It also approved Commissioner assignments to specific projects and activities (including revisions made at the meeting) Staff will follow up in recruiting Commissioner for several upcoming events (the 4 Comp Plan Public Process meeting, and providing suggested questions for Neighborhood Business District Strategy public meeting).

Project Updates

Northgate

Commissioner Blomberg gave an overview of the March 11 Stakeholders' Group meeting noting that this first meeting was mostly introductions, process and information about key issues they will be addressing. He observed that City staff did a nice job of laying out the process of how things will be evaluated and how the Stakeholder Group's advice fits into the bigger picture. Jackie Kirn, OPM's Northgate Project Manager reviewed the timeline for decision making for the key pieces of the plan.

Marty Curry reminded Commissioners that the Pedestrian Connections workshop is scheduled for this evening, with preparations almost ready. Commissioner Krikawa asked how the input from the workshop will be integrated into the larger planning and implementation processes. Ms. Kirn noted that the results of the workshop will be used to influence the Open Space/Ped Connections Plan and also the CTIP. Commissioner Krikawa asked if either of these efforts had funding attached. Ms. Kirn stated that the CTIP has a \$50,000 budget for plan development, and a total budget of \$350,000 budget for developing the plan. She reported that the Scope for the CTIP is due to Council in June. Marty Curry stated that the Commission will have a briefing on the draft Scope in early May, with an opportunity to provide its input to the consultant.

Monorail FEIS

Barbara Wilson reported that the Seattle Monorail Project (SMP) has released its Final EIS. Commissioners have received the CD version and staff have two sets of the printed version. She noted that several Commissioners have expressed interest in reviewing the SMP's response to the Commission's comments and to possibly look at the FEIS document to see how well it has responded to the Commission's concerns. Based on this, the Commission could submit a letter to the City (Mayor and Council) identifying issues that should be addressed in the Transitway agreement. Ms. Wilson recommended the Commission have a discussion and come to conclusion on the Commission's approach and desired outcomes and goals.

Council Central Staff Martha Lester provided an overview of the Council's process and suggestions for how the Planning Commission might best contribute to the decision making process. She stated there are 3 major decisions that the City Council must make: 1) Council must approve the final alignment and station locations; 2) Council must approve the Transitway agreement; 3) Council must approve the Seattle Center Agreement. The Council is tentatively scheduled to consider these items during April. Regarding the Final EIS, the Council needs to understand what's in it and what will be relevant to the alignment and station location decisions. Chapter 5, the Mitigation Plan, might be worthwhile to review and comment on. However, Ms. Lester noted that the FEIS is a disclosure document so the Mitigation Chapter is not binding. However if it were appended to the Transitway Agreement it would be binding. Ms. Lester also reported that the SMP will issue an addendum to the DBOM RFP after the Transitway agreement, which could help ensure that conditions in the Transitway Agreement become part of the DBOM contract.

ACTION: Commission will review the FEIS, focusing on the new alternatives, the response to the Planning Commission comments. It will also obtain information about key issues to be addressed in the Transitway agreement. Based on this analysis and information, the Commission will determine whether a letter to the City Council would add value to their process. The SPC Transportation Committee and other Commissioners involved in the Monorail project will take the lead in this effort.

Alaska Way Viaduct - DEIS

Barbara Wilson reported that the joint City/WSDOT project team will release the Draft EIS on March 31. The Planning Commission needs to determine how it wants to approach reviewing and providing input on the Draft EIS. Ms. Wilson gave a brief overview of the document and of the proposed Joint SPC/SDC review process. Commissioners were in agreement that the Commission should review the document and determine quickly whether to review and comment on the entire document or selected elements.

ACTION: The SPC Transportation Committee and other Commissioners who have been assigned to this project will take the lead in determining the Commission's level of review for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Draft EIS (Commissioners Kitchen, Krikawa, Blomberg, Owen and Tomita and Commissioner-designee Clements). Additional Commissioners may be recruited to review specific elements and the full Commission will review and approve the comment letter. They will also take the lead in the Commission's subsequent consideration of a recommended preferred alternative.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Owen adjourned the meeting at 9:15 am