



# City of Seattle Seattle Planning Commission

Leslie Miller, Chair  
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

## SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION DECEMBER 8, 2011 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

### **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chair – Leslie Miller, Vice-Chair David Cutler, Kadie Bell, Catherine Benotto, Josh Brower, Colie Hough-Beck, Mark Johnson, Martin Kaplan, Bradley Khouri, Kay Knapton, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Sarah Snider\*

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Chris Persons, Matt Roewe

### **COMMISSION STAFF**

Barbara Wilson-Director, Katie Sheehy-Planning Analyst, Robin Magonegil-Administrative Staff Assistant, Diana Canzoneri-Demographer

### **GUESTS**

Jennifer Wieland, Allison Schwartz, Kevin O'Neill, SDOT;

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Bill Bradburd, Patrice Carroll, Lyle Bicknell, Brooks Howell, Danielle Butsick

\*this commissioner is pending confirmation

*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 Leslie Miller called the meeting to attention at 3:05 pm.

#### ▪ **Chair's Report**

- Chair Leslie Miller

Chair Leslie Miller called attention to the upcoming commission meetings. She shared her excitement that the Housing Affordability report was done and thanked the Commission staff for their work on it. She noted that

the release event would be happening tomorrow and that Commissioners Leighton and Johnson would be presenting the findings and the recommendations. Chair Miller added that the Mayor and Councilmember Licata will be speaking at the event and noted that it will be recorded on the Seattle Channel.

Chair Miller noted that, in regards to the letter of support for option #2 on Roosevelt, the turnaround would be quick. She added that there were several different options talked about and numerous questions about what should occur with the building heights in that area. Chair Miller stated that after looking at the options the Commission felt that option #2 is the most closely aligned and provides more flexibility at the ground level. Executive Director Wilson noted that she expects that this will pass out of committee.

Ms. Wilson noted that, in regards to the West Seattle Triangle, the Commission encouraged a broader look at the 85' building height limit in the core and they are moving forward with most of the recommendations.

▪ **Review: 2012 Draft Work Plan**

- Chair Leslie Miller

Chair Miller asked Ms. Wilson to take a few minutes and walk the Commission through the draft work plan for 2012.

Ms. Wilson explained how the schedule for the Comp Plan update has changed and noted that it is an opportunity for the Commission to think about where to put resources since the plan does not have to be completed until 2016. She suggested that maybe the limited resources in the Planning Division should be focused on South Lake Union and other priority areas. Ms. Wilson asked the Commissioners to think about all the projects listed, as careful consideration will be needed in prioritizing these. She added that this will be talked about at the committee meetings in January and that formal action will be taken after the Commission retreat in April.

▪ **Briefing: Transit Master Plan**

- Jennifer Wieland, Allison Schwartz, SDOT

Chair Miller called for any disclosures or recusals.

Disclosures:

- Commissioner Sarah Snider disclosed that her firm, LMN, works on projects that could be impacted by the TMP.
- Commissioner Kadie Bell disclosed that she represented Seattle & King County Public Health on the transit master plan advisory committee.
- Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa disclosed that her firm, The Underhill Company, had a small role on the TMP consultant team and her firm works on transportation projects that could be impacted by the TMP.
- Commissioner Colie Hough Beck disclosed that her firm, Hough Beck & Baird, has ongoing contracts with SDOT and other transportation agencies.
- Commissioner Leslie Miller disclosed she is a steering committee member of Othello Park Now, a proponent of a 2012 funded Bridging the Gap transportation project in SE Seattle.
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, works on projects that could be impacted by the TMP.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Veris Law Group PLLC, represents developers of single family and multi-family projects.

- Commissioner Kevin McDonald disclosed that he represented the Planning Commission on the interagency technical advisory team.
- Commissioner Amalia Leighton disclosed that her firm, SvR Design Company, had a small contract with the Nelson Nygaard team on the Transit Master Plan. In addition, SvR Design Company worked on the Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Commissioner Mark Johnson disclosed that his firm, ESA, is working with Sound Transit.

Chair Miller welcomed Jennifer Wieland and Allison Schwartz.

Ms. Wieland introduced Kevin O'Neill who recently joined the transportation planning and urban design group at SDOT. Mr. O'Neill introduced himself noting that used to work in the strategic planning office and did early sub area planning work for South Lake Union. He added that he is looking forward to working with the Commission on a number of projects.

Jennifer and Allison gave a power point presentation, which can be accessed via this link.

<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/docs/planningcommissiontmpbriefing12811.pdf>

Ms. Wilson reported that when the Commission did the Seattle Transit Communities report they met with several SDOT staff and came up with the 41 nodes. She asked if the Commission needs to reevaluate those nodes as they match up for the most part but not completely. She added that they would like to circle back and work with SDOT on how to move forward with the citywide transit communities policy.

Ms. Wieland stated that doing the overlay is a good story but having only the 15-16 highest priorities does not cover all of transit. She noted that as you review the service, you see standards far outside the highest priority corridors.

Commissioner Catherine Benotto wondered, in regards to looking at the routes and the level of ridership, how the system ties into greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goals. Ms. Wieland responded that, SDOT and OSE have been working closely together to coordinate these plans and the specifics in regards to GHG emissions is one of the metrics that they have looked at and figured into their analysis. She added that there is info about that for each of the corridors and there is a section that talks about the electric trolley network.

Commissioner McDonald stated that it is a great report and that he enjoyed participating on the advisory team. He noted that since the city does not run the buses and the service part of the implementation is up to the transit agencies and it is the right of way (ROW) infrastructure that is the city's responsibility. He added that the report talks about trying to seek private sector funding/partnerships and he wondered if they explain what they mean. Ms. Schwartz replied that Metro and Sound Transit operate the service and that the city buys service hours from Metro. Ms. Wieland added that there are a couple of ways they could see partnerships forming, one being a LID like what was used in South Lake Union for the streetcar, and another option would be related to service provision. She added that there are a number of companies that run private shuttles and that they might look for ways to partner with them and have them function as neighborhood circulators in the off peak times.

Commissioner Leighton asked about the timeline regarding the proposed service cuts. Ms. Wieland stated that Metro is talking with communities about the reductions and SDOT is watching it very closely. She added that they are using the corridors to encourage Metro's direction and that Metro agrees that they are priorities for

the city and they will try to preserve service. Ms. Wieland continued that Metro's strategic plan has made it more transparent about how they make decisions and what may/may not be cut.

Commissioner Khouri wondered how the downtown options work with the topography change. He also asked about the ongoing work with the waterfront and wondered if that was separate. Ms. Wieland answered that they are related and they will look at routing options and the appropriate mode. She added that the two options for downtown are not mutually exclusive and they serve very different needs. Ms. Wieland noted that they will have to choose one to do first but they are not sure which one at this point. Commissioner Khouri asked if they looked at potential ridership differences between modes. Ms. Wieland replied that there is rail bias, which they did factor in, and they looked at vehicle design of the buses. She noted that the buses we have now are not very accessible but as Metro moves into its newer fleet, they will be more accommodating.

Commissioner Hough Beck stated that she hoped they incorporated consolidated way finding rather than independent based on the service provider. She added that infrastructure for pedestrians is important.

Commissioner Brower stated that the Commission has a long history of support for industrial lands. He noted that he did not hear any mention of the freight mobility plan. Ms. Schwartz responded that there is a freight strategic plan but not a master plan. She added that they are identifying the next steps to a freight master plan and that they met with the board a few weeks ago.

Commissioner Krikawa stated her appreciation that there was a graphic with projects identified on it. She wondered, as they are moving forward, how they would measure success. Ms. Schwartz replied that they were not sure and that she would get back to the Commission on that. Ms. Wieland added that in the early stages of developing the metrics, they started with the goals and how they could ensure meeting those and there are two components - how we are implementing the plan and working with Metro so that their reporting tells them something. Commissioner Krikawa stated that they might not achieve ridership until everything is complete. Ms. Wieland replied that they are developing new tools to quantify the incremental increases in ridership. Commissioner McDonald added that is one of the metrics - the facilities that are being improved and added that whether or not ridership increases is secondary as just improving the station area is a goal that can be measured and ridership will follow.

Commissioner Cutler stated that it was a great presentation and very captivating. He wondered with doing the GHG analysis, if it was that improved line or the reduced VMT. Ms. Wieland stated that it was both. Commissioner Cutler asked if there were plans for future streetcars, NLink, etc. and what happens in the interim. He added that it could also be more than just design, maybe brand the bus system by color. Ms. Wieland responded that it would be a fantastic idea and that they have had conversations about ways to do that across the system more broadly.

Chair Miller thanked Jennifer and Allison for their time.

- **Briefing: 2012 Council Priorities**
  - Council President Richard Conlin

Chair Miller welcomed Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin. She noted that the Commission would be working with Councilmember Conlin a lot more since he will be the new Chair of the Land Use Committee. Chair Miller asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Councilmember Conlin talked about the ten priorities that he has identified for planning and land use. These priorities are discussed in detail on his blog, which can be accessed here:

<http://conlin.seattle.gov/2012/01/05/planning-land-use-and-sustainability-committee/>

Ms. Wilson noted that the first six priorities are on our work plan.

Commissioner Krikawa noted that they are ambitious and wondered what he considers his top priority. Council President Conlin stated that the two top are the citywide Transit Communities Policy and the Industrial Development District in the Duwamish.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Duwamish approach is long overdue and that it seems that we need to tend to a number of issues. He added that there is a responsibility to clean up along the river and that there seems to be support for stepping that up.

Chair Miller noted that the Commission is excited to work with him next year and that he should consider us his ready resource. Council President Conlin thanked the Commission and noted that he looks forward to their advice.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:36 pm.