

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 13, 2003  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** John Owen, Chair, Denise Lathrop, Vice Chair, Lyn Krizanich, Mimi Sheridan, Paul Tomita, George Blomberg, Anjali Bhagat, Angela Brooks

**Commissioners Absent:** Gregory Davis, Matthew Kitchen, Jeanne Krikawa, Steve Sheehy, Darryl Smith, Grace Chien.

**Staff:** Marty Curry, Executive Director; Barbara Wilson, Staff

**Visitors:** Tony To (Planning Commissioner-elect), Bob Morgan (City Council Staff), Allison Laredo (UW Planning Student), Chelsea Galano (UW Planning Student), Kathlyn Kocher (UW Planning Student).

**Call to Order**

Chair John Owen called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the January 23, 2003 Full Commission meeting were approved unanimously as written.

**CHAIRS REPORT**

John Owen reported that the City Council's Land Use Committee will hold a public hearing on the confirmation of Diane Sugimura as the new Director of DCLU on February 19, 2003 at 5 p.m. Chair Owen asked for someone from the Planning Commission to attend the Hearing. Commissioner Angela Brooks volunteered to attend on behalf of the Commission; John Owen agreed to speak on behalf of the Commission in support of Diane Sugimura's nomination. Marty Curry passed around Diane Sugimura's written answers to a questionnaire from City Council.

Chair Owen reminded the Commission that its upcoming retreat is scheduled for Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 3pm till 7 pm. Both sessions will be held at the Port of Seattle's Conference Room. Marty Curry shared the Executive Committee's proposed agenda and format and solicited feedback from the Commission. Marty also asked for suggestions for a speaker or panel of speakers for the final portion of the second session, focusing on Seattle's future and the role of planning in achieving Seattle's vision. Commissioners offered a number of suggestions. Chair Owen moved to give staff the authority to make a decision on the speaker. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Motion unanimously approved. Marty Curry asked Commissioners to contact her in the next few days with additional thoughts

### **COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: MIMI SHERIDAN**

Commissioner Mimi Sheridan was the focus of this month's Commissioner Spotlight. She described her childhood beginning in San Francisco, California, then Napa, and finally Manhattan Beach, California where she was an avid volleyball player.

She attended UC Santa Barbara during the 60's era of activism, recalling the assassination of the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. Mimi, like many at that time, got engaged in political activism and majored in political science and history.

Post-College Mimi founded a free health clinic, which is still operating. Her clinic was one of the first customers of a local mimeographer named Kinko who has gone on to be one of the largest copy centers services in the world. Mimi returned to school to get a Master degree in Human Services at Oregon State University. She came to Seattle in 1983 and served for a number of years on the King County Mental Health Board. She went to work for Seattle City Light when the first conservation office opened and became involved in the innovations of that program. Her well rounded and eclectic professional experience also includes consulting on transportation issues and developing a wildlife strategic plan for the Wildlife Commission. In 1990 Mimi once again returned to school this time earning a Masters degree in Urban Planning at the University of Washington. She was getting her Masters in Urban Planning at the same time Washington State instituted its Growth Management Act. She was very active in GMA and did outreach in Spokane to help them craft their transportation plan. Now Mimi does architectural tours, consults on neighborhood plans and does a lot of research and analysis on historic preservation in Seattle.

### **PROJECTS UPDATE:**

#### **Housing Choices**

Planning Commission Analyst Barbara Wilson gave an update on the upcoming focus groups to be held February 24, 25 and 26. The three focus groups will involve different audiences in discussions about Detached ADU's and Cottage Housing. Jim Metz will facilitate the 3 focus groups. A Planning Commissioner will attend as host and observer and a Commission staff member will take notes and run the tape recorder. Participants' feedback will be summarized by the Planning Commission and used by DCLU to shape and refine housing legislation that will be submitted by the Executive to Council later this spring.

#### **Northgate**

Marty Curry gave recap of a recent Design Review Guidelines meeting focusing on how to make these guidelines applicable to super block developments. She also reported that the Mayor's package will be released in late February. Commissioner Paul Tomita gave a report on a meeting he and Marty Curry attended with Mary Jean Ryan of the Office of Policy and Management. Commissioner Tomita noted that Mary Jean Ryan was

interested in the Planning Commission's suggestions about possible improvements to Northgate Way. He expressed his concerns that the possible development of Bartell's on the corner of Northgate Way and 5<sup>th</sup> is a one story, auto-oriented redevelopment which is not in keeping with the neighborhood plan. Commissioner Tomita gave several suggestions to Ms Ryan which include; 1) There needs to be a long term vision to deal with traffic, freeway access and pedestrian access, 2) City needs to provide leadership and clarity about their desired outcomes and, 3) City needs to be aware and convey neighborhood plans to developers. He also made the suggestion to Ms. Ryan that the Mayors package should include look at the broader picture for an urban center. On Northgate and 5<sup>th</sup> the 100% intersection goal does not match what is actually happening there. He also recommended that an area wide transportation analysis include a long term vision for addressing the limitations of Northgate Way as the only E-W corridor in the area.

Marty Curry reported that the Neighborhoods Committee made the recommendation that the Planning Commission develop a presentation based on the Northgate Design Charrette to share with the Executive and City Council. Denise Lathrop and Lyn Krizanich both offered this suggestion which staff will work on.

#### **Monorail/Seattle Popular Monorail Authority (SPMA)**

Marty Curry reported that the Seattle Planning Commission EIS Scoping comments were submitted on February 7<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that the City of Seattle submitted comments and they were available for any Commissioner who wants a copy. Marty also announced that there would be a joint Planning Commission, Design Commission meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3pm preceding the Commission retreat. Commissioner Sheridan gave an update from the previous SPC/SDC presentation. She noted that SPMA's presentation was well organized and that many important issues were brought up by both commissions. She also noted that the Commissions conveyed to SPMA and the City that they still need clarification about key points of decision making

Commissioner Tomita noted that SPMA is on a rapid schedule and that the City should be sure not to let the schedule get ahead of them. There was a discussion about key decision points and the need to quickly identify them and determine the Commission's role in advising on them. Commissioner Tomita expressed that the City needs a copy of a detailed schedule.

Commissioner Blomberg expressed concern that some of the broader planning issues may get overlooked in joint meetings with the Design Commission. The Planning Commission needs to identify pressure points, find out when decisions will be made and how to comment on them. Commissioner Blomberg proposed that the Commission comment on alignment, stations, segments (how many, sequence, phases) and multimodal connections

## **PRESENTATION/ DISCUSSION**

### **Planning Organization/Functions in DCLU: Discussion with Diane Sugimura, DCLU Director**

Diane Sugimura thanked the Commission for inviting her and announced that her confirmation hearing with Council is scheduled on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Chair Owen mentioned that the Planning Commission would be in attendance. Diane also announced that she is moving forward to change the name of Department of Design, Construction and Land Use. The possible name might be something like Department of Planning and Urban Development. She intends to hire a Planning Director and is considering attending the National APA Conference in early April to recruit prospective candidates. She also noted that over the next few months all of the planning team – the Comprehensive Plan team, the Planning Commission, the Land Use policy and code team and CityDesign will be co-located in one work space on the 19<sup>th</sup> Floor of Key tower. This will enable the sharing of ideas and resources.

Ms. Sugimura is actively looking at how to pull together long range and short range planning and how to staff the varied planning functions and projects. She is looking at bringing together others in the community with an interest in planning to discuss broader planning goals, and the coordination of citywide and neighborhood planning needs and goals. She expressed the opinion that the Planning Commission is a good group to help formulate this discussion.

Diane reported that the Mayor would like the Planning Commission to be involved in Land Use Code revisions which will begin with the Commercial code in 2003. Revision of the Land Use Code is a priority for the Mayor. DCLU is putting together an advisory group to work on this and will include a Planning Commission representative along with land use attorneys, developers, business people and neighborhood representatives. They will focus on identifying where the code is unclear and give advice on how to make it more useable. She noted that focus groups are anticipated to address specific topics and a general community meeting. She asked for the Commission's help on the communications and constituent strategy.

Another priority for the Mayor is neighborhood revitalization. He has identified Pioneer Square, Broadway, University District, the Rainier Valley, the Central Area, South lake Union and Delridge as target neighborhoods for economic revitalization. Diane suggested that the Planning Commission should comment on planning issues surrounding the revitalization efforts.

Diane identified other key planning issues for the city. They include Waterfront Planning, Northgate, Housing Choices, Comp Plan update in 2004, Critical Areas update in 2004, and Shoreline Master Plan Update in 2005.

Commissioner Blomberg suggested that the PC's neighborhood planning tie in with the revitalization efforts and this is a place the Commission should play a proactive role. He also pointed out that this should be integrated in to citywide planning efforts.

Commissioner-elect Tony To pointed out that neighborhood objectives should tie into Comprehensive Plan goals. Commissioner Tomita advised that the City and the Planning Commission look at neighborhood plans that may need updating proactively. Diane agreed and noted that the City should be doing more than checking off projects on the neighborhood plan matrices, and should be looking at whether we are achieving the City's Comp Plan goals. Marty Curry suggested that the Planning Commission consider partnering with the City to host a forum focused on broader planning goals. Diane asked the Commission to explore the idea further.

Diane closed by acknowledging that there are a lot of projects and targeted areas that will require good planning efforts. She will rely on the Planning Commission to help guide the City's direction related to its planning responsibilities. She thanked the Commission for its hard work and reminded them that she would like their input on the Planning Director position.

Chair John Owen and the Commissioners thanked Diane for coming and for the good discussion. John Owen and Denise Lathrop both offered some conclusions, noting that there are many planning priorities that have been outlined with very limited resources to accomplish them. John stated that most of these projects will need technical analyses that may be difficult to provide given the limited staff and funds available. Denise Lathrop urged that the Commission focus its own staff and Commission resources carefully as it determines its own priorities for the year.

**ADJOURN:** Chair John Owen adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.