



City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission

Josh Brower, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 14, 2010
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Chair – Leslie Miller, Catherine Benotto, David Cutler, Chris Fiori, Kay Knapton, Jeanne Krikawa, Amalia Leighton, Radhika Nair, Christopher Persons

COMMISSION STAFF

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Chair – Josh Brower, Kadie Bell, Colie Hough-Beck, Mark Johnson, Martin Kaplan, Kevin McDonald, Matt Roewe

GUESTS

Marshall Foster David Goldberg, DPD; Steve Pearce, Stephanie Brown, Jennifer Wieland, SDOT; Alex Sheldon, EnviroIssues; Ridge Robinson, Tetra Tech

IN ATTENDANCE

Bradley Khouri, Planning Commissioner elect

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

Vice-Chair Leslie Miller called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

▪ Chair's Report

Vice-Chair Miller reported on the APA-WA conference in Kennewick, Washington that was attended by Commission members and staff. The Commission presented their work on the Neighborhood Status Reports and on the Seattle Transit Communities report.

She noted that the several Commissioners participated in a recent work session with the Neighborhood Planning team formulating the urban design framework for the North Beacon Hill, Mount Baker, and Othello neighborhoods.

Vice-Chair Miller stated that Matt Roewe has been appointed to serve as the Commission's representative on the Capitol Hill light rail station urban design and transit-oriented development advisory group.

Vice-Chair Miller noted the upcoming meetings and asked Executive Director Barbara Wilson to provide a brief update about the Commission's other projects. Ms. Wilson stated the final public hearing for South Downtown will be November 22 at 5:30 pm. She noted that the Commission's final comments on [DPD's proposed tree regulations](#) are due October 31. There was some discussion among the Commissioners regarding the fact that the current proposal does not include a permit process for the removal of trees on private property. Ms. Wilson reminded Commissioners that the 2011 work plan is being developed. She noted that this process includes working with City Council, the Mayor, and key departments.

Vice-Chair Miller introduced Bradley Khouri, who has been appointed to the Commission and is awaiting confirmation by Council. Mr. Khouri gave some background on himself noting that he has spent a lot of time recently working with AIA Seattle on the multifamily code update and the central waterfront. Mr. Khouri reported that his firm, B9 architects is a small but thriving company. He added that he teaches at the University of Washington.

Vice-Chair Miller noted that sadly this is the last meeting for outgoing Commissioner Chris Fiori and that he has been on the commission for six and ½ years. She asked Chris to say a few words regarding his time on the Commission. Commissioner Fiori said that he would be happy continue to be a resource to the Commission in whatever way he could. He added that it's been a bigger learning experience than he ever could have imagined and a very positive experience. He noted that he would miss working with the Commission on such a close basis and promised to come back in visit.

BRIEFINGS

▪ Directors Report: City Planning Updates

- Marshall Foster, DPD

Planning Director Marshall Foster updated the Commission on several items. He noted that Seattle is part of a regional partnership that was recently awarded a \$5M federal [Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant](#). He added that the grant will support multi-jurisdictional strategies, identify key actions at local level and enable potential contractual agreements between jurisdictions.

Mr. Foster called attention to a couple of other key projects. He noted that DPD has taken on a leadership role in revitalization strategy with the Alliance for Pioneer Square; mobile food vending, South Lake Union, public outreach for the Comprehensive Plan Update, and the West Seattle Triangle.

▪ **Briefing: Central Waterfront**

- Steve Pearce, Seattle Department of Transportation
- David Goldberg, Department of Planning & Development

Disclosures & Recusals:

- Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa disclosed that the company she works for, The Underhill Company LLC, is a sub-consultant on the Transit Master Plan update.
- Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that a member of her firm, Weber Thompson, serves on the Central Waterfront Partnership Committee.
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, does work on the central waterfront.
- Commissioner Bradley Khouri disclosed that he is co-chair of the Waterfront Task Force at AIA Seattle.

Marshall Foster introduced Steve Pearce and David Goldberg and gave a short background on the project and timeline.

Steve Pearce stated that this is a 100-year opportunity to create a great new civic space in the heart of the city. He explained the selection process, which was suggested by Central Waterfront Partnership Committee, was an innovative selection process that broadened public outreach. Mr. Pearce stated that the consultant team was divided into two tracks – Track A for urban design and public space design and Track B for project management and engineering. The two teams will be integrated as the project moves forward.

David Goldberg briefed the Commission on the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee Key Recommendations. He noted that the committee has been focused on how to create an appropriate process and ensure that the central waterfront will be a well-used, active space.

Commissioner David Cutler asked if the space would remain in public ownership and about the design direction. Mr. Pearce replied that early on there was a lot of discussion about whether or not the right-of-way (ROW) around the Viaduct should remain in public ownership and that ultimately City Council decided that it should. Commissioner Cutler added that he lived in Boston while the 'Big Dig' was being constructed and that the City decided to leave the ROW as a public greenway, which has not been entirely successful. Mr. Pearce explained that the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee considered Boston's Big Dig and expanded the project area to include the neighborhoods adjacent to the central waterfront. He noted that the City of Seattle would not place any restrictions on appropriate uses that could help activate the new public spaces.

Commissioner Benotto asked what distinguished *james corner field operations* from the other consultant teams. Mr. Pearce replied that while the four shortlisted firms were all very articulate about the opportunities for Seattle's central waterfront, *james corner field operations* expressed the strongest commitment to supporting civic life and presented a superior design vision that was compelling to the selection committee.

Commissioner Khouri asked about the number of people on the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee. Mr. Goldberg replied that while a smaller group was considered, the City decided it is important to have a very broad of expertise at this stage. Mr. Pearce added that there are smaller sub-committees.

Vice Chair Miller thanked Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Pearce.

▪ **Briefing: Seawall**

- Stephanie Brown & Jennifer Wieland, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Alex Sheldon, EnviroIssues
- Ridge Robinson, Tetra Tech

The seawall team presented the attached PowerPoint:

K:\Planning\SPO\Pcom\Projects and Publications\Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement\2010

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/seawall.htm>

Commissioner Leighton asked if there would be any potential changes to the harbor lines. Ms. Brown replied that the current planning has been within the existing harbor lines and noted that they could change in the future based on the endangered species act or other policy changes.

Commissioner Khouri asked about how the six zones were identified and how they will be integrated into the design of the central waterfront. Ms. Wieland explained that the zones are based on surrounding land uses and bathymetry. She indicated that the team is focused on the location of the seawall while maintaining flexibility for the central waterfront design.

Vice Chair Miller noted that it was time to adjourn the meeting and indicated that the Commission would invite the team back for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Leslie Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.