



# City of Seattle Seattle Planning Commission

David Cutler, Chair  
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

## SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

### **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

David Cutler , Catherine Benotto, Luis Borrero, Josh Brower, Keely Brown, Colie Hough-Beck, Bradley Khouri, Grace Kim, Amalia Leighton, Kevin McDonald, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Matt Roewe, Morgan Shook, Maggie Wykowski

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Jeanne Krikawa

### **COMMISSION STAFF**

Barbara Wilson-Executive Director, Diana Canzoneri-Senior Analyst, Jesseca Brand - Policy Analyst. Robin Magonegil, Administrative Staff

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Dave LaClergue

***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 David Cutler called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

#### ▪ **Chair's Report**

- Chair David Cutler

Chair Cutler reviewed the upcoming Commission meetings. Chair Cutler stated that for the rest of the year the Executive Committee meetings will be suspended and replaced by Executive Session meetings to discuss the Executive Director search and personnel issues. He added that he and Commissioner Leighton would be checking in with staff weekly during this time of transition.

#### ▪ **Action Item: Report from Nominations committee and vote for new officers**

- Commissioner Kevin McDonald

Commissioner McDonald presented the recommended slate of new leadership for the Planning Commission. The slate is as follows: Commissioner Co-Chairs – David Cutler and Amalia Leighton; Vice-Chair – Catherine Benotto; Land Use & Transportation Co-Chairs – Jeanne Krikawa and Tim Parham; Housing & Neighborhoods

Co-Chairs – Tim Parham and Morgan Shook, Executive Committee At-Large members – Josh Brower, Colie Hough-Beck and Kevin McDonald.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Josh Brower moved to adopt the slate of new officers as proposed. Commissioner Grace Kim seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Action Item: Approve EIS scoping recommendations for U-District**
  - Jesseca Brand, SPC Staff

**DISCLOSURES & RECUSALS:**

- Commissioner Morgan Shook disclosed that his employer, Berk, is working on the University District Environmental Impact Statement.
- Commissioner Matt Roewe disclosed that the firm he works for, Via Architecture works on projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Colie Hough Beck disclosed that her firm, Hough Beck & Baird Inc., works on public, private and non-profit projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that her employer, Weber Thompson, works on projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Amalia Leighton disclosed that her employer, SvR Design Company, provides landscape architecture, civil engineering and planning services for both public and private projects in the City of Seattle that may be impacted.
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that the firm he works for, GGLO, works on projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Veris Law Group, represents single and multi-family developers, businesses, and others in the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Bradley Khouri disclosed that his firm, b9 architects, works on projects for private clients throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Grace Kim disclosed that her firm, Schemata Workshop, is working on projects at the University of Washington as well as the Sound Transit Roosevelt Station.

Planning Commission Staff, Jesseca Brand briefed the Commission on the University District letter. The Commission discussed changing the term “mid-block” crossings to “through block” connections stating that this is a better description of the mechanism for connecting the community through private sector redevelopment. They also added “existing zoning” to the LR2 header and included a statement of encouragement of SDOT to advance their streetcar planning work.

**ACTION:** Commissioner David Cutler moved to approve the letter with the proposed changes. Commissioner Bradley Khouri seconded. The letter was approved unanimously.

- **Briefing & Discussion: Family-Size Housing Whitepaper**
  - Commissioner Catherine Benotto, Housing & Neighborhoods Committee Chair
  - Diana Canzoneri, SPC Staff

Co-Chair Cutler called for any disclosures and/or recusals.

#### DISCLOSURES & RECUSALS:

- Commissioner Grace Kim disclosed that her firm, Schemata Workshop, works on multi-family projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Bradley Khouri disclosed that his firm, b9 architects, works on projects for private clients throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Maggie Wykowski disclosed that her employer, Puget Sound Sage, works on a wide variety of public policy issues that have land use and planning implications in the City of Seattle.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Veris Law Group, represents single and multi-family developers, businesses, and others in the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that the firm he works for, GGLO, works on projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Tim Parham disclosed that the firm he works for, Plymouth Housing Group, develops and operates affordable housing throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Amalia Leighton disclosed that the firm she works for, SvR Design Company, provides landscape architecture, civil engineering and planning services for both public and private projects in the City of Seattle that may be impacted.
- Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that her employer, Weber Thompson, works on projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Colie Hough Beck disclosed that her firm, Hough Beck & Baird Inc., works on public, private and non-profit projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted.
- Commissioner Matt Roewe disclosed that the firm he works for, Via Architecture works on projects throughout the City of Seattle that might be impacted and he is a member of the Capitol Hill Housing Board.
- Commissioner Morgan Shook disclosed that his employer, Berk, a public policy management consultancy. BERK has a range of public, non-profit, and private clients who may be impacted.

Catherine Benotto, 2012-2013 Housing & Neighborhood Committee Chair, and Diana Canzoneri, senior policy analyst provided the Commission with a briefing on the draft Family-Size Housing Whitepaper from Commissioner to the Commission.

Executive Director Barbara Wilson indicated that the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee developed the draft. She added that the release of this whitepaper should be in mid-October.

Co-Chair Cutler remarked that the recommendations in the *Housing Seattle* report that the Commission released in 2011 held special weight because they were developed based on data; the family-size housing whitepaper, which is following up on the *Housing Seattle* report, is continuing in that vein.

Co-Chair Cutler suggested that staff include a map showing density of families, which is likely substantial in many of the urban neighborhoods in Seattle.

Commissioner McDonald stated that family-friendly neighborhoods should be given more emphasis in the recommendations. Commissioner Hough Beck added that this would be an opportunity to reinforce the importance of the Bicycle Master Plan, as well the importance of coordination with other modal plans.

Co-Chair Leighton noted that pedestrian and transit investments should be leveraged and coordinated with planning on land use and housing to support families in transit communities. She added that several of the recommendations in the white paper need to focus more explicitly on transit communities.

Several Commissioners offered ideas for honing several of the recommendations, including the recommendation on exempting units with three or more bedrooms from the calculations of FAR.

Commissioner Brown suggested adding coordination of planning for schools with the City's work on the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Shook suggested reordering the first sections and leading with the value, Seattle places on having families with children in the city. He also suggested making it clearer how the opportunities the Commission sees and the strategies it is recommending vary by the type of characteristics a neighborhood has. Commissioner Shook noted, for example, how development capacity is limited in single-family zoned areas, which generally hold more attraction for families.

Ms. Wilson thanked the Commissioners for their feedback.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Co-Chair Cutler adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.