



Minutes #188

(Adopted TBD)

City of Seattle/University of Washington Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC)

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 PM

UW Tower

4333 Brooklyn Avenue, 22nd Floor

Seattle, WA 98105

Attendees/CUCAC Members:

Yvonne Sanchez

John Gaines

Barbara Quinn

Sophie Corroon

Mark Crawford

Jorgen Bader

Jon Berkedal

Colleen McAleer (alternate)

Kay Kelly

Douglas Campbell

Kerry Kahl

Staff and Other Present:

Nelson Pesigan - DON

Sally Clark – UW

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. John Gaines opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

2. Housekeeping

There was a motion to adopt the September 10, 2019 minutes, and it was seconded. The Committee voted with two abstentions, and the motion was adopted.

There was a motion to adopt the October 8, 2019 minutes, and it was seconded. The Committee voted with two abstentions, and the motion was adopted.

3. Softball Performance Center (02:10)

Ms. Anna Daeuble of the UW Project Delivery Group provided a project overview of the Softball Performance Center. It will be a 5,525 square foot building in the Athletic Village between the Nordstrom Tennis Center and Husky Stadium.

The Center will function as an all-season indoor training center for the UW Softball program intended as a recruitment aid to top softball players from around the country. The property will include making the fire lane American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, improved pedestrian experience, new landscaping and added stormwater retention.

She provided a map of the project site and a diagram of the in-village context and concept view from different angles. The site will foster its identity with the new building and the softball field and create a safe passage for the women going from their locker rooms to the practice facility.

She noted that the project is going through Master Use Permit (MUP) review due to tree removal. About 43 trees are being preserved including an exceptional metasequoia and several large tulip trees located on the south side of the existing fire lane. About 24 trees are proposed to be removed to accommodate the construction of the facility and ADA improvements.

The primary user of the center is the women's softball team but it is not expected to be a women-only center. The center is open during the summer months and off-season for summer camps. There will be gender-neutral restrooms in the building. Ms. Clark mentioned that the Baseball Team has its own performance center. Ms. Daeuble added that the ceilings at the Baseball Center are much lower than for the softball center.

Mr. Gaines commented about the building materials, and Ms. Daeuble responded that the Design Team is still working on the materials, but they are looking at a pre-engineered metal building to keep it simple.

Mr. Jon Berkedal commented if the building project was part of the Campus Master Plan (CMP) and if the site impacts the neighboring communities. Ms. Clark responded that the CMP does not list the specific buildings to be built, but it gives authority on areas of development. She added that the project is not out of bounds in terms of capacity within the CMP.

Mr. Berkedal commented about potential impacts on the neighboring communities such as exterior lighting that may bleed out, and Ms. Clark responded that she will ask the Athletics Department about any potential impacts. She noted that she anticipates more summer camps during the year. Mr. Berkedal noted the issue around traffic and a convenient drop off site for the public that will be attending or participating in the events. He added drop off zones should be created that will be convenient for everyone. He noted that this is a broader issue and not specifically directed to the project.

Mr. Berkedal commented that if the building was anticipated by the CMP or was there a decision made to have the center be part of the campus. Ms. Clark commented that any building development that comes to the Committee that is beyond the developable square footage would require an amendment to the CMP. This project falls within the scale and developmental capacity of the East Campus area.

Mr. Berkedal commented that the center is an excellent addition to the University, and Ms. Barbara Quinn commented that having summer camps for the high school kids will be better.

Ms. Colleen McAleer asked if there will be a change in connectivity in the pathway behind the site, and Ms. Daeuble mentioned that the route will remain the same and the only change will be the fire lane. There will be landscape and lighting enhancements added to the site.

The construction will begin in June or July 2020 and the anticipated completion will be early 2021.

4. Montlake Triangle Project Update (21:07)

Mr. Kevin Kibet of King County Metro is the project manager for the Montlake Triangle Project Implementation.

Mr. Kibet commented that this project has been in planning and deliberation for a while. It has gone through twenty different concepts. Agencies involved in this process include SDOT, UW Athletics, King County Metro, several community members and other jurisdictions from the east side.

A goal of the project is to create better bus transportation and bus lines coming from the east side during peak times that are. Bus schedule changes will take effect in March 2020. Another goal of this project is to address any ADA issues around the UW plaza and address traffic patterns during graduation and football games. The project will include widening of roads, enhanced sidewalks, development of the north planters, enhanced ADA pathways as well as bus shelter improvements and striping for buses.

Mr. Berkedal commented that the big improvement will be bus transportation. His concerns are about the drop-offs coming from the Light Rail station during sporting events and how the drop-offs are being addressed so as to not create traffic issues.

Ms. Clark commented that there have been changes made in the stadium drop off and suggested inviting the UW Transportation Services to come to this meeting and present the changes that they have made.

Ms. Clark added that traffic patterns around the stadium will be different on game day, and Mr. Berkedal commented that he wants to know what the plan is on a routine basis.

Mr. Bader asked if there were any traffic studies that were done on Montlake Boulevard and NE Pacific Street, and Mr. Kibet responded that they have done some conservative data analysis on bus traffic and he noted that there will be no major traffic impacts.

Mr. Bader asked about the slowdown in traffic and if it will create traffic congestion, and Mr. Kibet noted that there will be no change in traffic especially during the morning hours. There may be a potential two minutes average increase in general traffic on southbound Montlake Boulevard in the PM peak times ranging and will know more once the service change becomes effective in March.

Mr. Bader requested if he could get a copy of the traffic analysis report or an executive summary to present to his community council.

Mr. Gaines commented that the main purpose of the project is to get bus traffic out of downtown, and Mr. Kibet noted that is one of the purposes, also creating a backbone for the Light Rail Station and position King County Metro to reinvest 44,000 bus hours in the Northeast where the Light Rail System is more effective. He added that there will be no redundant bus services following the Light Rail.

Ms. McAleer asked if this project could accommodate Bus routes 78 and 65 to pass the bus stops along Montlake Boulevard in the PM peak hours avoid traffic congestion, and Mr. Kibet mentioned that he will present it to the planners for more information.

5. U District Upzone Plans (39:28)

Mr. Pesigan commented that he contacted Mr. Geoffrey Wentlandt several times if he could do a presentation update about the U District Up zone plans, but he never responded to the requests. Mr. Gaines suggested continuing to reach out to Mr. Wentlandt and invite him if he could present an update to the Committee.

6. Public Comments

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for public comments. There were no public comments.

7. Committee Deliberation (40:52)

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for Committee deliberation.

Mr. Gaines mentioned having Ms. Kjristine Lund assist the Committee focus on the scope for 2020 since the CMP is already complete. The goal is to have Ms. Lund at the beginning of the year to help facilitate a work plan that the Committee can adopt to be more effective. Ms. Clark commented about identifying what this Committee's goal would like and its measure of success in order to benefit from Ms. Lund's services.

Mr. Berkedal commented that the Committee should commit to reviewing the current bylaws and City and University agreement (CUA) since these documents provide a blueprint on what this Committee is supposed to do. The value of having Ms. Lund is to help the Committee understand what resources are available and how to leverage these resources for the Committee to use. The roles and responsibilities of this Committee already exist in the bylaws and the ordinance.

He added that if Ms. Lund can help the Committee be a better partner with the University and the City would be great. The City has a big role to play in their interaction with the Committee. A presentation by the City about the impacts of their upcoming projects to the neighborhood will be beneficial to this Committee.

He also suggested a specific deliverable this Committee can provide to both the University and the City is also beneficial. He hopes that any feedback or comments that come out of this Committee either through the meeting minutes or other documents are being taken seriously.

Suggested topics for this Committee are affordable housing in the surrounding neighborhoods, multi-modal transportation impacts and up zones.

Mr. Bader suggested attending the Board of Regents meeting so the Committee can be informed about upcoming projects that will be happening in the University that may affect the surrounding neighborhoods.

Ms. Clark commented that it is a challenge having this Committee be involved in the early decisions of a building project because it involves different tracking mechanisms before it gets presented to this Committee.

8. New Business (1:03:36)

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for new business.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Committee will be meeting in December. There was a motion to cancel the December meeting and it was seconded. The Committee voted and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Berkedal reemphasized to have a representative from SDOT to come and present about the potential impact of the Light Rail Station opening and the traffic patterns around the area. Mr. Campbell suggested inviting representatives from King County Metro and Sound Transit to discuss bus circulation.

Mr. Berkedal commented that the biggest concern for Wallingford is pedestrian and bicycle traffic getting across I-5. The public will be riding bicycles to the Light Rail station and there is no safe way for bicycles to get across I-5. The residents of Wallingford are pushing very hard about this and having more voices is important.

Mr. Bader commented that Mr. Kibet will be sending a copy of the traffic report and executive summary to Mr. Pesigan and he can distribute it to the rest of the Committee.

Mr. Gaines reminded the Committee that he is still looking for a volunteer to be co-chairperson.

9. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.