



## City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

McCaela Daffern and David Goldberg, Co-Chairs  
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

### SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

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<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	Xio Alvarez, McCaela Daffern, Andrew Dannenberg, David Goldberg, Rick Mohler, Dhyana Quintanar, Lauren Squires, Nick Whipple
<b>Commissioners Absent:</b>	Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Radhika Nair, Julio Sanchez, Monika Sharma, Jamie Stroble, Kelabe Tewolde
<b>Commission Staff:</b>	Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Olivia Baker, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission Coordinator

*Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.*

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Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/meetings>

#### Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Co-Chair McCaela Daffern called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Co-Chair Daffern offered the following land acknowledgement:

*'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, I'd like to humbly recognize that we are gathered on Indigenous land, the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples. We thank these caretakers of this land who have lived and continue to live here since time immemorial. We acknowledge the role that traditional western-centric planning practices have played in harming, displacing, and attempting to erase Native communities and we respect Indigenous rights to sovereignty and self-determination. We commit being better listeners, learners and to lifting indigenous voices. We also commit to identifying racist practices, to practice allyship and strive to center restorative land stewardship rather than unsustainable and extractive use of the land.'*

Co-Chair Daffern noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting with some Commissioners and staff participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff are participating in the Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall. She asked fellow Commissioners to review the Color Brave Space norms and asked for volunteers to select one or more of the norms to read aloud. She suggested to Commissioners that they collectively agree to abide by these norms.

## Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, reviewed the format of the meeting. She noted that public comment could be submitted in writing via email at least eight hours before the start of the meeting or provided in person by members of the public attending the meeting at City Hall. Ms. Murdock stated that full Commission meetings will be recorded and posted to the Planning Commission's website. She noted that these recordings are not in lieu of the Commission's minutes, which are approved at the next full Commission meeting.

**ACTION: Commissioner Rick Mohler moved to approve the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Co-Chair David Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.**

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Briefing: 2023 Housing and Neighborhoods Committee Recap

Olivia Baker, Seattle Planning Commission staff, provided an overview of topics addressed by the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee in 2023. These included:

- Seattle Housing Levy renewal comment letter
- King County Countywide Planning Policies update
- Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) program deep dive with the Office of Housing (OH)
- 2023 State housing legislation overview
- Draft Anti-Displacement Framework briefing by the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD)
- Comprehensive Plan Housing Appendix preview by OPCD
- Comprehensive Plan engagement by Community-Based Organization partners update by OPCD
- Reconnect South Park presentation by OPCD

## Commission Discussion

- Commissioners expressed appreciation to Planning Commission staff for their work in 2023.
- Commissioners stated that MHA is an important tool in the City's efforts to address housing affordability, along with the Housing Levy. Commissioners noted that permanently affordable housing projects are located throughout the city, not only in undesirable locations. One market rate housing project in Green Lake was converted to affordable housing.
- Commissioners asked if staff receive feedback on the Commission's comment letters. It would be helpful to find out if the Commission's recommendations are being implemented. Ms. Baker stated that some of the responses are more formal, and others are less formal in the form of staff-to-staff conversations. Ms. Murdock stated that staff from the Office of Housing acknowledged that the Commission's recent letter on the Housing Levy was very helpful. Commissioners recommended that the last meeting of the year could be a useful time to review how its work has been received.

- Commissioners asked about the committee’s priorities for next year. Ms. Murdock stated that one of the purposes of this review is to inform a discussion of priorities at the upcoming retreat.
- Commissioners stated that the Housing Levy letter was one of the highlights of the year, especially considering the success of the Levy in the November election.

### **Briefing: 2023 Land Use and Transportation Committee Recap**

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, provided an overview of topics addressed by the Land Use and Transportation Committee in 2023. These included:

- Seattle Transportation Plan (STP)
  - Briefing from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
  - STP Review Framework
  - High-Level Issues Identification
  - Perspectives from Other Commissions (Bike, Freight, Pedestrian, Transit)
  - Draft and Final STP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Letters
  - Draft STP Project List (postponed)
- Mayor’s Executive Order on Reducing Emissions from the Transportation Sector
- Issue Identification: Freight Mobility in the Comprehensive Plan and STP
- Vision Zero
- Automated Traffic Enforcement (postponed)

### Commission Discussion

- Ms. Murdock noted that several of the transportation modal boards quoted the Planning Commission in their letters. Commissioners recommended that acknowledgements of the Commission’s work should be recorded in the meeting minutes.
- Mr. Hoey stated that staff from SDOT have offered to brief the Commission on how they are responding to the Commission’s comments on the STP.
- Commissioners asked how SDOT’s freight program and Vision Zero are working together to reduce safety issues on freight corridors. There is still a lot of tension between these two topics. Commissioners stated that SDOT staff are very data driven. The Commission has asked for a prioritization framework for projects. Hopefully SDOT provides a clear framework in the final STP.

### **2022 Retreat Recap and Laying the Groundwork for the 2024 Retreat**

Ms. Murdock provided a recap of the Commission’s 2022 retreat and overview of selected Planning Commission work in 2023, including:

- Letter in support of the Housing Levy renewal.
- Support of Industrial and Maritime Strategy Comprehensive Plan amendments.
- Review of and comment on Draft STP and associated DEIS. Discussion with modal boards.
- Public comment on Transportation Impact Fees Comprehensive Amendment proposal.
- Draft Comprehensive Plan: Anti-Displacement, Racial and Social Equity index, community-based engagement, Equitable Development Initiative Advisory Board meet and greet.

### Commission Discussion

- Commissioners reflected fondly on the 2022 retreat, stating that it was a special opportunity to be in a community -based space at the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands. The retreat was very helpful in connecting to other Commissioners and the shared purpose of serving on the Commission.
- Commissioners requested information on the anticipated comment period for the upcoming Draft Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Murdock stated that the comment period is expected to be forty-five days. She stated that the Planning Commission and other groups will most likely ask for sixty days.
- Commissioners noted that state law requires the City's Comprehensive Plan to be approved in 2024. Ms. Murdock stated that a clause in state legislation requires that municipalities over a certain size have an implementation zoning plan by June 2025. If cities do not have that zoning plan in place by June, a statewide model zoning will apply.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for the amount of work accomplished by the Planning Commission in 2023.
- Commissioners asked about the possibility of using artificial intelligence (AI) in the Planning Commission's review of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Murdock stated that Seattle Information Technology is working on a policy for how the City can use AI. Commission staff are waiting for guidance on how AI could be used. Commissioners stated that it will be a challenge to prioritize topics in the Comprehensive Plan to focus on and expressed caution about using AI for something that staff could be using time for.
- Commissioners highlighted the Planning Commission's recommendation to the City to rename Single Family zoning to Neighborhood Residential. Other jurisdictions are now making that change also.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.**