



City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission

David Cutler, Chair
Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
JANUARY 24, 2013
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chair David Cutler, Catherine Benotto, Luis F. Borrero, Josh Brower, Colie Hough-Beck, Mark Johnson, Bradley Khouri, Jeanne Krikawa, Kevin McDonald, Chris Persons, Morgan Shook, Sarah Snider

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Kadie Bell Sata, Amalia Leighton, Leslie Miller, Matt Roewe,

COMMISSION STAFF

Barbara Wilson-Executive Director, Diana Canzoneri-Senior Analyst, Katie Sheehy-Planning Analyst, Robin Magonegil-Administrative

IN ATTENDANCE

Christie Baumel, Tracy Morgenstern, Office of Sustainability & the Environment

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 attention at 7:34 am.

▪ **Chair's Report**

- Chair David Cutler

Chair Cutler mentioned the Commission holiday party noting that it will most likely be on Saturday and details would be coming from staff.

Chair Cutler stated that the Commission is starting the recruitment process for new Commissioners and that they are looking at three, possibly four, open positions. Ms. Wilson explained that Commissioner Miller's term is ending, as is Commissioner Johnson's. She added that Commissioner Bell Sata would likely be moving out of state. She noted that it would be good to have Commissioners from a variety of diverse backgrounds including community development and public health.

Chair Cutler reported on the AIA Seattle conference and that they have been asked to help co-sponsor and Commissioner Snider will be talking about her work related to urban families. Ms. Wilson noted that the AIA is looking at having it April 11, which is the same weekend as the APA conference in Chicago. She added that once the date is confirmed she would let the Commission know. Commissioner Snider noted that they are also speaking at the APA conference. Commissioner Benotto asked about the budget regarding getting speakers. Ms. Wilson noted that it is a meager budget but that they might be able to. She added that they are also working on gaps and that she would send out an email for ideas and people to speak on these topics.

Chair Cutler mentioned the upcoming Commission meetings noting that he and Commissioner Shook would be at the City Neighborhood Council (CNC) meeting on Monday. Ms. Wilson added that at the upcoming Housing & Neighborhoods Committee meeting they would be joined by Miriam Roskin from the Office of Housing.

Commissioner McDonald talked about the ULI event at GGLO noting that Councilmember Conlin was one of the speakers who explained that the concept of the Seattle Transit Communities in the Comp Plan amendments would allow more flexibility in single-family zones. Chair Cutler added that this issue is very important to him and to the Commission. He continued that it is a great thing that is going into the Comp Plan amendment cycle.

▪ **Review & Approve: Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Letter**

Chair Cutler called for any disclosures and/or recusals.

DISCLOSURES & RECUSALS:

- Commissioner Catherine Benotto disclosed that her firm, Weber Thompson, designs projects and advises clients on development projects throughout the city that could be affected by proposed Comp Plan changes.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Veris Law Group PLLC, represents single and multifamily developers throughout the city and industrial businesses in the Ballard-Interbay-Northend Manufacturing & Industrial Center. **Commissioner Brower recused himself from the discussion of the proposal H, regarding the recreational boating industry.**
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, designs projects and advises clients that may be impacted by amendments to the Comp Plan.
- Commissioner Colie Hough-Beck disclosed that her firm, HBB, works on commercial, multifamily, and public infrastructure projects throughout the city that might could be affected by proposed Comp Plan changes. The Port of Seattle is also one of their clients.
- Commissioner Mark Johnson disclosed that his firm, ESA, has the Port of Seattle and Sound Transit as clients that may be affected by some of the proposed amendments.
- Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa disclosed that her firm, The Underhill Company, is a consultant for Sound Transit.
- Commissioner Chris Persons disclosed that his firm, Capitol Hill Housing, develops affordable housing throughout the City and could be affected by the proposed changes in the Comp Plan.
- Commissioner Morgan Shook disclosed that his firm, BERK, works on municipal planning and private development projects that could be affected by the proposed changes to the Comp Plan.
- Commissioner Sarah Snider disclosed that her firm, LMN, does urban design and various types of architectural projects in the Seattle metropolitan area that could be affected by these amendments.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the letter noting the challenges of the phased approach, how they are piling on more and not integrating well. She explained that she, Commissioners Cutler and Leighton all met with Irene Wall last year and is reasonably sure that they will have all the same questions. Ms. Wilson stated that she did not think that showing the map is too much of a problem but she expressed her hesitation to do so if there is a broader concern. Commissioner Khouri suggested not focusing on the map. Ms. Sheehy stated that it is about the methodology and not the mapping itself. Commissioner Khouri wondered if the CNC agree at all that it is good to get out of cars. Ms. Wilson replied that it is hard to characterize, as they are big groups with a divergence of opinions. She added that their job is supposed to be representing their district councils. Ms. Wilson noted that there was a lot of discussion about the two neighborhood plan updates. She added that Nora Liu came to the Executive Committee meeting and made a very good case about not changing the rules mid-stream. Ms. Wilson asked the Commission to review this letter if they have not yet done so and that edits are due by the end of the week.

▪ **Briefing: Climate Action Plan**

- Christie Baumel & Tracy Morgenstern, Office of Sustainability & the Environment

Chair Cutler called for any disclosures and/or recusals.

DISCLOSURES & RECUSALS:

- Commissioner Chris Persons disclosed that his firm, Capitol Hill Housing, develops affordable housing throughout the City and could be affected by the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner Brad Khouri disclosed that his firm, b9 Architects, works on projects throughout the city of Seattle that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner Sarah Snider disclosed that her firm, LMN Architects, works on projects throughout the city of Seattle that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner Colie Hough Beck disclosed that her firm, HBB, works on commercial, multifamily, and public infrastructure projects throughout the city that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, designs projects and advises clients that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan and he is working on the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Veris Law Group PLLC, represents single and multifamily developers throughout the city and industrial businesses that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa disclosed that her firm,
- Commissioner Luis Borrero disclosed that his firm, DRiVE, works on projects throughout the city of Seattle that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan.
- Commissioner Mark Johnson disclosed that his firm, ESA, has the Port of Seattle and Sound Transit as clients that might be affected by the Climate Action Plan and if this results in additional requirements for an EIS, ESA does that type of work.

Chair Cutler welcomed Christie Baumel and Tracy Morgenstern.

Ms. Baumel talked about the kick-off release event for the Climate Action Plan noting that it should be released on Earth Day.

Ms. Morgenstern showed the Commissioners a new video, which can be seen via this link.

<http://greenspace.seattle.gov/climateactionplan/>

Ms. Morgenstern gave a power point presentation that can be accessed via:
<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/docs/SPCpresentation2013-01-24.pdf>

Ms. Morgenstern mentioned that the SLOG blogged it and they are getting a lot more responses to the survey. She added that February 12 is the open house and that now through the end of February would be the time to comment.

Commissioner Snider asked about how the online responses regarding the cycle tracks would be included in the Bicycle Master Plan. Ms. Morgenstern replied that they are working on the Inter Departmental Team (IDT) and coordinating with SDOT.

Commissioner Khouri thanked them for moving this forward and wondered if they had looked at expected population growth. Ms. Morgenstern asked if he was referring to climate refugees. She added that more analysis needs to be done but they are aware of this but that they do not have the data yet. She continued that Miami is an example of a city that is in deep trouble. Commissioner Khouri wondered how prioritizing pedestrians and bikes would help. He also asked, in regards to rights of way (ROW), what is negotiable with SDOT. Ms. Morgenstern responded that SDOT has been involved in the planning and they want to see a more comprehensive planning tool. Commissioner Khouri expressed that it is more a question of if we are making cars less important then we have to create space for people of all ages to ride bikes. Ms. Morgenstern replied that is going to require separation and SDOT is aware of that. She added that building community support is important and they want to increase awareness. She noted that the Cascade Bicycle Club did some recent polling. Commissioner McDonald mentioned that there was an article regarding the bicycle survey in the Stranger yesterday.

Commissioner Borrero asked them to talk a little about waste. Ms. Baumel stated that Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has a solid waste management plan that goes out 30 years. She noted that they have looked at the solid waste plan, which has a 70% recycling goal with construction/demolition by 2020 and residential/office by 2022. Ms. Baumel mentioned that they did not do a new plan but a solid waste advisory committee did identify things to do sooner and they are focused on recycling and composting as well as how to keep the organic materials out of the waste stream and source reduction. Commissioner Borrero wondered about the idea of converting waste to energy. Ms. Baumel replied that what keeps the city from getting excited about that is their belief that if you build it then you have to feed it. Commissioner Borrero noted that even 30% land fill is a lot of tonnage. Ms. Baumel agreed noting that figuring out how to find other ways to reduce the last 30% would be difficult. Commissioner Borrero stated that it might be better to have this conversation with the folks from SPU.

Chair Cutler thanked Ms. Morgenstern and Ms. Baumel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cutler adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.