



**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 22, 2004
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners in Attendance

John Owen, Chair; George Blomberg, Vice Chair; Angela Brooks, Ray Connell, Tom Eanes, Jerry Finrow, Jeanne Krikawa, Joe Quintana, Steve Sheehy, Mimi Sheridan, Paul Tomita.

Commissioners Absent

Anjali Bhagat, Matthew Kitchen, Lyn Krizanich, Tony To.

Commission Staff

Marty Curry, Executive Director

Guests

Mahlon Clements: Planning Commissioner-Designee

Call to Order

Chair John Owen called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner George Blomberg made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa, to approve the April 8, 2004 Commission minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Chair's Report

Chair John Owen reminded Commissioners of several upcoming meetings, including the Council's Public Hearing on the Monorail Alignment and Station Locations, the Comp Plan Meeting on the Environment Element, the two joint working sessions with the Design Commission on the Alaskan Way Viaduct DEIS and on Waterfront planning.

Meeting with Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck

Chair Owen Curry reported that Peter Steinbrueck had to cancel his meeting last week with the Commission but has committed to attending the May 13 meeting.

Nominating Committee

Marty Curry reported that the Nominating Committee has met and with some additional calls to several Commissioners will propose a slate of officers at the next Commission meeting. She thanked Commissioners who have provided input on their own willingness to serve and their suggestions for chair and vice chair.

SPC Letter to Council on Monorail Alignment and Station Locations

Marty Curry referred Commissioners to the Commission letter, revised to reflect comments from their review and input. She noted that both the Transportation Committee and Executive Committee had discussed and offered comments on the draft. Commissioners suggested several minor revisions and directed Marty to send out the final draft to Commissioners for a last review later today, and then to send it to Council Friday, April 23. Marty Curry also noted that the Commission has been asked to participate in the Council's COW on the Monorail on Monday, April 26. Chair John Owen will attend and provide a summary of the Commission's letter.

ACTION: Commissioner Steve Sheehy moved and Joe Quintana seconded that the Commission approve the letter with the suggested revisions, directing Director Marty Curry to send the final draft to Commissioners today and transmit the letter to Council Friday, April 23.

Project Updates

Northgate

Chair Owen asked Jerry Finrow to report on the second Northgate Stakeholders meeting which he attended. Jerry Finrow expressed his surprise that the Stakeholders group is so large and at the formal procedures of having alternates sit behind members and members giving permission for those alternates to speak. Finrow observed that presentations by Lorig and Associates and Seattle Public Utilities on the south lot were good and that the discussion on the alternatives was lively. He noted that the Chair did a good job in getting everyone to speak on the various presentations and issues. Finally Commissioner Finrow stated that the Stakeholders Group seems to be getting a lot of information with not much time to assimilate and discuss it.

Chair Owen reported that the Commission's Northgate Subcommittee met earlier this week and is working with staff on the report on the workshops. Commissioner Tom Eanes noted his hope that the Commission will receive assistance from Hewitt, consultants to DPD on the Open Space/Pedestrian Connections Plan, in developing the graphic summary/highlights from the workshop.

Commissioner Jeanne Krikawa stated her preference for not sending the Commission's Pedestrian Connections Workshop report to the Stakeholders group in advance of making a presentation. Given how much they are getting in their packets, it might be more effective to present the results and recommendations first, and then ask Stakeholders to look at the report and provide comments. This would ensure that people understand the context and have had a chance to give and hear initial comments and questions before reading the report.

Comprehensive Plan

Marty Curry reminded the Commission that it will be reviewing and preparing comments on the Comprehensive Plan Amendments, with comments due to DPD on May 28. A sign-up sheet was sent around for Commissioners to indicate what amendments they would review. Chair Owen asked that staff send out the summary of assignments and discussion questions to guide Commissioners' review. In response to questions about the Port of Seattle's amendment on Interbay, staff noted the Commission's earlier comments (at the threshold stage of the process) that this amendment should be viewed in the context of the City's overall industrial policies. Chair John Owen added that the City needs to think about economic development when considering changes to the industrial policies.

Action: The Commission directed staff to send to Commissioners on Friday the assignments, discussion questions and the SPC scoping letter on the Council Resolution. Commissioners agreed to sign up to review specific amendments and to get their comments to staff by May 10.

PRESENTATION: Monorail Station Area Planning

Chair John Owen welcomed Cheryl Sizov, Vanessa Murdock and David Graves to update the Commission on the Monorail Station Area Planning process. Vanessa Murdock, DPD's Station Area Planning Lead, stated that she and David would update the Commission on work they are doing to develop the station area plans, including plans for community meetings in June, elements for the Action Plans and an outline of the work they are doing in concert with SMP.

Cheryl Sizov, the City's Land Use and Design lead also gave a brief update on the Council's upcoming actions on the Monorail alignment and station locations and on the Transit Way Agreement. Commissioner Mimi Sheridan asked if there is flexibility in the community workshops if the Council decision is delayed. Ms. Murdock responded that they would probably go forward if the alignment decision is made but the Transit Way agreement is still being discussed.

Commissioner Joe Quintana asked who is involved to ensure coordination on transportation issues – bicycle and pedestrian access, traffic circulation, etc. in the Transit Way Agreement. Ms. Murdock responded that these specific issues will be conditioned through the permitting process, and that the Transit Way Agreement will not address all of these specific issues.

Commissioner Jean Krikawa noted that the Mitigation Section of the SMP's Final EIS lists specific pedestrian improvements. She asked how this fits with the Transit Way Agreement and the station area planning process. Ms. Sizov stated that the Mitigation Section will be used as a baseline in the Transit Way Agreement, which will assume a specific mitigation program. Commissioner Krikawa also noted that it will be difficult to be specific regarding mitigation measures until station entrances and designs are known.

Commissioner George Blomberg observed that Chapter 5 (Mitigation) in the FEIS is illustrative and it is important to make sure the right categories are identified there. Ms. Sizov agreed and noted that the Transit Way Agreement does not preclude the City (DPD and SDOT) from using its SEPA and permit conditioning authority. Commissioner Steve Sheehy also noted that the alignment decision will inform the Transit Way Agreement. Chair Owen stated that the period between the alignment decision and Transit Way Agreement decision is an opportunity to weigh in on any key issues/priorities the Commission believes should be included in the latter. Commissioner Sheehy stated that as in the case with Sound Transit, the Transit Way Agreement will become the key reference document for the agency because it will define the role of the City and the SMP.

Cheryl Sizov asked the Commissioners how to address City concerns about expectations that will derive from the Station Action Plans. While staff needs to ensure that this document is practical, it also needs to be more far-reaching to really be a plan.

Chair John Owen thanked staff for their presentation and discussion and suggested continuing this discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION: Councilmember Jean Godden

Chair Owen welcomed Councilmember Jean Godden and thanked her for coming to introduce herself to the Commission. He gave a very brief overview of the Planning Commission and current activities then

asked CM Godden to share with the Commission her background, issues and ways in which the Commission can help her in her work.

CM Godden first noted that she covered the Planning Commission years ago as a young reporter and stated that it is great to be part of the City as a Councilmember. She noted that she is Chair of the Energy and Environmental Policy Committee, so is learning a lot about Seattle City Light where her first action was to lead the Council through the confirmation of a new Superintendent. She expressed her hope that the Citizen Advisory Committee for SCL will help to improve the operations of SCL. CM Godden is also Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, where a lot of action in the City is focused. She noted the Council's work on the Design Guidelines for the Monorail project and upcoming decisions on the Alaskan Way Viaduct. She stated that she favors a cut and cover tunnel and is excited about the opportunity to have a park along the waterfront. CM Godden is also a member of the Parks, Neighborhoods, and Education Committee which is beginning work on the Families and Education Levy. She is also an alternate on the Urban Development and Planning Committee and a member of the Communications Oversight Committee.

Commissioner Joe Quintana asked about the Council's perspective on the key transportation issues. CM Godden said it is hard to predict, but thinks that Councilmembers feel it is necessary to get better transit, in its various forms. She noted that citizens need to feel that when they vote on something they will see the results. She referenced the Monorail alignment decisions on the Seattle Center and the North Link alignment as examples where Council is making decisions that allow these projects to move forward.

Commissioner Steve Sheehy noted that another issue that the Commission works on is affordable housing. He stated the Commission's strong support for addressing the need for affordable housing, and its work on the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit project. CM Godden agreed that this is an important issue and noted that Council did recently pass the Multi-Family Tax Exemption ordinance, expanding this program to more areas within the city, and revising it to make it more attractive to developers. She also noted that the Council has addressed social issues as with its support for the City to recognize gay marriages in providing City benefits.

Commissioner Joe Quintana informed CM Godden that a letter from the Planning Commission is coming to Council on the Monorail, expressing concerns about the fast time frame and the need for elected officials to have enough time to thoroughly examine and resolve issues with various alignment recommendations. CM Godden also noted that the City's oversight committee is considering project phasing and agency responsibilities, and is also getting professional advice on funding.

In response to Chair Owen's question about how the Planning Commission can assist CM Godden, she expressed interest in being invited to sit in and listen to Commission discussion of issues that will come to the Council. Marty Curry noted that this might be particularly useful on issues that Councilmember Godden is not directly involved in but where the Council needs to act.

Chair Owen thanked Councilmember Godden for coming and promised to invite her to future Commission meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Owen adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.