

MEETING MINUTES

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Director, OPCD

Jill Crary, Chair

Kevin O'Neill, Vice Chair

Adam Amrhein

Jay Backman

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
Strategic Advisor

Windy Bandekar
Planner

Juliet Acevedo
Administrative Staff

June 20, 2024

Convened 12:30 pm

Adjourned 3:30 pm

Projects Reviewed

Commission Business

Memorial Stadium

Commissioners Present

Adam Amrhein

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Jill Crary

Ben Gist

Brian Markham (attended virtually)

Kevin O'Neill

Molly Spetalnick

Commissioners Excused

Jay Backman

Zubin Rao

Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Windy Bandekar

**Office of Planning and Community
Development**

600 4th Avenue, Floor 5

PO Box 94788

Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349

FAX 206-233-7883

seattle.gov/designcommission



Commission Business (12:30 – 1:00 pm)

The following items were discussed:

1. Consent agenda
 - a. May 16, 2024 meeting minutes
 - b. June 6, 2024 meeting minutes
2. Project briefing

Project review – Memorial Stadium (1:00 – 3:30 pm)

Project Description

The redevelopment of Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center is a collaborative project involving Seattle Public Schools, the City of Seattle, and the One Roof Stadium Partnership. The project includes the demolition and reconstruction of the existing Memorial Stadium. The new facility will have a capacity of up to 8,000 people, and will host athletic, educational, cultural, and community events. The historic Memorial Wall, a City of Seattle designated landmark, will be preserved and enhanced. Project funding currently includes:

- One Roof Partnership - \$5 million
- Seattle Public Schools - \$66.5 million
- City of Seattle - \$40 million.

The Commission received a presentation on the initial designs for the project, reflecting that the project was approved through a Request for Proposal process. The Commission focused its review on the public realm improvements at the perimeter of the project site.

The following people were presenters:

1. David Kunselman, Seattle Center
2. Jackie Kirn, Seattle Center
3. Lance Lopes, One Roof
4. Barbara Swift, Swift and Company
5. Brad Tong, SOJ
6. John Liams, Generator Studio (attended virtually)
7. Jill Monaghan, Generator Studio (attended virtually)

The Commission voted 8-0 to approve the initial design phase. The next project presentation should include information on how project designs have been advanced to reflect program needs, public engagement, and Commission comments. Commissioners will be particularly interested in

- How physical and visual barriers between the International Fountain and the western side of the Memorial Stadium project can be diminished
- How the fencing and its designs enhance the areas around the site
- How the overall program relates to, and integrates with, various transportation modes (bus, bike, monorail, etc.)

- How the public areas at and around the Memorial Wall can be elevated, honored, and restored, understanding that any efforts cannot conflict with any landmark designations that have been granted to the wall.
- An update on how public engagement has shaped the goal of better integration of the project into Seattle Center
- How artists are leveraged into the overall program, including how artists have a role in integrating artistic outcome into project elements (fencing, etc.) as well as in project features (choice and application of materials, etc.), in addition to meeting any 1% for Art obligations.
- How the programming or event proforma affects management of the Seattle Center campus, including coordination and collaboration with other resident organizations on issues including maintenance and parking resources.

The Commission also adopted a condition that a subcommittee be convened to evaluate concept level design alternatives for the west portion of the project. The goal for the subcommittee is to understand and explore with the project team the range of possible options for the portion of the site adjacent to the International Fountain lawn to reduce physical and visual barriers and enhance and elevate this key open space in the heart of the campus. At this subcommittee, the Commission's evaluation will include:

1. How the west Memorial Stadium project elements (architecture, landscape architecture, elevation, terracing and other design elements) and the stadium-related program needs of these elements can contribute to the open space and connections through the Seattle Center.
2. How physical and visual relationships to other iconic elements and view corridors between iconic elements (International Fountain, Space Needle, McCaw Hall, Armory, etc.) are protected and enhanced by the design elements on the perimeter of the Stadium project.