



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Rick Mohler and Jamie Stroble, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, February 09, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: McCaella Daffern, Roque Deherrera, David Goldberg, Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Rick Mohler, Radhika Nair, Dalton Owens, Dhyana Quintanar, Julio Sanchez, Lauren Squires, Jamie Stroble, Kelabe Tewolde

Commissioners Absent: Mark Braseth, Patience Malaba, Alanna Peterson

Commission Staff: 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.

Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

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

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Co-Chair Rick Mohler called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Co-Chair Mohler offered the following land acknowledgement:

'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, we'd like to acknowledge that the city of Seattle is on stolen Coast Salish land, specifically the ancestral land of the Duwamish, Suquamish, and Muckleshoot Tribes. We strive to remedy this injustice through our beliefs and actions in helping to steward our land and communities in Seattle.'

Co-Chair Mohler noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting with some participating remotely while others are participating in the Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall. He 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. He reminded Commissioners that they have collectively agreed to abide by these norms.

ACTION: Commissioner Roque Deherrera moved to approve the January 26, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner David Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning 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.

Commission Business

Ms. Murdock provided an overview of several upcoming major work items for the Planning Commission, including the following:

- Industrial and Maritime Strategy Comprehensive Plan amendments (April)
- Housing Levy (April/May)
- Comprehensive Plan Major Update public draft and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (May)
- Draft Seattle Transportation Plan and DEIS (May)

She shared the following tentative schedule for reviewing these items at upcoming meetings:

- Now –Mid May:
 - 3 Housing & Neighborhoods (H&N) Committee meetings, 3 Land Use and Transportation (LUT) Committee meetings, 6 full Commission meetings
 - Industrial and Maritime Strategy Comprehensive Plan amendments, Housing Levy letter, prepare for releases of draft Comprehensive Plan, Seattle Transportation Plan, and DEISs
- Mid May –July:
 - 2 H&N meetings, 2 LUT meetings, 5 full Commission meetings
 - Prepare and approve comments on draft Plans & DEISs

She asked for input on how Planning Commission staff and Commissioners can prepare for this upcoming work and how staff can best support the Commissioners.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners expressed concern that the Commission will not have time to respond to all these work items. We have a general idea of what our main themes will be. Perhaps individual Commissioners can provide input.
- Commissioners stated that it would be helpful to review case studies of how other jurisdictions have responded to similar issues, with attention to successes and failures, particularly the issue of industrial lands.
- Commissioners expressed interest in learning more about the Comprehensive Plan alternatives and how each would help the City meet projected housing needs across the income spectrum and the HB 1220 requirements.
- Commissioners suggested forming small groups where Commissioners can work together on specific themes and then bring their ideas to the full Commission.
- Commissioners suggested that the working committees can take the lead on separate plans and projects. The H & N Committee could take the lead on the Comprehensive Plan and Housing Levy.

The LUT Committee could take the lead on the Industrial and Maritime Strategy and Seattle Transportation Plan. Ms. Murdock stated that those meetings can be joined by any Commissioners and are open to the public. Both committees will be reviewing the Comprehensive Plan.

- Commissioners suggested that smaller workgroups including members from both committees could review individual Comprehensive Plan elements.
- Commissioners stated that it would be appreciated if staff could prepare an analysis of past concerns and scoping comments. That would help the Commission to prioritize its comments.
- Commissioners stated that it is imperative to remain accountable and acknowledge deadlines, even when there may be diverse concerns among the members of the Commission.

Ms. Murdock suggested an approach for the Commission's review of the draft Comprehensive Plan. She stated that it would be beneficial for the Commission to prioritize review of the Plan's elements through a lens of its most recent work – the following four topic-specific issue briefs:

- Updating the Growth Strategy
- Addressing Displacement in Seattle's Comprehensive Plan
- Repurposing the Right-of-Way
- Supporting Affordable Housing in the Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Murdock stated that these issue briefs are on the Commission's website. She suggested an initial prioritization of the Growth Strategy, Land Use, Transportation, and Housing elements. She encouraged Commissioners to consider which issues they would like to review in greater detail than others.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners expressed interested in learning more about the City's economic development strategy.
- Commissioners suggested that the Commission should review the Capital Facilities and Parks elements as they relate to equity and climate.
- Commissioners expressed interest in how anti-displacement is being addressed across the elements and how climate change impacts are being considering throughout many of the elements.
- Commissioners expressed interest in the Capital Facilities element because utilities drive a lot of project decisions and therefore citywide trends.
- Commissioners expressed interest in how the Comprehensive Plan is addressing equity, specifically different types of equity.
- Commissioners asked whether the Comprehensive Plan amendments that the Commission will be reviewing were submitted by the public. Ms. Murdock replied no, these proposed amendments were prepared by City staff to adopt and implement recommendations of the Industrial and Maritime Strategy.
- Commissioners requested a copy of all the deferred Comprehensive Plan amendments from last year to review what some people were interested in.

Resources

[Advancing Racial Equity as part of the 2024 Update to the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan and Urban Village Strategy](#), PolicyLink

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.