

Seattle Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee

September 9, 2009

Diana Sugimura
Director
Seattle Department of Planning and Development
PO Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Re: Status Report Recommendations

At its August 18, 2009 meeting, the Seattle Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC) approved several specific items of advice to the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) regarding the Neighborhood Planning Status Reports DPD is developing and compiling into a State of the Neighborhoods Report. This advice is in addition to advice on the Status Reports provided by NPAC earlier this year, and is based on NPAC's experience and observations while serving as co-host for a series of Status Report Open Houses in June and July 2009. On behalf of NPAC and its Status Report Subcommittee, I am pleased to provide the advice below:

1. Update the "Community Investment" portion of each neighborhood's status report to reflect projects that were important to the community—whether they were implemented or not. This section should read less like a city public relations document, and more like a "here's what happened in the neighborhood" synopsis. This information could come from the online and written questionnaires and open house comments.
2. Update the "Vision" portion of each neighborhood's status report to reflect community input from the open houses and the online questionnaire. In a paragraph following each Vision, state clearly whether the community feels the Vision is still current or is outdated. This information should help to prioritize which neighborhoods should be updated next, and could come from the online and written questionnaires and open house comments.
3. Provide more complete and accurate statistics and trend information throughout the status reports for every neighborhood. However, as plan updates are pursued this information should be kept current.
4. When listing capital facilities, clearly state whether or not a facility is in the Urban Village. If a facility outside the urban village (or in another urban village) is listed in the status report, clearly explain the City's rationale for including those external capital facilities, so that it doesn't seem like a mistake has been made in the report or whether there is any intention to expand the Urban Village boundaries. Not all Urban Villages have the entire assortment of Capital facilities, so the fullest listing possible may help provide a perspective of what is within, near or at a distance to an urban village.
5. There are many ideas NPAC has forwarded to and discussed with DPD that would ideally be a part of updated status reports. However, the reality of currently available statistics and funding for the status reports, as well as the timing of future updates makes this data more feasible and relevant during a neighborhood Plan Update process. NPAC encourages DPD to keep these general and neighborhood-specific items in mind as it updates neighborhood plans.

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Thank you in advance for considering this advice and do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide further information. We look forward to hearing how this advice was taken into account.

Sincerely,

Irene Wall
NPAC Co-Chair

Cc: The Honorable Sally Clark, Seattle City Council Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods
Committee
Stella Chao, DON
Kimberlee Archie, DON
Ray Gastil, DPD
Lyle Bicknell, DPD