

Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee

January 19, 2010

City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room

600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98124

FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

Prepared by Triangle Associates, Inc.

ATTENDANCE

✓ In attendance, □ Not in attendance, X Excused absence

Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee Members			
Last	First	Affiliation/Neighborhood	In Attendance?
Ashkenazy	Boaz	At Large/Wedgewood	X
Bailey	Adrienne	Central Area District Council/Central Area	✓
Coney	John	Magnolia-Queen Anne District Council/Queen Anne, Magnolia	X
Coxley	Christie	Southeast District Council/Rainier Beach	X
Edwards	Judith	Greater Duwamish District Council/North Beacon Hill	✓
Hale	Jeannie	Northeast District Council/ Laurelhurst	✓
Harris	Ashley	Ballard District Council/Ballard	✓
Knapton	Kay	Seattle Planning Commission	✓
Leighton	Amalia	Seattle Planning Commission	✓
Meeks	Sharonn	Southwest District Council/West Seattle	✓
Oien	Heidi	At Large/Capitol Hill	✓
Ramirez	Maria	Delridge District Council/Delridge	□
Saxman	Dennis	East District Council/Capitol Hill	✓
Stanford	Catherine	Downtown District Council	X
Miller	David	North District Council/Pinehurst	□
Stineback	Kate	At Large	✓
Thaler	Toby	Lake Union District Council/Fremont	✓
Vergis Vinh	Diana	At Large	✓
Wall	Irene	City Neighborhood Council Neighborhood Planning Committee/Phinney Ridge	✓

Alternates			
Last	First	Alternate for	In Attendance?
Barker	Cindi	City Neighborhood Council Neighborhood Planning Committee/Phinney Ridge	✓
Benjamin	Craig	Ballard District Council/Ballard	□
Brower	Josh	Seattle Planning Commission	□
Counts	George	Magnolia-Queen Anne District Council/Queen Anne, Magnolia	✓
Hinrix	Robert	Greater Duwamish District Council/North Beacon Hill	□
Joncas	Kate	Downtown District Council	□
Lathrop	Denise	Council Alternate/Morgan Junction	□
Lee	Mona	Southeast District Council/Rainier Beach	□
McAfterty	Blayne	Northwest District Council	□
Melo	Sandra	Delridge District Council/Delridge	□
Ramey	Brian	Lake Union District Council/Eastlake	□
Wainwright	Mark	Southwest District Council/West Seattle	□

Guests			
Last	First	Organization	In Attendance?
Bradford	Bill		✓

Project Team/Other City of Seattle			
Last	First	Organization	In Attendance?
Bicknell	Lyle	Department of Planning and Development	✓
Chao	Stella	Department of Neighborhoods	✓
Clark	Sally	City Council	✓
Gastil	Ray	Department of Planning and Development	✓
Handy	Esther	Councilmember O'Brien's Office	✓
Kern	Michael	Triangle Associates	✓
Nolte	Dan	Councilmember Clark's Office	✓
O'Brien	Mike	City Council	✓
Sugimura	Diane	Department of Planning and Development	✓
Tenna	Sebhat	Department of Neighborhoods	✓
Trask	Blake	Triangle Associates	✓

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NPAC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councilmembers Clark and O'Brien expressed thanks to Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC) members for serving on the Committee. Both said they looked forward to reviewing the work completed by NPAC and noted that they would be working in their respective committees on neighborhood planning in the future. Department of Neighborhoods Director Stella Chao offered thanks to Councilmember Clark for providing leadership in the Neighborhood Plan Update process. She noted that the Department of Neighborhoods was providing Committee members thank-you gifts and a packet of information on Neighborhood Matching Fund updates. Department of Planning and Development Director Diane Sugimura thanked the Committee members, Co-Chairs, and Triangle Associates staff for the hard work. The Directors and Councilmembers passed out certificates of appreciation from the Mayor and City Council to NPAC members.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Co-Chairs welcomed members to the final NPAC meeting. The Facilitator reviewed the agenda and meeting materials (available from the Committee's website). He asked the Committee to review and approve the December 15, 2010 meeting summary. One member found an error in the meeting location listed on the summary and the Facilitator noted the change would be made in the final version. The Committee approved the summary (as amended at the meeting) by consensus.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON CRITERIA FOR SELECTING NEIGHBORHOODS AFTER 2010

The Neighborhood Selection Criteria Subcommittee Co-Leads provided an overview of the Subcommittee's report (available from the website). The Subcommittee held a meeting on December 30, 2009 to develop proposed additional guidance for using the objective and subjective general criteria for selecting neighborhoods for neighborhood plan updates that NPAC approved on December 15. It was moved and seconded to adopt the Selection Criteria Subcommittee report as modified at the December 30, 2009 Subcommittee meeting.

The Co-Leads called for discussion and proposed friendly amendments to the motion. One NPAC member suggested incorporating into the Subcommittee report a recommendation about including a selection criteria relating to Approval and Adoption matrices. The recommendation would be drawn from a minority report on that subject submitted for inclusion with NPAC's report to the City Council. The Co-Leads did not accept that suggestion as a friendly amendment. Another member noted that she would not vote for the Subcommittee report due to concern about the emphasis on private and major institutions. Following the discussion, the Committee voted on the motion. The motion carried with 13 members in favor (2 by proxy), 2 against, and 1 abstention.

NPAC RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

The Co-Chairs then introduced a cover letter they had drafted to accompany the packet of NPAC approved advice and minority reports that would be provided to the City Council (available from the Committee's website). A Co-Chair noted that the version being presented at the meeting included several edits suggested by NPAC members prior to the meeting that had been accepted as friendly amendments. Other suggestions made by Committee members had not been accepted as friendly amendments. She expressed a willingness to consider additional edits at the meeting. It was then moved and seconded to adopt the cover letter, as amended by friendly amendments, to the City Council that describes and provides the recommendations developed and approved by NPAC members over the course of the Committee's existence.

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The Committee discussed several issues and suggested friendly amendments (some of which were accepted). Topics discussed included language referring to Triangle Associates' involvement, the delay in completing at least one of the 2009 Neighborhood Plan Updates, and the adequacy of outreach for the Neighborhood Plan Update process.

NPAC members inquired about the possibility of writing additional minority reports, to accompany the adopted advice. The Facilitator clarified that Committee member(s) could still sign on to the existing minority report, or write an additional minority report. The group agreed to allow an additional week for members to write and/or sign on to minority reports. The Facilitator also reminded NPAC members and alternates that they had requested the opportunity to indicate support for the report by signing the cover letter. All members and alternates had that opportunity at the close of the meeting and in the days that followed. Following the discussion, the motion carried with 14 members in favor (3 by proxy), 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public from the Central District noted he was disappointed that NPAC's work is ending prematurely. He encouraged NPAC members with additional ideas to submit minority reports.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Facilitator asked each NPAC member to provide final thoughts relating to NPAC and/or neighborhood planning. Some members expressed thanks to other members, the Co-Chairs, and/or the facilitation team. One member noted that she appreciated networking with individuals from other neighborhoods and learning more about their issues. Another member noted he appreciated hearing the different viewpoints from the Committee membership.

Other members offered suggestions to the Neighborhood Plan Update process. One suggested the creation of a comprehensive neighborhood planning website containing links to all neighborhood plans and supporting materials. Several mentioned the importance of working with the 2010 census data when it is available and expressed the opinion that it is unfortunate that the State of the Neighborhoods report was assembled with 2000 Census data. One member wished that NPAC had developed a more thorough and global method to examine neighborhood planning.

Some NPAC members made special note of the subcommittees that produced reports for the full Committee. Several expressed thanks for the camaraderie and dedication of those who served on the subcommittees. One member noted that the strong personalities made the outreach subcommittee particularly dynamic. Another member said that her most rewarding experience while serving on NPAC was the subcommittee process.

Committee members also expressed concern and frustration about the NPAC and/or neighborhood plan update process. It was noted that NPAC members often felt one step behind the process. While at least one member expressed admiration for the outreach process that accompanied neighborhood planning in 2009, many conveyed frustration about what they viewed as a lack of adequate outreach, often citing inadequate resources available to DON. One member expressed doubt that validation was possible with the level of outreach provided. Other members expressed displeasure that the process was ending earlier than what NPAC recommended or anticipated. One member criticized the role of the Seattle Planning Commission, while another cited strong work by the Commission. Several NPAC members expressed the opinion that the process lacked adequate grassroots involvement and expressed concern that DPD was "driving the process." Another member was frustrated by what he saw as complicity between DPD and the City Council throughout this Neighborhood Plan Update process. One member expressed concern

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that Committee members too often tried to assign blame, rather than find constructive ways to solve problems.

The Co-Chairs asked DPD and DON to provide a brief overview of the next steps for neighborhood planning in 2010 and beyond. DPD referred to the December 2009 letter from the PLUNC Chair that generally agreed with NPAC's 2010 Neighborhood Plan Update recommendations. DPD explained that the final recommendations for 2010 Neighborhood Plan Updates had not been confirmed, but there was a strong interest in selecting Rainier Beach and a neighborhood located along Seattle's west transportation corridor, specifically a future bus rapid transit line. DPD also reported that the 2009 Neighborhood Plan Updates for North Beacon Hill, Othello and North Rainier have been released online. DPD underscored the importance of implementation, noted how impressive it was for NPAC members to devote their time to this effort, and thanked members for their commitment to making Seattle better.

DON thanked NPAC and explained that in 2010, DON will be working with DPD to conduct outreach. DON will work hard to be inclusive and acknowledges the concern that the outreach process in 2009 overemphasized underrepresented communities. DON concluded by emphasizing its commitment to achieve community ownership of the neighborhood planning process.

The Facilitator thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.