

# Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee

December 1, 2009

City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room

600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98124

## 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	✓
Bailey	Adrienne	Central Area District Council/Central Area	□
Coney	John	Magnolia-Queen Anne District Council/Queen Anne, Magnolia	✓
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	X
Knapton	Kay	Seattle Planning Commission	X
Leighton	Amalia	Seattle Planning Commission	✓
Meeks	Sharonn	Southwest District Council/West Seattle	✓
Oien	Heidi	At Large/Capitol Hill	X
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	□
McAftertey	Blayne	Northwest District Council	□
Melo	Sandra	Delridge District Council/Delridge	□
Ramey	Brian	Lake Union District Council/Eastlake	□
Wainwright	Mark	Southwest District Council/West Seattle	□

Project Team/Other City of Seattle			
Last	First	Organization	In Attendance?
Bicknell	Lyle	Department of Planning and Development	✓
Kern	Michael	Triangle Associates	✓
Nolte	Dan	Councilmember Clark's Office	✓
Trask	Blake	Triangle Associates	✓
Whittemore	Thomas	Department of Neighborhoods	✓

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC) Co-Chairs opened the meeting, welcomed members and led a round of introductions. The facilitator reviewed the agenda and meeting materials (available from the Committee's website). A Co-Chair asked for consensus approval of the November 17, 2009 meeting summary (available from the website). The Facilitator noted that one alternate had provided a NPAC roster clarification that would be

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included in the summary. The Committee reviewed and approved the November 17, 2009 meeting summary by consensus with two member abstentions.

The Facilitator then asked the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to provide an update on funding for one or more additional NPAC meetings in early 2010. DPD responded that it appeared highly likely that funding would be available.

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON 2010 NEIGHBORHOODS**

The Subcommittee Lead provided an overview of the Neighborhood Criteria Selection Subcommittee meeting held on November 23 and reviewed the Subcommittee's report (available from the website). She underscored that the focus for this agenda item was for NPAC to recommend two neighborhoods for 2010. She said the Subcommittee is presenting seven neighborhoods to be considered including Aurora/Licton Springs, Ballard, Capitol Hill, Columbia City, Rainier Beach, University District and West Seattle Junction. Each of these was identified because it met the City Council and Executive criterion of having a transportation focus. The Subcommittee proposed that NPAC members participate in a voting exercise to select two neighborhoods that should be recommended for a 2010 update. The Subcommittee Lead explained that the draft selection criteria developed by the Subcommittee were presented to inform that discussion and decision, but not to drive the 2010 neighborhood selection process. The discussion and decisions to finalize the recommended high-level criteria for selecting neighborhoods beyond 2010 would be completed at the December 15 NPAC meeting.

The Subcommittee Lead suggested the Committee conduct a round-robin to provide feedback regarding neighborhood selection for 2010 and any initial comments on the high-level selection criteria for beyond 2010. During that round-robin, a number of Committee members discussed the draft criteria for neighborhoods beyond 2010. Several members said the criteria developed by the Subcommittee provide an important start, but that need refinement and clarification. The Subcommittee agreed to consider all the specific comments and suggestions at a Subcommittee meeting before NPAC's December 15 meeting.

The remainder of the discussion focused on responding to the request for recommendations regarding two neighborhoods to consider for 2010 Neighborhood Plan Update selection. Some NPAC members questioned whether the seven neighborhoods proposed by the Subcommittee were appropriate. One member expressed concern that it would be difficult to select two neighborhoods without using additional criteria to inform the decision. The Subcommittee Lead acknowledged these concerns, but explained that the Committee had been asked to respond to an urgent request from the Planning Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee (PLUNC) Chair and lacked the time necessary to develop and use such criteria. Other members reiterated that they heard that the overarching criterion in 2010 neighborhood selection set forth by the Executive and Council was a transportation focus.

A number of members noted that it would be hard to recommend specific neighborhoods because NPAC members were not familiar enough with the neighborhoods in question. They felt it would be helpful to have representatives from each of the neighborhoods present during NPAC's 2010 neighborhood recommendation process. One Committee member commented that certain neighborhoods might not have the organizational capacity to conduct an effective neighborhood plan update. Some NPAC members suggested that Rainier Beach and Aurora/Licton Springs were neighborhoods that would benefit from neighborhood plan updates in 2010. One Committee member noted that Rainier Beach is now a transit hub, is diverse, and that a neighborhood plan process could be positive for its growth. Another member suggested that University District residents do not want an update at this point.

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One Committee member suggested that the 2010 recommendations should reflect improved geographic equity, noting that recent plan updates have focused in southeast Seattle. Committee members discussed the importance of conducting plan updates for neighborhoods undergoing significant development pressures (such as Ballard or Capitol Hill) or unanticipated changes (such as the West Seattle Triangle). One member asked if very limited criteria (pressure, willingness, race and social justice) could be used to better inform the decision making for the 2010 neighborhoods. More than one member said it was difficult to decide whether or not their neighborhood should pursue a plan update in 2010 or wait to evaluate the new Mayor's approach to neighborhood planning.

It was then moved and seconded that NPAC members vote for two of the following four neighborhoods – Aurora/Licton Springs, Ballard, Capitol Hill, and Rainier Beach – as their recommendations to receive neighborhood updates in 2010. The motion carried with eight members in favor, five against and no abstentions. The result of the vote based on the above motion was as follows: Capitol Hill received eight votes; Ballard seven votes; Rainier Beach six votes; Aurora/Licton Springs three votes, with two members abstaining.

The Selection Criteria Subcommittee agreed to meet on Thursday, December 10 to revise the general selection criteria for neighborhood updates beyond 2010, for discussion and adoption at the December 15, 2009 NPAC meeting. The Facilitator reminded members to inform the Subcommittee Lead if they are interested in participating and said that, because time will be limited on December 10, NPAC members who want to influence these criteria should attend the Subcommittee meeting and/or provide comments ahead of time to the Subcommittee Lead.

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON VALIDATION**

The Validation Subcommittee Lead provided an overview of the Validation Subcommittee's report (see website) and the revisions made in the version that was released on December 1. It was then moved and seconded that NPAC adopt the Validation Subcommittee's December 1, 2009 Report, as revised at the meeting by a series of friendly amendments. During discussion, the Committee provided several suggested edits that were accepted as friendly amendments. The motion carried with 10 members in favors, zero opposed and zero abstentions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

An NPAC alternate provided comments, noting that because NPAC is suggesting different neighborhoods than those included in the Executive's recommendation on 2010 neighborhood plan updates, NPAC should provide some rationale for its recommendations. Finally she commented that there may be a way that neighborhoods can be largely in control of selecting consultants while remaining consistent with City hiring requirements.

**NEXT STEPS/FINAL THOUGHTS**

In response to a question from the Committee, DPD said that NPAC's discussion and recommendations on neighborhoods for 2010 was quite helpful. DPD said the Executive's recommendations had been based on a number of factors, including building on the success of the Planning Outreach Liaison model in southeast Seattle and going to neighborhoods that want plan updates. The facilitator reviewed topics identified for the December 15 agenda and asked members to forward any additional items. Specifically, he mentioned that Section III of the Neighborhood Plan Updates Subcommittee Report (Checklist of Topics for Stakeholders to Consider) will be presented for review and adoption by NPAC at the December 15, 2009 meeting. The Co-Chairs reminded members that they will be responding to a request from the PLUNC Chair for a briefing on NPAC at the December 9, 2009 PLUNC meeting. The Co-Chair

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thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 6:15 pm in Room 4050 at the Seattle Municipal Tower.

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