City of Seattle - University of Washington Community Advisory Committee

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Meeting #116
February 14, 2012
University of Washington Tower
4333 Brooklyn
Seattle, WA 98105
22nd Floor

Members and Alternates Present
Matt Fox, Co-chair, University District
Daniel Kraus, Co-chair, UW
Chris Leman
Barbara Quinn
Anita Bowers

Staff and Others Present
Steve Sheppard, DON
Theresa Doherty, UW
Jan Armtz

I. Welcome and Introductions and Housekeeping

The meeting was opened by Matt Fox, Co-Chair. Brief introductions followed. Approval of minutes was postponed as no quorum was present.

II. Burke Gilman Trail Improvements

Theresa Doherty introduced Josh Kavanaugh to give an overview of Burke Gilman Trail Improvement Project. She asked members to provide information on this project to their constituent community groups.

Mr. Kavanaugh noted that there has been ongoing conflict between those crossing the trail and trail users and between walkers and runners and some cyclists. He noted that the situation is likely to worsen with the opening of the Light Rail Station. Sound Transit is doing a good job mitigating the crossing conflict but not as good concerning the conflicts regarding varying speeds. The trail is functioning at poor levels of service and is projected to get worse over time if nothing is done.

The University owns the right of way for about 1.7 miles of the trail and is planning for significant improvements to this portion of the trail. One way to improve its function might be simply widening the trail. However the University is choosing a different solution. The proposal is to separate the various modes with cyclists separated from joggers and walkers and the most critical locations. This will minimize the expansion of the width of the trail. There will be grade separated crossing at Hec Edmondson and end Oreille Rd. There will also be some changes at the T Wing and Hutchinson. All of these improvements will improve the function to a high level of service.
The price of these improvements will run about 30 million. Five to seven million is currently funded and the remainder will be from other sources including various Federal Grants. Mr. Kavanaugh noted that to assure receipt of these grants support from the various group in the area would be very helpful. He then briefly went over the possible phasing of the project. He noted that the first priority is those areas most affected by the opening of the Light Rail Station. He noted that the only present issue might be the loss of some trees in those locations where widening for mode split is needed.

III. EIS for the Intramural Field Relocations

Matt Fox asked if any members had any comments. None were forthcoming. Members noted that the presentation to the committee was relatively benign and that few issues were raised at that time. There was a brief discussion of the possibility for an extension of the comment period. CUCAC did not request such an extension.

IV. Meeting Attendance

Steve Sheppard noted that Mr. Leman had noted that Community attendance has generally been pretty good but that student representation was weak. He had gone back to the attendance sheets and confirmed this. Theresa Doherty noted that she should be meeting with the Students groups to address this. Mr. Leman noted that the rotation of the student representative between the two eligible groups led to a lack of continuity and that attendance from both would be helpful. It was also noted that Faculty representative attendance has been inconsistent.

Steve Sheppard noted that other groups not routinely attending include the Chamber of Commerce, Ravenna Springs (now virtually a moribund organizations); Roosevelt Neighborhood Association and Wallingford Community Council.

Chris Leman noted that the agenda is often very University driven and that an effort to seek broader agreement on agenda items might help attendance. He noted that public safety in the area is a major issue and should be on CUCAC’s radar. He also noted that the tree policies should be given greater attention. In addition he noted that extending CUCAC interest to look at UW activities in South Lake Union would garner greater interest. Mr. Leman also noted that the Committee should devote some time to identifying a series of topics for upcoming meetings and suggested that police issues and the TMP be on the next agenda. Members agreed and Ms. Doherty stated that she believed that this was possible.

Steve Sheppard noted that one of the major roles of CUCAC is to review the TMP annual report and the general Annual report. This has not been given much priority lately and suggested that it be a major issue at some upcoming meeting. Members agreed. Chris Leman noted that this should include an evaluation of the improvements to transit service to adjacent neighborhoods. He noted that these improvements are included its commitments in the City/University Agreement. Theresa Doherty stated that she was unclear what portion of the City University agreement this related to.

V New Business

Matt Fox reported that he has been getting many negative comments concerning the designs of the new student housing projects. The perspectives that CUCAC reviewed were from close in and from street level. The major visual impact in the community is from farther afield and this appears monolithic and rather unpleasant. The first two stories of glass are relatively pleasant but the upper five floors are not.

Mr. Fox asked for a brief update on the opposition from the Ethnic and Cultural Center to the location of the new police station. Ms. Doherty stated that there is ongoing discussion.

VI. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee the meeting was adjourned.