Meeting Minutes
Meeting #171
November 14, 2017
Adopted TBD
UW Tower
4333 Brooklyn Avenue
Seattle, WA 98105
22nd Floor

Members and Alternates Present
Doug Campbell    Amanda Winters    Kerry Kahl    Rick Mohler
Kay Kelly        Matthew Fox        Ashley Emery    Jon Berkedal
John Gaines      Barbara Quinn      Yvonne Sanchez (Voting Alt.)
Sarah Swanberg   Brian O’Sullivan   Barbara Kreiger

Staff and Others Present
Maureen Sheehan    Sally Clark

(See attached attendance sheet)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. John Gaines opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

II. Housekeeping

There was a motion to adopt the October 10 minutes as amended and it was seconded. The Committee voted and the motion was adopted.

III. Public Comment (00:01:41)

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for public comments.

Mr. David West, a representative from the U District Alliance commented that he would like to share his observation from when he attended the pre-hearing conference between UW and the City of Seattle on the UW Campus Master Plan. He noted that UW will be represented by at least three attorneys while the City has not provided any legal representation for CUCAC. He added that there will be at least 12 potential witnesses that will address issues surrounding the EIS, SEPA, Housing, CMP process, etc.

The City plans to call only one witness and any testimony by the public or by this Committee to rebut or cross-examine the witnesses will be limited. He mentioned that the University is using this Committee’s name and participation to project that the public’s interest has been protected.

Mr. West is concerned that the City has not provided any legal representation after all the work that was done by this Committee. He believes that the Committee should challenge the due process at this point.

Mr. Fox commented about how to challenge the process, and Mr. West responded to have a representative meet with the City Attorney’s office, raise these issues with the Hearing Examiner and contact the mayor and her transition team.
IV. Husky Stadium TMP

Ms. Sally Clark introduced Ms. Erin O'Connell and Mr. Dan Erickson from the University's Intercollegiate Athletics department to walk through the Husky Stadium TMP.

Ms. Clark noted that a scoping notice document will be going out this month to the neighborhood seeking comments, questions, ideas and suggestions for the updated TMP.

Ms. O'Connell mentioned that the current Husky Stadium TMP has been operating from the 1986 TMP and since that time, the transportation modes and neighborhoods have changed and they are looking at developing a strategy to modify the current TMP that would include the Light Rail system, Uber, Lyft, valet parking, etc. as well as a new Pac-12 requirement that requires weekday games. The updated TMP needs to be flexible about how transportation around the stadium is being addressed and how the public gets to the stadium on game days.

She would like to get feedback from this Committee. Currently, data collection is ongoing. She hopes that a vote by the City Council to adopt the new TMP will happen in early summer or late spring and have the new TMP in effect in the next football season.

Mr. Erickson added that the new and updated TMP will be forward looking, flexible and able to accommodate the change in ridership around the stadium including the Light Rail system, car shares, bike shares, as well as changes to the transportation network including bus route changes, and the extension of Light rail. A goal of the new TMP is to include a traffic plan that is scalable and can accommodate weekday games as well as smaller events. The overall objective of the TMP is to reduce its dependence on Metro Transit and private bus charters due to cost and availability and can react to the changes and dynamic role of transportation around the stadium.

The University hired Transpo Group as their consultants and they began data collection as well as ongoing stakeholder interviews and neighborhood meetings to provide update and information about the TMP. A scoping notice will go out to the neighborhood seeking comments, questions, ideas and suggestions for the updated TMP this month and they anticipate presenting to the City Council in early spring. Mr. Erickson commented that they will come back to this Committee to present the consulting documentation and provide any updates in early spring 2018.

Mr. Gaines commented about the measurement for success for this new TMP and what it is trying to solve. Ms. O'Connell responded that the goal is to continue to decrease the amount of traffic around the stadium on gameday and flexibility to accommodate transportation mode changes around the stadium. The University would rather not revisit the TMP every time, but rather have a plan in place for a longer period.

Ms. Clark added that the measurement for success for this plan is to ensure that Light Rail is the most cost-effective choice to go to Husky Stadium, recognize the need for efficient and effective bus service and minimize any traffic impacts on the neighborhoods surrounding Husky Stadium.

V. UW CMP – Final Written Report

Ms. Sheehan commented that the Campus Master Plan (CMP) process is ongoing and that this is an opportunity for the Committee discuss what the Committee and its representative(s) would like to do at the Hearing Examiner in December. The schedule of the proceedings and the order of events were distributed via email to the Committee members.

Mr. Gaines commented that SDCI's analysis of the CMP and the City's comments do not reflect the Committee's comments.

Mr. Fox voiced his displeasure about the result of the analysis and added that the sub group that did the Transportation section should be disappointed.

A question was asked about where the Committee has leverage other than being present at the Hearing Examiner.

Mr. West commented that the City attorney should assign an attorney to represent the Committee at the Hearing Examiner and have access and be able to cross-examine the witnesses from the University.
A comment was made if there are any opportunities with the new mayor to comment and raise this issue. Mr. Fox commented that it will be non-existent and a waste of time since the City departments already made a recommendation.

Mr. Campbell commented on going back to their sponsoring organization and ask them if they want to continue to participate in the City/University process.

Mr. Gaines added that it does calls into question about the purpose of this body if the recommendations from this Committee are not acknowledged in a meaningful way.

Mr. Fox provided an example where SDCI refused to acknowledge a recommendation to reduce the SOV rate to 12%. Other examples that the Committee requested to be mitigated but was not considered include the height increase at site W-22 and the view corridor from the north end of the University bridge.

Mr. Fox added that he will be at the Hearing Examiner to make a presentation for the Committee.

Mr. Gaines asked about the process and would the Committee come together and discuss the recommendations and present their comments to the Hearing Examiner.

A comment was made that in the by-laws, it is stated that the purpose of this body is to advise the City and the University on the physical development that is going on, and this body is responsible to review and comment on the following actions. The by-laws do not specifically call out that City will take all of the Committee’s comments.

A question was asked about emphasis on the remarks that this Committee would like to present. Mr. Fox commented that the Committee will begin by working off of the letter that this body submitted and comment on the items that were not considered.

Mr. Gaines suggested to move the regular Committee meeting on the December 5th so the Committee will have an opportunity to go back and review the letter and SDCI’s analysis and recommendations before the designated representatives present to the Hearing Examiner.

Ms. Barbara Krieger asked if Council members will be sympathetic about this issue if there is tremendous press coverage. Ms. Clark cautioned the Committee that Council members are not allowed to read press coverage of a quasi-judicial manner and are shielded from any information as advised by the legal counsel and staff.

There was a motion to have the Committee meet on December 5th to discuss and prepare for the Hearing Examiner presentation, and it was seconded. The Committee voted and the motion was adopted.

Ms. Sheehan mentioned that she will send the letter that the Committee submitted as well as the final report from SDCI, the Hearing Examiner schedule and a reminder of the December 5th meeting.

VI. New Business

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for Committee’s new business.

Mr. Campbell mentioned about a study being published by the U District Merchant Association about small businesses in the U District. He commented about having a 10 to 15-minute presentation on the December 5th meeting.

VII. Adjournment

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