City of Seattle - University of Washington Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes  
Meeting #172  
December 5, 2017  
Adopted February 13, 2018  
UW Tower  
4333 Brooklyn Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98105  
22nd Floor

Members and Alternates Present

Timmy Bendis  
Amanda Winters  
Kerry Kahl  
Doug Campbell  
Matthew Fox  
Reudi Risler (Non-Voting Alt)  
Kay Kelly  
Barbara Quinn  
Rick Mohler (Non-Voting Alt)  
John Gaines  
Brian O’Sullivan

Staff and Others Present

Maureen Sheehan  
Sally Clark

(See attached attendance sheet)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Matt Fox opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

II. Housekeeping

There was a motion to adopt the November 14 minutes as amended and it was seconded. The Committee voted and the motion was adopted.

III. Public Comment

Mr. Fox opened the discussion for public comments. There were no public comments.

IV. Population Health Project Update (00:03:12)

Mr. Fox introduced Ms. Jeannie Natta and Ms. Kristine Kenney to provide an update on the Population Health project.

Tonight’s presentation provided a recent update on the Population Health project since their last visit in October, including: circulation, trees, massing, and entrances.

There are 126 trees currently on the site, of which 17 are exceptional, the proposed building would remove 114 trees, 12 are exceptional. 79 of these trees are in the proposed footprint, 10 are exceptional. Approximately another 35 trees, 2 exceptional, will be removed for the site due to grading including to allow room for improved ADA access/paths. Current plans call for the replacement/replanting of 70 trees at this site, with the balance being replaced elsewhere on campus.

A question was asked if there is permeability along 15th through the building behind Gould Hall. Ms. Kenney showed the pedestrian circulation and the existing crosswalks as well as the ADA access to the building. Due to the 13-foot change in grade, the hoped-for mid-block entry is proving to be difficult.
to incorporate. SDOT also notes in their analysis that this entry may encourage illegal mid-block pedestrian crossings.

Mr. Doug Campbell asked if the building will be open to the public. Ms. Natta noted that the building will be open to public except in certain time of the evening due to security reasons. Levels 1 and 2 of the building is an open circulation space.

Mr. Bendis commented about the lifespan of the building. Ms. Natta mentioned that the CMP will not allow a taller building and it is the intent that the building will last for a very long time, and there will be flexibility for renovations to accommodate the programs that will occupy and reside in the building.

The existing retaining wall will be removed. The building is still proposed to be about 300K GSF with the upper section set back 30' from 15th Ave NE, with the section at the south end being slightly "blockier".

The Guthrie Annex demolition is scheduled for February 2018, and that the building is currently scheduled to go online in Spring 2020.

V. University District Merchant Association Study (00:37:35)

Mr. Fox introduced Mr. Rick McLaughlin to present the University District Merchant Association Study.

Mr. McLaughlin is the owner of Big Time Brewery on University Ave and a representative of many merchants in the U-District. He presented the small business impact study on the Ave.

The purpose of the study was to inform about the issues affecting small businesses on the Ave. Survey questions were sent and conducted anonymously to about 200+ small businesses on the Ave, and about 123 total businesses responded, 90% along University Avenue.

The study showed 85% of the small businesses are owned and operated by owners and 65% are women and minority owned. 73% of the small business want to stay and grow.

Most neighborhood issues surrounding the small businesses were street homelessness, crime, theft, and unmaintained streets. The top issues that concern small businesses are: rezoning, increase price rents, and large-scale displacements.

He noted that small businesses see their top opportunities such as increased foot traffic of customers, light rail, and more affordable housing and renting options. Small businesses would prefer to remain in the U-District if these conditions are discussed.

He added that the Ave is a great community with a great culture, and it is worth protecting and preserving and understand that displacements will continue to happen. There will be a presentation of the study to the City Council on December 12th and will provide copies to the Committee after that presentation.

VI. UW CMP – Hearing Examiner Preparation (01:05:30)

Mr. Fox opened the discussion on the UW CMP Hearing Examiner preparation.

Mr. Fox will attend the hearing and will present how SDCI did not support CUCAC’s position on its recommendation on lowering the height on site W-22, and site W-37 view corridor could be protected. He will also discuss the tower separation and noted that the University would like to be at 75 ft. per the City of Seattle mixed zoning, but the mixed zoning does not refer to the same type of buildings the University is proposing to build.

Mr. Rick Mohler commented that they would like to argue about having a 12% SOV rate instead of the 15%.

Mr. Reudi Risler suggested a general statement regarding the City’s policies about transportation and traffic management and the University should follow it.

Mr. Fox commented about having this Committee take a position in support of the City’s fundamental position that the University is not exempt from the City land use code. He also suggested the Committee to take a general position in support of the City’s legal contention that it can impose on housing affordability and transportation conditions. He added that he is content in support of this as SDCI’s position on their pre-hearing brief.
Mr. John Gaines asked the Committee to reinforce these opinions and state that these are important and needs to be supported.

There was a motion to support the City of Seattle’s position that it can impose affordable housing, transportation, and other reasonable requirements to the University as part of the CMP adoption process, and it was seconded. The Committee voted, and the motion was adopted.

VII. New Business

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

A comment was made if the hearing at the Office of the Hearing Examiner is open to the public, and Ms. Clark responded that it will be open to the public.

VII. Adjournment

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