City of Seattle - University of Washington Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
Meeting #174
February 13, 2018
Adopted April 10, 2018
UW Tower
4333 Brooklyn Avenue
Seattle, WA 98105
22nd Floor

Members and Alternates Present

Timmy Bendis                     Matthew Fox                     Sarah Swanberg
Douglas Campbell                 Barbara Quinn                   Reudi Risler (Non-Voting Alt)
Kay Kelly                        Theresa Doherty

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

Mr. Matt Fox suggested postponing the adoption of the January 9 minutes for revisions.

There was a motion to adopt the December 5, 2017, 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. UW Campus Master Plan: Hearing Examiner Recap

Mr. Fox opened the discussion on the Hearing Examiner recap.

He reported that the Hearing Examiner upheld the SDCI ruling that rejected CUCAC’s recommendations including: reduction of the SOV trip goal from 15% to 12%, lowering the building height at the site which will block the view corridor at the north end of the University bridge, and the modest height reduction request for the property west of the Condon Hall. He added that the Hearing Examiner upheld most of SDCI’s other recommendations as well.

Ms. Sally Clark commented that the University also did not get anything from the Hearing Examiner’s decision. She noted that the Hearing Examiner upheld the SDCI report where the UW had disagreed, and that the standard under which the Hearing Examiner rules is that SDCI’s recommendations are generally deferred to.

Ms. Sheehan mentioned that she sent out an email to the Committee with the appeals to the Hearing Examiner’s decision. The next steps are for the
Committee to look through the appeals and decide to respond. The University, CUCAC, and the City have 10 days to determine how to respond to these petitions in addition to the Hearing Examiner’s filing, and all are due on February 23rd. There will be a 7-day rebuttal period after, where any of the parties of record can decide to reply again after all arguments have been presented.

Ms. Theresa Doherty commented that there will be a City Council hearing, and the Committee will receive a 21-day notice for the actual date. She also mentioned that 29 appeals that were submitted. The City and the University both presented their appeals. Most of the appeals are similar in that they made the same recommendations that the University Alliance for Livability is advocating for. The appeal that was filed by the Sierra Club also raised additional issues regarding the Burke-Gilman Trail and the uncertainty of funding improvements and the University District Community Council added additional comments and analysis. Matt Fox also reported that the U-District Community Council focused on a broader range of concerns, as well.

Mr. Fox asked about the next steps if CUCAC chooses not to comment within the 10-day period and use the comments and recommendations we adopted for our original CMP comment letter to decide which issues/concerns/recommendations to focus on at the City Council hearing.

Ms. Clark mentioned that the letter that came with all the appeals did not include the date on when the City Council intends to do its public hearing. CUCAC will have a minimum of 21-day notice that a date has been set in their calendar.

Ms. Sheehan suggested that at the March meeting to act as if that the City Council hearing is happening in 21 days from today and have some of the work done. Mr. Doug Campbell commented to have the work groups reconvene at the March meeting.

Ms. Clark commented that the Committee will not receive any public meeting notice from the City Council in the next three weeks about the appeals. The March meeting will be a good opportunity for the Committee to discuss what to do when the actual hearing date is set.

Mr. Campbell asked about the status of having a legal representation from the City, and Ms. Barbara Quinn shared that she had a conversation with Mr. Roger Wynne, City Attorney, and he explained to her that there is a conflict of interest and that the City Attorney represents the City’s interest as defined by the Mayor and Council. If the Committee’s interest does not fit with the City’s interest, he is unable to represent other individuals or groups. He provided the names of two private attorneys to reach out to that may take the case.

Mr. Fox suggested at the March meeting to reconvene into work groups and go through the major focus areas that were on the initial comment letter that was not acted by the Hearing Examiner and prepare to make the same arguments to the City Council.

Mr. Reudi Risler asked what will happen when SDCI’s recommendations about transportation that was opposed by the University, and the Hearing Examiner decided to accept SDCI’s recommendation. Ms. Clark noted that the Hearing Examiner’s decision is forwarded to the City Council, and the City Council will make the final decision.

Mr. Fox noted that the Committee will have time in the March meeting and strategize the next steps on how to prepare and approach the coming City Council meeting.

Ms. Sheehan will be sending out who belongs to the different work groups for reminders.

V. Special Olympics: Overview for Neighborhood Representatives

Mr. Fox opened the discussion on the Special Olympics event and an overview of the neighborhood maps.

Ms. Karlan Jessen, Director of Volunteers & Sustainability for the Special Olympics USA Games, announced that the Special Olympics games will be coming in town beginning June 29th through July 7th. She also introduced Mr. Eric Corning who represents Operations & Logistics for the team. She noted that the Special Olympics USA Games happens once every four years and this will be its 50th anniversary.

Delegates and athletes will start arriving at Sea-Tac International Airport Friday, June 29th. These are “green” games that intend to have as little traffic impact as possible because they plan to bring most the
athletes and their families from Sea-Tac by light rail and arrive at Husky Stadium. The athletes will mostly stay on campus at the north and west dormitory complex throughout the week.

They are expecting about 10,000 volunteers throughout the week to support numerous events, which they expect will draw about 50,000 fans. There are 14 different sports events at eight different venues throughout the region, including Bothell, Bellevue, and Federal Way but the University of Washington will be the main hub for most of the events including those at Husky Stadium, track facilities, the Alaska Air arena, etc.

Ms. Jessen noted that the most important value and legacy of this event is the value of inclusion and acceptance. She would like to build an awareness and hope that through the 10,000 volunteers from the different communities and neighborhoods, it will make an impact and difference on how to view individuals with intellectual disabilities.

She noted that there will be more information, marketing campaigns, presentations to different neighborhood groups about the event and what to expect and ways to volunteer that will be coming as the event gets closer.

Mr. Fox asked about the capacity to accommodate the volunteers throughout the event. Ms. Jessen mentioned they have opportunities at all levels of physical and cognitive disability, and that their online registration process is set up to accommodate this.

Ms. Doherty asked if there is a minimum age for volunteering. Ms. Jessen noted that 14-years-old and over is the Special Olympics standard for volunteering on your own.

Mr. Corning emphasized that athletes will be mostly walking to events around campus. There will be a small campus shuttle that will be used to transport small teams back and forth in the fields. They have been working with the University Transportation and other groups to identify pick up zones as well as working with Metro, SDOT, SPD, UWPD about areas in the West Campus area to ensure that the athletes and coaches are safe.

Ms. Jessen mentioned that there is a special UW landing page specifically designed to appeal to any UW groups to register and answer any questions regarding the event.

VI. Husky Stadium TMP Update

Mr. Fox opened the discussion on the Husky Stadium TMP update.

Ms. Clark mentioned that there was a meeting between to the Technical and Advisory Committees yesterday to go through an early rough draft of the TMP. They are targeting the release of the draft TMP and the draft EIS for early March. Currently, they are awaiting preliminary feedback from the different agencies contributing to the draft, and it will be due on March 2nd. Once their feedback is incorporated, they will issue a draft TMP and EIS, and a 30-day comment period follows.

She added that they are getting into the agendas for the surrounding community councils to make a presentation.

The plan is to have a deeper dive and walkthrough of the draft TMP and EIS analysis during the March meeting.

Ms. Sheehan added that they can reach out the Ms. Amanda Winters for any questions since she is the Committee’s delegate to the advisory committee.

VII. New Business

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

Mr. Risler mentioned that through the leadership of the U District advocates, a group applied and received a neighborhood matching grant from the Department of Neighborhoods as well as financing from the U district partnership to hire transportation consultants to address the transportation issues around the new light rail station when it opens at the University Tower.
There will be a series of meetings for public outreach and engagement and to solicit feedback from the community. After these meetings, the next step is to develop specific project plans and recommendations in consultation with the project consultants and submit them to relevant city agencies, city departments and the University to ensure that all transportation modes are effectively integrated as the light rail station comes to the U-District.

Mr. Fox expressed strong concerns about having the Transportation Choices Coalition group spearheading this movement. Mr. Risler noted that they are part of the effort, but this is mostly community driven.

Mr. Campbell asked if there is a change in the Bridges@11th project being sold. Ms. Clark mentioned that Securities Properties Inc. is selling the property, but it does not change the multifamily tax exemption and priority access for University and Children’s employees.

VII. Adjournment

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