Meeting Minutes  
Meeting #173  
January 9, 2018  
Adopted April 10, 2018  
UW Tower  
4333 Brooklyn Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98105  
22nd Floor

Members and Alternates Present
Timmy Bendis  Sarah Swanberg  Brian O’Sullivan  
Doug Campbell  Amanda Winters  Kerry Kahl  
Kay Kelly  Matthew Fox  Barbara Krieger  
John Gaines  Barbara Quinn  Rick Mohler  (Non-Voting Alt)

Staff and Others Present
Catherine Morrison  Sally Clark

(See attached attendance sheet)

I. Welcome and Introductions
Mr. John Gaines opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

II. Housekeeping
Mr. Matt Fox made a motion to postpone the adoption of the December 5 minutes and it was seconded. The Committee voted, and the motion was adopted.

III. Public Comment
Mr. Gaines opened the discussion for public comments.

Mr. David West of the UW Alliance commented that it is important for the Committee to note that while the UW states it will build 150 units of housing, they have not agreed to put this in the CMP or commit to it for the next 10 years. Also, the University still declines to provide transit passes to low-wage employees.

He advised CUCAC that it would be a good idea for this Committee to ask for a staffer from the Seattle City Attorney’s Office to provide support to CUCAC in preparation for the Seattle City Council presentation.

He also suggested that CUCAC ask the Seattle City Council to consider revising/renegotiating the City/University Agreement.

Mr. Gaines asked what type of assistance or service the City Attorney can provide for CUCAC. Mr. West noted that in the Hearing Examiner’s process, it was clear that CUCAC’s interests were not the same as SDCIs, and the City did not support many of CUCAC’s goals for the Master Plan. The City Attorney only represented SDCI’s recommendations and not CUCAC’s. It will be useful to have support from the City Attorney when making a legal argument or case for the Committee’s position before the City Council.
CUCAC member discussion followed, and it was agreed that Barbara Quinn and Barbara Krieger would reach out to Roger Wynne, who is the head of the City Attorney’s Land Use Department, as suggested by Sally Clark. They will report back as to whether the City Attorney’s office can offer technical support/assistance to CUCAC. Ms. Clark brought up the quasi-judicial rules that will govern future CUCAC discussion of and actions on the CMP, and reminded the Committee that email correspondence and group meetings cannot have a quorum of the total membership. She noted that information can be communicated to the group, but that these bodies cannot make formal decisions or take actions.

IV. UW Campus Master Plan: Hearing Examiner Recap (00:14:00)

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

Mr. Fox reported that he brought a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the draft letter that CUCAC adopted regarding views and documenting the extent to which the current vistas from the north end of the University Bridge will be lost if CUCAC’s recommendation that the proposed building height be lowered is not adopted. The slide presentation also focused on the on the long-identified gateway site just west of Condon Hall, where CUCAC has requested a modest reduction in height, and made the case that the Hearing Examiner erred in not recognizing the fact that this site is part of the campus boundary and that there is a solid basis for CUCAC to recommend a transition in heights at this location. He also noted that he wished he had a better understanding about how FAR (Floor Area Ratio) rules would work in defining the allowable bulk and scale of the buildings the UW is proposing in the MIO, as compared to what would be permitted in the recently-adopted City of Seattle zoning for the U-District, as it purports to only allow the sort of height increases the UW is proposing for more slender residential buildings than the blockier office-type structures the UW plans.

He also mentioned that Mr. Sullivan presented the CUCAC’s comments about the Transportation Plan, emphasizing the request to reduce SOV mode share goal to 12%.

Ms. Kay Kelly presented an analysis discussing the legal weaknesses in OPCD and Hearing Examiner arguments that summarily dismiss CUCAC and community concerns that the U of W is not adequately addressing the wider economic, land use, and social impacts of the growth proposed under the CMP because they are not specifically listed in the City-University Agreement.

Ms. Clark commented that most of the discussion at the Hearing Examiner was about what the Committee has already discussed including transportation, the debate about the legal and technical questions around housing, and what belongs in the Master Plan. She added that the issue about the underlying zoning versus the MIO was not discussed, and the City and University lawyers commented that they will address it in their brief.

Ms. Clark noted that the report will come out next Tuesday, and she encouraged the Committee to contact Mr. Wynne as soon as possible. She also stated that CUCAC should be getting a calendar soon including preliminary motions such as dates for reconsideration as well as the City Council deadlines for public hearings, though it is not under any particular deadline to act. The Hearing Examiner could remand it or make changes, and the City Council will make the final decision, which could be appealed through the courts.

Ms. Clark mentioned that once everything is either agreed upon or litigated, the City Council and the Board of Regents will approve the final Master Plan that reflects all the changes, recommendations, etc. that came about from the entire process and one final Master Plan document will be published.

V. UW Monthly Major Projects Report: November 2017 (00:27:15)

Mr. Gaines opened the discussion on UW Monthly Major Projects Report.

Ms. Clark explained that the University provides regular updates about upcoming major projects and they are available online. It is a regular monthly report card about the health of the capital projects.

Mr. Kerry Kahl commented that some of the projects include the North Campus Housing Phase 2. The University will be hosting the Special Olympics in July where about 300 athletes will occupy the new Willow Hall. The University is getting ready to tear down the Haggett Hall and the start of construction of the new population health.
VI. New Business (00:30:59)

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

Mr. Kahl commented about the capital projects report. The five-year capital budget plan is a two-year request to the State Legislature, and last January the budget was not approved. The current set of approved budgets in the works is about $1.2 billion, and half of it is debt financing. In the nine projects there is $100 million of state funding and half of it is allocated on the Burke Museum. There is about $250 million of local funding from various sources, and the nine projects include almost $300 million of donor funds and two-thirds of that is to the Population Health Center.

He added that the University goes through a two-year process to process to assess and evaluate these projects based on academics, health and safety, etc. and a priority setting is established.

Mr. Gaines commented that the capital budget report was great because it allows this Committee to identify the outstanding and pending projects and prepare and research for any concerns about these projects.

There was also discussion that there are three new buildings that have been added, including a new building as part of the Foster School and the U-District light rail station site redevelopment. Mr. Fox noted that CUCAC should demand significant public amenities at the latter site, including a public bathroom.

Mr. Ashley Emery noted that it has been reported that the UW is seeking to exempt McKenzie Hall from historic preservation regulations, so it can be redeveloped. Ms. Clark stated that the UW hired an architect, and that the City considered the building moderately historic. The “donut like” configuration makes it difficult to expand in a usable way for the Foster School of Business. Mr. Doug Campbell stated that he thought it was like an office building with closed doors. Ms. Clark mentioned a number of historic elements there that are were saving if the building is replaced.

Ms. Clark let the committee know that the University submitted a historic nomination for the Canoe House. It is controlled by the student leadership in IMA, and they would like to refurbish the interior and restore the exterior changes.

Mr. Doug Campbell asked about the list of buildings the University plans to nominate and Ms. Clark commented that there is a team who meets with the City of Seattle Historic Preservation staff to identify the priorities and list of buildings, and that the Faculty Club may be one they next consider.

Ms. Clark mentioned that the Special Olympics will be coming to campus this summer. A presenter will be coming at the next meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities, game schedules, traffic patterns, etc. She added that an update to the Husky Stadium TMP will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Kahl added that the Special Olympics will begin Saturday, June 30th. It will be broadcast live by ESPN and ABC. It will be a week-long event. Special Olympics is looking for 10,000 volunteers.

VII. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.