



City of Tacoma
Planning Commission

Donald Erickson, Chair
Tina Lee, Vice-Chair
Theresa Dusek
Benjamin Fields
Sean Gaffney
Mark Lawlis
Matthew Nutsch
Erle Thompson
Scott Winship

MINUTES (approved on 3-20-13)

Time: Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 16, Tacoma Municipal Building North
Present: Donald Erickson (Chair), Tina Lee (Vice-Chair), Theresa Dusek, Sean Gaffney, Mark Lawlis, Erle Thompson, Scott Winship
Absent: Benjamin Fields, Matthew Nutsch

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

Commissioner Sean Gaffney, appointed by the City Council on February 12, 2013, to the "Architecture, Historic Preservation, and/or Urban Design" position, was sworn in by the City Clerk. It was noted that Chair Erickson was also appointed on February 12, to the District No. 2 position, and had been sworn in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 6, 2013 were approved as submitted. The minutes of February 20, 2013 were approved with the following amendment to Discussion Item #2 Annual Amendment #2013-09 Sign Code Revisions: "The Commissioners also discussed the logic and implications of prohibiting feather signs in pedestrian-oriented areas, and suggested that such prohibition be limited to core pedestrian streets and that staff look into allowing such signs for ~~no-property business (such as food cart vendors)~~ [no property line businesses.](#)"

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Citizen Committee, Board and Commission Review

Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant to the City Manager, and Kathryn Johnston, Management Analyst, presented, with handouts, the key findings and recommendations of the review of the City's Committees, Boards and Commissions. The review was requested by the City Council in December 2012, intended to better understand these groups in terms of their roles and responsibilities, outputs, connection to policy process, staff resources, and limitation of staff resources. Chair Erickson suggested that the Commission be allowed adequate time to review the information and formulate their comments, if any, at the next meeting on March 20, 2013. The Commissioners concurred.

2. South Downtown Subarea Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Ian Munce, Planning Services Division, provided an update on the South Downtown Subarea Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He provided an overview of the project's scope and goals, and highlighted some of the proposed actions, including changing Tacoma Dome area zoning to Downtown Mixed-Use, expanding the Reduced Parking Area to all of South Downtown, approving the campus master plan of the University of Washington Tacoma, advancing a \$40 million initiative to rebuild the Brewery District Streets to complete street standards, creating a "Quiet Zone" for trains in the Dome District, and addressing affordable housing objectives recommended by the Affordable Housing Policy Advisory Group and the Puget Sound regional Council. He also indicated that a draft of the South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS are going to be released in late March 2013 for a formal 30-day public

comment period that will include a public hearing. This public hearing will be separate from the Planning Commission's public hearing which will likely be held in the Fall of this year. The desire is to have the plan reviewed and adopted by the City Council by the end of the year.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The Commission acknowledged receipt of a copy of the letter sent by Chair Erickson to the State Department of Commerce appreciating the opportunity to host the "Regional Short Course on Local Planning" in Tacoma on February 20, 2013.
- (b) Lihuang Wung reviewed the tentative agenda for the next meeting on March 20, 2013, which includes a public hearing concerning the Proposed Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code for 2013. He also distributed copies of the Public Review Document prepared for the public hearing.
- (c) Brian Boudet, Planning Services Division Manager, invited the Commissioners to the presentation on March 7, 2013, by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) delegates, who will be wrapping up their 3-day visit in Tacoma with a report on their findings and recommended development strategies for the MLK corridor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.