



Meeting Minutes

Downtown Strategy Stakeholder Work Group

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Amy Buckler
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Wednesday, May 4, 2016

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Committee member Clydia Cuykendall, Committee member Janae Huber, Committee member Meg Martin, Committee member Jessicarae Nunez, Committee member Karen Parkhurst, Committee member Dave Platt, and Alternate Carole Richmond

Excused: 12 - Alternate Tessa Andrascik, Committee member Janice Arnold, Alternate Kim Murillo, Alternate Ruben Nunez, Committee member Connie Phegley, Committee member Karen Reagan, Committee member Mike Reid, Committee member Annette Roth, Committee member Terry Wilson, Committee member Bob Wubben, Alternate Vita Zvirzdys-Farler, and Committee member Missy Watts

OTHERS PRESENT

City Staff:

Community Planning and Development Senior Planner Amy Buckler

MAKERS Consultant Group:

John Owen, Kendra Dahlen and Rachel Miller

1. WELCOME

Ms. Dahlen welcomed group members and the public.

2. MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Review Downtown Strategy guiding framework
- Review and discussion of preliminary viewshed analysis
- Prepare for upcoming public meetings

3. AGENDA ITEMS

[16-0591](#) Explanation & Attachments

Ms. Buckler reviewed the guiding framework:

1. Character Areas
2. Major Investments (draft map)
3. Chart

Issues rising to the top

- Parking - there will be a parking strategy study that will begin in 2016.
- Homelessness/Street Dependency - there is a lot happening in the region and the downtown strategy will outline the next steps.
- Sea Level Rise - there is an upcoming sea level rise management plan.

Ms. Miller reviewed the viewshed analysis and its relationship to guiding framework and other downtown goals, opportunities and trade-offs.

Discussion:

- Views are taken from ground level.
- Views are from public places.
- What about public views from buildings?
- There may be an issue of fairness regarding height restrictions when only a few properties are affected.
- There is a need to know how many properties would be affected.
- Protecting every view is impossible.
- Over 25 views would not be affected under current development regulations.
- If everyone can see a view from many places then special views are less special.
- View of Olympic Mountains from Capitol & Union is not so important.
- Building development can reduce sense of being near the water.
- Why are we looking at views in downtown that people have not mentioned?
- East Bay Drive views to Dome are important and Cherry St. to Dome view not so important, so study not necessarily to protect.
- Encourage adaptive use so smaller buildings are retained.
- Don't say the view from the promenade to Budd Inlet is the most important view. It is political as trees are taller than the allowed zoning height of 35 feet.
- View from Percival Landing to Dome is most photographed view and is very important to the sense of place.
- Work group accepted the recommended views.
- What about the unsightly view of above ground power lines?
- It is important to balance view protection with other goals for downtown and to discuss the trade-offs.

Ms. Miller reviewed a draft agenda for the upcoming June 6, 2016 Public Workshop #3 that will be held at the Olympia Center starting at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion:

- People need explanations to be engaged.
- Open house is a good idea.
- Maybe use small group discussions.
- Give examples of "tools".
- Clickers could be a good idea (no consensus on whether they would be better

- at the beginning or the end of the meeting).
- Cost will affect people's idea of priorities.
- Encourage people to think with their individual and their community hats on.

Mr. Owens reviewed a draft agenda for the upcoming May 23, 2016 Urban Design discussion that will be held at the Olympia Center starting at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion:

- Small group discussion is valuable
 - Different perspectives and information
 - Good for people who do not like to speak in a large group
 - Drawback - some voices can dominate the discussion
 - Need good facilitators
- Have people identify three words to describe desired design
 - Have earlier, not in small group discussion
 - Give people a card as they walk in
 - Show words later in meeting

The information was received and discussed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.