



# Meeting Minutes

## Planning Commission

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Todd Stamm  
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**Monday, March 16, 2015**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Community Planning and Development Principal Planner Todd Stamm  
Senior Planner Amy Buckler  
Public Works Director Rich Hoey  
Thurston Regional Planning Council Senior Planner Thera Black  
Fehr & Peers Principal Planner Don Samdahl  
Intercity Transit Planning Manager Dennis Bloom

**1.A ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 8 - Chair Max Brown, Vice Chair Kim Andresen, Commissioner Jessica Bateman, Commissioner Missy Watts, Commissioner Judy Bardin, Commissioner Darrell Hoppe, Commissioner Jerome Parker, and Commissioner Carole Richmond

**Excused:** 1 - Commissioner Roger Horn

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The agenda was approved.**

**3. BUSINESS ITEM**

**3.A [15-0256](#) Briefing on Downtown Transportation and Innovation**

Ms. Buckler introduced the presenters for the transportation briefing. She discussed how transportation issues impact the community's vision for Downtown.

Ms. Black presented a history of 20th century transportation influences, especially highways, and outlined how those influences determine many of today's choices. She explained the Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) process beginning in 1979 and gave historical background on transportation issues including the establishment of bike corridors in 1965.

Mr. Samdahl addressed public priorities results determined from the public outreach process. He discussed recent trends and described balanced planning tool

components.

Mr. Hoey gave an overview of Downtown planning projects from a Public Works perspective. He discussed budget constraints and proposal strategies for increasing funding.

Mr. Bloom answered questions about Downtown transit and the possibility of extending 15 minute service into the late evening.

Discussion:

- Balance between using parking lots for infill and meeting parking requirements.
- Public sector investment strategy/return on investment possibilities.
- Critically important funding support for mass transit.
- Best ways to serve competing uses of public space.
- Redefine the purpose of downtown street system from moving cars to moving people between East/West/South areas.
- Impact of changing one way street environments.
- Capital Way paving and revitalization plans.
- Sounder service limits and increased Express bus service.
- Pilot project bicycle boulevard/corridor from Lyons Park to Sylvester Park.
- Outlining the need for multiple market rate housing projects.

**The report was received.**

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cary Retlin of 233 Rogers St. NW addressed the importance of taking risks necessary to do things differently and create new transportation strategies. He gave past examples including the Fourth Avenue bridge and encouraged Commissioners to be the visionaries and let Council and staff take care of the details.

Janine Unsoeld an Eastside resident and Board member of South Puget Environmental Clearing House (SPECH) discussed future SPECH community meetings.

Jenae Huber of 2612 Buker Street expressed her appreciation for tonight's topic and discussion, and encouraged the Commission to pursue possibilities for changing one way streets.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 5.A**     [15-0261](#)     Approval of February 23, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

**The minutes were approved as amended.**

#### **6. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFO REQUESTS**

Mr. Stamm distributed a map illustrating the location of the new development projects

he announced at the last meeting. He discussed complications regarding the transition to new committee liaison assignments and Council direction regarding annexation studies. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the Action Plan Launch Party on April 18, 2015. He announced permits submitted for the Tanasse Building, Hilton Gardens and a new land use permit for conversion of office building with additional housing units at 512 12th Ave. from developer Walker John.

Chair Brown attended the Land Use & Environment Committee (LUEC) meeting and distributed a report. He discussed upcoming meetings for Downtown planning consistency with the Comprehensive Plan (CP).

## **7. REPORTS**

Commissioner Bateman attended the Council Finance meeting and gave a report.

Commissioner Hoppe attended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) meeting and gave a report.

Commissioner Parker attended the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting and gave a report.

Commissioner Richmond attended the Utility Advisory Committee and gave a report.

Commissioners Horn and Bardin attended the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations meeting and Commissioner Bardin gave a report.

Mr. Stamm discussed the subarea planning process.

Tonight's meeting is the last meeting for Commissioner Bardin. Chair Brown commended Commissioner Bardin for her work. Commissioner Bardin expressed her appreciation to the Commission and for the many learning opportunities through participating as a Commissioner.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.