



Meeting Minutes

Downtown Strategy Stakeholder Work Group

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Amy Buckler
360.570.5847

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: 12 - Alternate Tessa Andrascik, Committee member Clydia Cuykendall, Committee member Janae Huber, Alternate Kim Murillo, Committee member Karen Parkhurst, Committee member Connie Phegley, Committee member Dave Platt, Committee member Karen Reagan, Committee member Mike Reid, Alternate Carole Richmond, Committee member Annette Roth, and Committee member Terry Wilson

Excused: 7 - Committee member Janice Arnold, Committee member Meg Martin, Committee member Jessicarae Nunez, Alternate Ruben Nunez, Committee member Bob Wubbena, Alternate Vita Zvirzdys-Farler, and Committee member Missy Watts

OTHERS PRESENT

City Staff Present:
Community Planning and Development Senior Planner Amy Buckler

MAKERS Consultant Group Present:
John Owen, Kendra Dahlen, and Rachel Miller

1. WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Ms. Dahlen welcomed group members and the public. She indicated the meeting is open to the public; however, there is not a public comment time. Members of the public may send comments or questions to dts@ci.olympia.wa.us.

2. MEETING OBJECTIVES

Ms. Dahlen summarized the meeting objectives:

- Share preliminary results from February 20, 2016 Public Workshop
- Begin to assemble the Guiding Framework

3. AGENDA ITEMS

3A. [16-0307](#) Explanation & Attachments

Rachel Miller and John Owen from MAKERS Consulting Group gave a presentation outlining the results of Workshop #2 from February 20, 2016:

- Qualitative results showed too many districts in plan. MAKERS plans to combine/merge
- Community sees the waterfront as a whole and is concerned about sea level rise
- Highest priorities
 - Tech and artisan districts
 - Capitol to Farmers Market activity spine
 - Diverse Housing Neighborhoods with services
 - Historic Preservation

Feedback:

- Streets: Cycling as mode of transportation; truck speed; organic activity flow; slow down Franklin; more utilization of Jefferson; parking strategy; invest in Franklin to Plum; 2-way on 4th & State
- Residential: Neighborhood oriented services; condo versus rental; compatibility of families and late-night activities; gentrification
- Puget Sound: address Capitol Lake/estuary issue as it will affect Isthmus plan; contamination; sailors & power boaters conflict with non-motorized watercraft; impact of estuary study (fiddlehead & Olympia moorage could be impacted); how to get more guest moorage
- Business: mobile businesses (e.g. food trucks, food delivery) to serve neighborhoods; temporary permits to test; Union already has large office-maybe focus on 1 block north; investor and developer need reasons/benefits/profit/market; community can drive some implementation
- General Concerns: preservation versus new development; maintenance budget concern; development conversation needs to happen
- State: recognize seasonality of Legislative session and how it effects downtown; need better understanding of State growth and/or retraction plans
- Police: Why are police not tracking nuisance crimes?

Stakeholder Work Group comments on Draft Guiding Framework

Final comments from each stakeholder regarding initial guiding framework for Downtown Strategy:

- I think it works, however it is hard to envision how things will change, for example Union Street is already developed with large office buildings.
- It all makes sense. In fact I'm a little surprised to see how all of the disparate comments have come together. It's heading in the right direction and represents the strengths we already have.
- This is great progress. We also need to address the Isthmus and Capitol Lake, and parking.
- MAKERS have made a lot of headway. Good framework developed from a very large 'wish- list'.

- We will also need to look at market viability. To make this happen it will require investment in the community. It will take revenue. We will need to connect back to attracting investment to make it happen.
- This guiding framework has really coalesced with our community's priorities. Franklin and Plum will need a lot of investment. Encouraging public/private investments may be a tool. It will be a challenge to make sure that all needs are being met, including for those investing in our community.
- Really pleasantly surprised, this framework presents an excellent balance.
- This guiding framework is much easier to understand now. I wish the economic development piece had been done earlier and will look forward to learning how to make this viable.
- Concerned about balance between adequate space for growth and historic preservation.
- We will need private investment to make this happen and incentives for people to make a profit.
- In general I love focusing how to make downtown feel more inviting. I hope we include bicycling as a mode of transportation.
- I like the way this is all coming down as shown in the images on the map. Trying to figure out what the strategy will influence.
- The framework looks great. Let's keep in mind that State Government and Capitol Campus is another unknown that will impact downtown. We need to consider government growth as well as sq. ft. reductions. Other issues to keep in mind are; designing downtown to be attractive and safe for kids, gentrification, and maintenance of investments.

The work session was completed.

4. MEETING WRAP UP

Ms. Buckler noted the upcoming important dates:

- Online survey will be published around March 15, 2016

Public events:

- April 28, 2016 - Business and Developers Forum #1
- May 23, 2016 - Public/Joint advisory board meeting (design)
- June 6, 2016 - Public Workshop #3

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.