



JOINT PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jon Friedman called the special meeting to order at 6:36 PM in the Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Planning Commission - Chair Jon Friedman, Vice Chair Richard Weinman, Commissioners Bryan Cairns, Tiffin Goodman, Jennifer Mechem, Craig Olson, and Suzanne Skone were present.

Design Commission - Chair Richard Erwin, Vice Chair Colin Brandt, Commissioners Daniel Hubbell, Lara Sanderson, Tami Szerlip, and Hui Tian were present. Commissioner Susanne Foster was absent.

Staff was represented by Kirsten Taylor, Deputy City Manager, Scott Greenberg, Development Services Director, Karen Reed of Karen Reed Consulting, Alison Van Gorp, Administrative Services Manager and Ombudsman, and Shana Restall, Principal Planner.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #1: Town Center Joint Commission Special Meeting

Karen Reed provided welcoming remarks and requested introductions from the participating Commissioners.

Opening comments were provided by Councilmember Brahm, Councilmember Wong, and Councilmember Grausz, who participated in the Town Center Liaison Group (TCLG).

Ms. Reed detailed the scope of the Joint Commission and discussed procedural expectations.

Planning Commission Chair Jon Friedman asked for comments from the public. The following members of the public spoke:

- Bart Dawson of 8812 SE 77th Place, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Roberta Lewandowski of 4740 86th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Robert W. Thorpe of 2737 SE 78th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- William Low of 3404 4th Ave S., Seattle, WA 98134
- John Houlihan of 100 N. 35th Street, Seattle, WA 98103
- Ira Appelman of 4436 Ferncroft Road, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Tom Acker of 2427 84th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Paul Reese of 4334 89th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Michelle Goldberg of 2212 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Daniel Thompson of 7265 North Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Ralph Jorgenson of 8040 84th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Meg Lippert of 4052 94th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Kay Hirai of 4544 91st Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Adam Szpiro of 7400 92nd Place SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

A presentation regarding the Town Center Visioning and Development Code Update Project Interim Report was given by Alison Van Gorp and Scott Greenberg. Mr. Greenberg and Ms. Van Gorp also responded to questions from the Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission requested clarification from staff regarding the following:

- What is the percentage of street level retail on street frontage in Town Center currently?
- Can we inventory existing parking resources in downtown to determine if there is in fact any excess capacity?
- Can we do a traffic analysis on various streets in the Town Center?
- Is it possible to partially lift the moratorium?
- Can we do a list serve to communicate offline between meetings?
- Can the City attorney talk to us about the risks of extending the moratorium?
- Can we create subcommittees to help get the work done more expeditiously?

STAFF COMMENTS:

None

PLANNED ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Commissioner Hubbell will be absent on October 21, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

None

NEXT MEETING:

The next special Joint Commission meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Friedman adjourned the Joint Commission meeting at 9:06 PM.