

Urban Design and Public Space Committee Meeting

February 1st – Horizon House

In Attendance:

- Jim Erickson, UDPS Cmt. Chair
- Alex Hudson, FHIA Director
- Douglas Holtom, FHIA Coordinator
- Bob Terrell, FH Resident and FHIA board
- Gretchen Thomson, FH Resident
- Susan VanLeuven, UDPS Cmt. Member
- Darel Grothaus, UDPS Cmt. Member
- Gordon Werner, FHIA board and FH Resident
- Bill, FH Resident
- Bo Scarim, Plymouth Housing
- Kevin Malgesini, Town Hall Seattle
- Mike Breeden, Town Hall Project Manager Seattle
- Lindsay Radliff, FHIA Board and FH Resident
- Betsy Braun, FHIA Board and VMMC
- Ted Klainer, FHIA Board and HMC
- Mary Ellen Hudgins, FHIA President and FH Resident

Agenda

Welcome and Introduction:

Those in attendance were prompted to share what they believe to be urban design priorities in First Hill.

Jim: Interested in sidewalks and curb ramps

Darel: Canopies over sidewalks

Susan: Spaces to sit

Bob: Night lighting

Gordon: Crosswalks and pedestrian level lighting

Bill: More setbacks

Gretchen: Light pollution

Alex: safe public realm

Doug: Too much concrete

Bo: Preserving greenscapes

Kevin: Neighborhood activation

Mike: Wayfinding

Lindsey: Street edges, narrow sidewalks

Ted: Smooth sidewalks and better lighting

Betsy: Post-car future

- Updates
- Your Voice, Your Choice
- Response to 1101 8th Ave. Alley Vacation
- Developer Criteria and Evaluation

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- Other Business

Updates:

620 Terry Avenue (24-story Senior Housing)

-Wednesday, February 8, 8:00 p.m. at 824 12th Avenue

First Hill Park is entering phase 2 to get to 65% construction documents and completed by May. There is a public meeting on Feb.28th at the Stimson-Green Mansion at 6:00pm

Harborview Hall: \$2.5M in King County budget for assessment and improvement. The assessment is underway. There was unanimous support at the King County council. The next steps will take place in March for FHIA to learn more about this potential project.

- Jim Erickson says he is sensitive to the Men's Shelter and the problems that they may create. Jim Erickson suggested that those in attendance to write to Alex Hudson about this subject. He asked how would the HMC Standing Advisory Committee be informed about these plans. He suggests that FHIA expand the Public Realm Action Plan for Terrace St. to connect with the First Hill Streetcar.

- Alex Hudson reminded the committee members that this is very preliminary and this will be a more discussed topic at next month's UDPS meeting. She also mentioned that Joe McDermott would be in attendance.

I5 Columns: The community review panel selected 5 proposals to move into a large community involvement process for a vote.

-Gordon Werner asked about WSDOT cleaning the columns. Alex Hudson replied that they do not need to be cleaned, saving thousands of dollars.

Park-to-Park Path: The walking map was reviewed by the Steering Committee with revisions underway. Signal Box paint is waiting for weather conditions. Little Free Libraries have been ordered and we are now waiting on property owners to install them.

-Ted Klainer asked to see what the Little Libraries look like and Alex Hudson showed him.

Freeway Park Association Meeting, Jim Erickson mentioned a new program that provides wayfinding devices on sidewalks as well as within Freeway Park.

Terry Avenue Promenade: We're playing the waiting game. FHIA is cosponsoring with other community groups. We are tracking the public benefits process. There is a design commission meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 16th at 9am at City Hall.

-Jim Erickson said that he is confident FHIA will be awarded money from WSCC Addition street and alley vacation. He is optimistic and believes we should start with design work.

-Bill asked if the road would be widened, and Betsy Braun replied that we need to figure out more details. Alex Hudson mentioned that SDOT would be the project manager.

-Bob Terrell reminded the committee that there is also a plan for Madison Street regarding trees and sidewalks.

Your Voice, Your Choice: There is a new process for filtering and deciding neighborhood projects. Key features of the program are: Anyone can submit a project idea, SDOT develops

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cost estimates, the project development team reviews the projects and then there will be citywide voting. Anyone is able to apply for to be on the project development team. \$90,000 will be distributed to each city district.

- Mary Ellen Hudgins asked who decides who gets to be on the project development team. Alex Hudson responded that the Department of Neighborhoods decides.
- Jim Erickson mentioned that we should get the word out to individuals that are not in attendance at this meeting.

- Alex Hudson asked for ideas to submit – Gordon Werner and Lindsay Radliff suggest changes to the lighted crosswalk at Boren and Terrace, as they are difficult to see.

- Betsy Braun asked which previous projects have been funded through this program. This is a new program. Betsy Braun suggested that 9th and University could use a curb cut, because there is not currently one for pedestrians.

- Gordon Werner suggested a curb cut at NE section 9th and Madison.

- Jim Erickson suggested safety changes to the Union St, Minor Ave and Bellevue Ave round-about.

- Lindsay Radliff asked if it were possible to hire an arborist to provide ideas about the First Hill tree canopy. Alex Hudson replied that probably would not be possible.

- Betsy Braun mentioned an improvement to James St and 8th Ave due to the recent pedestrian collision.

- Gordon Werner mentioned making Summit Ave and Spring St. a 4-way stop and many agreed with his idea.

Response to 1101 8th Ave Alley Vacation:

- Gordon asks that they add a permanent traffic signals and safety improvements to Hubbell and Seneca.

- Lindsay Radliff asked about programming in the park. How is the design of the park presented to the public? Will the process be similar to 1320 University? Town Hall will be responsible for activation for the public space.

- Mary Ellen Hudgins asked what is the standard for the design of the park. Echoing Lindsay Radliff, she also asked who decides the design of the space.

- Bob Terrell asked what the timeline for the park? The comments are due in a couple of weeks.

- Mary Ellen Hudgins says that this project will create vehicular and pedestrian traffic and that Seneca and Hubbell improvements should be requested/required.

- Madison BRT should also include safety enhancements.

- Many agreed that a permanent signalized intersection, as well as pedestrian safety enhancements should be included as a public benefit for the alleyway vacation.

- Require the park be 6,000 square feet.

Developer Criteria and Evaluation:

Bob Terrell suggested that the Madison Master Plan be included. Gordon Werner also suggested that the Madison BRT also be required for developers to be knowledgeable about.

PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES:

- Avoid Light Pollution

- Assist Railings

- Canopies for shelter from rain

- Free Libraries

- Picnic Tables

- Food Truck Spaces

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- Bike Ramps
- Free Electricity
- Benches
- Art in the public realm
- Wayfinding
- Trees/landscaping
- Exercises/play equipment
- Curb cuts
- Trash containers
- Water fountains

RETAIL:

- Desired business types
- Size of retail square footage

TRANSPORTATION:

- Revised off-street parking
- Garage entrances take crime prevention into account for designs
- Location of loading zones for people and retail

Other Business:

Holland Partners will be going to meet with the Decatur to discuss their 1001 Minor project. The Corner Café has closed and is being replaced by a 206 Burgers. There is a meeting on Friday at First Hill Plaza from 3-4 pm to discuss the 620 Terry Project. A Noodle Shop is opening at Jefferson and Broadway.