



## Urban Design and Public Space Committee Meeting – December 6, 2017

### – Horizon House

#### In Attendance

- Alex Hudson, FHIA Executive Director
- Alex Zeiler, FPA
- Bob Terrell, FH Resident
- Darel Grothaus, Trinity Church
- Doug Holtom, FHIA Coordinator
- Frank Conlin, FH Resident
- Gordon Werner, FH Resident
- Gretchen Thompson, FH Resident
- Holly Golden, Land Use Attorney, HCMP
- Jim Erickson, UDPS Chair
- JP Emory, Ankrom Moisan Architects
- Kevin McNamara, Skyline
- Lindsay Radliff, FH Resident
- Margaret Griffiths, Frye Art Museum
- Mark Brands, Site Workshop
- Mary Ellen Hudgins, FH Board President
- Paul Leitner, Transforming Age
- Sam Russel, FH Resident
- Sue VanLeuvan, FH Resident
- Suzanne Hittman, FH Resident
- Tom Gibbs, FH Resident
- Torsten Hirche, Transforming Age

#### Agenda

- Updates
- Skybridge Proposal for Skyline 2
- Terry Avenue
  - Background and Current Status
  - Goal Setting
  - Next Steps
- Goal Setting

#### Updates

First Hill Park is still in a community led visioning phase. This project is mostly funded by Swedish Medical Center. 65% design has been completed and the project has been handed off to the Seattle Parks Department. The Park and the First Hill Mile will not get funding until Swedish Medical Center begins construction. FHIA is actively fundraising.

The Park-to-Park Pathway is important because it links the upcoming Yesler Terrace Park to Freeway Park. The committee was encouraged to complete the rubric that was passed around the room.

OED Grant has funding in place to complete all signal box artwork on Madison Street. There have been some last-minute changes to the project, but the focus remains on business improvements along the Madison corridor. Next year, it is planned that OED funding will be used to install flexible pavement along Seneca and 9<sup>th</sup> to fix deep tree wells, as well as neighborhood summer events.

#### Skybridge Proposal for Skyline 2



## FIRST HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

76 Residences as an expansion of the Skyline Campus across 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Torsten Hirche, with Transforming Age presented to the committee. Transforming Age provides housing to roughly 3,700 seniors in Seattle. Across the country, Transforming Age serves 3,200 low-income seniors. Transforming Age is considered a non-profit.

Torsten Hirche said that Skyline staff are first responders in case of medical emergencies, which is strengthened with the addition of a skybridge. On average, there are 7 emergencies at Skyline a month. A skybridge would provide critical safety and quality of life for residents. Vehicular accidents with pedestrians would be avoided with the addition of a skybridge for future residents. There are many residents of Skyline that have mobility impairments and cognitive deficits.

Jim Erickson asked if there is a difference in timing between having a skybridge versus not having one. Torsten Hirche estimated that an additional 5 minutes could be added to response time by Emergency Responders without a skybridge.

Darel Grothaus asked if staff would be trained to provide emergency care in the new building. Kevin McNamara said that the new building would not have medical services. Kevin McNamara also said that Skyline has emergency pendants for all residents. Nursing staff would not be added for the new building. Alex Hudson asked if there are options to provide in-house emergency services on the campus. Sam Russell asked why a tunnel is not being proposed and Torsten Hirche said that it is cost prohibitive. New services would not be created. Tom Gibbs mentioned that the new tower would be independent living only. Torsten Hirche closed with that this project would create activation on the street level.

Jim Erickson asked what the design review board thinks about the skybridge, and JP Emory responded that it is mostly out of their scope. Alex Hudson when Design Commission meetings are scheduled and a Skybridge Review Committee (SDOT, Design Commission, OPCD) will look over the plans, which will then be looked over by the Seattle Design Commission. Seattle Council will then determine whether to approve or reject the vacation. There are annual fees for skybridges with options to renew twice. \$35,000 is the estimated cost annually.

JP Emory presented plans for the Olympic Tower. The skybridge would connect amenity levels. JP Emory said that they want people to use the crossings at grade. Debris, traction, lighting, navigation observation/safety, lean rails, and level surfaces are what is needed for future residents. The at grade crossing will be provided at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> and Columbia. Alex Hudson asked if the entrance could be put on the corner, rather than in the middle of the site shortening the distance of crossing. The tunnel crossing was determined to be not possible, due to finances, service lines, sewage lines and spread footings that support the existing tower. The skybridge is proposed to be 34' above grade and 14' tall. The length is 120' total. Tree preservation is considered important.

Mark Brands discussed streetscape, by saying that he is committed to creating a great streetscape. The project provides generous setbacks with landscaping and replaced sidewalks. Storm-water planters are planned along Columbia Street. The existing building will be updated with ramps, more benches and metal planters. The public benefits of the project are: voluntary setbacks at enhancing the Park-to-Park path (wayfinding, safety, street trees and furnishings).



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Jim Erickson asked if it would be possible for adjacent projects to remove the existing cobblestones on Columbia west of 8<sup>th</sup>. Neighbors often express concern about the danger that they pose to pedestrians and vehicles during inclement weather. Gordon Werner said that in the past the city told FHIA this is a very low priority for street improvement funding.

Jim Erickson asked if the project is asking for departures or variances, and JP Emory replied that they are to reduce the profile to preserve some views of existing Skyline residents. Frank Conlin asked if drop-off areas are included on the street, and JP Emory said yes. Concept 3 is a curved tower massing, which is preferred by Transforming Age. Setback departure is at 3' for Concept 3. The podium height is also requested as a departure. Alex Hudson asked if the balconies would curve with the building, which they will. Sue VanLeuvan asked if more information could be given about the pedestrian experience. She would like to see more setbacks. Jim Erickson asked how much area will be provided by setbacks. JP Emory suggested the design review board may push-back against larger setbacks. Lindsay Radliff asked about light and air implications to the neighbors to the south (Bishop Lewis House) and JP Emory responded that there is a parking lot. Suzanne Hittman asked how many parking spaces would have to be given up for the skybridge and curb-bulb and Mark Brands replied that only one would for sure be removed. Sue VanLeuvan suggested that Transforming Age offer Bishop Lewis two parking spots in the new garage and then create a more attractive landscape in the two former parking spots. Darel Grothaus mentioned that the Trinity project was required to remove curb bulbs at 8<sup>th</sup> and Cherry for their project by SDOT. Bob Terrell said that SDOT has encouraged deep curb bulbs. Lindsay Radliff asked how FHIA can inform the public about how to respond about the skybridge. Holly Golden said that skybridge review will mainly be under the purview of the Seattle Design Commission.

Jim Erickson reminded the committee that the last meeting, the UDPS committee voted to remain neutral in regard to the skybridge. Bob Terrell asked to put this item on the agenda. Alex Hudson asked if the committee should reconsider the previous vote. Mary Ellen Hudgins reminded the committee about setting precedence. Suzanne Hittman stated that there has not been much new information added in this presentation. Alex Hudson requested a formal vote be taken.

Should FHIA hold the status of last month's vote for neutrality? Moved by Suzanne Hittman and seconded by Gordon Werner. 11 votes in favor of keeping last month's vote. 1 abstention. Lindsay Radliff said that they provided three options for tunnels, and she agreed that their reasoning was legitimate. She also mentioned that the departure request of 3' is extreme. Jim Erickson asked what design option the committee preferred. Lindsay Radliff mentioned support. Doug and Alex will draft a response to early design guidance.

### **Terry Avenue**

The outcome that Jim Erickson looking for is that this Committee to have a recommendation for the future of Terry Avenue. Jim Erickson suggested that Terry Avenue north of Madison Street be put aside for a later date. Jim Erickson emphasized that Madison to James should be focused on. Sue VanLeuvan asked if we could leverage the 707 Terry development and Jim Erickson responded that 707 Terry is currently responsible up to the street curb and would like to think of alternatives for funding. Suzanne Hittman said that institutions nearby would have to be included in discussions and potentially funding



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some of the project.

Next Steps: Funding will be available in 8 years and major decisions take multiple years. Should modifications of existing vision occur? When do we want to start this project? It is expected to take 2 years to get to 100% design.

How we achieve our goals and involve stakeholders and the community?

How do we prioritize this?