



## **FHIA Urban Design and Public Space Committee Meeting**

**April 05, 2017 – 1:00-2:30PM – Horizon House**

### **In Attendance:**

- Jim Erickson, UDPS Chair
- Alex Hudson, FHIA Director
- Betsy Braun, Virginia Mason Medical Center
- Bo Scarim, Plymouth Housing Group
- Bob Terrell, First Hill Resident
- Darren Morgan, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Derel Grothaus, First Hill Resident
- Doug Holtom, FHIA Coordinator
- Gordon Werner, First Hill Resident
- Lindsay Radliff, First Hill Resident
- Mary Ellen Hudgins, FHIA President
- Renate Raymond, Frye Art Museum
- Riisa Conklin, Freeway Park Association
- Sue Van Leuvan, First Hill Resident
- Suzanne Hittman, First Hill Resident
- Ted Klainer, Harborview Medical Center
- Thomas Bennett, First Hill Resident

### **Finding Freeway Park:**

In 2010 was the last time updates were made to the Park. The Freeway Park Association received \$25k from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Matching Fund and \$525k from the Seattle Department of Transportation through the neighborhood Street Fund. These funds seek to address:

- Awareness and Accessibility: There are 12 entrances into the Park. Many are unknown and difficult to find.
- Disorienting and Dark: Many people feel that this Park is somewhat of a maze and difficult to navigate for those who are unfamiliar with the space.

Site Workshop will be leading the Community Design Process for addressing the challenges of the Park. Site Workshop has worked on First Hill Park, and they are familiar with the neighborhood. They have begun site analysis and the entrances and safety within the space.

Phase 1: Community Engagement, Schematic Design and Budget Development  
\$25K

Community Design Process in the Summer of 2017

Final Report and Schematic Design documents completed in November 2017.

Phase 2: Design Implementation of Right-of-Way Improvements

Phase 3: Final Design Documents and Implementation of Park Improvements

How can you get involved with the Freeway Park Association?

- Sign up for their newsletter to receive updates
- Participate in community events
- Volunteer with the FPA
- Help spread the word of the park

It was asked if the restrooms would ever be re-opened? Riisa recognized that there is a need for restrooms in the Park and said that the existing space would become something, likely restrooms with an attendant or a retail location.

Does FPA provide maps to neighboring buildings? No, but many events are promoted in the neighboring office buildings (One and Two Union). Many visitors (tourists, hospital visitors, etc.) could benefit from knowing of the amenities of the Park.



## **First Hill Tree Canopy: Street Tree Management Plan**

Context: The Street Tree Management Plan is a 9-year maintenance program divided into 27 management units, with a focus on 3 units per year from 2016 to 2024. Planning and policy is based on where they have historically been planted. There are 40,000 street trees that are maintained by SDOT. First Hill has historically been underserved as found out during the Bridging the Gap legacy.

Overview: This approach has been made by ArcGIS and the Levy to Move Seattle. 2/3 of existing crews time will be dedicated to programmatic maintenance and over 44% of total resources dedicated to programmatic maintenance. 1/3 dedicated to customer response.

The objectives are: Inventory Update is currently underway in First Hill (Unit 10), Maintenance of existing trees, replace trees and Connect with the communities being served.

Details: Scheduled pruning and maintenances, emergency responses, hazardous tree removal and establish recently planted trees over a 10-year time-period. The goal is to plant at least two trees for every one removed. SDOT plans to leverage existing gaps within 'tree corridors' (8<sup>th</sup> Ave, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Madison and Seneca Streets). SDOT will use iTree analysis of inventory during the spring and plant in the summer.

SDOT will implement inclusive outreach strategies to engage diverse communities through surveys, fact sheets and newsletter posts.

2016 in Review: 2016 Expenditures totaled \$990,828 from inventory (\$56,022), pruning (\$477,442), removal (\$32,070), planting (\$297,997) and watering (\$127,297). In Georgetown and South Park, 6,081 trees were inventoried and 3,685 trees were added to the inventory, which allowed SDOT to know percentages of tree genera of an area. Diverse types of trees allow for understanding the resiliency of trees from disease.

If an SDOT street tree is damaged, it can be reported to the City. How do we plant trees where no trees have existed? In some cases that design could prevent the ability to grow or sustain a tree in dense urban environments. It is possible to contact SDOT to find out if street trees are possible within a location. Is soil or size of a tree-well addressed when SDOT replants? In some cases, SDOT replaces soil or updates sidewalks.

Next Steps: Northern First Hill is within category 12, which has yet to be scheduled. Thomas Bennett, Lindsay Radliff and Alex Hudson will be in correspondence with SDOT regarding the Street Tree Management Plan.

Do developers coordinate with SDOT regarding street trees? Yes, they are required to notify SDOT regarding street tree impacts from early in the development process. SDOT regulates private and public street trees.

Native trees can be difficult to sustain in the right-of-way. SDOT would like to be engaged to inform and provide feedback based on Street Tree Plans.

Who do we contact regarding vacant tree pits? 684-8733 or [seattle.trees@seattle.gov](mailto:seattle.trees@seattle.gov) deals with Street Tree questions.

Does SDOT address Institution Street Trees? Yes, if they're in the right-of-way.



Where are trees missing in First Hill? By the end of the summer, SDOT will have a much more accurate data regarding street trees.

### **Updates:**

1320 University: Should FHIA write a letter with positive feedback regarding the development of this project? Many people agreed that we should, but it can be short. The public will not have access to University, Union and Boylston pavement park until the project is complete.

WSCC Addition - Design Committee Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am – City Hall B&C Room. FHIA is actively pursuing public benefits from alley and street vacation to fund the Terry Avenue Woonerf.

### **Park to Park Path:**

- Walking Map is printed
- Signal boxes are all installed
- 3 Little Free Libraries have been given out, they are awaiting installation

15 Columns: Sunlight Over First Hill was selected with 40% of the vote, with 2,895 total votes. FHIA is in the permitting phase with WSDOT.

### **First Hill Park:**

Midway through Phase 2 (65% construction document)

Phase 3 will be led by the Parks Department and FHIA is seeking additional funding. The gap for funding is \$106,000. DoN has a \$100,000 grant we could apply for. It was suggested that King County get involved for funding.

### **Your Voice, Your Choice:**

2 First Hill projects have been selected for the next phase: Minor and Seneca intersection improvements and 4-way stop at Spring St. and Summit Ave. SDOT is developing cost estimates and Project Development Teams are reviewing.

### **Other Business:**

April 11<sup>th</sup>- the FHIA Public Meeting at 6PM at the Frye Art Museum.

Bailey Gatzert Safe Walk to School is seeing momentum and have come up with 2 crosswalk designs featuring curb-bulbs, bike lanes and signage.