



City of Seattle

Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

U District Urban Design Working Group Next steps, intro to the EIS

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

July 25, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

University Heights Center

5031 University Way NE, Room 211

AGENDA

7:30 Welcome, overview, announcements

- Our work together thus far Dave LaClergue
- Final Urban Design Framework
- McDonald School update Barbara Quinn
- U District Livability Partnership (UDLP) Brian Scott
- Green Streets update (Brooklyn, 43rd, 42nd) Dave LaClergue

8:00 Role of the working group going forward

Dave LaClergue, All

- Dual Roles:
 - Advisory role to the City: EIS, land use recommendations, green streets...
 - Relationship to the broader organization of the UDLP
- New participants – ground rules, roster
- Group name?

8:45 Introduction to the Environmental Impact Statement

Dave LaClergue, All

- What is the purpose of an EIS?
- How does the analysis work?
- How will the UDF inform zoning alternatives?
- How can the public most effectively influence the process?

9:30 Adjourn

Participants

Nancy Amidei, Rebecca Barnes, Marty Curry, Mark Griffin, Barbara Quinn, Miles Richardson, Ruedi Risler, Scott Soules, Roger Wagoner, Steve Wilkins, Patty Whisler, Cory Crocker, Suni Pak, Matt Hoehnen, Doug Campbell, Jim Nicholls, Dennis Christianson

Topics: Next steps for the working group

Since early 2012, we've met as a working group 13 times; took 3 walking tours; attended 3 community-wide meetings; hosted an urban design open house; and met with service providers, housing advocates, open space proponents, UW, resident groups, and property owners. The working group has sought to balance various interests in the community by considering information and opinions from a wide range of participants and perspectives.

Now that the U District Urban Design Framework is complete, we're entering a new phase of work. The working group discussed the two categories of work outlined below:

ADVISING DPD

Over the next two years, DPD will need focused input from knowledgeable neighborhood representatives on a variety of related projects. It would be very helpful to us for this group to review and comment on our drafts and progress, and for you to communicate information back to your various interest groups. For these projects, the working group would not be a decision-making body, but rather an advisory group. Ultimately, DPD's policy direction on each of these topics will be set by the Mayor and City Council.

DPD anticipates convening quarterly meetings on the following topics:

- Environmental Impact Statement
- Draft land use regulations (zoning & development standards)
- Green street concept plans
- Neighborhood design guidelines

BROADER SCOPE (for later consideration?)

Some members of the working group have identified other possible roles that this group could take on over time, as the U District Livability Partnership becomes more firmly established as a neighborhood-based, long-term organization. These possible efforts include:

- Reviewing and commenting on major development projects through the design review process.
- Advising UW on their Major Institution Plan update and other planning efforts that interface with the neighborhood
- Forming neighborhood partnerships to facilitate new developments including affordable housing, services, open space, etc. (along the lines of a community development corporation)
- Other...?

To take on these topics, more frequent meetings would be necessary, as well as a working group chair to organize the meetings and set the agendas. DPD could not convene and facilitate meetings for this expanded scope. This approach may make more sense in 2015, once the UDLP structure is up and running.

Discussion:

- Working group participants agreed to serve as an advisory body for DPD during the EIS process and policy development, as described above.
- Aside from the DPD advisory role, the group identified public space planning as a top priority. A subcommittee including Rebecca, Cory, Doug, and Dave will meet to start planning an open space public forum in the fall. Event would be hosted at the College of the Built Environment? Presenters and topics would include:
 - Seattle Parks – 2005 “University District Parks Plan,” pipeline projects in the neighborhood, possible strategies for creating additional space in the core of the neighborhood.
 - Seattle Parks Foundation/Parks Levy Committee?
 - U District Square – to report on various open space concepts and neighborhood input to date
 - DPD – public space tools that DPD plans to consider in the U District: green streets, open space impact fees, privately owned public spaces (“POPS”), residential amenity area...
 - Brainstorming around priorities and opportunities – include consideration of a freeway lid, new school facilities

Composition of the working group:

Dave reported back what he’d heard from 2012-2013 members and new people interested in joining. He recommended the following “ground rules,” which the group affirmed

APPOINTMENT CRITERIA

The group discussed and approved the following “ground rules”:

- Attend at least three quarters of all working group meetings
- Be a supporter of the process and the guiding principles of the UDF
- Communicate information back to your neighbors and colleagues
- Represent your own opinions and respect/listen to the interests of other people in the community, including the interests of the community as a whole
- This is an advisory group/ working group that advises Seattle DPD and the UDLP; this is not a final decision-making group

In addition to continuing participants, the group asked Dave to confirm or recruit participants with the following perspectives/expertise:

- Commercial real estate development and economic development
- UW real estate
- Design review board and/or Planning Commission
- Transportation planning
- Student/under 30 residents

With these criteria in mind, Dave has confirmed the interest of the individuals listed below. The UDLP Leadership Group has approved this list of participants – at the next meeting, all new and returning

working group members will be asked to sign a declaration of their commitment to the process and the “ground rules.”

2013-2014 CONTINUING MEMBERS

Nancy Amidei	<i>Conversation on Homelessness</i>
Stephen Antupit	<i>resident</i>
Rebecca Barnes	<i>UW campus architect</i>
David Cohanim	<i>Property owner, developer</i>
Marty Curry	<i>UW Urban Planning, University Congregational Church</i>
Dan Eernisse	<i>University Park resident, commercial real estate/economic development professional</i>
Mark Griffin	<i>RNA, resident</i>
Ron Moe-Lobeda	<i>University Lutheran, Elizabeth Gregory House</i>
Barbara Quinn	<i>University Park resident</i>
Miles Richardson	<i>General manager, University Volkswagen Audi</i>
Ruedi Risler	<i>University Park resident</i>
Matt Roewe	<i>Seattle Planning Commission, VIA Architecture</i>
Alfred J. Mustey Shiga	<i>Property owner, business owner</i>
Scott Soules	<i>Property owner</i>
Roger Wagoner	<i>University Park resident, UHCC Board, urban planner</i>
Patty Whisler	<i>Longtime community organizer</i>
Steve Wilkins	<i>Resident, UD Community Council, NE District Council</i>

NEW MEMBERS

Cory Crocker	<i>Resident, business owner, U District Square</i>
Matt Hoehnen	<i>RNA, NE District Council, resident</i>
Jim Nicholls	<i>UW Architecture & Urban Planning</i>
Doug Campbell	<i>Business owner, U District Square</i>
Suni Pak	<i>Business owner, property owner</i>
Max Blume	<i>Property owner</i>
Dennis Christianson	<i>Architect</i>
Jeanette Henderson	<i>UW real estate office</i>
Jeff Linn	<i>Wallingford resident, UW Transportation</i>
Lauren Squires	<i>Recent graduate, “under 30” resident</i>
Kara Tronsen	<i>Student (urban planning)</i>

U District EIS

Dave gave a summary of the purpose of Environmental Impact Statements:

- What is the purpose of an EIS?
 - Analysis required by state law to help decision makers understand full costs/benefits of land use actions.
 - Provide details on likely impacts and mitigation strategies
- How does the analysis work?
 - We (DPD) pick several zoning alternatives, including “no action.”
 - Project growth over 20 years (2015-2035)
 - A team of technical experts predict impacts and identify mitigation strategies in a variety of areas: traffic, housing, historic resources, infrastructure, etc.
 - Several possible outcomes for each element: no significant impact, significant impact but possible mitigation, significant impact with no possible mitigation.
- How will the UDF inform zoning alternatives?
 - Both rezone scenarios will draw from the UDF in terms of where growth goes and what growth is encouraged. We’ll also have an opportunity to flesh out some of the policy options that were recommended in the UDF (ped/bike improvements, impact fees, incentive zoning, etc.)
- How can the public most effectively influence the process?
 - Scoping meeting (September) sets the initial direction
 - DEIS hearing and 45-day comment period is opportunity for “quality control” to make sure the analysis is thorough and sound.

EIS work for the U District is starting in earnest in the fall, with a public EIS scoping meeting sometime in late September. The lead consultant will be Studio 3MW.

Discussion

- Steve Wilkins (UDCC) asked if the consultants will be analyzing impacts of new development on infrastructure, and if this process is tied into the Puget Sound Regional Growth Council population growth estimates. Dave confirmed on both accounts.
- Mark Griffin (RNA) and others suggested that DPD should include an EIS alternative with height greater than 300’ at the core of the neighborhood. He suggests that by maximizing development potential for UW and others in a defined area, it will cut down the amount of development that spills over into surrounding areas.

Corrections? Additions? Email dave.laclerque@seattle.gov