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Department of Neighborhoods
David Church,
Seattle Pacific University

**Seattle Pacific University
Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #10

June 22, 2016

Adopted TBD

Seattle Pacific University
Queen Anne Room – Gwinn Commons – Third Floor
3310 6th Ave W
Seattle, WA 98119

Members and Alternates Present

Jay LaVassar	Nancy Ousley
Emily Evans	Doug McNutt
Darlene Hickman	Kimberly Orr
Douglas Jennings	

Staff and Others Present

Maureen Sheehan	DON
Colin Vasquez	SDCI
Dave Church	SPU
Melanie Whitehead	SPU
Cheryl Michaels	SPU
Heather Eide	SPU

I. Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Darlene Hickman opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed.

The Committee observed a moment of silence to commemorate Mr. John Coney who passed away in August 2015. He was an active member of the Committee for the past 16 years.

II. Housekeeping

A motion was made to approve the draft agenda as written, and it was seconded. With no objections from the Committee, the motion passed.

Ms. Sheehan mentioned that there were no minutes from the June 17, 2015 meeting. The handouts and presentations from the past meetings are available at the [SPU](#) and the [City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods](#) website.

Ms. Sheehan presented to the Committee an updated by-laws for approval.

A motion was made to adopt the by-laws as written, and it was seconded. The Committee voted, and the motion passed.

III. Project Updates (00:08:06)

Mr. Dave Church sent an email to SAC members informing them that in 2008, the University worked with Perkins+Will to begin pre-programming schematics for the Student Center, and at the same time for the University Center. The former University president decided to pursue the University Center project, but that project is no longer happening.

The new SPU president is interested in pursuing the Student Center project. SPU has engaged McGranahan Architects to begin pre-programming and preliminary schematics design. The project is currently on hold and dependent upon any fund raising activities by the University. Mr. Church noted that he will share more information as he knows more. The Student Center has been a long time campus need and the project has a long ways to go before any land use or building permitting.

Faculty staff housing has been put on hold. This includes an apartment building donation that the University received at 68 W. Etruria, just east of 3rd Avenue W. Any renovations or projects that the University would do would cost approximately \$3 million. The University is in conversation with the donor, and noted that the University would pursue any development only if it works out financially for the University.

Other summer projects at the University include interior renovations of student apartments. Every summer, the University renovates some of the student apartment buildings. Currently the University is renovating the interiors at the Bailey apartment building and a triplex at 37 West Dravus.

SDOT is proposing to create a point of public access at 6th Ave. W. and W. Ewing St., and they are proposing on turning the gravel and weedy area into a sandy beach and boat launch. This is a City of Seattle project and he wanted to share this information to the Committee members since it was happening in the neighborhood. If there are any comments or suggestions about this project go to the Queen Anne Community Council meeting on July 6th or send an email to Diane Walsh at diane.walsh@seattle.gov.

IV. Report on Remediation Projects (00:16:00)

About a year ago, the University excavated a parking lot at 3rd Ave. W. and W. Bertona St. in order to install a system that puts air in the ground that would excavate, filter and discharge it. It is a long term clean-up project for the dry cleaning chemical contamination. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency granted a permit last fall to test the equipment and it has been running since February. It was estimated that it would take about 5 to 10 years before the clean-up is complete. There is an information board that is posted at the site by the WA State Department of Ecology that provides information about the project. Currently, the University is doing ground water monitoring and keeping an eye on the site.

The other clean-up project involves a property that was purchased by the University north of W. Nickerson St. The property was the former King Fiberglass site. After doing some environmental investigation, the University identified an area that once housed a former tank farm; these are huge industrial tanks above and below ground that used to hold chemicals. The University applied for a land use permit, and has made it through the shoreline permitting process, and began excavating in the last few weeks. He noted that within the next day or two, the excavation will be completed, and will have extracted all of the petroleum-based contaminated soil in the open ground area between the alley and the first Ewing Street.

He mentioned that there will be more borings and assessments for the rest of the King Fiberglass property. No buildings are planned to be built on the site, it was just a clean-up project and the purchased land will be part of a buy and hold plan for long-term development.

He mentioned that the University has been purchasing properties north of W. Nickerson St. and south of the Ship Canal Trail, between 6th Avenue W. and 3rd Avenue W. The purchased property includes the former MER business as well as Northwest Millworks, which remains as one of the tenants. There is a property in the middle where the owner is not ready to discuss a sale yet. The University also purchased a part of the BNSF right of way to the east of 3rd Ave. W. The long term goal for these purchased properties is long range development for the University.

V. Light Industrial Zoning Issues

There exists a sliver of property between the two Ewing Streets that is zoned light industrial. The University has been in conversation with key stakeholders, City officials and staff, to discuss a possibility of changing the zoning in this area. This is a careful, and cautious long term process. For transparency, he is providing this information to the Committee and would ask the Committee's support to the change in the long run.

VI. Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Update (00:24:58)

Ms. Cheryl Michaels introduced Ms. Heather Eide, as she will be handling TMP coordination for the University in the future.

Ms. Michaels mentioned that their role is to help manage parking and the transportation program for the University, and there are a list of elements they provide for employees to encourage an alternative methods of commuting. The University does a bi-annual commute trip survey in the October and November timeframe. The most recent survey was completed in 2015 and the next scheduled survey will be in 2017.

Based on the last survey, the number of employees that ride a bike to work nearly doubled as well as an improvement for employees who walk to campus. The bus transportation also saw improvement due to the recent bus service changes King County Metro implemented on campus.

The University plans to provide more support for their bike program. One of the challenges bike riders face on campus is bike theft. The University advertised an online database that assists bike theft victims recover bikes from the police department. It has led to a huge number of stolen bikes being recovered.

Another great addition to the University's CTR program is an addition of a 3rd and 4th Zipcar. Zipcar is starting a new "One-Way" program where a commuter can drop off the Zipcar at their end destination point instead of dropping it off at its original location.

Mr. Jay LaVassar commented on having the bike only lanes painted in order to accommodate more bikes on the streets. Mr. Church noted that this is a great question for SDOT and asked if he and Ms. Sheehan can coordinate to request a representative from SDOT and encourage them to attend future SAC meetings.

Mr. Church added the university has been hurt by the recent bus route changes and is hoping the added bus service routes proposed for 2017 will resolve some of the bus service problems the area has been experiencing.

He and Ms. Michaels had discussed about pushing more van pools and see where it could lead.

VII. Update on Property Ownership Outside MIO (00:34:03)

Mr. Church provided an update on property ownership outside the MIO. He mentioned that there has been no update from last year. He provided a map for the Committee members and the public to look at. He already mentioned that what the University has been purchasing are properties north of W. Nickerson St., and the University also bought a small apartment building within the MIO.

VIII. Public Comments

Ms. Hickman opened the discussion for public comments.

Comments from Ms. Florence Helliesen: Ms. Helliesen made a comment about why the bike lanes would be re-routed along the bike trail instead of Nickerson for safety reasons.

Mr. Church responded that this is a question that SDOT needs to answer. The University made similar comments and it is challenging since the bike trail parallels along W. Nickerson St. and there are more bikes on the bike trail than on W. Nickerson St.

Mr. LaVassar commented that the change is beneficial for the University and the community since vehicles are forced to slow down which reduces traffic accidents in the area.

Ms. Helliesen asked about the activities happening on the hill that is taking street parking off-line. Mr. Church explained Seattle City Light has been studying their wood poles and are making improvements and replacing the old wooden power poles in the North Queen Anne area. He has been requesting City Light for updated information, and once he is able to, he will share this with the Committee.

Ms. Helliesen commented on areas that needs pruning such as the big Maple tree near the President's house due to the Municipal Code requirement and also in the area at W. Bertona St.

Mr. Church agreed that the barberries along W. Bertona St. adjacent to the new resident hall need to be pruned. He will ask SPU's landscaping crew to prune them. The intent was to grow them initially to make it thick in order to reduce jaywalking.

With regards to the maple tree by the President's residence, Mr. Church mentioned that he will take a look at that tree. During the summer, a consulting arborist comes around and devises a plan on what to do on the campus trees.

Mr. Church noted that he will investigate the tree and consult with the arborist, and if it currently complies with the Seattle Municipal Code.

She also commented about any plans on the properties purchased on W. Nickerson St. Mr. Church mentioned that they do not have any immediate plans for the purchased properties at this time.

She commented about the properties that are for sale above Ashton and if the University plans to purchase them. Mr. Church commented that these properties are outside of their zone and he has no knowledge about those properties. The University is only focused on purchasing properties north of their zone.

Mr. LaVassar commented that he is happy that the University is not expanding in the south or west of their zone, and trying to focus on the buildings north of W. Nickerson St. and cleaning out these areas since they have been an eyesore. He commended the University for listening to the neighbors and for following their plan.

Mr. Jennings commented about having an opportunity to have a waterway connection for the University. Mr. Church commented that the University has no plans to have a canal front property and could not imagine expanding north of the bike trail, but there is always an opportunity with the marina and the parks that SDOT is planning to put in.

Comments from Ms. Joan Sandler: She commented about the room and it was difficult for her to hear the discussions.

Ms. Helliesen added a comment that the Queen Anne Historical Society had been studying and researching the Queen Anne neighborhood in August of last year and was thankful for the cooperation and information they had received from the University, specifically the ability to use the parking at Ashton Hall.

The next meeting is planned for next spring unless a new project moves forward or if one of the Committee members requests a meeting.

IX. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.