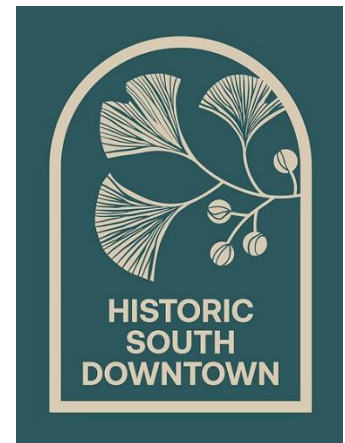


Historic South Downtown Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2023



Present: Nuria Hansen, Leesa Kunke, Shava Lawson, Diane Le, Quynh Pham, Dana Phelan, Jessica Rubenacker, Jennifer Tam, Tuyen Than, Jessa Timmer

Staff: Kathleen Barry Johnson, MaryKate Ryan, Ellen Ta

Public:

Betty Lau

Rebecca Frestedt, Department of Neighborhoods

CALL TO ORDER (Action)

Dana Phelan called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Public Comment:

Betty Lau: thanks everyone for coming together for the Sound Transit meeting and hopes for the passing of the motion of the board to keep pushing for the 4th Ave. option alive.

CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

Presenter: Dana Phalen

- *Meeting Minutes (February 2023)*
- *Treasurer's Reports (February 2023)*
- *Approve Stadium Overlay/Housing Letter (please see Executive Director Report)*

Motion by Leesa Kunke to approve the consent agenda. Second from Jennifer Tam. Quynh Pham abstains. Approved by remainder. Motion passes.

STATUS OF WSBLE ADVOCACY (Information)

Presenters: MaryKate Ryan; Kathleen Barry Johnson

- *3/23/23 Meeting*
- *Hiring an economist*
- *Board Discussion*

Kathleen: N/S option advanced as preferred alternative; series of other motions that were accepted, including one to continue studying 4th Ave Shallow and Shallower options. It was confusing as to what exactly the motions say but going to meet and strategize to figure out how to support board members who issued those amendments to see how we can support them to make sure some work is done. Essentially, they're saying continue studying 4th Ave options, construction choices etc. Roger Milar, WA Sec of Transportation, concerned around using diesel trucks in neighborhood, tunnel portal at 4th and Jackson when you could put that in Ballard, but looking at these choices and asking for decrease impact on neighborhood to make 4th a better option.

- MaryKate: Realignment not still on the table going forward. One amendment that didn't pass but is worth reading to say you can't have a baseline that isn't buildable – 5th Ave option. They did not choose to reset the baseline for cost for CID segment but that could be part of the additional work. Supplemental environmental work.
- Kathleen: When you are comparing cost of different options, baseline is set as most affordable option that is buildable (technically buildable) -- because 5th Ave is not culturally buildable that the board has unanimously said 5th Ave is not buildable. 4th Ave cost overruns are \$450 million.
- Jessica: Is 5th Ave still on the table as an option? MaryKate: It was removed from contention for alignment but can't remove it from environmental study. Will still be on the final environmental impact statement. Board has verbally agreed it is not a buildable option.
- Dana: N/S option, is there still a possibility that only the north station would be built or vice versa? Kathleen: moving forward with study of both but if they run into feasibility issues. MaryKate: the way it was moved forward in the motion, it was both. Kathleen: With study, there is a possibility of removing one with study. MaryKate: Having to do the supplemental work to bring the DEIS to the level as other options.

Kathleen: We will be hiring an economist (recommended by Angie Battazzo0 to provide analysis, economically-speaking; looking for a candidate well-versed in transit and economics of BIPOC, under resourced, impacted communities. We will screen for the right set of competencies. No proposed cost and not in the budget but will reach out via email once confirmed.

- Quynh: Will ST be doing additional economic study? MaryKate: there will be some sections on economic impacts in DEIS but they're minimal, nothing that the small businesses in these communities are interested in
- Nuria: Is the Alliance doing anything around this? Kathleen: I don't think specific to an economist; will mention to Lisa Howard to make sure it aligns with what they're working on, which is primarily advocacy and elevating PS's profile in this discussion.
- Quynh: Would we include N/S? Kathleen: Yes, this would include all of the options. MaryKate: understanding the economic impacts including construction impacts, that will help inform mitigation. Want to make sure we're asking the right questions about this economist's experience with small businesses (small business focus)
- Tuyen: Do you have any candidates in mind? Kathleen: short list legal counsel shared with us, we will share with Angie to see if she has any other candidates, then come up with screening tool to ask candidates experience, not sure if we'll turn into a formal RFQ.
- Tuyen: How long will they be on contract? Kathleen: Project-based contract, would pay for analysis and report. However long that takes, likely several months, less than six months. Still working on scope.
- Jessa: Has anything been done like this on the waterfront? Could we crib some notes from that? MaryKate: There was something Angie talked about, waterfront work near the market. There was some work done around construction impacts. We just need to figure out what we're looking at. If you're willing to look into that that would be great. Alliance would like to be involved – a lot of impact to PS whether it's 4th Ave or North Station, want to be involved in the conversation.

Kathleen: Discussion online about both sides ahead of ST meeting. Doing what we're doing because the board had voted on 4th Ave.

- Jessa: a lot of moving parts right now and still don't know what will shake out, despite the vote. I wonder if we let a month go by and see what shakes out. We don't know what ST interactions with south neighborhoods will be. With the economist, that might give us a depth of knowledge. Next big step will be final EIS correct? Marykate: We think so. There should be a supplemental report. A little bit of time for that.
- Tuyen: Second.
- Jessica: Third, but we do need to revisit this formally?
- MaryKate: Make sure we get questions answered from the community
- Shava: There's confusion, unclear on why there are such differing opinions and how to address this. Different groups representing the CID. The issue right there is going to pit people against each other and be clear in helping people understand and this is why and this is the recommendation because A, B, C.
- Nuria: Wondering about how you view the waterfront project and I remember there's a group called Friends of Waterfront. There's an office of how it's going to look. What is that group and how does that compare to Friends of CID/businesses in our two neighborhoods. What type of group is that? Kathleen: Friends of the Waterfront, office of the waterfront that would guide the project management and intergovernmental relationships, saw a need for Friends of Waterfront because of funding gap (for park etc.) and did amazing job of closing that funding gap and programming and helping with the finishing touches but they didn't really make the project decisions. It was originally a city project and handed off ongoing management to FOW. Nonprofit and we work with them on certain projects as they come up, like Pier 48. Every station is in the City which means the City will be on the hook for the improvements in the immediate station area, e.g. pedestrian work, bicycle access, certain areas outside the station. That's a lot of work the city has to do on all of these stations. Maybe we'll suggest that. Great model from FOW.
- Kathleen: Will continue conversation next month
- Jessa: Does ST plan to reach out in the next few months? Kathleen: haven't heard anything as of now.

5:40pm STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY (Information)

Presenters: Kathleen Barry Johnson

- *Sustainable Funding HB1847*
- *Pier 48*
- *Support of WSDOT Request for \$20M on removal of overwater structure*
- Kathleen: Sustainable Funding, in the senate, Rep Santos working with colleagues; Kathleen will let us know as soon as possible about needing to testify in the senate.
 - Jessa: Is there a difference in legislation? What is the current legislation? Kathleen: It imposes a new sales tax but it is immediately offset by credit to existing SUT (sales and use tax) so the purchaser will not feel any difference, no increase in taxes paid, a new bucket to collect the 2%. Only on things sold at stadiums or exhibit center. Funds the general fund. Limit will be about \$2M, legislation is \$5M max. Original bill had a timelimit of 10 years, this one doesn't have a time limit. King County may impose a tax scheme (this version), to justify tax. Would require some lobbying. Could get some bridge funding to carry us through. Would become effective 90 days after legislation.

- Jessa: is there any way of putting together a one-pager for communicating with constituents? Would be helpful, especially for stadium folks. Want to make sure we're using the correct language and the details. Kathleen: Yes, we can do that.
 - Dana: What does it include? Kathleen: Tickets, popcorn, beer, all of the above.
 - Jessa: Cap, is that a cap that once we reach through the year? When does it start? \$5M? Spread evenly in anticipation of what they think they'll collect? Those details in the one-pager would be great.
 - Jennifer: How to communicate that to small businesses who might be asking, how does that impact them? Adds on to what Jessa is saying, being able to understand that to the small business community
- Pier 48
 - Likely no funding for this current year. WSDOT conversation, question about timing about the planning process with community. Concerned they didn't have the bandwidth to participate because they want to tear down the overwater portion to go away. Might not be able to do both. We're confident that they would. Also concerned that the use of the Colman Dock and the way people will access and drive onto it will change with the PS port settlement. PS is building 8 lanes due to WSBLE and WSDOT said that could change how they use the staging area. That's likely 20 years away, we need a solution that years away. Kitsap Sun said they're trying to get their ferry terminal at Pier 48. Orlando and Kathleen still planning on how to move forward. Fitzgibbons said he will help WSDOT keep their promise about working with us. Our \$2M annual funding will help with advocacy for this. Bring in our partners and hope to have WSDOT take that seriously and join us. Hopefully we can try again next year.
 - Support of WSDOT Request for \$20M overwater removal
 - We can't lobby one way or another, but Kathleen can send info on where it is in the transportation budget.

REVIEW AND APPROVE ARTS & CULTURE GRANT (Information)

Presenters: Kathleen Barry Johnson

- *CRP Recommendations*
- *ARTS & Culture Input*
- Arts Grant. Applied and appointed lead agency for PS and CID for this Arts and Culture neighborhood resilience grant. We can take up to 15% for administrative fee. RFP for \$85,000 and received 14 applications. The terms of the RFP we were specifically requesting events and activations before September 8 that would help build neighborhood resiliency and support culture.
- CRP reviewed all applications and it is a little bit of a disconnect because CRP is used to our grant process so there were some adjustments we had to make – some applications scored well that did fit A&C parameters. Making sure we're serving both communities (PS & CID).
- See sheet for slate of recommended grantees.
- Jessa: how was the community review panel given information about scoring? Was there outreach to orgs to make sure this was specifically for arts? In the future if there are one-off grant opportunities, that the CRP was aware of these restrictions. Kathleen: we did have an applicant workshop at beginning of

process and talked about these things. OWN, their program is more about a small event than a big activation and that just didn't end up fitting but they still wanted to try. It was a learning experience and A&C perspective it really is about quality of app (looking at scores) but that goes back to our removal of barriers and provides a more equitable process if we don't just go by scoring. Jessa: Perhaps CRP could have a quick 15-minute chat with A&C about what they're looking for before convening.

Kathleen: Process, we have conflicts of interest in our DNA. Have people in the neighborhood and applied for grants who will now be asked to vote on them

Shava: didn't get a chance to read through this slate, should I abstain or vote regardless?

Disclosure on relationships to grantees: Jessa, Jessica, Diane, Quynh, Tuyen, Jennifer

Motion by Quyen Pham to approve this slate of Arts and Culture Grantees. Second from Jennifer Tam.

Approved by all. Motion passes.

APPROVE FINAL AUDIT (Action)

Presenters: Kathleen Barry Johnson

- Dana: Finance committee discussed some of the recommendations made in the executive session with Kathleen, but if there were any other items folks wanted to ask about?
 - Kathleen is glad to share more information whenever there are questions around financial reports.
 - Other thing talked about to set aside time at future board meeting to review how to read these financial statements for those not familiar.
- Nuria: Talk about support? How Kathleen and Ellen could get more support with this type of work? To get reports out to the auditors. Making sure that there's more lead time on preparing for the audit so that the auditors can move right into the audit. Beginning the process at a time when it's fresher and be able to respond to questions they might have.
- Tuyen: lots of praise for Ellen!

Motion by Shava Lawson to approve final audit that has been presented. Second from Nuria Hansen. Quynh Pham abstains. Approved by remainder. Motion passes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (Information)

Presenter: Kathleen Barry Johnson

- *Board Retreat*
- *Stadium Overlay Letter*
- *Other Updates*
- No board retreat date yet. Scheduling in June was not possible with a couple of board members involved with Pride Month. Going to go back to the drawing board at the end of May. Will send out poll via email.
- Nuria: does it have to be on a weekend day? Could it be an extended weekday evening? Seems like it could offer more choices.

- Jessa: Maritime Industrial Letter, a lot of these coming through. Is there a way to think about allowing staff to make that decision? A certain level of things we can sign on to. Give staff the capacity and authority to sign onto? Something to talk about in the future. I don't know how to quantify policy, but just something to throw out there for later discussion. Not to burden staff for having to sign. Some board members will share their org's policy. Even if it's things on what we don't sign on to.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER (Information)

Presenters: All

- Kathleen: Alice's Flower Shop took down their boards
- Tuyen: Lan Hue and Bambu shut down. Also Tuyen will be gone entire month of April (traveling)
- Jessa: Chinook Building, depending on what they're doing with things they're doing. Trying to get a vision community outreach after that.
- Leesa: First Thursday next week, Zeitgeist will be open!

ADJOURN (Action)

Meeting adjourned by Dana Phelan at 6:28pm.

ZOOM COMMENTS

No chat