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Other examples of citizen involvement in King County follow:

King County

The Policy Development Commission is a broad based, non-project specific citizen body appointed by the King County Executive and King County Council. The PDC collects information and enhances citizen involvement by providing a nucleus and a process for extended involvement programs on a specific project-by-project basis.

"Study committees" are given a limited life and are chaired by PDC members of one of the several standing committees: housing, land use, etc. The "study committee" is recruited from persons concerned about the project in question. A recommendation is generated by the temporary study committee that is forwarded to the parent PDC committee for action. The PDC then makes a recommendation to the County decision makers.

The PDC membership is limited to 118 members: 18 on the Board of Directors and a 100 Commission members equally appointed by the County Executive and the King County Council. All 118 serve two-year terms and are supported by a single staff person from the Office of Community Development.

After January 1, 1983, the PDC will no longer exist. The King County Executive has eliminated the general advisory body and is assembling a set of policies and guidelines for all King County development departments (Planning, Parks and Recreation, Housing, etc.) to conduct their own project specific-involvement program. The reason this change is being implemented is that the concerns of the citizens in the past have been generalized too much, and a "watered down" "objective" recommendation was made to the Council/Executive. The PDC was apparently carrying out some of the political mediation process, rather than being an advocate for specific citizens' concerns.

Staff must be added at the department level to conduct individual citizen involvement in programs, but the continued overhead of the PDC staff (once 6 persons and now 1) will be eliminated. No details are available yet regarding the now to be recommended program; but it will be specific project oriented, limited in term, advisory only and more under control of the council because of the project oriented/district representation structure of the county legislative branch.

METRO

Like King County, METRO also has ongoing committees: The Citizen's Transit and Citizen's Water Quality Advisory Committees. The specific purpose of METRO differentiates it from a general municipality like King County, thus making it much more akin to the Port of Seattle.

Both advisory committees report to the METRO Council and are given formal input to the decision-making process. The broad-based representation is based on King County Council Districts with some general county-wide input. Selection of members is done on an application basis; widespread representation is assured by a detailed application form; 45 members and 18 alternates (5 and 1 per council district, respectively; and 9 at large alternates) serve two-year terms and are limited to four-year consecutive service on the Water Quality Committee. The Transit Committee is similar but has 27 representatives, 3 per district.

Committees are split into subcommittees. Meetings are generally held during noontime. Considerable time commitment is expected from all members and, as with the county PDC, attendance is mandatory. Committee responsibility, staff responsibilities and transit committee responsibilities are clearly outlined in the attached documents. However a summary of the Advisory Committee's functions are listed below:

1. Advise to the elected body on METRO projects (transit and water quality, respectively) and advise METRO on public concerns identified above.
2. Presume direct involvement of other citizens and project specific planning efforts and changes in METRO operation.
3. Provide the forum for public complaint and comment.
4. Provide an outreach program with existing community organizations to educate and inform them of proposed METRO actions.

Bylaws, structure and operating procedures are formally established but are changed periodically to reflect changes in attitude and compliance with current rules and regulations from both the state and federal level.

The METRO citizen involvement programs can be compared to the ongoing Policy Advisory Committee of the Port of Seattle at Sea-Tac International Airport. Rather than just government function oriented, the Policy Advisory Committee is also somewhat geographically specific.

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Port of Seattle

The Port of Seattle established a Sea-Tac Policy Advisory Committee in 1972 with the initiation of the Sea-Tac/Communities Plan. Restructuring and redefinition have occurred several times, the latest being in 1978. Current membership is 13 persons representing different interest groups interested in airport community relations.

Originally created to monitor the progress of the Sea-Tac/Communities Plan as the plan was completed, the implementation actions fall to Policy Advisory Committee scrutiny. Monthly meetings were relegated to quarterly affairs at the end of the plan, but the charge of being a coordination and communications device between the Port, county and different facets of the community is still valid.

The current role of the Policy Advisory Committee is to continue the long-term monitoring of the implementation of the Sea-Tac/Communities Plan. PAC, in its south King County location, will also make recommendations to the county and the Port regarding special issues and problems that would impact development of either the airport or its surrounding residential community. In doing so, PAC conceptually might make recommendations concerning capital improvements that would mitigate any potential impact.

A new program, a Noise Remedy Update, will revitalize the Policy Advisory Committee and give it more tangible tasks such as sponsorship and extended citizen involvement process and increasing again its profile in the community.

City of Seattle

Community involvement in the City of Seattle is geared directly to the policies and directions of the political institution in office. The current administration has concentrated its efforts on neighborhood planning affairs letting local neighborhood groups actively participate in development of their own neighborhood facilities. Such actions as housing and housing renewal, police, fire station placement and bringing new utilities into the different neighborhoods have all been covered by the community groups.

The Department of Community Development (DCD) of the City of Seattle staffs these different neighborhood organizations. Currently, DCD provides an unofficial representative to attend NAC meetings.

Other areas of the City of Seattle which have more defined programs are with the University of Washington vis-a-vis the expansion of the business and residential community known as the University District. The other

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areas that have been very actively involved, especially with some Port of Seattle activities, are those areas of the city located on Beacon Hill, Georgetown and South Park. The City of Seattle has established outreach offices in all of these locations at one time or another but have had continued staff effort and coordination directly between the Mayor's office and the communities and the district representatives on the City Council.

The citizen involvement efforts that have been successful in each of these locations basically uses the City of Seattle as a forum to bring neighborhoods' concerns together for discussion. The role of the City of Seattle/University of Washington Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC) is to advise the board of regents and city on the orderly physical development of the greater University area. Included on the Committee are seven neighborhood representatives and three persons representing the University (staff, graduate and undergraduate factions). CUCAC is staffed by both DCD and UW personnel and meets on a monthly basis. Recently, the city has threatened litigation regarding UW plans to extend the medical facility in opposition to general committee understanding, so not all problems have been successfully addressed.

Another City of Seattle/institutional committee evolves around Seattle Pacific University on North Queen Anne. Although there is no formalized agreement between the parties, nine representatives, equally divided between SPU, the City and Queen Anne Community Council, meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues concerning their relationships. The Community Council President, Paige Miller, is chairperson of the committee and is in charge of setting agendas, etc. The committee receives support from SPU but no formal minutes are kept.

Group Health Cooperative

Another large non-profit organization has an extensive citizen involvement program in the Pacific Northwest. Group Health Cooperative is run by a Board of Trustees elected from the membership and a series of standing and special committees that address problems of operating the health care commune. The Board of Trustees receives input from the citizen/member staffed committees but is in charge of establishing goals/policies and objectives of the organization...in essence, the legislative side of municipal government.

Quarterly meetings are chaired in each Group Health district by their individual board representative. Each elected district representative also chairs a standing committee and is their spokesperson to the Board of Trustees.

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Although this program is a model of citizen involvement, it is an intramural activity compared with the interface of different governments and citizens for the resolution of perceived problems.

The overall goal of any community involvement program is to maximize the opportunity of an individual or a special-interest group to participate in the decision making in a redevelopment process. A variety of ways should be provided for the parties of interest to play an important role in the effort. Too, due to federal, state and local requirements, the involvement program must offer specific opportunities for everyone to input "officially" in a timely and organized manner.

In conclusion, summarized as attachments 1 and 2 are the Citizen Advisory Committee roles and characteristics of many of the CIP offered in King County. General advisory groups, like the PDC, can be assessed next to the very specific facility-oriented committees such as the City of Seattle/UW Community Advisory Committee or the Sea-Tac Policy Advisory Committee.

The committees are in a constant evolution in regard to membership, pressing issues and advisory powers but do have a single common theme of getting citizens involved in the policy-making arena for specific projects that affect their way of living.



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