



MEETING NOTES
CENTRAL WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
DESIGN OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING #3 January 10, 2011
3:30 — 5 PM Room 1600, Seattle Municipal Tower

Meeting Attendees

Subcommittee Members

- Mark Reddington, Co-Chair
- Bob Donegan
- Cary Moon
- Vlad Oustimovitch
- Brian Steinberg
- Martha Wyckoff

Other Central Waterfront Committee Members

- Carol Binder
- John Nesholm

City Staff & Consultants

- Steve Pearce
- Hannah McIntosh
- Stephanie Brown
- Paul Elliot
- Marshall Foster
- Dennis Meier
- My Tam Nguyen
- Nathan Torgelson
- Jennifer Wieland
- Mark Williams
- Ruri Yampolski
- Megan Born
- Tatiana Choulika
- James Corner
- Lisa Switkin
- Andrew Tenbrink
- Ethan Bernau
- Ken Johnsen
- Kathy Cox-Czosnyka

Other

- Clair Enlow
 - Jack Mackie
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Introduction/Meeting Agenda/Meeting Goals

- **City Staff & Consultants noted that:**
 - Meetings will assume one of 2 possible formats- working session in which the design team will show preliminary ideas that are in development for discussion with the committee, and design presentations which are intended for review and comment on the proposals.

Working sessions will not post documents or issues materials for distribution. Design presentations will post documents.

- Future meetings may include both working session and design presentation portions of the meeting.
- Today's meeting is a working session.

Committee Business

Meeting Summaries

- **City Staff & Consultants noted that:**

- Copies of minutes from the first two meetings have been posted on the web

Potential Subcommittee Advisors

- **Design Oversight Subcommittee Chair noted that:**

- In addition to current members, there may be additional advisors added to the Subcommittee who offer areas of expertise and perspective that should be addressed.
- The Subcommittee is interested in receiving input in categories relating to public art, the development community, landscape architecture, sustainability, ecology experts or others.
- The Subcommittee also values those with perspective on major civic projects of this type, whether in Seattle or other cities; there are lots of people with experience in how to think about a multi-year design process that feeds into a multi-year implementation process.

- **Design Oversight Subcommittee noted that:**

- They would like to make sure the Committee doesn't consider advisors as a stakeholder process, but that we filter people who are experts in creating a great, innovative public realm.

Seawall Design Update

- **Seawall Team noted that:**

- Alternatives are being developed along three complementary tracks right now:
 - Partnership with Army Corp of Engineers:
 - NED | National Economic Damages Plan
 - NER | National Ecosystem Restoration System
 - Sets 65 percent of baseline
 - Actively Working with Field Operations to leave as many options open as possible:
 - Participated in a design workshop meeting in New York
 - Had a conference call with Tatiana Choulika
 - Focused on where wall needs to go
 - Tomorrow the team is doing a site walk of the waterfront
 - Will discuss where they see broadest range of potential wall locations
 - Public involvement:
 - Launching a new Web tool that invites people to give feedback in terms of what they'd like to see in the Seawall zone
 - Hosting a public open house on January 19th, 2011 in order for people to come in, walk along Waterfront, meet project team and learn about opportunities, use the Web tool, see coordinating Seawall, habitat and other possibilities
 - The meeting will include only photographs of seawall examples along with Seawall materials already out in the public

- There will be no formal presentation—it’s really just a public drop in session
 - They are interested in what possibilities are—providing an opportunity to Beta test the web tool
 - Will then coordinate with jcfo so there are alternatives to take to City Council in April
- The team is doing things in parallel with Waterfront Committee, and they are integrated:
 - The team talked about one coordinated event, but there is so much to cover in both, they don’t want to interfere and want people to feel like they have chance for input before they’re moving alternatives forward
 - They’re being careful to focus questions on things that impact the Seawall location
 - Waterfront and Seawall efforts are parallel—feed together nicely and there is a good amount of overlap; contact information gathered will be share within teams
 - The team talked about moving the Seawall event until after Waterfront meeting, but they need to hold it early enough to move alternatives forward into 10 percent design
- **Consultants noted that:**
 - The Seawall team has a schedule imperative and the Central Waterfront doesn’t want to slow them down; the Outreach component was not ready to go out with a web site or public meeting by January 17th
 - Public outreach strategy will be very integrated—the teams are being conscious and deliberate as they go forward, including twice-monthly meetings
- **Committee noted that:**
 - There is a concern about the separate public outreach teams and events for the seawall and the waterfront. It will be important to be clear that these are being developed as one integrated project even though there are different teams working on the different parts.
 - There is a concern that the Seawall presentation did not include any of the seawall design team or the JCFO design team. Future presentations should consider the seawall as a part of the waterfront design approach and include the seawall as an integrated part of the design presentation, involving both the JCFO team and the Tetra tech team as appropriate.

Central Waterfront Design Update

- **Consultants (jcfo) noted that:**
 - They’re in an analytics stage—trying to pinpoint real opportunities and challenges of project—in order to get a deep, thorough, rigorous understanding of site
 - They invite Committee members to think about what message they’d like to leave the team with—what they feel are big opportunities and big challenges
 - The team has been thinking about how they intend to integrate public art into the project—they view it not as an add-on but as an integrated component:
 - They have Mark Dion, an internationally acclaimed artist, on their team; he’s familiar with Seattle and has installed a work at the Sculpture Park
 - They’re also working with a New York-based curatorial practice that is very savvy with thinking about how to effectively engage artists
 - They’re working with Michael Horsham from Tomato; he has been working on developing an identity program including messaging, communication and look

- The big ambition they have is to do a lot with public art—they're focused on how they design a public art program that's capable of doing a lot of small things (cost effective and cheap) as well as some mid-scale and very big things
 - In order to better understand the site, the team has been collecting, collating and organizing information:
 - Have done some program-oriented, planning-oriented and design-oriented work—they have created various planning and design documents, an AutoCAD base, and they're building digital model
 - They're also planning on creating a physical model—the ideal is to have a large working model in which to insert sketch ideas for consideration.
 - In terms of assessing the site, they are:
 - Thinking about how Seattle is identified in context of the world—the transition between the U.S. , Asia and the Pacific Rim; connection to larger world visible in bay, psychological relationship East to West—North America, nature, big mountains to West, setting sun, weather, distinct feeling in Seattle looking East to West
 - Noticing a strong feeling between city and nature, toughness and softness; there is an interesting back & forth between natural and built world
 - There are many interesting and challenging dimensional and scale issues, and it's not possible to think of waterfront as one long linear element
 - The space can be divvied up by equally distinctive grids and pivots around two V's generated at the intersections of the shifted downtown street grids; the team is looking at it in its connected relationship into different neighborhoods and streets
 - One concern is the tightness of the dimension; it is more constrained than one might think
 - There are many opportunities to reconfigure the water's edge offering opportunities and constraints in terms of dimension to build a public realm
 - There is a placeholder street design shown in the drawings that will be revised as the design moves forward.
 - It will be important to integrate the piers, with their constraints in terms of public use and accessibility, into the public space design
 - The team is looking at potential areas for ecological and aquatic restoration
- **The City noted that:**
 - In the first six months, we're not prioritizing a detailed study of the street
 - Initially (through May) the focus is about the big ideas for the waterfront and urban framework including the integration of the seawall in the designs
 - Technically the southern end of the waterfront project is project at King Street right now; south of King Street is a WSDOT project. The City worked closely with WSDOT to develop design guidelines for this area which might be revisited in the urban framework plan by JCFO.
 - Would like team to think about design of connection into stadium area.
- **The Committee note that:**
 - They like the Pacific Rim diagram concept, showing all the things we're connected to—it's a really useful and productive way to frame the context

- These larger relationships are in our hearts in Seattle, and we don't get to physically and experientially see them
- Pier ends are public, and doing something interesting here will help people have different relationships with the water
- Some of the biggest challenges are also the biggest opportunities, including man-made escarpments such as the back side of the waterfront buildings west of Steinbruck Park
- There are big blank walls, and Committee members challenge the jcfo team to think about how to make these positives
- The connection to Belltown will be a challenge; there is a need to make pedestrians feel safe and comfortable with the steep grade between the waterfront and Belltown.
- Committee members like the juxtaposition of industrial and grand nature around the City
- It's important to remember that Elliot Bay is defined by West Seattle and Magnolia
- The Puget Sound is a North-South linear waterway that has a lot of its own strength geographically that might provoke the design
- The westward orientation of the waterfront is a powerful part of the Seattle experience with trade winds, afternoon and evening sunlight, summer solstice, and approaching weather, view to the Olympic mountains, ferry connections, and long views across the water.
- The connections to the stadium area will be important and the shift in scale from the smaller buildings on the waterfront and Pioneer Square to the massive sports facilities will be important to acknowledge in the design.
- The Committee would like jcfo to consider connecting the waterfront to the First Hill Trolley
- As jcfo develops their understanding of constraints and opportunities, they should challenge the definition of the limits. If they discover opportunities to change those limits that release a great idea—even if it looks difficult—the Committee asks that they bring it forward for discussion.
- Consider opportunities for giving the waterfront a significant presence in the view of downtown from the water.
- It will be very important that work of seawall project gets completely absorbed into the JCFO design work.

Next Steps

- **Consultants (jcfo) noted that:**
 - They will use the meeting on the 17th to explain opportunities and constraints; they will not have any design propositions in that meeting
 - By February, they'll have a more developed story to tell about site
 - They will integrate various agendas into the approach such as salmon habitat, transportation, commercial uses—which will showcase the bigger picture of complexity
 - They will then come forward with concepts for the design approach seeking a logical, elegant solution to all challenges
 - They're in sync with the Seawall team, and there are three scenarios they're evaluating—that it stays where it is, it is pulled all the way in, or it changes from one position to another at various places along the waterfront. **Consultants noted that they can mix and match when EIS comes out*