



**MEETING NOTES
CENTRAL WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING #19 May 10th, 2012
3:30 — 5:00 PM Room #4080, Seattle Municipal Tower**

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members & Advisors

- Charley Royer, Chair
- Maggie Walker, Chair
- John Nesholm
- Carol Binder
- Bob Davidson
- Ed Medieros
- Gerry Johnson
- Patrick Gordon

City Staff & Consultants

- Marshall Foster
- Nathan Torgelson
- Steve Pearce
- Bob Chandler
- Jennifer Wieland
- Hannah McIntosh
- Norm Schwab
- Ken Johnsen
- Kathy Cox-Czosnyka
- Ethan Bernau
- Erin Tam

Additional Attendees

- Duane Kelly
 - Larry Costich
 - Lois Alloin
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Subcommittee Reports & Project Updates

- **Design Oversight Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**
 - The Design Oversight Subcommittee is working on the second draft of our report for the Strategic Action Plan and we met today to discuss the key elements and voice.
 - We also recently reviewed the overlook connector and are continuing to drill down into details of the major project elements, including the quality of the spaces that make up the experience.
 - We're continuing to communicate with our partners and are preparing to talk with the Market's new design team, as well.

- **Finance & Partnerships Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**
 - The Finance & Partnerships Subcommittee is working on our report for the Strategic Action Plan, and it is now two-thirds complete.
 - We've also held three workshops and have one more remaining; we've had very good support on this from City staff and consultants.
- **Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**
 - The Outreach Subcommittee is working on our report for the Strategic Action Plan.
 - We have a history project currently underway encouraging elders to share their Waterfront memories; we've been conducting intercept surveys in parks; we've also had 20 briefings since our last meeting.
 - Additionally, we're currently planning our next design presentation, taking place in early July; we're continuing small Waterfront activation events.
- **Consultant:**
 - Our response rate for the intercept survey has been strong at 40 percent.
- **Long Term Stewardship Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**
 - The Long Term Stewardship Subcommittee is working on our report for the Strategic Action Plan.

ACTION: Outreach Subcommittee co-chairs to route completed intercept survey to Executive Committee.

Strategic Plan & Resolution

- **Executive Committee Co-Chairs:**
 - N. Schwab has arranged for us to brief the City Council's Special Committee on May 29th and we'll be submitting the final draft of the Central Waterfront Committee Action Plan, which the Executive Committee signed-off on and Full Committee told us to proceed with, at that time.
 - We've also sent a memorandum to City Council to update them and we'll be answering questions about the strategic plan and resolution during the briefing; one thing we should also keep in mind is the schedule for the seawall decision.
- **City Staff:**
 - The Special Committee meeting on May 29th will be taking place after the full City Council meeting; it's intended as a check-in before the Central Waterfront Committee formally delivers their report.
 - We also have two tentative meetings with the Special Committee scheduled in July and then, assuming everything runs smoothly, there would then be action in August or September.
 - The seawall discussion will be in Special Committee in late June and the full City Council will take action by July 6th; the Waterfront event is intentionally scheduled to take place after that.
- **Consultants:**
 - One thing we're considering is how we show the Market, Aquarium, Colman Dock and Pier 48 in our submittal, and folding together the key elements of the action plan will be the focal point; late June is a good target schedule to brief City Council as it allows the Subcommittees to finish their reports.

Seawall Update

- **City Staff:**
 - The Regulatory Branch of the Corps has decided to begin their NEPA analysis for the Section 404 permit with an Environmental Assessment, rather than an EIS, which makes our goal of beginning construction in September 2013 a possibility and gives us additional flexibility.
 - We had our Feasibility Scoping Meeting with the Planning Branch of the Army Corps and they've delayed their decision on concurrence by 30-45 days.
 - We also presented an updated cost estimate to the City Council's Special Committee on April 23 and it's now \$300 million, down from the original estimate of \$310-390 million. Refining design between 10 to 35 percent, determining the alignment and reducing demands for excavation all influenced costs.
 - We've negotiated a contract with our new design team, led by Parsons, and have conducted a cost/risk assessment (CRA) workshop to be followed by a value engineering (VE) workshop next week.
 - We've also been working closely with the Waterfront Seattle team to develop a framework for coordination and seamless integration of design moving forward.

Additional Items

July Event

- **Consultants:**
 - The next public event is tentatively targeted for the evening of July 12th and we're looking at the Seattle Center as the venue; it will have a different feel than some of the earlier presentations.
- **City Staff:**
 - It's important to demonstrate this is a City project with support of the community and the public meeting is a great opportunity to start telling the story, set the right tone and show there's a funding plan.
 - This presentation will be less focused exclusively on the design and more on the whole picture.
- **Executive Committee Co-Chairs & Members:**
 - We need a narrative for the whole project that people can embrace by then; there is a great story to tell and we should work on creating the story itself – the Waterfront is part of the history of our City; there is a timely and practical strategy to make it happen now.
 - We may also want representatives from this group doing most of the talking from now on; when City staff and the architect team presented at DSA, the City did most of the talking and it was well-received.

Professional Research Trip to Spain

- **City Staff:**
 - Members of the Waterfront team (M. Foster, K. Cox-Czosnyka) attended a professional research trip to review urban planning and development in Spain and shared feedback.
 - In Barcelona:
 - Their waterfront began with 300 yards of beachfront and an industrial waterfront stretching north;
 - The Olympic village was used as a catalyst to bury the rail tracks separating the city from the water;
 - New beaches were built and they include street furniture, stair-masters and bike rentals.
 - There was food service all along the beach, which blended in and was very active.
 - In Madrid:
 - There was a large river through the heart of the city that was essentially strangled by freeways;
 - In the late '90s the freeway was buried in four years, from start to finish;

- There is now a simply-designed ribbon path of 15,000 pines.
 - There is a lot of historic preservation and interesting, creative reuse of materials;
 - The materials are simple but high quality and granite is used in many different ways.
 - There are also a series of connections and signature bridges along the way;
 - These create an anchor identity that reaches back into the neighborhoods.
 - All along the path there are also small playgrounds that are 25 feet wide;
 - They used old pine trees for play structures and also brought in artists for different elements.
 - The path is exquisitely done – simple but not overworked, and one team executed the whole thing;
 - The Department of Madrid Rio Project was created to operate and manage as one;
 - There are approximately 60,000 people living within 500 meters on either side;
 - And multi-generational families use the neighborhood, so getting people there was not a problem.
- **Consultants:**
 - In Madrid:
 - One particular area has five levels of freeway interchanges underground.
 - The ribbon was put down over a period of time and they applied what they learned along the way;
 - They used granite in the retaining walls and wanted to create fresh ideas along the way.
 - The area formerly fronted one of the poorest districts;
 - It now opens an underserved community to a wonderful riverfront and connects Madrid in a walk-able way

Public Comment

- **Public:**
 - The Seattle Railway Historical Society has been organized and we now have a website referencing historical data and projects including the Waterfront; we're looking for people to get involved.