



**MEETING NOTES
CENTRAL WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING #29 July 18th, 2013
3:30 — 5:00 PM Room #4080, Seattle Municipal Tower**

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members & Advisors

- Maggie Walker, Co-Chair
- Charley Royer, Co-Chair
- Dave Friebboth
- John Nesholm
- Patrick Gordon
- Peter Hahn

City Staff & Consultants

- Angela Brady
- Hannah McIntosh
- Nathan Torgelson
- Norm Schwab
- Bob Chandler
- Steve Pearce
- Ken Johnsen

Other Central Waterfront Committee Members & Advisors

- Cary Moon
- Ben Franz Knight

Additional Attendees

- Hal Griffith
 - Kyle Griffith
 - Heidi Hughes
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Subcommittee Reports

- **Design Oversight Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**
 - The Design Oversight Subcommittee has had a series of meetings focusing on topics including Alaskan Way, the Union Street connection and wayfinding during construction.
 - We also met recently to discuss changing the communication protocol slightly to make sure we're leaving sufficient time between meetings for work to be completed.
- **Long Term Stewardship Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**
 - Next week the Long Term Stewardship Subcommittee will be holding a joint meeting with the Finance & Partnerships Subcommittee to discuss preliminary O&M cost estimates and funding strategies.

City Updates

Public Meeting

- **City Staff:**
 - We had a public meeting on June 26th that was well-attended by more than 300 people; feedback was generally positive, and we've drafted an 18-page follow-up report detailing what we heard.

7/15 Council Update

- **City Staff:**
 - We had a Special Committee update on July 15th in which we reviewed the streets and transit update; the Committee was accepting of the layout and mostly had questions about the cycle track—they also asked about capitol costs for an electric trolley and we're preparing a memo back.
 - We'll return again in August to review the art plan led by E. Frederickson; we'll likely then provide an update on the seawall, construction experience and way-finding in September.
- **Executive Committee Co-Chairs & Members:**
 - We might also consider going back to the full City Council at some strategic point—perhaps when we solidify some of the Local Improvement District (LID) work?

Seawall

- **City Staff:**
 - We've negotiated an agreement with the Association, which allows us to move forward, and we're re-setting our overall construction schedule with the contractor—we'll spend the next several weeks solidifying that.

WSDOT

- **City Staff:**
 - We're also having regular meetings with the Washington State Department of Transportation and have developed a plan of action for the next couple of months.
- **Executive Committee Co-Chairs & Members:**
 - The State also recently passed their budget, which includes two million dollars to study enhanced public opportunities on Colman Dock and the future of Pier 48.

Presentation from Pier 57

Additional attendees (H. Griffith, K. Griffith) presented ideas on the Waterfront Seattle design.

Parking Plan

- **Additional Attendees (H. Griffith & K. Griffith, Pier 57):**
 - We're here today representing the entire Waterfront to share ideas about what we think is really important.
 - Once the seawall is built there will only be 61 parking spaces on the Central Waterfront compared to 642 spots now, which will dramatically alter the Waterfront, and we have some fears about parking and access.
 - People need to park close to where they're going; restaurant customers primarily come by car in family groups with strollers or wheelchairs, and without these, long-term businesses will not survive.
 - We feel that improving access and mobility is very important, so we have created a three point plan:
 - Convert the current design with parallel parking to back-in angle parking—there are safety advantages and the extra feet needed is minimal; this will not alter the pedestrian or bike experience.

- Build a parking garage between Spring & Seneca—we'd love to have a parking garage operational now and during construction; perhaps there could also be a sky bridge?
- Build the Union Street gondola—we're proposing this at our own expense as an early win; this could provide a good East-West connection at a capacity of 2,000 people per hour from the Waterfront to Pike Place Market to the Convention Center; riders could also utilize parking at the Convention Center or a possible bike share station there.
- We feel strongly that this is not in conflict with the guiding principles:
 - Without easy access, only people who can walk long distances will have access to the Waterfront;
 - The gondola reconnects the City to its Waterfront;
 - We don't feel that we disrupt the shoreline or sustainability;
 - Also, we're concerned we could destroy some of our thriving Waterfront community and important historic past if the plan moves forward as it currently is.
- There is also an opportunity to dedicate parking revenue to maintenance and security of the new project:
 - If we convert parallel spots to angle spots it could generate \$3.2 million in revenue;
 - A 350-stall parking garage could generate \$6 million in revenue.
- We'd like to work together to keep all the good things you have, but add some new things to make an even better Waterfront that more people can use—we believe it's necessary that all three elements are used to offset what we're losing from in parking.

Pier 57

- **Additional Attendees (H. Griffith & K. Griffith, Pier 57):**
 - The overwater expansion at Pier 57 is very simple from a construction standpoint and its purpose is:
 - To primarily add additional public circulation on top of the deck and give people more opportunity to get out to the end of the pier to see views;
 - To also give us the opportunity to bring tall ships or fishing boat displays to the public once a year, or every ten years, so we have representation of our maritime history.
 - The idea was to wait until the Waterfront Union Street Park design was complete and then figure out how to join the two; we hope we have your support because we're not asking for public money and we know it does not interfere with the Aquarium.
 - We also have Department of Natural Resources' approval and support, and are mitigating the overwater coverage with the Army Corps of Engineers partly by taking out the creosote pilings.

Comments

- **Executive Committee Co-Chairs & Members:**
 - Thank you for your presentation and we appreciate hearing your viewpoint—the intent and spirit behind what you're doing is undeniable and the energy is really positive.
 - We've studied many other projects, gotten advice from people around the country, are paying attention to and studying a lot of your concerns, including revenue streams for maintenance and security.
 - There's been a lot of effort going into this plan and one of the big challenges is how we can manage some continuity to hang onto the vision and not have it be fragmented.
 - Ideally, if a lot of what you want accomplished were happening as this plan was being designed there would be a way for a win-win; we spent a lot of time with the Aquarium talking about their plans, so our challenge is, to the degree there are independent initiatives, the risk of it not being as good as it could be increases.
 - We're considering a significant investment in Union Plaza touching Pier 57 and the Aquarium, which is a really important part of the Waterfront and a huge benefit, if we are successful.
 - We ought to keep in mind that this enormous public investment is the biggest made in a long time for anything in the region, and the City, Waterfront and businesses will benefit greatly over time.

- The situation will be mitigated during construction, and Waterfront businesses will be asked to pay for a portion of the public benefit accruing from this huge public investment, which increases private equity and profit; the project would not be happening if people didn't believe those who benefited were going to pay through the LII
- City staff are very mindful of these concerns and issues and making good on the promise of keeping people in business, so I would not anticipate that the 61 parking spaces are finalized just yet.
- **Other Central Waterfront Committee Members & Advisors (B. Franz Knight, Pike Place Market):**
 - I applaud these efforts—the entrepreneurial spirit in response to the inspiration for a great new Waterfront is tremendous and I encourage this group to encourage that in every way.
 - The fact that the Executive Committee is taking time to hear this on both fronts is really important and continuing to work together is a huge priority for Pike Place Market.
 - We're investing a lot of work in replacement parking because we know if we don't have it nearby there will be a long-term impact; I want to make sure we don't underestimate the importance of adequate parking.

Friends of Waterfront Seattle

- **Executive Committee Co-Chairs:**
 - Friends of Waterfront Seattle has hired a Development Director and we're going to start embarking on significant fundraising activities; we have some events and other sponsored things planned this summer.
 - If Committee members are aware of people who want to get involved in a different way, the website will have connections to things that are happening on the Waterfront.