



**MEETING NOTES
CENTRAL WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
FULL COMMITTEE**

MEETING #13 April 12, 2011

3:30 — 5:00 PM, Bertha Knight Landes Room, Seattle City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members

- Maggie Walker, Co-Chair
- Charley Royer, Co-Chair
- Rollin Fatland
- Todd Vogel
- Julie Bassuk
- Ron Turner
- Craig Hanway
- Mark Reddington
- Bob Donegan
- Patrick Gordon
- Vlad Oustimovitch
- Brian Steinburg
- Ed Medeiros
- Cary Moon
- Carol Binder
- Martha Wyckoff
- Gerry Johnson
- Bob Davidson
- Greg Johnson
- Heather Trim
- David Frieboth
- Josh Brower
- Peter Hahn

City Staff & Consultants

- Marshall Foster
 - Steve Pearce
 - Hannah McIntosh
 - Paul Elliott
 - My Tam Nguyen
 - Ken Johnsen
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Project Updates and Subcommittee Reports

- **Long Term Stewardship Subcommittee Co-Chairs noted that:**
 - The Long Term Stewardship Subcommittee is looking at operations and programming in other public space projects including whether they're funded publicly, privately or a combination of the two.
 - We've also reviewed the summary of public input and what people are looking for in programming, private development and public areas; we'll continue to follow design efforts closely.

- **Finance & Partnerships Subcommittee Co-Chair noted that:**
 - The Finance & Partnerships Subcommittee has been very actively engaged in due diligence around the financing for the entire waterfront project and seawall improvements.
 - We've had numerous briefings from SDOT and other City staff engaged in related funding processes, which has been quite detailed and substantial.
 - We developed considerable reservations about the prospect of going to ballot this year for the seawall and we're relieved the City has chosen to postpone that decision.
 - This will give us to the opportunity to continue to work with City staff to come up with a comprehensive approach for funding the entire project including the seawall.
 - We've also been working with the Long Term Stewardship to review potential funding resources and comparatively impactful programs in other cities around the country.
 - The City staff has produced a matrix that identifies major projects and possible funding for operations and maintenance; Candace Damon of HRA advisors has agreed to critique and provide comment on the matrix.

- **Outreach Subcommittee Members noted that:**
 - The Outreach Subcommittee has been busy working with the City to provide advice and oversight for the combined waterfront and seawall public engagement plan.
 - We had a large outdoor public event planned for the Waterfront this summer and we met with a separate committee of advisors who had great ideas.
 - Given their feedback and other factors, we are moving the event to next summer when we have more time to plan and engage better with the design process.
 - This summer we'll partner and cooperate with various events already planned in order to capitalize on the momentum created by the February and May waterfront events.

- **Design Oversight Subcommittee members noted that:**
 - Our Subcommittee has been working closely with the design team and we've focused especially on the seawall in recent weeks—we wanted to fully understand the work they were doing.
 - We're looking to protect opportunities for great discoveries to be made through the design process as the project team moves forward; we've been urging the team to look for big ideas; not to be hung up on preconceived limitations.
 - The first iteration of the design concepts will be presented in May, the second iteration later in summer and the third iteration near the end of the year.

- **City Staff noted that:**
 - Since it our last meeting, the City Council did formally approve the continuation of the Central Waterfront Committee; and our resolution remains the guiding direction for our work.

Waterfront / Seawall Public Engagement Strategy

*Committee referenced documents including: *February 17th Event Public Input Summary*.

- **City Staff noted that:**
 - We've shared a summary of the public input we received at the February 17th public event which summarizes all of the interesting ideas from the survey and interactive.
 - The next Waterfront public outreach event is slated for Thursday, May 19th at the Bell Harbor Conference Center; the theme is, "Towards a Great Waterfront" and adequate seating will be provided this time at the event.

- The theme is to convey the initial design ideas; the event will include a presentation from James Corner; we're also thinking about having stations around the room to engage the public in the early design ideas.
- The location is the big room on the bottom floor at Bell Harbor; there are industrial qualities to the space including a concrete floor with roll up doors and we'll have the doors open to a pier apron.
- **Consultant (J. Corner, jcfo) noted that:**
 - We had a successful public meeting with big graphic boards and we solicited well over 1,000 comments and opinions and ideas from everyone invited.
 - Some positive general themes surrounding what makes a great waterfront included: a great place to stroll; habitat for wildlife and people; quiet reflection upon the water; and closer contact to the water at various endpoints on the piers.
 - Since that public meeting we've been working with a series of ideas at three different scales:
 - The Scale of Elliot Bay: leveraging features, beaches and rings of attraction.
 - The Scale of the City: in particular, the idea of the city being comprised of seven districts.
 - The Scale of the Waterfront: in terms of the entire stretch of it and the cross-sections within.
 - In response to comments from Full Committee members, J. Corner noted that:
 - In our design work, we want to capture the authentic appeal of this place: the relationship to the water, the experience of the weather, the activities on the piers.
 - We'll try to amplify those experiences so the innate character of the water is the unique attraction.
 - Mobility and connectivity is integral to our plan: we want to avoid reliance on big transit systems and try to foster more humanly-scaled movement along the waterfront.
 - At the end of the day it's all about movement: the reason you come is to see the movement, the transit from one location to another, and anything we can do to add a theatrical quality to the place, to movement, is key.

Presentation on Seawall Alternatives

*Committee referenced documents including: *Seawall Alternative – Alignment Variations*.

- **City Staff noted that:**
 - There are a number of different tracks going on as far as the work on the seawall goes, including design coordination; work on the environmental side; finishing methodology reports; preparing new cost estimates for City Council presentation on April 25th; constant coordination with Waterfront Seattle and the Army Corps of Engineers and working with the Outreach Subcommittee.
 - Today we'll be talking about alternatives for the environmental process; instead of striving for one preferred alternative we're moving toward the approach of having several options.
 - This bookend approach includes alternatives that will be the most and least impactful and we'll carry each through the environmental process so that we have maximum flexibility.
 - We don't anticipate that the final alternative will be either one of those that we show you today; rather, we anticipate it will be somewhere in the middle.
 - We're also focusing on the seawall as the foundation—the project needs to stick to its schedule, and getting it done enables other things to happen in the timeframe that we'd like.
 - Team walked through (draft) PowerPoint for City Council presentation. PowerPoint focused on:
 - Project Area
 - What's at Risk
 - Project Schedule

- Waterfront Coordination
 - Environmental Impact Statement
 - Project Goals
 - Working in Parallel with Army Corps of Engineers
 - Working in Parallel with Waterfront
 - Working in Parallel with Public
 - Elements of Alternatives
 - Comparing Alternatives
 - Working Drafts
 - Existing Gravity Wall
 - Existing Zones
 - New Seawall Jet Grouting
 - New Seawall Drilled Shaft
- In response to questions from Full Committee members, City staff noted that:
 - We don't know just yet what the exact costs will be, but there are a number of policy choices the City will have to make, such as the amount of habitat enhancements.
 - The City has the opportunity to go above and beyond the lowest cost alternative, not just for habitat but for all of the rest of the goals, as well.
 - While we haven't focused extensively on habitat today, we are working on a more detailed presentation that we'll give in May that lays out our bigger picture, not just addressing in-water habitat enhancements and salmon migration, but also groundwater flow and seawater transport and how it all comes together.
 - While the Corps has not yet approved these alternatives, we anticipate that the least impactful and least cost alternative, alternative A, is close to where the Corps will end up.
- **Design Oversight Subcommittee Co-Chairs noted that:**
 - Based on our interaction with both teams we're feeling comfortable with the range defined by the seawall team; it does provide the opportunity for design flexibility.
 - How we craft our recommendation needs to be done in a detailed way, especially regarding costs, so it doesn't become a question of lowest cost or the seawall absent the context of the waterfront.
 - We haven't formed our recommendation from the Subcommittee yet but we're tending toward a recommendation that the bracketing is indeed something we recommend with the caveats we've raised.
 - We'll be routing something to the Design Oversight Subcommittee to review and then we'll put it forth to the Executive Committee for final approval.

ACTION: Design Oversight Subcommittee Co-Chairs to draft seawall recommendation and route to Design Oversight Subcommittee and Executive Committee members for final approval.