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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 18, 2010

Convened 9:00am
Adjourned 3:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Bell Street Park
DPD Planning Division Update
Waterfront Planning Briefing
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement – Portal Area Planning
9th Avenue NW Park

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Andrew Barash
Brendan Connolly
Julie Bassuk
Graham Black
Lauren Hauck
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jenny Hampton



February 18, 2010 **Project:** **Waterfront Planning**

Phase: Briefing
Last Reviewed: N/A
Presenters: Marshall Foster, DPD

Attendees:

Katie Zemtseff, Daily Journal	Cele Fortier, GHD
Lloyd Douglas, Cascade Neighborhood Council	Brian Steinburg, Allied Arts
Bob Cowin, Capitol Hill Community Member	Vanghn Bell, SDOT/Arts
David Skinner, HDR Engineering	Christi Skinner, HDR Engineering
Christina Bollo, Pedestrian Advisory Board	

Time: 30 Minutes

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ACTION

The commission thanks Marshall Foster for the briefing on the Waterfront Planning and has the following comments:

- The Commission suggests that flexibility in the design process will ensure a more comprehensive design.
- The Commission encourages inclusion of an art voice early on and throughout the development of the project in a central position.
- Present the whole project to the public even when addressing only a small part of it so that the public understands that the project is embedded in a holistic framework.
- The Design Commission is excited to be involved in the development of the Seattle waterfront.
- Recommends that the seawall and shoreline are treated as a system and not as independent components
- Looks forward to be included in the consultant selection process of the waterfront project.

Project Presentation

This briefing was about the development of the Seattle waterfront project and the role of DPD.

Starting this past December, a waterfront committee formed which addressed the guiding principles that will influence the waterfront design process. These principles concern the process of finding the right design team to move forward the work that has been done, recognizing stakeholders that need to be involved in the process such as public and private owners of waterfront property, and acquiring an understanding of maintenance, program, and funding for the waterfront project.

Presently, the plan is on track to accelerate the seawall portion of the waterfront, however, Foster proposes that this timeline needs to include the actual design of the waterfront as well in order to create a connecting experience. The seawall edge is the center of the project, bringing people to the water and connecting the near shore ecosystem. The goal for DPD is to bring the new waterfront design on board with the seawall project by September of this year in order to create a common vision of how the two will interact together.

Commissioners' Comments and Questions

The RFQ for the waterfront design would come out in May and the decision of hiring a consultant would be in the fall. Can you talk about the interface between the seawall design team and this new consultant?

There needs to be a thorough selection process with interviews and public presentation. We will be selecting a seawall design team, which once selected will develop a range approaches for how to create a shoreline system. We are not talking as much about the seawall but of a shoreline system that needs to ensure public safety and utility but also creates public access to the shore and near shore habitat restoration. Then the work of the two teams, seawall and waterfront design will go to review with the Design Commission and Planning Commission.

There will be designers on the seawall design teams?

The team's core set of skills are landscape architects, architects, planners and engineers.

An art voice is very important in this set of team skills and that voice should be apart of the process.

It is important and there is interest in integrating art throughout the waterfront

In most interactions between the city and the public about the waterfront, it feels that the waterfront is framed as having separate projects, such as the seawall versus public access and near shore habitat. It might help in the future to always present the whole project as one piece that the city is holistically addressing and then focus on one issue or another.

In order to set the tone, the extent to which the Design Commission could be involved in the RFQ process in the beginning of the project would be appreciated.