



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Mary Johnston
Chair

Andrew Barash

Julie Bassuk

Graham Black

Brendan Connolly

Lauren Hauck

Laurel Kunkler

Julie Parrett

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

April 1, 2010

Convened 10:00am
Adjourned 4:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Waterfront Planning
1200 Stewart
Thomas Street Concept Design
Council President Richard Conlin
Councilmember Sally Clark
Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Brendan Connolly
Julie Bassuk
Lauren Hauck
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jenny Hampton



**Department of Planning
and Development**
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
PO Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349
FAX 206-233-7883



April 1, 2010**Project: Waterfront Planning****Phase:** Briefing**Last Reviewed:** Feb 18, 2010; Jun 16, 2005; Dec 18, 2003**Presenters:** David Goldberg, DPD
Marshall Foster, DPD**Attendees:** Bob Corwin, community member
Brian Steinburg, Allied Arts
Cela Fortier, GHD
Christi Skinner, HDR Engineering
Christina Bollo, Pedestrian Advisory Board
David Skinner, HDR Engineering
Katie Zemtseff, Daily Journal of Commerce
Lloyd Douglas, Cascade NC
Vaughn Bell, SDOT
Jack Mackie, Citizen**Time:** 10:00am-11:00am

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SUMMARY

The Design Commission thanks David Goldberg and Marshall Foster for the update on Waterfront Planning. The Commission is enthused about the drive and excitement of this project and is looking forward to future updates on the Waterfront Planning process.

Project Presentation

Marshall Foster and David Goldberg updated the Design Commission on the progress and plan for the current Waterfront Planning. Goldberg noted that the change in the timeline of the seawall bond measure essentially affects the timeline of the waterfront planning. Foster and Goldberg proposed that the waterfront design project needs to integrate the shoreline and the public, where the essential component of this planning is connecting people back to the water. The City Council has made a decision to go forward with the waterfront planning in 2010.

In developing this plan for the waterfront, Marshall and Goldberg defined the process that needs to take shape in order for the waterfront design to align with the seawall project. In this process, a steering committee will concentrate on overarching goals and principles, process procedures, case study research, partnerships, finance and waterfront stewardship. Some of the guiding principles laid out for the waterfront plan include creating a waterfront for all, implementing a sustainable design, embracing Seattle's history, and creating a bold vision that will adapt over time. This planning process and timeline includes two phases. Phase one consists of the initial framework plan and conceptual design and phase two finalizes the design with details of utilities, public spaces and streets. In implementing this waterfront design, Marshall and Goldberg stated that the city is looking for an interdisciplinary approach and firm that can do the project from start to finish. The RFQ will be asking for qualifications, public engagement, and an approach to the problem with ideas that best suits the community.

When selected, the firm will work with how the waterfront design will interface with the seawall project and be overseen by the steering committee.

The city is hoping that construction for the waterfront design will begin in 2016.

Visitor Comments

Jack Mackie

I urge you to engage in an artist to be involved in the seawall planning. I also encourage the waterfront team to bring on an artist into the team.

Commissioners' Questions/Comments

There has been a lot of talk about the schedule and the rapid nature of it. A general consensus is that just because it is fast, does not mean it will not be well thought through.

For the RFQ process, how will phase 1 and phase 2 be presented so that there is not confusion as to what a team is responding to?

The idea is that there will be one RFQ and we will be explicit in saying this is a phased project and all of the skills will be needed for both phases to be completed. They will understand the process of moving from phase 1 to phase 2. This approach is based on the fact that we will have all of the conceptual elements under one team, but other teams might come in and extend the elements of the unified concept. We are making sure that there is room for other designers to come in and create different components, but under a concept umbrella.

I have questions between the interface of the seawall team and the waterfront team. I know that the seawall team will be looking at nearshore habitat etc. It might be that there is a softer seawall edge and that the interface is between waterfront usability and the sea wall. Who has the voice and decision of design in these two teams?

It's in both scopes to have this edge be looked at from the seawall standpoint and the waterfront standpoint. The engineering and the solution is the responsibility of the seawall team and the urban design of the interface/public area on top of the edge will be the purview of the waterfront design team, however, we will ensure there is time for collaboration between the two efforts.

I think that one of the prime criteria is that the design team will need to have the skills to make sure that the collaboration can happen between the engineering and the design team.

What are the basic parameters that the teams will have? What elements, such as right of way, areas available for private development, etc.. are fixed?

We haven't described a program as part of the framework. We do have some basic elements, such as the street right of ways and guiding principles, which will provide some context. Right now we are laying out what values we will want to see so we have the ideas to judge the concepts that come forth. A 2006 council resolution said that the ROW would remain in public ownership, however there has been a lot of talk about activating uses on the waterfront as public space. With the transit function, there is not much room for development, but I think that there can be some cultural uses and retail uses that can activate the space.

How do the Gehl studies feed into the RFQ process? Do they have some strong ideas that affect the framework?

It is one of the inputs and is part of a whole set of frameworks and viewpoints that we are looking at.

This is a working waterfront with many interests and I can see public engagement as being a very complicated one. I wondered what is in the RFQ about this and what other cities you are looking at to help this process?

We will have in the RFQ the request for the consultant to provide some of the services of civic engagement but also recognize that it is not their sole role. What I see is that we will have a firm and a plan that is not just about outreach but engagement and will inform the process. What we have seen is that there is benefit from many collaborations and this involved sending out information and fliers, going out to the community, advertising, emailing and texting. The steering committee concept is that there is

a management group that ensures the quality and depth of this process, not just the city. We need a public involvement plan that drives this and is managed not just by the city, but by a steering committee. We need to take advantage of the summer and get events on the water so people can see what this can become.

How long do you anticipate for development of the framework?

Two years total.

There might be some small projects that come first so that it gets people excited. The framework team needs to be very nimble and does not have to proceed in a linear fashion.

How can the city's own talent and the Design Commission fit into this process?

In the short term, as small opportunities come up, the city will be there to get the ball rolling. In the overall process, these groups will be involved with the consultants in order to bring history and context into this project.