APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 17, 2011
Convened 10:00 am
Adjourned 5:00 pm

Projects Reviewed
Alaskan Way Viaduct Sound End and Portals
Active Voice Building Skybridge
Capitol Hill Water Quality Project (aka Swale on Yale)
Waterfront and Seawall

Commissioners Present
Julie Bassuk, Chair
Graham Black (Excused from 10 am until 12:45 pm)
Malika Kirkling
Laurel Kunkler (Excused from 11 am until noon)
Tom Nelson
Julie Parrett (Excused from 12:30 pm until 3 pm)
Osama Quotah
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Incoming Commissioners Present
Debbie Wick-Harris

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jenny Hampton

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March 17, 2011

Project: Capitol Hill Water Quality Project
AKA Swale on Yale
(This review North Block only)

Phase: Schematic Design

Last Reviewed: Nov 4, 2010; Jan 15, 2009

Presenters: Jason Sharpley, SPU
Paul Fuesel, KPG

Attendees: Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Vulcan Inc.
Lloyd Douglas, Cascade Neighborhood
Larry Flack, Runberg Architecture
Mike Eagan, SPU
Brandon Morgan, Vulcan Inc.
Jason Henry, Berger Partnership

Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Presentation
The design team presented the 60% design of the Capitol Hill Water Quality Treatment Project (aka Swale on Yale) on the Yale north block, adjacent to the properties being redeveloped by Vulcan Inc. The design team presented its progress: the refined minimalist design; the low barriers that can be felt with a cane; lower plantings; additional gathering elements at pedestrian crossings; and the better integration of the design between the Vulcan property and the right-of-way.

ACTION

The Design Commission thanked the design team for presenting the Swale on Yale project. The presentation was great and design process commendable. Over the course of the review the team has made good progress and, when completed, the project will be an exemplary case study. Specifically, the commission commended the overall quality of the proposed streetscape and the move away from railings as an edge treatment for the swales.

By a unanimous vote of 8-0, the commission approved the design development with the following comments:

- Provide the visually impaired with a continuous physical cue or guide at the base of the short walls, even if the wall material varies along the sidewalk edge.
- Provide a cue at the mid-block crossing to keep the pedestrians aware of the street beside them.
- The commission liked the idea of including interpretive elements and would like to review the concepts once a framework is developed.
- The commission is interested in the public art portion of the project and would like to see how it will be incorporated into the future phases of the project.

Commissioner Parrett abstained from the vote because she did not attend the whole review.