



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Julie Bassuk
Chair

Mary Fialko

Laurel Kunkler

Shannon Loew

Tom Nelson

Julie Parrett

Osama Quotah

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Debbie Wick-Harris

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

May 3, 2012

Convened 8:30pm
Adjourned 5:00pm

Projects Reviewed

Arboretum North Entry and Multi-use Trail
Duwamish River Habitat Restoration
SR 520 I5 to Medina

Commissioners Present

Julie Bassuk, Chair
Julie Parrett
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah (excused from 11:00am-4:30pm)
Don Vehige (excused from 8:30am-9:00am)
Debbie Wick-Harris
Norie Sato
Laurel Kunkler
Mary Fialko (excused from 8:30am-9:00am)
Tom Nelson (excused from 8:30am-1:00pm)

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino



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May 3, 2012 **Project:** **Duwamish Habitat Restoration**
Phase: Street Use Permit
Last Reviewed: N/A
Presenters: Bill Granger, Bluefield
 Scott Lockert, Bluefield

Attendees: Paul Stark, UW
 Shane Dewald, SDOT

Time: 11:00am-12:30pm

Summary of Project Presentation

The Bluefield team presented its design for habitat restoration of Site 1 and its associated request for a Street Use Permit. The project lies on the west side of the Duwamish River under the SW Spokane Street swing bridge. This is Bluefield's first of a series of restorations of sites along the Duwamish. Bluefield is an ecological habitat developer, and sells the credits associated with its restoration projects to those who need them for Natural Resource Damages (NRD) associated with Superfund.

The team described the site's design, and its numerous constraints due to its location at the street end on the water and the many utility requirements encumbered on the site. The site design consisted of: a channel of at least 50 meters; an L-shaped, mud flat with a marsh fringe; an upland, forested area; a relocated parking area closer to SW Marginal Way; mounding; an area for viewing; and a retaining wall to protect the bridge piling. The habitat area will be fenced for 10 years; at that time, the responsibility for site maintenance will return to the city.

SUMMARY (by Wick-Harris)

The Design Commission thanked the team for its presentation of the design of Site 1 on the west side of the Duwamish under the West Seattle Bridge and its request for a street use permit. The commission appreciated the project, but deferred its action so the team could further develop the design and add missing details. The commission made the following recommendations:

Overall

- **Provide more detail on the plants, materials, fence, and paths. Also, provide more detail on educational and interpretive pieces, and how this site relates in context to other cleanup efforts on the Duwamish.**
- **Develop vignettes from a pedestrian perspective of the site and its views.**

Site Design

- **Simplify the design; no big gestures are needed. However, do not use only one uniform surface or plant material.**

- **Develop the design so that the access path for the condor is integrated into the site and not a scar. Consider making the path a composition of more than one shape and material, one that ties into a larger design gesture.**
- **Integrate the public access better into the site design, both access within the site and to the adjoining properties and neighborhood. Provide visual access but not physical access to the water or habitat area.**
- **Design the mounds so that they do not become barriers to safety or site circulation.**
- **Weigh external forces in developing the design, such as the placement of a viewing area to see downtown.**
- **Consider reducing or eliminating the parking.**