

Steinbrueck Park

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Brodie Bain

Lee Copeland

Ben de Rubertis

Thaddeus Egging

Rachel Gleeson

Laura Haddad

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Commissioners Present

Ross Tilghman, Vice Chair

Brodie Bain

Lee Copeland

Ben de Rubertis

Thaddeus Egging

Rachel Gleeson

Theo Lim

John Savo

Commissioners Excused

Shannon Loew, Chair

Laura Haddad

Project Description

In 2012, the City Council adopted Resolution 31399 in support of the redevelopment of the Seattle Waterfront, as part of removal of WSDOT's Highway 99 Viaduct. As part of the Council's resolution, the SDC will evaluate how Steinbrueck Park will connect with the adjacent Market Entrance and Overlook Walk.

Concurrent with this work, Seattle Parks and Recreation included proposed updates to Victor Steinbrueck Park, which were identified in the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. Because Steinbrueck Park is located within the Pike Place Market's historic district, the SDC does not review the updates proposed to the park. Park updates are subject to the Pike Place Market's historic commission, who will approve the updates through the issuance of a Certificate of Approval. The SDC review will focus on the role of connecting to the proposed Overlook Walk and related Seattle Waterfront improvements.

Meeting Summary

On April 21, 2016, The SDC was briefed on options to establish a connection from Steinbrueck Park to the Overlook Walk. At this meeting, The SDC endorsed to idea of providing a connection, while preserving the design intent of Steinbrueck Park

Recusals and Disclosures

There were no recusals or disclosures.

April 21, 2016**9:00 - 10:30 am****Type**

CIP

Phase

Briefing

Previous Reviews

None

Project Team Present**Chris Jones**

Walker Macy

Lara Rose

Walker Macy

Attendees**Marshall Foster**

Office of the Waterfront

David Graves

SPR

Gary Johnson

OPCD

Heather McAuliffePike Place Market Historical
Commission**Stephen Pearce**

Office of the Waterfront

Victoria Schoenburg

SPR

Peter Steinbrueck

Steinbrueck Urban Strategies

*Figure 1: Project site location**Figure 2: Adjacent Central Waterfront Connection***Summary of Presentation**

Chris Jones and Lara Rose, of Walker Macy, presented the project proposal. The presentation was organized into the following categories: history of the park redevelopment, outreach, original park design, membrane failure, city connections, and connectivity to the waterfront project. Although the SDC's purview includes only the connection between the park and the adjacent waterfront project (see figures 1 & 2), the design team felt it necessary to provide information regarding the history and redesign of Steinbrueck Park.

The proposed design update will not make any major changes to the current design and circulation of Steinbrueck Park. The design is intended to build upon the current programming, improve outdoor rooms, and update seating and lighting elements to

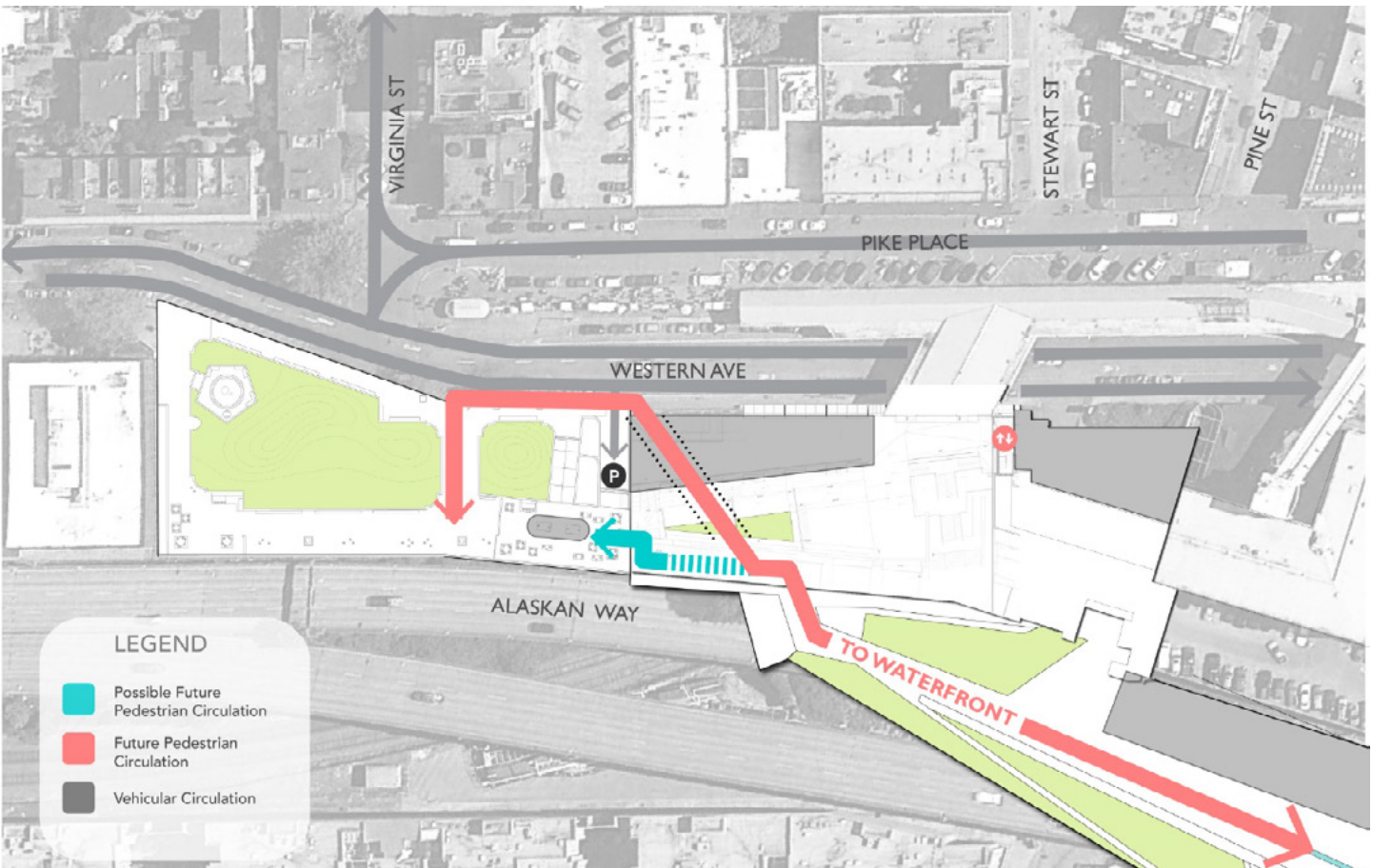
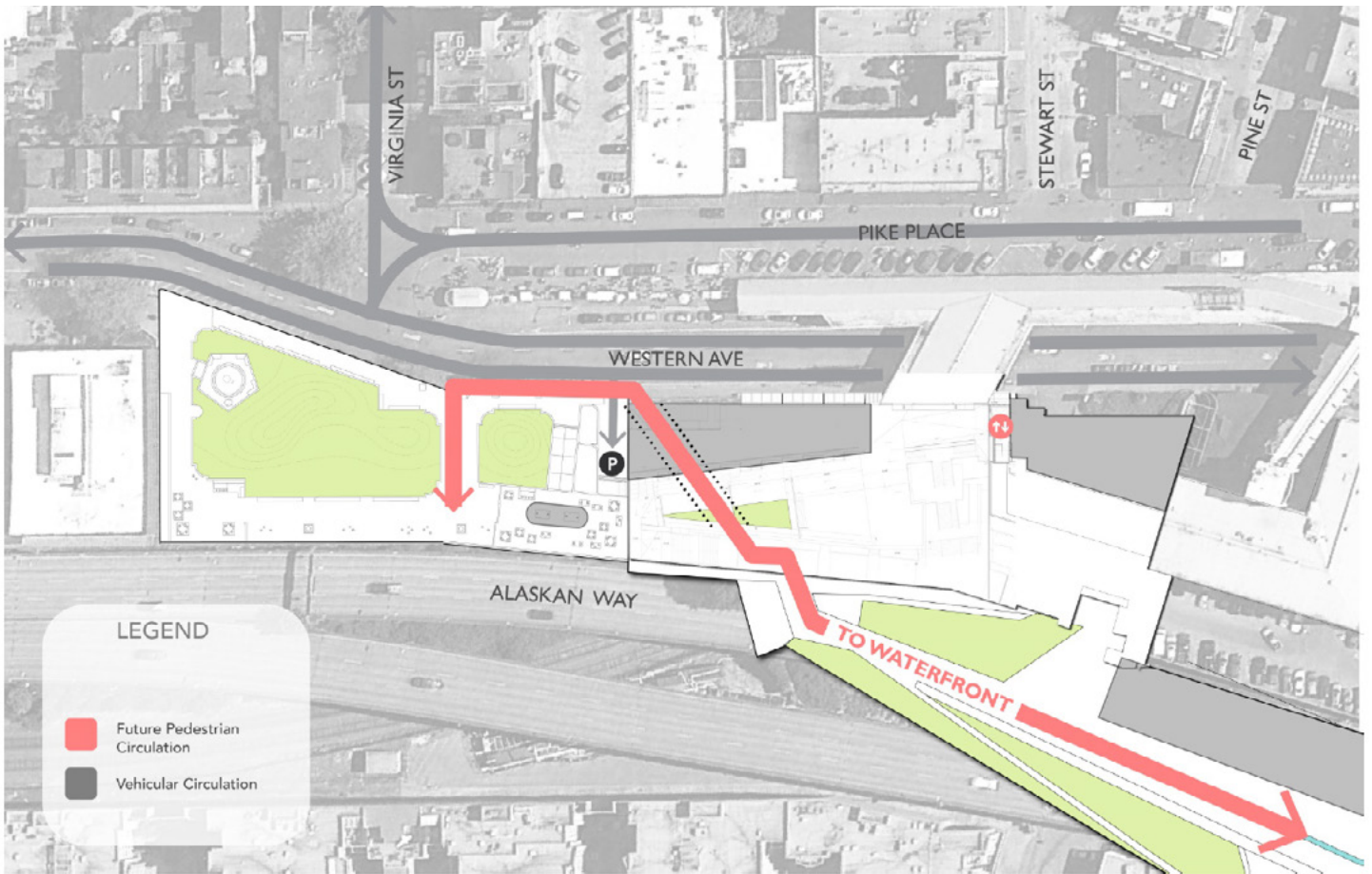


Figure 3: Proposed waterfront connection without connection to park (above) and with connection to park (below)

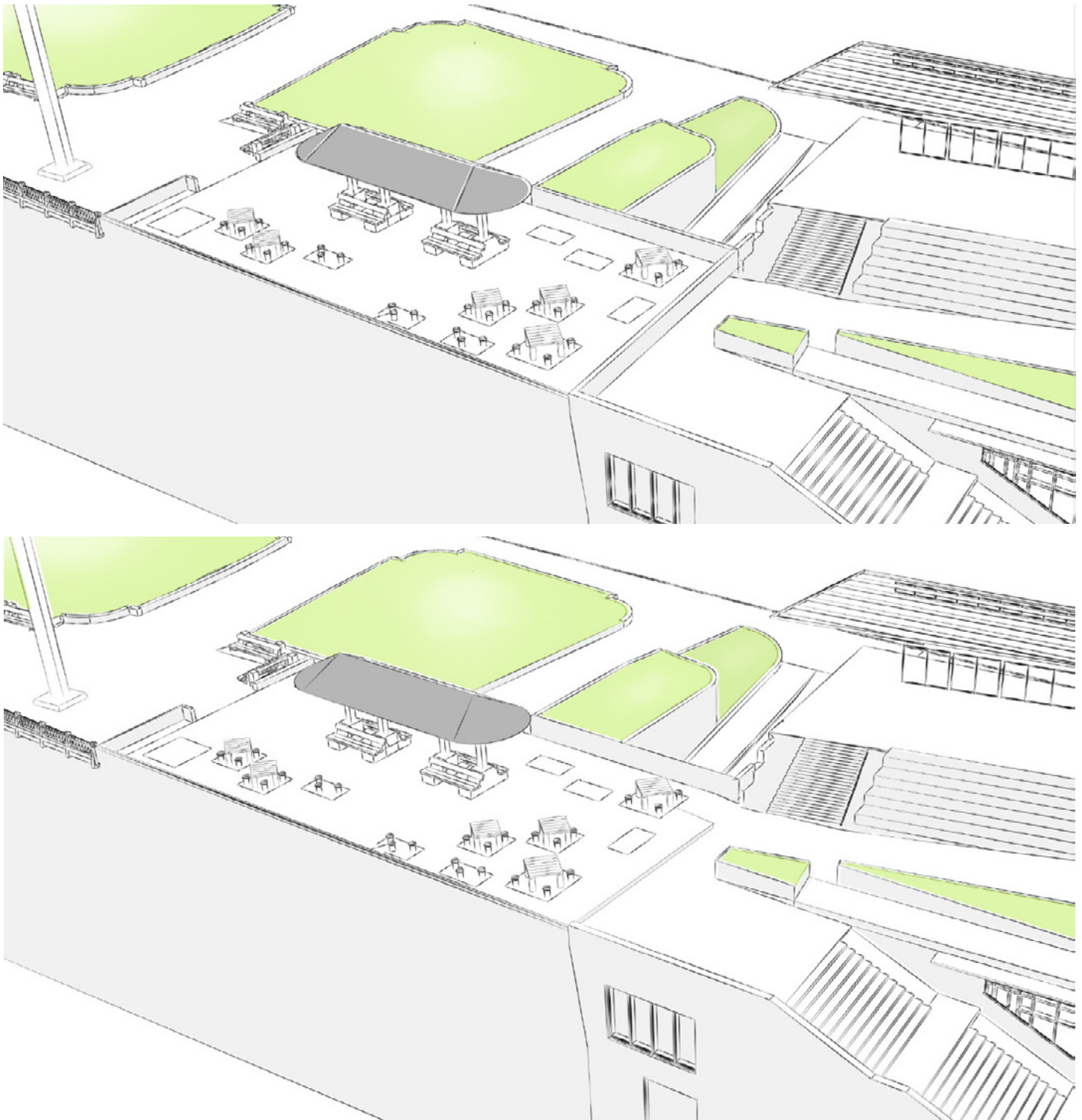


Figure 4: Proposed connection without connection to park (above) and with connection to park (below)

current standards. The design also includes plans to replace a watertight membrane, which separates the park from a parking garage located below. The current membrane has failed and must be replaced with a new 30-year membrane and drainage system. As a result, the ground level of the park will be elevated 8-12 inches from its current location.

Steinbrueck Park is connected to Pike Place Market along Western Ave and Pike St. Proposed designs include providing connectivity between Steinbrueck Park and the Waterfront along Western Ave. In its current state, Western Ave includes steep, narrow sidewalks that have fallen into disrepair. The updated design also considers a safer, more direct and accessible connection between Steinbrueck Park, Marketfront and onto the Waterfront. If no connection occurs, the proposed design will include a low-lying wall that will separate Steinbrueck Park from the Marketfront and Waterfront projects. See figures 3 and 4 for more detail.

Agency Comments

David Graves, of SPR, mentioned that although the department knew the membrane was not in great shape, its replacement was not a part of the original project scope. Mr. Graves stated that the western half of the park will need to be deconstructed in order to replace the failed membrane, which will cost \$3-\$5 million in addition to the \$1.6 million from the levy for park updates. Mr. Graves also mentioned that Steinbrueck Park appears to function as the urban trail head that will bring pedestrians down to the waterfront.

Marshall Foster, Director of the Waterfront, stated that the Waterfront team wants to create a city-scaled connection between the core, which consists of Steinbrueck Park and Pike Place Market, and the Waterfront. The design of PC1 was created with a connection to Steinbrueck Park in mind. Mr. Foster mentioned that the scale of public life and how pedestrians connect here is something to think about beyond the boundary lines on that drawing. He then asked the question as to what scale should those involved with the project need to look at in order to make these places successful?

Heather McAuliffe, Pike Place Market Historical Commission, stated the Market Historic Commission is concerned with preserving the historic design of the park as well as preserving gathering space that Natives use every day of the year. She mentioned that this specific area of the park is not intended to be a connection area, but rather a living room for activity. Ms. McAuliffe further mentioned that the Committee does not disagree that there should be a connection to the park. Rather, the Commission feels a connection point should be located further east, outside of the living room.

Victoria Schoenburg, of SPR, stated that the department has struggled with Steinbrueck park for a number of reasons. Ms. S mentioned that the expertise for using this place as a flexible space is very difficult because it is such a rigid space. She further stated that people tend to get clogged in areas and they tend to stay instead of circulating and that because of this, it makes it hard for the park to have good circulation. Ms. Shoenburg supports the idea of providing better connection throughout the park.

Public Comments

None

Summary of Discussion

The Commission organized its discussion around the following issues:

- Access
- Cultural history
- RSJI implication

Access

The SDC supports a direct connection between Steinbrueck Park and the Marketfront. To accomplish this, the SDC recommended that the design team continue exploring ways to provide a direct connection without altering the historic aspect of the southwestern edge of the park.

Cultural History

The Commission acknowledges the historic nature of Steinbrueck Park, but also understands the park's commitment to serving present and future populations, which may necessitate changes in programming and circulation. The SDC encouraged the design team to fully assess the character of the park and who it is serving before deciding which elements and programs are worth restoring and which should be altered and updated.

RSJI Implications

The Commission appreciated public outreach efforts as conducted by the project team. Commissioners encouraged the team to continue collaborating with user groups and community members in creating a space that is open and inviting to everyone.

Action

At this meeting, The SDC endorsed the idea of providing a connection between Steinbrueck Park and the adjacent Marketfront and Overlook Walk projects. The Commission recommended the project team provide a connectivity point while preserving the original design intent of the park. The SDC also endorsed the idea of continuing outreach with community members and user groups.