



Occidental Square Park Renovation
Third Public Meeting
Klondike Museum
November 20, 2007 6:30 p.m.

Presenters:

Patrick Donohue – Seattle Parks And Recreation Project Manager,
Peter Watson, Hun-nan Chen, Ethan Chang- OTAK, Design Consultant team
Karen du Four des Champs - Facilitator

Handouts:

- 1) Occidental Park Structure/Kiosk Project Public Process Overview, November 20, 2007
- 2) Occidental Square Park Renovation Status of Litigation Nov 20, 2007

Meeting Purpose:

- a) To review two design options for the replacement kiosk at Occidental Park.
- b) To make a recommendation (choose) one of the designs.

Introduction: Patrick gave a brief introduction and background regarding both the current kiosk project, and a report on the status of litigation related to Occidental Park Renovation.

Presentation: Peter Watson narrated a PowerPoint presentation including the key design considerations, the evolution of the design, and graphics of the final two design options. See PowerPoint presentation posted on this website.

Public Comments/Questions:

For clarification, what is square footage? *Answer:* 600 square feet.

What is the price tag for the building? *Answer:* There is \$300,000 available for the total project, with \$200,000 budgeted for construction. That is probably not enough to fund this building and we are currently in discussion with the mayor's office about the funding.

Is it possible to include a flagpole, as there is none in the park? *Answer:* That has not been considered up to this point, but we can certainly consider it.

The building image looks like it is sitting at a slight angle; is the building aligned with the park/street edge? *Answer:* Yes, it is aligned with the street. The graphic

image is made of an orthographic projection inserted in a photo of the park, so it does not appear exactly designed.

I like the see-through feature in Option 2, but the overall design of Option 1. Can the elements be combined? *Answer:* Yes, it would be possible to consider combining elements.

Will these designs be available online? *Answer:* Yes, the PowerPoint images will be posted on the project website (navigate to it through parks main site). Because of the upcoming holiday I expect it may be about a week before it is on line.

Will there be exterior lighting? *Answer:* We discussed illuminating the ceiling inside with low energy LED lights, but have not gotten to the point of discussing exterior lighting. There would be a fair bit of indirect lighting bounced off the wood (ceiling) surface and reflected to the three sides of the building which are glass.

Will there be an information sign? *Answer:* SDOT is working to install a wayfinding kiosk in the park. This is currently under review by the Pioneer Square Preservation District (PSPD). We are not sure if that will be built, but if it is built we might opt to not duplicate that function. On the other hand it is possible we would include this if SDOT did not build the way finding kiosk.

How do you design for a future tenant when you don't know who or what that tenant will be? *Answer:* That is the challenge, but we also cannot design for a specific tenant nor can we contract with a tenant until we have firm commitment and schedule to build this. There are also a few other unknown factors such as the proposed construction of the 200 Occidental Building adjacent to the Park. If that were built we could possibly meet some of the function of the kiosk through space in the 200 Occidental Building. Another is the factor is the (new downtown park) rangers. Part of the proposed function is to provide toilet for staff and a base facility for the park rangers.

Have you considered putting permanent bike racks in the park? *Answer:* There are some bike racks in the mall already. None have been considered here, but yes we could consider them.

When does the RFP for the tenant happen? *Answer:* It is scheduled to go out in the first Quarter of 2008. But much depends on the project budget, which will ultimately depend on the mayor's office.

The Occidental Park sign on Option 1 looks too large. I don't object to a park sign but please consider something more subtle. For example, the nice sign on Fire Station Number 10 at 4th and Washington. *Answer:* This is just conceptual design and actually would be a hard sell to Pioneer Square Preservation District (PSPD). Consider it part of the design evolution.

For clarification – are you saying this kiosk might not be built? *Answer:* Yes, if the 200 Occidental Building goes ahead it may serve some of the same function, as “eyes on the park”, etc.

Will there be a security curfew or an effort to keep homeless people away at night? *Answer:* All parks have a closing time. I am not sure the closing time at Occidental Park but yes homeless, people sleeping in the park, is definitely an issue we will have to address. The rangers will be part of addressing that.

What will rangers do? *Answer:* For example if a person were sleeping next to the building at 10:30 at night, and a ranger was at the park, the ranger would not let the person sleep there.

What are the heights of the two options? *Answer:* Option 1 is 18 feet high (to ceiling?). Option 2 is 12 feet high.

Clarification: The green roof portrayed may not be a viable option when it comes down to funding and practicality because it is such a small area.

Option Polling:

One vote was cast for option 1.

No votes were cast for option 2.

Two votes were cast for a hybrid of Options 1 and 2. The hybrid favored would have the height of Option 1 (more light), a slanted roof, and open feeling of glass on the south side.

Next Steps: (Inset 4 steps from PowerPoint)

Note: Even after the option is selected, there may still be several months of process as we work with Pioneer Square Preservation District (PSPD) architecture committee and while the City considers budget issues and potential construction of the 200 Occidental Building.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.