

## South Recycling and Disposal Station (SRDS) Redevelopment Project

### Meeting Summary Stakeholder Group Meeting #3 June 6, 2016

#### Introduction

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is redeveloping the old South Recycling and Disposal Station site, located near the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and South Kenyon Street at 8100 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South. This 11-acre site is owned by SPU and offers a unique opportunity to develop a permanent facility that will house various SPU services and operational facilities.

Based on community feedback, SPU convened a Stakeholder Group to provide input on various elements of the project. In conjunction with local non-profit, Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS), the South Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA), and the Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) recruited volunteers to serve on the stakeholder group. Stakeholder Group members are: Bill Pease (Environmental Coalition of South Seattle), Jessica Miller (Resident), Irene Stupka (SPNA), Marty Oppenheimer (Business Owner), Lora Suggs (SPNA), Nate Moxley (Marra Farms), Paulina Lopez (Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition) and Carmen Martinez (Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition).

Stakeholder Group Meeting #1 was held on February 1, 2016 where stakeholders were introduced to the project and asked to prioritize the project elements on which they would like to provide input. Stakeholder Group Meeting #2 was held on March 28, 2016. Stakeholder Group Meeting #3 was held on June 6, 2016. A summary of Meeting #3 is presented below.

#### Meeting #3 Details and Agenda

##### Meeting Time and Location

June 6, 2016 - 6:30-8:30pm, South Transfer Station, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room, 130 S Kenyon St

##### Meeting Purpose

- Provide project updates
- Provide information on dewatering facility
- Presentation and discussion of tree mitigation
- Presentation and discussion of operational impacts

##### Meeting Agenda

1. **6:30 p.m. - Welcome and Introductions** - (Kristin Anderson)
  - Review meeting agenda and purpose
  - Reconfirm ground rules

2. **6:35 p.m. – Recap of Meeting #2** - (Kay Yesuwan)
2. **6:40 p.m. - Project Updates** - (Kay Yesuwan, Dean Koonts)
  - Schedule
  - SEPA
  - Art update
  - Pedestrian Path Design
3. **7:00 p.m. – Dewatering Facility** – (Julie Crittenden)
  - What it is and why it’s needed
4. **7:30pm – Tree Mitigation** - (Kay Yesuwan)
  - Existing conditions and requirements
  - Proposed design and replacement approach
  - Discussion
5. **8:10 p.m. - Operational Impacts** – (Kristin Anderson)
  - Reconfirm impacts of concern
6. **8:25 p.m. - Next Steps and schedule upcoming meeting** - (Kristin Anderson)
7. **8:30 p.m. - Adjourn**

## Meeting #3 Invitees and Attendance

### Stakeholders

- Jessica Miller
- Bill Pease
- Nate Moxley
- Lora Suggs
- Irene Stupka
- Marty Oppenheimer
- Paulina Lopez
- Carmen Martinez

### City

- Kay Yesuwan, SPU Project Manager

- Tim Croll, SPU
- Ken Snipes, SPU
- Jeff Neuner, SPU
- Rachel Ramey, SPU
- Julie Crittenden, SPU

### Outreach Consultant

- Kristin Anderson (Stepherson & Assoc.)

### Design Consultant

- Dean Koonts (HBB)

## **Stakeholder Input Summary**

The notes from the meeting are included in this document in Appendix A. The following is a summary of what was presented and discussed, including any responses or follow up items that were identified.

### **SEPA**

As part of the project update, Kay Yesuwan presented information on what would be in the SEPA checklist and how it will be distributed. The stakeholder group asked about the length of the public comment period and if there would be a public meeting associated with SEPA's release.

### **Public Art**

Kay Yesuwan also informed the group that Adam Kuby (artist) will be presenting his concept to the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) on July 26. She asked the stakeholders if they would like to have a check-in with Adam on June 27 or at another point this summer. The group said they would like to see Adam's concepts and have an opportunity to provide more input. As the public art process is being led by the Office of Arts and Culture (OAC), it was agreed that Kay would connect Bill Pease with Adam and Ruri Yampolsky (Office of Arts and Culture) to coordinate other public art related community engagement.

### **Pedestrian Path**

Dean Koonts (HBB) presented update on the overall site plan and sections of the pedestrian path. He also presented two options for possible visual interest elements along the pedestrian path. The group was mixed in their support for the found art pedestal or the translucent panels. Some felt the panels were preferable because they could be enjoyed by people walking and driving. Panels would also provide more color interest in the winter. Others were concerned that the panels would get dirty and be difficult to maintain. A suggestion was made to include both, using the panels to frame the art pedestal to create a "gallery walk." In general, the group preferred the gabion bench because it was more unusual. SPU plans to continue outreach to the stakeholder group and the community about feedback on the public art element of the pedestrian path.

### **Dewatering Facility**

Julie Crittenden provided information on the dewatering facility, why it's needed, what it looks like and how it functions. Stakeholders had a number of questions related to the location of the facility and the odor control technology. Stakeholders expressed concern with the negative impacts of any new odor or air quality issues as the South Park neighborhood already has poor air quality. The specific questions and answers about the dewatering facility are included in Appendix A below.

### **Landscaping & Trees**

Kay Yesuwan presented information on existing conditions of the trees on-site, tree replacement regulations and what the project team has learned to date about tree replacement. She then asked the stakeholders for their comments and questions on the approach to tree mitigation. In general, the group said the first priority should be to keep as many trees on-site as possible. The preferred next step would be to plant trees in South Park. If there is not enough space to plant trees in South Park, the group preferred a green screen (in a high impact area) as potential mitigation over restoration. The group does not think that restoration will be enough to mitigate for tree loss.

However, if restoration has to be done, the group prefers urban restoration to restoring an area of trees not within the neighborhood. Some stakeholders felt replanting trees in Georgetown would be an acceptable option if there is not space in South Park.

Stakeholder responses to the question “Are there other organizations that SPU should team with?” included:

- Seattle Parks Department – Duwamish Waterway Parks is in planning stages and there might be an opportunity to plant trees at this site.
- Friends of Street Ends – currently working on projects on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave S (all Port of Seattle properties).
- Plant on private property, specifically industrial locations.

### **Operational Impacts**

At meeting #1, stakeholders identified “minimize operational impacts” as a topic of priority. Kristin Anderson asked the group to reconfirm their priority list of operational impacts, noting that at Meeting #4 SPU will provide information on how those topics of concern will be addressed. The list of priority topics identified by the stakeholders includes: truck traffic routes and associated pollution, illegal dumping, scrap metal vendors, noise and odor. Stakeholders asked that “associated pollution” be changed to “associated air pollution/maintain air quality.”

### **Additional suggestion**

The group suggested that SPU conduct outreach prior to construction. Stakeholders asked if site tours during construction would be possible. They suggested it would be a good way to build interest in the project.

### **Next Steps/Follow Up**

- Meeting #4 will be scheduled for late September or early October. As four of the eight stakeholders were absent, those in attendance requested that the meeting date be coordinated by email to include all.

## Appendix A: Group Discussion Notes

The bullets below, transcribed from notes taken at the meeting, paraphrase comments made during group discussions.

### SEPA

- How long is the comment period?
  - *Answer: 14 days for this project.*
- Will there be an associated public meeting?
  - *Answer: There is no public meeting planned for the SEPA checklist, but some elements included in the checklist will be made available to the community prior to its release.*

### Public Art Update

- Will Adam Kuby (artist) return to a stakeholder group meeting?
  - *Answer: There is no current plan for Adam to return to these meetings, but he might be available to meet with stakeholders and the broader community in another format.*
- Group would like see his concepts and have a chance to provide more input.
- Stakeholders suggested that Adam should also interact with the broader community.
- SPU (Kay) will put Bill Pease in touch with Adam and Ruri Yamplosky (Office of Arts and Culture) to coordinate other community outreach.

### Pedestrian path

- Strength of the panels is that you can see them both while walking and driving, so they have a bigger impact.
- Art pedestal is more for walkers.
- Who would curate art pedestal?
- Benches in Option 1 (Found Art Pedestal) are less typical/common which is preferable. Could benches in Option 1 be incorporated into Option 2 (Translucent Panels)?
- Found art pedestal is like a “gallery walk” – great for walkers.
- Could both art pedestal and translucent panels be incorporated into the design? The panels could frame the art.
- Like that found art pedestal is more industrial.
- Panels would provide color interest in the winter.
- Plants will have more color impact in spring/summer.
- Will panels get dirty?
- Could you put a greenwall here? The answer is not really, but greenwalls could be explored as mitigation in other parts of the neighborhood.

### Dewatering facility

- Will it smell?
- This is another air quality concern in a neighborhood with already poor air quality.
- Are there other locations with multiple elements (ie, transfer station and a dewatering facility)?

- There is a group that does a monthly air quality report for South Park. Stakeholders suggested SPU should connect with this group.
- Deal with odor issue proactively versus waiting until complaints come in during operations.

#### Questions and Answers:

- Where is sewer grit going now?
  - *Answer: SPU takes sewer grit material to Haller Lake in North Seattle. SPU also has facilities in the Highland Park neighborhood of West Seattle and at Halladay, near Interbay, for stormwater decant material.*
- Could this be a contained (with walls) facility?
  - *Answer: Possibly. Walls can change how air and odor moves around, but also will affect how long it takes to dewater the material. SPU is conducting an odor control study to inform the need for and location of walls.*
- Is it preferable to have an open facility (not enclosed)?
  - *Answer: An open facility (not enclosed) allows the material to dry more quickly because air can flow through the area. Drying more quickly means SPU can move the material more quickly, which may help with controlling odor at the site. However, the design of the facility, including wall locations and odor control technology, will be informed by the upcoming odor control study.*
- Is SPU required to identify other locations for this facility before siting at SRDS?
  - *Answer: SPU has a need for a dewatering facility in the south end of Seattle. The dewatering facility is sited at this location because the property is owned by SPU, readily has access to freeways, and the zoning matches the use of the facility. No other location in the south end of Seattle is immediately available that meets SPU's criteria and timeline to have a dewatering facility. The SEPA checklist process does not require for other locations to be identified.*
- Will the odor control study be made public?
  - *Answer: Yes, it will be an attachment to the SEPA checklist.*
- Once the solids are dry, where do they go?
  - *Answer: The dewatered material gets hauled off site to a disposal vendor, like Republic, that uses the material at their landfill as alternative daily cover.*

#### Landscaping and Trees

- What is the timing of mitigation plan?
  - *Answer: SPU is exploring options and checking on the feasibility of options with various groups. The goal is to develop a strategy for approval by this summer. We will consider stakeholder and community feedback in the mitigation plan.*
- Would be a good idea to touch base with the broader community prior to the SEPA checklist public comment period.
- Removal of trees is an equity issue.
- Urban Systems Design, Smart Tree Planting, Carrie Simpson should be contacted.
- Consider using Duwamish Valley Youth Core to plant trees in the neighborhood
- Are there other organizations that SPU should team with?
  - Seattle Parks Department – Duwamish Waterway Parks is in planning stages and there might be an opportunity to plant trees at this site.
  - One restoration option might be to intersperse new trees along the right-of-way in areas where street trees have been poorly maintained.

- Friends of Street Ends – currently working on projects on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave S (all Port of Seattle properties)
- Plant on private property, specifically industrial locations
- Who makes the ultimate decision about what gets done?
  - *Answer: Seattle Department of Construction & Inspection (SDCI) is the authority with jurisdiction over the removal and replacement of trees on the property. There is also a Mayor’s Executive Order to replace every removed tree with two new trees, within two years. SPU is working with both groups to meet these requirements and to include input from the community stakeholders and other groups.*
- If the community has a strong opinion about a particular approach will SPU make the case for this approach to the regulators?
  - *Answer: Yes. SPU is committed to incorporating public feedback on all project elements, including the trees, to the extent that’s possible.*
- Suggested locations for tree planting and restoration:
  - Marra Farms
  - Concerned that restoration will not have enough of an impact, however would rather have restoration in South Park than trees planted in other neighborhoods.
  - Green screens – look at high priority locations (library, community center, intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S and S Cloverdale St)
  - Green screen should only be considered if trees cannot be planted in South Park

### **Operational Impacts**

- Odor (this concern has been moved to the top of the list by the stakeholders)
- Truck traffic
- Truck routes
- Associated pollution (suggested revision to this bullet “Associate air pollution/maintain air quality”)
- Illegal dumping
- Scrap metal vendors
- Noise