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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 19, 2009

Convened 8:30 am
Adjourned 4:30 pm

Projects Reviewed

Northgate Urban Center Park
Tim Gallagher, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Electronic Parking Guidance System
Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements
Children's Hospital - Street Vacation

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Andrew Barash
Graham Black
Brendan Connolly
John Hoffman
Nathan Polanski
Dennis Ryan
Norie Sato

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jeff Arango

Celebrating 40 Years 1968-2008



March 19, 2009 **Project:** **Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements**

Phase: Concept Design
Last Reviewed: January 15, 2009
Presenters: Brent Middleswart, SPU
 Gail Staeger, Nakano Associates

Attendees: Celia Kennedy, SPU
 Christine Harrington, Neighbor
 Gail Staeger, Nakano Associates
 Grace Manzano, SPU
 Linda De Boldt, SPU
 Mark Graham, MWH
 Michael Shiosaki, Parks and Recreation
 Ryan Lambert, HBB
 Tom Finnegan, MWH

Time: 1 hour

(169/RS0607)

ACTION

The Commission would like to thank the design team for their clear presentation of the Madison Valley Stormwater Improvement Phase II project and approves the conceptual design by a vote of 7-1 with the following comments:

- The Commission appreciates the response to community needs in designing the project.
- Commissioners are glad to see that the artist is involved at this early stage, and anticipate seeing interesting work from him.
- The Commission would have liked to see more design options at this stage (such as a design with a square tank in addition to the one with a round one.)
- This being such a costly and sophisticated infrastructure project, Commissioners recommend making the technical aspects of the facility more visible to the public. Recommend being more expressive instead of understated. This might include making the connection between the two phases of the project visible in some way.
- We recommend opening up adequate site lines from Madison to provide for a measure of security and surveillance.
- The Commission asks the design team to please consider opportunities for natural drainage solutions in the streets and sidewalks that must be replaced in the course of the project.

Note: Dissenting vote because the project is too understated and not expressive enough of the technical aspects of the stormwater improvements.

Presentation

Challenges for commission – the pipeline. Welcome the support and comments from the Design Commission. Distinctions between phase I project and the park.

Overview – In terms of solutions, significant floods have occurred in recent years. Water went over curbs and flooded basements during a strong event, caused a drowning in a house basement nearby. Three primary parts to the project, an expansion of the storage facilities at 30th and E. John, constructed this summer. Phase II – intercept stormwater at NW basin to divert water to storage in Washington Park. Total flow rate (max.) 2 million gallons at storage site in Washington Park. Normal is 900,000 gallons, but the design is for an extreme storm event consisting of below and above ground storage. Integrate facilities while addressing the stormwater needs and to develop options that minimize resident and business impacts. Various design concepts are being explored to minimize adverse impacts. One such effort is to address storage adjacent to the soccer field without impacting the soccer field. Retaining the community identity is another major goal of the project.

Arts – Artists selection Adam Kuby of Portland, OR who has worked on other arts projects for the city. Contract should be signed in a month. Phase I and II artwork will be done by Adam.

For the site with the surface storage and tanks is a Seattle park, so the parks department is involved. It's a wooded ravine site and the trees are reestablishing themselves and used as an accessory to the ball fields. Retaining the green backdrop is important to the parks department.

Three alignments are being explored. All run through relatively dense single family neighborhoods. Factors in the decision making process include reducing neighborhood impacts, geotechnical issue (risks) and cost.



900,000 below ground storage, so for most events it would accommodate all needed storage. One option is a circular tank with a bermed above ground storage area. The berm is 3' high. High groundwater table is an issue. Access road off of E. Madison to give access to storage.

Another option is a square tank depending on geo-technical analysis.

Connecting into an existing sewer line, tanks need to be fed by gravity. No combined sewer should flow into it, which sets a maximum depth level of the tank in order to avoid this from occurring.

A small portion of the wall of the tank will be exposed adjacent to the open storage area.

Overall criteria – very early in the design plans – technical info and public process is still evolving. How can they put in these structural improvements as gently as possible? Keep the same percentage of wooded areas and open lawn. Arborist will be on board soon, a tree survey will be performed. Grading will be required for the roads. Many deciduous trees as well as evergreens. Opportunity for more native species. Instead of one gently sloping

lawn from west to east there will be two lawn areas with 12' to 15' grade difference between the two. The tank will be buried in the hillside on the upper lawn. Connection (pedestrian) to the neighborhoods to the NW.

Commissioner's Questions and Comments

Looks like your scheme at this very early stage has a round tank, but the square tank might change the scheme. You should show two schemes that show the differences.

They are considering both and they will explore several different options.

The park property goes up to the mixed-use building. Does the park property extend across Madison at all?

No.

Might be good to look at the north side of Madison, when you re-do that section. Perhaps the south side of Madison could pick up some of those qualities.

Have you considered putting the storage tank under the soccer fields and combining it with a project to turn the field into turf?

Considered it, but there is a geotechnical issue with the soils and the cost of making it shorter and broader is prohibitive. Plus, it would displace the users of the soccer fields.

From the parks department's perspective they are glad the users of the fields won't be displaced and the money to change the field to turf is no longer available. Once the turf is installed stormwater on the field would not be beneficial.

Is a high water table an issue?

Our thought was that when we dig out the area we could create localized drains and in theory we are above the water table.

Will you have the same drainage type structure in phase II as phase I?

Yes, a similar type structure will be required to allow water to get in and out.

On the pipeline alignment, some go through the neighborhood, some do not. Will work on Madison require the parking to be removed and will it take up both travel lanes?

We would maintain at least two traffic lanes, one in each direction.

I'm a little disappointed of the apologetic attitude about the project and the notion of tucking the project. It could be powerful and expressive in a revealed manner and a publicly driven installation. We shouldn't pretend it's something else. I'm wondering if the path of blending is the best option.

Lots of creativity available and we are trying to move it towards celebrating it in some ways. We don't want to inadvertently change the character.

It's an opportunity to create your own vista or identify as the arboretum is highly manipulated as will be this project. It needs an overall design scheme.

On these neighborhood streets where we have to do curb to curb replacement, can we incorporate LID and connect the two places that educates and ties the two phases together. I know the tank will be at the low point, but can that water be reused for other purposes, such as irrigation?

It's technically grey water, collected from the streets. If it were stored, it would require pumping and treatment prior to being used.

How long will the tanks last?

100+year structure, cast in concrete.