



## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**Greg Nickels**  
Mayor

**Diane Sugimura**  
Director, DPD

**Raymond Gastil**  
Planning Director, DPD

**Mary Johnston**  
Chair

**Andrew Barash**

**Julie Bassuk**

**Graham Black**

**Brendan Connolly**

**Lauren Hauck**

**John Hoffman**

**Julie Parrett**

**Dennis Ryan**

**Norie Sato**

**Guillermo Romano**  
Executive Director

**Valerie Kinast**  
Coordinator

**Tom Iurino**  
Senior Staff

**September 3, 2009**

Convened 9:30 am  
Adjourned 3:00 pm

### Projects Reviewed

Public Spaces – Public Life Study  
Sand Point Magnuson Park  
Maynard and Lane Green Streets  
Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements Phase II

### Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair  
Andrew Barash  
Julie Bassuk  
Graham Black  
Brendan Connolly  
Lauren Hauck  
John Hoffman  
Julie Parrett  
Norie Sato

### Commissioners Excused

Dennis Ryan

### Staff Present

Guillermo Romano  
Valerie Kinast  
Jeff Arango



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**September 3, 2009    Project:    Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements – Phase II**

**Phase:** Schematic Design  
**Last Reviewed:** March 19, 2009; June 4, 2009  
**Presenters:** Celia Kennedy, SPU  
Gail Staeger, Nakano Associates  
Tom Finnegan, MWH

**Attendees:** Ruri Yampolsky, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs  
Michael Shiosaki, Parks and Recreation  
Sylvia Cavazos, SPU

**Time:** 1.5 hour

(169/RS0607)

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## **ACTION**

The Design Commission thanks Celia Kennedy of SPU, Gail Staeger of Nakano Associates and Tom Finnegan of MWH for their presentation of the Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements Phase II project. The Commission commends the project team for responding to previous Commission comments. The power of the story of the stormwater and its handling have become more integrated and readable in the design. While the Commission has recommendations for the next stage of design, the comments are specific in their nature.

The Commission approves the 60% Design Development Review with a vote of seven to one. The dissenting vote was on the grounds that the various geometries of the design specifically the paving pattern on the lid of the tank, the access hatches and the rhythm of the railing are not integrated and working well together. The Commission has the following recommendations:

- The Commission strongly encourages close collaboration among the artist, engineers, and landscape architect in resolving details and the design to work out the details to make all the elements feel considered. All drawings from now on should show the artwork on the wall.
- The Commission is excited that the artwork was integrated early into the other aspects of the design so that it helps express the story of the stormwater. However, the team including the artist should be careful to address the appropriate level of physical access to the art.
- The team is encouraged to review the legibility of how and where water flows to the wall, how it is expressed and how it relates to the wall. Close attention should be paid to the edge where the tank lid and the wall come together.
- The team is also asked to coordinate how the handrail along the edge of the lid and the other vertical and horizontal elements meet.
- The team is asked to resolve the conflicting radial geometry of the access hatches and the linear paving pattern.
- The Commission strongly supports providing seating on the top of the tank.
- Commissioners ask that the drainage issues around the truck turn around be examined and solved, perhaps by adding a berm and draining to the north side rather than across/under the path at the truck turn-around.

- **The Commission also cautions using crushed rock on the pathway with slopes of 14% or more. Appropriate research should be done to ensure the path will be secure and that installation will not conflict with the goal of preserving the native woodland trees.**
- **The Commission commends the use of native plant species and encourages the team to consider planting mixed aged/height trees to create a greater illusion of older woodland. The team also encourages the inclusion of a few madronas.**

## Presentation

The project is in response to significant flooding in Madison Valley in the vicinity of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue E. and E. John St., the low point in the basin. In August 2004 and December 2006 were two of the largest storms on record which caused significant flooding in that area, and the city paid out a large sum of money on damage claims.

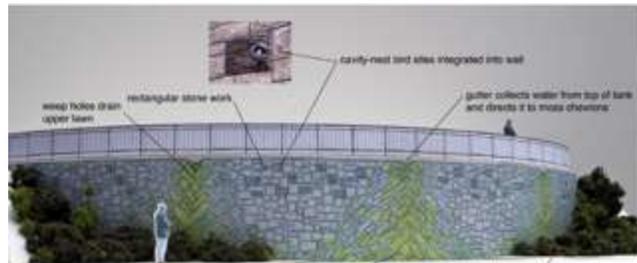
The project has had heavy public involvement largely in response to the damage from the two storms. In response to the 2004 storm, a 1 million gallon detention basin was constructed as an interim measure and two weeks before the detention basin was completed there was another major storm that caused significant damage, though the new detention basin helped reduce the overall impacts of the flooding.

The site is located on the south side of the Washington Park Arboretum.

Planting design – All the trees in the construction area have been surveyed including the condition of the trees. The design saves as many trees as possible. Most of the existing trees are deciduous and more conifers will be added to tie into the Pacific Northwest.

Wall Art - The wall art will have cavity-nest bird sites integrated into the wall. Weep holes drain upper lawn and rectangular stonework that is rough-cut and angled will define the wall surrounding the tank. A rain garden will be blow the moss on the sides of the overlook.

Water will be collected on the top of the tank near the railing, which will be channeled along the wall to the rain garden.



Rock wall surrounding tank with art installation

## Commissioners' Questions and Comments

*Can you discuss in detail the proposed plantings?*

*A planting list was distributed to the Commissioners.*

*In relation to the art piece, will people be able to get up close and touch it?*

*It depends on the intention of the artist, but I am not entirely sure.*

*Can you describe the paving pattern and grass on the top of the tank and the design intention?*

*We looked at lots of different patterns but I think the proposed pattern has an interesting relationship to the north-south street grid and the gentle slope of the tank.*

*I think the birdhouses should be restricted to prevent people from disturbing the birds.*

*Could there be something on the top of the tank to show where water is traveling down the wall?*

*Yes, we could explore that with some sort of symbolic paving pattern.*

*The art concept is fantastic, but I think there are some opportunities to tie together the horizontal and vertical planes. The other question I had was in regards to the access hatches and their relationship with the paving pattern.*

*I am limited in the potential locations in order for them to function properly. I do not have any flexibility on the size of the hatches.*

*Are there any seating opportunities on the top of the tank?*

We cannot provide actual benches, but we are considering placing a few boulders in strategic locations to provide informal seating.

*I am disconcerted by the geometry of the paving pattern and the fact that most people would not get its relationship with the street grid. I am also concerned about the entrance from the truck turnaround at an angle to the geometry of the paving.*

*On the south end of the tank to the west of the truck turnaround, have you considered using a berm there to drain the water around the tank?*

*Be careful with crushed rock on the 14.5% grade from E. Madison on the pedestrian path.*

*I appreciate the carefulness in preserving the trees on the site and use of native plantings. I encourage you to use multi-sized and multi-aged trees during planting to make it look much more mature much faster.*

*In terms of the steel guardrail, perhaps there is more of an opportunity to provide a more unique and inspiring design.*

*We are disappointed that there was no update as requested on the Phase 1 project to see how the artwork is coordinating with the design and the integration of the elements.*