

Seattle design Commission

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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

December 2, 2010

Convened 8:30 am
Adjourned 1:00 pm

Projects Reviewed

Transit Master Plan
North Transfer Station
Elliott Bay Seawall Project

Commissioners Present

Brendan Connolly
Julie Bassuk
Graham Black
Malika Kirkling
Laurel Kunkler
Tom Nelson
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Tera Hatfield



December 02, 2010 **Project:** **Elliott Bay Seawall Project**

Phase: Briefing

Last Reviewed: October 7, 2010

Presenters: Jennifer Wieland, SDOT
Greg Baldwin, ZGF
Jim Brennan, J.A. Brennan Associates

Attendees: Ridge Robinson, Tetra Tech

Time: 11am – 12pm

(000/RS0000)

ACTION

The Design Commission thanked the Seawall team for their presentation. The Commission appreciated the Seawall team’s responsiveness to recommendations made in previous briefings. In particular, the commission appreciated the more holistic and global look at waterfronts, complete with evocative imagery. The Seawall team effectively described how waterfronts can work and how the seawall is important to the city and wildlife in both the past, present and future contexts. The Commission recommends that the team use this presentation on the road with hardcopy handouts. With a unanimous vote of 8-0, the Design Commission approved the conceptual plans for the Elliott Bay Seawall replacement project with the following recommendations and comments:

- Create a space with a variety of nodes, qualities and experiences that results in dense habitation, and avoids being a single, linear space that becomes vacant and unused.
- Understand the goals of habitat and ecosystem health.
- Keep as strong a prioritization to the urban design and people side of the design as the habitat side (i.e. how connections happen within the context of the city since the Corps do not have this as a goal).
- Consider the water side of the waterfront not just in terms of habitat with limited touch points, but in terms of human interaction and activity. The experience of the waterfront should be considered from the water as well as from the land.
- Think dynamically about the history and context as well as how the waterfront might transform in the future.
- Carefully consider what the “on the ground experience” will be like—what the spaces afford us and don’t afford us.
- It is critical that even though there are different contracts for the seawall and the waterfront the line between these contracts should not be evident in the experience of the waterfront.
- Provide vignettes for future reviews.

The commission is excited that the team has decided to carry three concept options moving forward. The commission is also very excited to see how the collaboration and richness of the waterfront will coalesce once the team collaborates with the James Corner Field Operations, focusing on underlying principles, connections, and materials.