

BITTER LAKE RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
MEETING MINUTES

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Acting Director, OPCD

Vinita Sidhu, Chair

Elaine Wine, Vice Chair

Matt Aalfs

Adam Amrhein

Erica Bush

Elizabeth Conner

Jill Crary

Amalia Leighton

Puja Shaw

Molly Spetalnick

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
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February 16, 2022

Convened at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Projects Reviewed

Garfield Superblock

Bitter Lake Reservoir Improvement Project

Commission business

Commissioners Present

Vinita Sidhu, Chair

Matt Aalfs

Adam Amrhein

Elizabeth Conner

Jill Crary

Amalia Leighton-Cody

Elaine Wine, Vice Chair

Erica Bush

Molly Spetalnick

Commissioners Excused

Puja Shaw

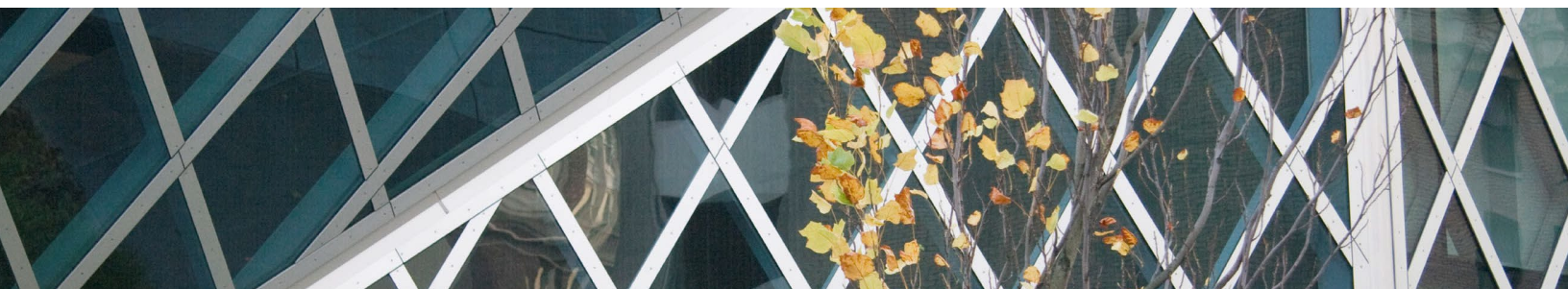
Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Windy Bandekar

Juliet Acevedo



February 16, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 am

Project: Bitter Lake Reservoir
Type: Capital Improvement
Phase: 30%
Previous Reviews: none
Presenters: Andrew Karch, SPU; Lael Alderman, Consor; Aaron Luoma, HBB; Jason Huff, ARTS; Kevin Bergsrud, SPR
Attendees: Bill Wells, SPU; Mary Weber, SPU; Eugene Mantchev, SPU

Recusals and Disclosures
none

Project Description

The Bitter Lake Reservoir Improvements Project is a capital improvement project that aims to improve the Bitter Lake Reservoir and increase community open space. Although SPU and SPR are closely coordinating on the project, the development of the park is a separate project and will be reviewed by the commission separately.

The scope of the SPU project includes the design, engineering, and construction of a new 21 MG concrete reservoir. The scope of the SPR project is the planning, design and development of additional open space created by the new reservoir’s construction and improvements. Although the projects are coordinating on some elements such as grading, the SPR project will be designed and constructed as a separate project after the reservoir is completed.



Project Goals

The following project goals were presented by the project team:

Engineering Goals

1. Maintain the water system’s storage requirements.
2. Continue to meet system water quality and water service regulations.
3. Keep project affordable (reservoir location and size, minimize soil export).
4. Meet City Stormwater Code and other regulatory requirements.

Community Goals

1. Create additional open space for the Bitter Lake community.
2. Provide asset security and promote community safety.
3. Maintain active engagement with the Bitter Lake Community throughout project design and construction.
4. Incorporate Equity into Project development.
5. Integrate art that is meaningful for both the community and the utility into project.

Meeting Summary

The focus of this meeting was to review Bitter Lake Reservoir Improvement Project at the initial 30% Concept stage. The Commission thanked the project team for sharing the project and noted that it is a great opportunity for the Bitter Lake Community to develop a community asset that serves the utility and the community. The Commission especially appreciates the opportunity to expand open space and public park for the neighborhood. The commission commended the team for its public engagement efforts as well as their work to bring in an artist in to the process soon.

Agency Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Summary of Commission Discussion and Recommendations

The commissioner focused their review and comments of 7 topics.

1. Site and topography
 - The commissioners would like the project team to consider creative ways to involve the SPR team on board earlier, even in just an advisory role, to maximize the integration of the reservoir and the park. The commission believes that the project design and its integration into the neighborhood could be elevated significantly by this effort.
 - The commission commended the team and their proposed increase in the amount of open space. The commission would like the team to work on not only the function of that open space but also on creating a good experience for park goers.
 - The commission would like the team to provide more visualizations that depict the experience of the site and the topography viewed from the vantage point of the street and from elevated areas of the site.
2. Architecture, materials, and massing
 - The commissioners recognize the proposed reservoir as a well-engineered structure but would like the team to explore how it could become a point of civic pride and a focal point of the neighborhood.
 - The commissioners emphasized that even great infrastructure can be celebrated and can operate as a true piece of civic architecture. To enhance the civic nature of the project, the Commissioners challenged the presentation team to apply architectural and design outcomes to the engineering solutions for the program, including the above ground round concrete portion of the reservoir.
3. Engagement
 - Commissioners commended the project team for the public engagement efforts thus far and suggested that, with the selected Planning Artist, community engagement be broadened and deepened. Commissioners gave suggestions that included expanded outreach to Ingram High School as part of an April 2023 Open House. Youth outreach and voices will go a long way at activating the space which will contribute to feeling of community identity and ownership, and thereby enhancing the goal of safety.
 - Commissioners requested demographic information on outreach efforts, which project team agreed to provide, and share with Planning Artist / ARTS.

4. Art opportunities
 - Commissioners encourage the design team to keep lines of communication open between SPU, Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS), and SPR. Commissioners believe that project’s creativity would benefit from these exchanges.
5. Right of Way, SIP related work
 - Commissioners noted that Linden Ave could benefit from traffic calming improvements. Vehicles move quickly on Linden creating unsafe conditions.
6. Sustainability
 - The commission asked the design team to go beyond code requirements or mitigation with regards to how they are thinking about the detention pond. They would like to see the project team explore possibilities for enhanced water quality. They also would like to see the team enhance and connect the hydrology on the site to enhance the public’s experience.
 - The commission asked the team to explore other ways to incorporate sustainability into the design, including options to collect energy from the roof of the reservoir.
7. Safety
 - Commissioners asked the project team to consider alternatives to “safety” beyond cameras and chain link fences. They suggested seeking guidance from the community by asking “what makes you feel safe” How can you design a space that supports the feeling of safety?

Action

The SDC thanked the team for their presentation of the concept design for Bitter Lake Reservoir Improvement Project

The SDC expressed appreciation for the forward-thinking approach to the project, the increased open space, early collaboration with Seattle Parks and Recreation, community engagement, and early arts integration.

The SDC voted 9 to 0 to approve the concept design phase.