



PORTAGE BAY PARK PUBLIC MEETING – JUNE 9, 2015

SUMMARY



Prepared by Stepherson & Associates Communications

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Introduction

Background

Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) is developing an open waterfront park on the Bryant Marina site located on Portage Bay (1101-1137 NE Boat Street). Parks purchased the site from the University of Washington in 2014 as part of mitigation for impacts from the SR 520 Highway Replacement Project. The site is currently occupied by the UW Police Department.

The goal for this project is to provide upland and shoreline/water-related recreational experiences for all ages and abilities. As part of site development, Parks will also clean up the existing site contamination. Site development will also include building demolition and potential partial re-use of building elements and shoreline enhancement.

Purpose of Public Meeting

Parks is beginning the planning phase of park development and held a public meeting from 6 to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, in the UW Police Department offices located on the project site. The purpose of this first meeting was to provide the community with an opportunity to:

- learn about the project including site background and project schedule
- offer initial thoughts on park development



Parks will take this initial community feedback and use it to develop initial design concepts. A second meeting will be held in fall 2015 to present draft design concepts and a third meeting in late 2015 or early 2016 to present the preferred design concept. Parks expects to have a final design by mid-2016.

Promotion

Seattle Parks used a number of methods to inform the community and spread the word about the public meeting:

- *Project Sign* – a 4' x 4' project sign was posted at the site
- *Posters* – 11" x 17" posters were distributed at buildings around the project site (library, Recycled Cycles, Agua Verde)
- *Mailer* – a postcard mailer was sent to neighbors within a .5 mile radius (roughly 3,600 people)
- *Website* – event information was posted on the project website

- *Press Release* – a press release was sent to local media outlets
- *Social Media* – content was posted to Seattle Parks’ Twitter and Facebook accounts. Several community partners, including the UW Police Department, U District Partnership, Montlake Community Center and UW College of the Environment, also shared content about the meeting
- *Calendars* – the event was posted to the City of Seattle events calendar

Meeting Details

Format

Roughly 30 people attended the public meeting, which kicked off with a presentation by the project team. The presentation included introductions, project background and project schedule. The design team presented initial thoughts and considerations about site design.



Participants were then asked to join the project team in break-out discussions.

Participants split into three groups, which were facilitated by staff from the design team. Each group was asked:

- What park elements would you like to see at Portage Bay Park?
- How do you envision using Portage Bay Park?
- Any other thoughts/considerations as we move forward with the park design?

After the discussion, the facilitators summarized comments to the entire group.

Key Themes

From the small group discussions the project team generally heard the following themes:

- Access to and from the water is important (especially for kayakers and canoes)
- Highlighting history and culture and tying in educational components are desired by many
- The park should be natural (incorporate natural elements, plants, and greenspace) and try to improve fish habitat
- Consider family-friendly features such as picnic spaces, barbeque pits, bike racks and small yard games
- The site should be accessible to everyone

The word cloud below visually demonstrates some of the key words heard through small group discussions. Words that are larger in size were heard more commonly than those that are smaller.



Comments

The bullets below, transcribed from flip chart notes, paraphrase comments made during small group discussions.

Flip Chart Notes

- Simple kayak put in, maybe a dock
- Very few put in locations
- Public access needed at the site
- Proximity to UW Fisheries
- Education
- Salmon habitat improvement
- Water dependent uses
- Bike parking/racks
- Bike access to the site
- Parking

- Load/unload for boats
- Accessible park (close proximity to the hospital)
- Public restrooms
- Kayak/paddle board storage rack
- Barbeque/fire pit
- Informal party spot
- History – connect people to the city
 - Yukon Pacific Exhibition 1908
- Reuse of building – maritime history
- Historic interpretation
 - Walls, murals, interpretive information
- Before/after photos
- Native cultural heritage
- Lawn is unnatural on the shoreline
 - Native grass
 - Texture
 - Habitat
- Brooklyn/Boat Street Intersection
- Purpose designed performance space
- Water feature
- Skate park
- Break dance area
- Access from water
- Consider water trails
- Consider wider development/growth
- Restrooms
- Integrate with Sakuma viewpoint
- Grading
- Activate space to discourage undesirable activities
- Lookouts
- Use old timbers
- Natural
- Playgrounds
- Water access
 - Kayak, canoes, boats
- Plants at water edge
- Consider water level fluctuations
- Parkour – design area for it or incorporate into overall design
- Grassy area, wooden benches
- Passive, green

- Limit hardscape
- Grass, trees
- Make it a respite from noise
 - Relax
- Natural
- Views of waterway
 - It is entertaining and educating to see what goes by
- Family friendly – kids
- Horseshoes and other small games
- Greenspace
- Arts
- Public launch
- Connectivity to neighborhood
 - Outdoor eating
- Picnic
- Enjoy peace and quiet
- No parking on site
- Connection to trails
- Water taxi access
- Represent different cultures
- Native grass
- Attract:
 - Food trucks
 - Water taxi
 - Performance space (small, informal, busking)
 - Waterfront space/access (hangout/congregate)
 - Fishing
 - Boat rack
 - Good lighting
 - Visibility from water/view corridor
 - Attractor from Burke-Gilman
 - Fish pond
 - Historical components
 - Watertrail
 - Legacy of human connection to water
 - Sakuma History/L.A.
- Deter:
 - Geese
 - Beavers
 - CSO

Comment forms

PORTAGE BAY PARK PUBLIC MEETING – JUNE 9, 2015 COMMENT FORM

Please share your ideas for Portage Bay Park:

- What park elements would you like to see at Portage Bay Park?
- How do you envision using Portage Bay Park?
- Any other thoughts/considerations as we move forward with the park design?

Water Access for small craft (kayaks, etc.)

Food (more than Agua Verde)

Public Art – maybe in Benches + Lighting +
Trash Receptacles

Vegetation for Color + Shade (or shade devices)

Great Lighting

Mix + separation of active and passive uses

No Geese

If you wish to be added to our email list, please provide your information below:

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a outdoor ideas

- pop up event at Saturday
on a summer evening

- signs at Aqua Verde

- signs at Recycled Cycles

If you wish to be added to our email list, please provide your information below:

Name: _____

Email: _____

