



## Meydenbauer Bay: Park and Land Use Plan

### Steering Committee Meeting #1

#### MEETING SUMMARY

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**DATE:** Thursday, April 19, 2007

**TIME:** 5:00 – 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Bellevue City Hall, Room IE-112

**ATTENDEES:**

**Steering Committee**

Iris Tocher  
Doug Leigh  
David Schooler  
Stu Vander Hoek  
Kevin Paulich  
Rich Wagner  
Bob MacMillan  
Marcelle Lynde  
Hal Ferris  
Merle Keeney  
Stefanie Beighle  
Betina Finley  
Al Yuen

**City Staff and Consultants**

Patrick Foran, City of Bellevue  
Dan Stroh, City of Bellevue  
Robin Cole, City of Bellevue  
Mike Bergstrom, City of Bellevue  
Owen Lang, Sasaki  
Jim Jacobs, Sasaki  
Marcia Wagoner, PRR  
Kirsten Hauge, PRR  
Allison Joe, EPS

#### SUMMARY:

##### **I. Welcome and review of the agenda**

Doug Leigh and Iris Tocher, Steering Committee co-chairs, opened the first meeting of the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan Steering Committee. They noted that future meetings would include a review of the previous meeting's minutes. The purpose of the first meeting was to provide an overview of the project as well as a site tour.

##### **II. Introductions**

Mike Bergstrom and Robin Cole introduced themselves as the project managers for the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan. Mike Bergstrom will lead the land use component,

with Robin Cole leading the parks planning. They then invited Steering Committee members, the consultant team and public attendees to introduce themselves. Following brief introductions, each Steering Committee member described their individual interests, affiliations, and past involvement with community issues and civic organizations. Combined, the members' backgrounds displayed a wide array of interests, strengths, and geographical representation.

### **III. Steering Committee Role**

Mike Bergstrom then noted that this meeting was the first of several meetings that would occur over the course of the project, with the intent to schedule regular monthly meetings. He said the City Council assembled the Steering Committee to oversee both the project and staff. Steering Committee members will consider work products brought forward for discussion and then provide recommendations to the Parks Board and City Council near the end of the project. The city recently selected a consultant team to assist with developing some of the work products and some of these consultants will attend future meetings. After each meeting, meeting minutes will be brought forward to the body for approval. Robin Cole added that since many of the members also served on other boards, the project team looked to them to act as a conduit of information to their respective boards.

### **IV. Project Overview**

Next, Robin provided background information about the project. The City of Bellevue has looked at developing a waterfront for many years. In 1953, they purchased the first piece of waterfront property, which is now the current site of Meydenbauer Beach Park. As the city looked at how to develop and nurture a waterfront, they managed to work with willing sellers to assemble a series of waterfront parcels in order to open up the waterfront to citizens of Bellevue. Now that there is adequate property available, development and planning can begin. Through the project, the city is looking to create a master plan for the park and a land use plan to encourage complementary development in the adjacent upland area.

Mike added that it was nice to see the waterfront planning come to a point where they could put policy into action. The consultant team is ready to go and is quickly jumping into work on the project. In terms of the project schedule, the moratorium placed on adjacent parcels is driving the deliverable dates. The moratorium is valid until mid-September. The City Council may decide to extend it, but they would like to see a land use plan by that time. Therefore, the initial focus is on the land use component with the intent to adopt and put into effect any changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code by December 2007. While working on the first phase, the team will also look at potential park uses and improvements and creating a park program, in order to frame the land use plan within the context of how the park will be constituted. The park master planning process will continue into 2008, identifying and reviewing alternative development alternatives, and culminating in a final Park Master Plan mid 2008.

The public process will include a series of four public meetings, with the first planned for mid-May. The first meeting will be an introductory meeting to provide initial background information and solicit broad public input. The second meeting will serve to review opportunities and constraints, with meetings regarding the land use alternatives and parks component to follow.

The Steering Committee is encouraged to participate in the public events. Public outreach to date has included briefings of other commissions and boards.

Mike emphasized that it is a big task facing the project team and Steering Committee. The work ahead will involve looking at land use between two major parks, with major challenges including the topography, building heights and blocked views to the water. Other considerations include identifying how to get people to the water and how to make the planning come together so the park reinforces the neighboring area and vice versa.

#### Comments/Questions:

- Doug Leigh asked which city staff person would serve as the primary contact for the Steering Committee. *Both Mike Bergstrom and Robin Cole will serve as primary contacts. Robin can address specific parks concerns and Mike can answer questions about land use issues.*
- Bob MacMillan asked if any other properties were targeted for acquisition. *No, however the city is interested in talking with any interested sellers.*
- Rich Wagner asked about the scope of services for the consultant team. *Sasaki, an integrated planning firm, will serve as the prime contractor, with a subconsultant team including services such as real estate, economics, civil engineering, architecture, transportation, environmental, public art and public outreach.*

#### **V. Site Tour**

Meeting participants were then invited to participate in a site tour. The site tour included visits to the Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Bay Park, newly purchased properties along the waterfront and the Whaling Building. During the site tour, staff highlighted key sites and matters of interest, and asked participants to consider such issues as:

- Access and views to the waterfront
- Drainage issues and infrastructure along the waterfront
- Need to improve upon existing environmental conditions
- Pedestrian access from Lake Washington Boulevard
- Appropriate activities at the park, balanced with the needs and concerns of adjacent neighbors
- Phasing issues due to the availability of waterfront parcels
- Increased use at the waterfront without changing the character
- Potential security issues for vessels docked at the marina

#### **VI. Future Meetings**

The Steering Committee returned to Bellevue City Hall following the site tour to discuss setting future meeting dates. Each committee member identified standing conflicts and preferences, and Mike stated that he and Robin would review other City calendars and schedules and identify a regular meeting time that fits committee members' needs. Mike will inform members of the next meeting as well as the future regular meeting time via email. Mike and Robin reminded members that meeting protocols and planning principles were included in their packets and on the agenda.

In light of the length of time spent on the tour and orientation and the need to close the first meeting, members were requested to review that information on their own.

**VII. Public Comment**

No public comment was provided. Future meetings will include a public comment period. Iris and Doug plan to discuss the placement on the agenda for public comment, so that it is most convenient for the public and useful to the committee.

**VIII. Adjourn**

City staff thanked Steering Committee members for their commitment to the process and again emphasized their excitement about beginning this important project. The meeting was then adjourned.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Schedule next Steering Committee meeting (City staff)
- Identify method for public comment (Doug Leigh & Iris Tocher)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS (who signed in):**

- Steve Kodish
- Leslie Kodish