



**WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

City Council Chambers
February 7, 2008 – 7:30 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parker at 7:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Brian Parker Kathy Diehl
 Bill Dann Clay Larson
 Steve Granholm Francesco Papalia

Members Absent Eddy So

Staff Present: Ann Chaney

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from January 3 meeting

Minutes unanimously approved. Motioned by Granholm, seconded by Diehl.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Outis: Meeting was not posted on City Hall bulletin boards.

Ed Moore: Presented to the Berkeley Waterfront Meeting a month back and raised the issue of cultural and historical aesthetics.

5. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, WHICH COULD INCLUDE REPORTS AND/OR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS IF ANY:

5-1. Selection of Committee Vice Chair

Diehl nominated Granholm as Vice Chair, seconded by Papalia, unanimously approved.

5-2. Waterfront Planning Process

a. Identify consultant firms selected for interviews

Diehl provided background on the process to date, RFQ's went out to at least 25 local consulting firms, four responses to qualifications were received. The consultant selection subcommittee is comprised of So, Diehl and Parker. The subcommittee selected three firms: RRM, Fern Tiger, and Design, Community & Environment (DC&E).

b. Develop interview questions and procedures, and select date for interviews

The consultant selection subcommittee drafted a list of interview questions. The interview date is scheduled for February 27th at 7 p.m. The consulting firms will have a copy of questions before they come in, and will be given time to make an opening statement. Interview times for the firms were determined at random. The schedule will be: DC&E, Fern Tiger, and RRM. So and Diehl will ask the interview questions. Follow up questions will be allowed as time allows. The interviews will be spaced at 55 minutes each, plus transitional time of 5-10 minutes. The first interview will begin at 7 p.m.

The interview questions were reviewed and finalized. Granholm suggested adding an additional item including the language: this planning process is considered a "grounded vision" because the future of the waterfront is envisioned by being grounded in resource analysis and administrative realities. Larson will work with Granholm to finalize the language for this question and provide to Chaney. Larson would like a public opinion survey conducted as part of the process. Parker agrees.

Public Comment

Ed Moore: suggests the Committee seek legal opinion regarding the planning process as CEQA requirements may be being overlooked.

Bob Outis: have a number of questions and comments, will do so at a meeting that is properly noticed.

Robert Hartman, GGF General Manager: invites Committee to GGF to discuss waterfront planning.

Caryl O'Keefe: likes question #4, would like to ensure community is adequately involved in process.

Larson suggested the Committee request the City Attorney review the planning process for CEQA liabilities prior to the consultant interviews.

Papalia suggests the item be referred to the City Attorney, with a response back before or as close to the 27th as possible. Seconded by Larson.

Parker suggested the City Attorney attend a future meeting to discuss the item.

Diehl motioned approval of the interview process, format and questions, with the addition of a question to be developed by Granholm and Larson. Seconded by Granholm, unanimously approved.

5-3. Input for Post-Oil Spill Restoration Plan – identify possible waterfront restoration opportunities

Chaney attended a workshop along with a number of other agencies. Authorities are now working to receive information on restoration projects that could be a result of the oil spill.

Friends of Five Creeks requested the salt marsh and lagoon restoration projects also be considered.

Parker would like hazard remediation at the bulb to be a priority.

Diehl asked for cost estimates for the restoration projects.

Granholm stated that lagoon restoration would be a good restoration project, particularly since a draft plan has already been developed for this project. Granholm also supports beach beautification.

Parker suggests the Committee take time to identify projects and prioritize. Parker suggests Friends of Five Creeks submit restoration opportunities in writing for the Committee to review.

Public Comment

Caryl O'keefe: suggests the Committee utilize this opportunity and take time to identify criteria for prioritizing restoration projects for the waterfront.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Diehl reported that she has been working with Penelope Leach and the Recreation Department to develop a volunteer force for oil spill hazards. City staff will also be obtaining training in oil spill remediation. Diehl suggested Penelope Leach be invited to a future meeting to discuss this item further. Diehl would like a running agenda item titled environmental response regarding this item and any other related items that arise.

Chaney provided an update on the burrowing owl habitat project. Construction is expected to begin in April.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7-1. Next regular meeting March 6, 2008

The City Attorney will be invited to discuss the planning process.

The Committee may utilize this meeting to review the consultant interview results and select a consulting firm.

Environmental disturbance response, and post-oil spill restoration planning will also be placed on the March agenda. Chaney will contact a variety of interest groups to alert them of the discussion regarding post-oil spill restoration. Papalia suggested getting input from the recreational user to determine what would make their recreational use better.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.