



MINUTES

WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

**Community Center
1249 Marin Avenue
Monday, May 11, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Diehl at 7:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Diehl Larson Parker
 Dann Papalia So
 Granholm

Staff Present: Ann Chaney

Others Present: Fern Tiger Associates

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve Minutes from March 9 (revised), and April 13 meetings

March 9 and April 13 minutes approved as amended. Motioned by Diehl, seconded by Granholm.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Diehl announced Green Albany Day will be held on May 17th, and the Committee will have a table at the event. Mark Campo – artist that created the heron sculpture at the waterfront. Interested in restoring the sculpture and has discussed the item with the Arts Committee.

5. PRESENTATION

5-1. Brief presentation by Fern Tiger Associates regarding the upcoming Voices to Vision sessions

FTA requested the Committee assist in promoting the upcoming sessions. Posters, banners, and reminders have been sent out. FTA provided flyers to the Committee for distribution. Approximately 50 RSVPs have been received thus far.

Parker suggested improvements to the city's website to include more graphics on the sessions, and asked about other publicity opportunities including banners.

FTA replied they are producing banners and will review the website.

Public Comment:

Brian Parsley – asked about the Sierra Club article that encourages people to frequent the visioning sessions, and urged the Committee to support the visioning process.

John Kindle – agreed with Parsley's comments.

Trevor Grayling – member of the Sierra Club approximately 600 residents are members of the Sierra Club. Supports a measurable way for FTA to ensure fairness.

Alan Marris – asked how non-residents are allowed to participate.

FTA replied that they are tracking all that attend the sessions, non-residents fall into two categories: regional stakeholders and business owners, and a visioning session will be held for each.

5-2. Brief presentation by Sustainability Committee member regarding liaison relationship

Tom Cooper, Sustainability Committee Chair provided a presentation. The Sustainability Committee is interested in developing a liaison relationship with the Waterfront Committee regarding matters of mutual interest. An example is wind power research at the waterfront. A member of the Sustainability Committee will attend the Waterfront Committee meetings.

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

6-1. Measure WW - (Reminder: Please bring proposals using the Measure WW \$771,000 format)

a. \$27 million for Eastshore State Park improvements/expansion

“...to expand and restore this eight-mile long urban shoreline park adjacent to the East Bay communities of Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany, and Richmond. Consistent with the ESP General Plan, develop access improvements, restore upland and wetland areas to enhance wildlife habitat, and to complete east shore segments of the Bay Trail.”

Granholm provided a project proposal: 1) Prepare a special area plan for the Albany Plateau, with the western portion of the plateau designed for informal recreation and trails with signage. The eastern area improved with plantings. 2) Implement special area plan. 3) Prepare a special area plan for the Albany Bulb and Neck. This will require interagency coordination, to result in identification of how to transfer the Bulb to the State. 4) Implement special area plan.

Papalia proposed the Committee request the State to take the property as-is.

So asked why the City would want to transfer the property to the State.

Chaney commented that the City requested the Bulb be included within the Eastshore State Park when it was developed.

Parker stated that there was an attempt at discussions regarding property transfer a couple of years ago, and suggests trying to initiate another discussion. Granholm agrees.

Diehl provided project proposals that were developed as part of the Cosco Busan potential projects: 1) expand existing salt marsh, 2) remove safety hazards at the Bulb

Public Comment:

Brian Parsley – supports Papalia’s proposal and Granholm’s proposal. Diehl’s proposal for cleanup would not be acceptable as the Bulb is currently not part of the Eastshore State Park.

Caryl O’Keefe – suggests the Committee take more time before making recommendations. Suggests the Committee also do more research to determine whether the City would indeed like the Bulb transferred to the State.

Alan Marris – supports Granholm’s proposal.

Diehl withdrew her proposal for rebar removal and included it within Granholm’s proposal.

Papalia will submit his proposal in writing

Diehl motioned the Committee suggest three project proposals to City Council including: Granholm’s, proposal, Papalia’s proposal, and Diehl’s proposal to expand salt marsh. Seconded by Parker.

Unanimously approved. Chaney offered to work on identifying costs associated with the proposal.

b. \$12.3 million for Bay Trail funding

“...to connect urban communities to shoreline access and wildlife viewing, opportunities by completing the 86 mile Bay Trail along the East Bay shoreline. Acquire and develop trail links to close the remaining gaps between Martinez and Fremont.”

Diehl provided the project proposal as listed in the Cosco Busan project list – construction of a permanent bay trail extension through Golden Gate Fields property. The project would include acquisition and development of the trail. A cost estimate is needed.

Granholm suggested including some flexibility given the uncertainty of the property ownership, and include options for an interim and permanent trail.

Public Comment:

Caryl O’Keefe: supports funding for a bay trail and supports Ganholm’s suggestion of flexibility, and encouraged looking at how to retain parking.

Brian Parsley: supports extension of the bay trail and encourages discussions with property owner.

Papalia asked what the timetable is for all of the project proposals.

Chaney replied that the City Council is seeking proposals early to meet submittal deadlines for next year while allowing ample time for public discussion.

Diehl motioned the Committee recommend a project proposal to City Council to create an interim or permanent bay trail, depending on whether or not land acquisition is possible through GGF property. Seconded by Papalia. Unanimously approved.

6-2. Proposed Berkeley Humane Society “Bay to Barkers” event at the waterfront

Chaney provided an update and distributed the application for use of the property for the event. The event is a fundraiser for the Humane Society. GGF has granted permission for use of the parking lot for vendors. A dog walk is scheduled as part of the event, which will include use of Albany’s waterfront property.

All dogs will be on leash. Dog waste will also be picked up. Approximately 60 volunteers work the event. A vet and medical emergency are on hand at the event.

Diehl motioned that staff proceed in permitting the Bay to Barkers event. Seconded by Parker.
Unanimously approved.

6-3. Installation of bicycle rack at Waterfront Park

Chaney provided an update – EBRPD reported that if the bike rack were placed on their property it would require going through their permitting process. Chaney asked whether the Committee supports placing this particular bike rack on city property.

So asked how many bikes the bike rack would serve.

Parker suggested using the bike rack and evaluating how well it will be used.

Papalia suggested asking Albany Strollers & Rollers select location for the bike rack.

Granholtm motioned the Committee approve installation of the bike rack and leaving the particular location up to staff discretion.

Papalia suggested Albany Strollers & Rollers be consulted. Granholtm consented.

Seconded by Dann – unanimously approved.

6-4. Waterways map display proposal

Chaney stated she has been in touch with the vendor, who has sent a large version of the display.

Chaney stated concern with potential vandalism of the sign.

Parker motioned that the offer be declined due to concerns of vandalism. Seconded by Diehl.

Unanimously approved.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8-1. Next Meeting: May 25 (Memorial Day) if deemed necessary, otherwise June 8, 2009.

Next meeting June 8th – Papalia requested dogs at the waterfront be included on the agenda – Papalia will provide a written report with options. Chaney will provide a written report reflecting what will be submitted to City Council regarding Measure WW funds.

A status report will be provided regarding the visioning sessions.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.