



# WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING Minutes

**Community Center  
1249 Marin Avenue  
Monday, March 9, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Diehl at 7:30p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Staff Present:                      Ann Chaney

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-1. Approve minutes from January 26, 2009 and February 9, 2009 meetings (attached)**

Minutes approved as amended motioned by Diehl, seconded by Larson. Unanimously approved.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Edward Moore: expressed concern about receiving information regarding the visioning process and would like information on the website.

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

**5-1. Remarks by Chair**

Diehl expressed her appreciation for the energy the community has regarding the waterfront visioning process. Diehl encourages everyone to be sensitive to the history surrounding the process and that the interactions remain respectful. Diehl also thanked Parker for his two years as Chair.

**5-2. Measure WW Subcommittee report:**

Chaney provided an overview. Measure WW consists of a total of \$500 Million. There are two categories of WW funding.

The first category consists of \$375 million for regional park acquisitions and capital projects. \$27 Million is set aside for Eastshore State Park for expansion, restoration and development, including the Albany waterfront. The City Council would like the Committee to provide recommendations for use of this funding at the Albany waterfront.

The second category consists of \$125 Million that will go to cities and districts for park and recreation services. Albany will receive a direct allocation of \$771,363. The City Council directed Park and Recreation Commission to provide recommendations on how to spend the funds allocated to Albany. City Council would like the Waterfront Committee to work with the Park and Recreation Commission to identify waterfront projects to be funded by the Measure WW allocation. Recommendations are due to the City Council by June.

**a. Funding amounts, eligibility requirements, procedures, etc.**

**b. Project selection process**

Diehl, Papalia and Granholm met to discuss the item. Diehl provided an overview of the process outline and table. Diehl would like each Committee member to propose 1-3 projects for discussion. Projects would be ranked with top ranked projects recommended to the Park and Recreation Commission. A special meeting may be held with the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss further. Both groups would then take prioritized projects to City Council. Project attributes should meet Measure WW requirements, and land should be under the city's tenure.

Chaney explained that land under tenure includes ownership, lease, joint powers or similar agreement, and governance over specific property. The District and City Attorney replied that funding would not be applicable to land that the City did not have direct control over.

Diehl asked if there was an easement for District land at the waterfront. Chaney replied that there are no easements with the city.

Chaney stated the City has tenure over the 80-foot right of way from Buchanan to the Bulb, and the Bulb.

Committee members should fill out the table and submit to Chaney for compilation.

Larson suggested staff assist in identifying cost estimates of projects.

Chaney replied that engineering staff could review projects.

Papalia suggested the Committee request approximately 15-25% of the total funds allocated to the city to be used at the waterfront. So that this total amount is identified when analyzing potential projects.

So suggested staff provide assistance for projects identified by Committee members.

Public Comment:

Joan Pierson – suggests consideration of geographic equity for the projects identified. Encourages consideration of a pocket park at Pierce Street.

Caryl O’Keefe – encourages the Committee to focus on waterfront projects and identify a percentage of total funds should be allocated to the waterfront. Asked if Park & Recreation Commission selection criteria had been sought out.

Diehl replied that the cost column would include a percent of total funds. Park & Recreation Commission does not have selection criteria as of yet.

Papalia noted that the deadline for request of funds is due by the end of this month. It is unclear as to why the Council would like this information in June when the next submittal is not due until next February.

So agreed the deadlines seem rushed, and asked Chaney if there is any concern of the city losing the funds to another jurisdiction.

Chaney replied the funds are allocated to the city with a deadline of 10 years to request the funds. Chaney will confirm the deadlines set by Council.

So suggested switching the rating column and the proposed by column.

Diehl motioned the Committee approve the project selection process developed by the Measure WW subcommittee including the summary table which will incorporate the following changes: adding a percent of total to the estimated cost column, switching the rating column and the proposed by column, and “see page 2” in the meets WW column.

Submittal of projects will be due by April 13<sup>th</sup>, unless another deadline is identified by Chaney.

Chaney suggested the item be put on the April agenda for additional discussion and any proposals that are ready at that time.

Diehl added that proposals could be presented at the Committee’s meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>, with a final deadline of April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Seconded by Papalia. Unanimously approved.

Diehl commented on the 27 Million allocated to Eastshore State Park, and suggested drafting a letter for City Council to send to the District to identify how the city can get involved in the process of deciding how these funds are spent.

Dann agreed with Diehl’s suggestions, noting that Golden Gate Fields recently claimed bankruptcy, and perhaps a portion of the property could be purchased with the funds.

Larson asked if staff could coordinate with the District to identify if there is a process in place and any deadlines.

Chaney replied she was not certain if the District had formalized the process yet.

Papalia noted he has tentatively scheduled a meeting with Whitney Dotson, the new Director of EBRPD, scheduled for March 23, and would like to invite him to attend an upcoming Committee meeting to discuss possible enhancements and acquisition opportunities.

Parker supports encouraging the District to pay special attention to the Albany portion of Eastshore State Park.

So would like clarification on the timing for funding deadlines.

Larson suggested identifying a project and proposing it to the District.

Parker offered to draft a letter for City Council

Papalia suggested the current status of Golden Gate Fields should be discussed at the visioning meetings to identify the interest of the community relating to this property.

So encouraged working with the District to identify how to best spend the funds.

Public Comment

Edward Moore: supports Dann's recommendations, encourages the city submit notification that a planning process is underway which could ultimately restrict uses at the property.

Thelma Rubin: suggests working to identify other granting agencies that could provide funding.

Larson would like to continue the item and have Chaney conduct some research to determine what the District's process may be.

Diehl motioned the Committee draft a letter for City Council to submit to the District, stating the city's interest in engaging with the District on the direction that the 27 Million will take, stating some general interest in land acquisition and land enhancement projects, and to include the waterfront visioning component.

Parker suggested the item be discussed at the April meeting.

The motion was withdrawn; the item will be continued to the April meeting.

**5-3. Report from Planning Review Subcommittee**

Papalia met with visitors to the waterfront to identify what type of enhancements they would like. Suggestions included bike racks, better bicycle access, water fountains, water fountains for dogs, more benches, dog waste bags, removal of rebar, a café, more accessible pathways, bathrooms, interpretive centers, picnic areas, better parking. Some would prefer no changes at all. Most of the people interviewed were not from Albany, and had dogs.

Papalia will incorporate some of these concepts into the Measure WW project opportunities.

Larson suggested discussing particular waterfront areas such as the cove with the Arts Committee as the Committee has identified it as public art.

So prefers use of Point Isabelle for dogs since it is organized as a dog park.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**6-1. Burrowing Owl Habitat update**

Site visits will be conducted by the contracting wildlife biologist 4x/year throughout the nesting season to evaluate the habitat. The first report indicates that the burrows are in good shape, some have been disturbed by squirrels, and that there are not any owls as of yet. Staff at the City of Berkeley is currently drafting the JPA funding agreement.

**6-2. Report on policies regarding dogs in public parks (Papalia)**

Papalia reported that there were 4 meetings, with varying attendance at the meetings. A report will be provided at the Park and Recreation Commission this month.

Certain usage times were proposed for dogs, which generally seemed to be supported by those attending the meetings. The issue arises when dogs interfere with recreation, particularly involving small children. Some rules should be developed for the waterfront as well so that people feel safe visiting the waterfront.

**6-3. Waterway map display (proposal)**

The vendor did not provide the map.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

**7-1. Next meeting planned for Monday, March 30, 2009 (special meeting) for update on Waterfront Visioning community engagement phase - Fern Tiger and Associates.**

**Next regular meeting - April 13, 2009.**

Discussion of WW project proposals will be included on the March 30 agenda and continued on the April meeting. Discussion of the Measure WW \$27 Million for Eastshore State Park will be on the April 13 meeting.

Chaney suggested two items: locating bike racks at the waterfront and televising non-waterfront visioning meetings. Diehl suggested these be put on the agenda following the April 13 meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50p.m.