

**WATERFRONT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Thursday, April 7, 2005  
Conference Room  
Albany City Hall-1000 San Pablo Avenue  
7:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Steve Granholm  
Robert Cheasty  
Preston Jordan  
Susan Moffat  
Bill Dann  
Jerri Holan

Members Absent: Billy Blattner

Staff Present: Nicole Narver

Others Present: Council Member Allan Maris, Council Member Jewel Okawachi, Caruso Development (2), Water Transit Authority (3), general public (2).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Steve Granholm at 7:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

(Consent items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. By approval of the Consent Calendar, staff recommendations will be accepted. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Committee member or a member of the public requests removal of the items from the Consent Calendar.)

- a. Approve Minutes from the March meeting (Attachment 1)  
Minutes from April meeting approved with motion by Cheasty, seconded by Jordan with corrections.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Debrief on public walking tour of the potential Bay Trail route

Jordan stated approximately 10-15 people attended the walking tour, and that the event was very educational, including the ability to have a dialogue with Moffat regarding the difference between cyclist and pedestrian perspectives. Jordan finds the connectivity to the waterfront as an issue. Jordan is curious to know what the license agreement states in terms of engineering of a trail since some engineering would be necessary.

Granholm stated that at the end of the walk it was suggested the WFC meet with the Park and Recreation and Traffic and Safety Commissions regarding the connectivity issue. Additionally the concept of a network of parks as opposed to isolated parks is an issue that should be addressed.

Moffat stated that it was interesting that no one from the Park and Recreation Commission attended the walk, and suggested the Committee set up an opportunity with the Park and Recreation Commission and the Traffic and Safety Commission to look at specific issues relating to each commission. Moffat and Jordan made maps for the walking tour, and will make those available to Committee members that were unable to attend. Many opportunities were identified for the Bay Trail, and Moffat feels that the trail is not on the radar screen of some officials as of yet.

Granholm stated that the walking tour was a good idea, and felt it was even more worthwhile after conducting the tour. The walk from Target to Buchanan demonstrated the poor design of the area resulting in a lack of pedestrian opportunities to get to the waterfront.

Moffat commented that two people fell during the tour, showing why it is important to ensure a pedestrian friendly area.

Dann stated he was disappointed with how the racetrack has done little for the Bay Trail, and that there is much more they could do.

Granholm suggested the follow up items re. the walk can be put on a future agenda.

b. Unauthorized art and homeless issues

Narver reported to the group that several City departments had met and have developed an action plan to begin addressing this issue. The action plan includes:

- City Maintenance staff shall post signage re. Park hours and notice of upcoming maintenance activities to remove debris from the area.
- City Maintenance staff shall conduct vegetation management along the trails with overgrown vegetation to gain full access to the bulb.
- Following the clearing of trails, City Maintenance staff shall remove debris remaining from the 1999 homeless relocation project including rubble from broken down encampments and any other stray debris.
- The City Administration will work to obtain the services of a social services nonprofit organization to conduct outreach to homeless people at the waterfront, informing them that it is illegal to camp in the area and provide them with information for shelters in the local area.
- City Police Department staff will work in coordination with the other departments as necessary to provide enforcement.

Narver stated that this approach was developed to provide for more of a public presence in the area. Updates will be provided to the Committee as efforts are undertaken by City staff.

Cheasty stated that the approach sounded good, particularly to have a public presence in the area. There are encampments on the smaller trails, and a more

mature encampment at the southeast edge of the bulb overlooking the bay that should be removed. Narver will share this information with City Maintenance. Granholm suggested a letter be sent to the City council regarding the homeless issue and encourage this action plan be supported. Narver will draft a letter for Granholm's review and signature.

Moffat proposed that the Committee also request that the level and frequency of maintenance at the waterfront park be the same as that at Terrace and Memorial parks. Holan stated that this would be a budget addition to the City's Maintenance budget. Maris stated that there is also the ongoing uncertainty of whether the irrigation system is working to support the recent native plantings in the area. Cheasty motioned that the Committee ask the City Council to request a maintenance schedule to mow the waterfront park equivalent to that of other City parks, and that the irrigation system is inspected and put in operation. Moffat seconded the motion, with an addition that weeding be included in the request. Passed unanimously. Narver will draft a letter to City Council for Granholm's review and signature.

c. Magna/Caruso development update

Matt Middlebrook stated that Caruso continues to meet with community groups and interested parties to seek input regarding development opportunities. Dann asked if community meetings would be held at some point. Middlebrook stated meetings would be held as part of the early stages of an EIR process.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Water Transit Authority presentation (this item conducted immediately following review of minutes)

CEO, Planning Manager and the Public Affairs Officer from the Water Transit Authority (WTA) provided a presentation to the Committee. The presentation included a history of ferry service within the greater San Francisco Bay area, issues with service, and an update on locating ferry service in the Berkeley/Albany area. In 1992 a regional ferry plan was developed, and in 1998 14 new routes were requested including the Berkeley/Albany location. In 1999 a regional ferry plan update was conducted which recommended a new route in the Berkeley/Albany area, citing three potential locations for the ferry including: University Avenue, Gilman Street and Buchanan Street. Each location has benefits and constraints.

Ridership studies indicate approximately 1,700 – 1,800 trips/day, incorporating new riders that are not currently using public transit. Estimated costs include \$12 million to acquire two new ferry vessels, \$10-20 million in construction and mitigation, and an approximate \$3.2 million per year subsidy requirement. WTA is currently acquiring the first vessel now, which will be used as a back-up vessel on existing routes.

Regional Measure 2 provides for \$12 million for vessel capital, with a ferry location entitled by 2010 or funds revert to ferry service. An additional \$10 million in capital is needed to carry out the project to completion. The expected schedule of next steps includes: Notice of Preparation of EIR – 6/05, Notice of

Determination of EIR – 4/07, Design – 5/07 – 5/08. All three potential ferry sites will be studied in the EIR (University, Gilman and Buchanan). Priorities for locating a new terminal include adjacent land uses, local approval and environmental issues. A voter poll will be conducted within the next few weeks regarding preference for ferry location.

b. Priorities for short-term improvements at waterfront

Moffat stated that there is a standing list of short-term improvements for the area such as bathrooms, picnic tables, drinking fountain, etc, but the priority is the Bay Trail. Granholm sees the Bay Trail item as separate because of the funding and licenses involved. Cheasty supports the task of identifying short-term improvements for the area, with the funding for these improvements as a separate item. Improvements would include basic amenities such as a bathroom and drinking fountain. Cheasty suggested making a recommendation to State Parks as they still have some funds remaining after the Berkeley Meadow project. Cheasty also inquired whether the Committee would be interested in looking into placement of the David Brower sculpture at the waterfront. Holan requested photos and details regarding the sculpture prior to making any decisions, and prefers open space as opposed to additional artwork. Holan also suggests the City's Art Commission should be involved. Jordan stated he does not see how the sculpture would draw people to the park. Cheasty inquired if the Committee feels it is worthwhile to have those in charge of the sculpture attend a meeting. The Committee expressed its interest in this opportunity to learn more about the sculpture.

Moffat listed short-term improvements, suggesting the City establish as a goal to develop a nature center by placing a portable at the waterfront and have the education center staffed on a part-time basis by a school or City employee serving as a nature educator. Additionally, Moffat listed picnic tables, drinking fountain and a porta-potty as short-term improvements needed at the waterfront. Moffat stated that the concept for improvements at the waterfront, including the staffed education center need to be supported by the City Council.

Holan suggested that the Committee update the plan submitted to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) in 1995 to reflect the list of short-term improvements. Cheasty stated that State Parks and the EBRPD need to be involved in developments such as a nature center. Moffat stated these short-term improvements are City-specific. Granholm stated the Committee would need to develop specifics and a plan with options for the basic amenities.

Moffat motioned that the Committee send a letter to City Council directing City staff to make an education center at the waterfront a priority, and have staff identify the feasibility of an educator and temporary items including picnic tables, porta-potty, and drinking fountain. Granholm seconded the motion.

Cheasty suggested the motion be broken down. Holan is supportive of the motion, but would like to focus on the short-term items.

Cheasty motioned that the Committee request porta-potty, picnic tables, drinking water, an educational center and possibly a playground area. Also, he suggested asking for some kind of commitment to staffing the education center however, since the staff issue will take longer the focus should be on short-term improvements. Dann suggested the Committee take small steps and see if

something can be accomplished, such as porta-potty, picnic tables and drinking fountain as opposed to shooting too far. Holan agrees with Dann.

Jordan suggested this item be looked at further by putting it on another agenda and looking at the plans in place for the park. Granholm asked if Moffat would accept the idea of looking into the issue further. Moffat stated that the issue has been raised several times and needs to be on the City's radar screen. Cheasty feels more discussion is necessary, but a letter could still be sent to the Council identifying the main ideas, and motioned that a letter of a conceptual nature be developed and circulated for review by the Committee. Dann seconded the motion. Vote in favor: Dann Moffat and Cheasty.

Opposed: Granholm, Jordan and Holan.

Granholm stated he is not certain what the letter would include at this point, and suggested an attempt at drafting a letter be conducted for review at the next meeting. Jordan agreed with Granholm's suggestion and would like to see the concept more developed. Granholm and Moffat will work to draft a letter prior to the May meeting.

- c. Establish process for discussing goals and criteria for Waterfront planning  
It was agreed to postpone this item to a future agenda.

#### VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Graffiti abatement on garbage containers at Waterfront (Attachment 2: Staff Report)  
Cheasty motioned to approve the painting garbage containers to remove graffiti. Jordan seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- b. Waterfront signage – acknowledge Allan Maris as author of poem (Attachment 3: Staff Report)  
Cheasty motioned to approve development of a new sign to include the poem credit for Alan Maris. Granholm seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- c. Waterfront Cove artist acknowledgement (Attachment 4: Staff Report)  
Jordan motioned that the Committee support acknowledging the Cove artist. Cheasty seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

#### IX. NEXT AGENDA

Granholm suggested "Next Agenda" be relabeled as "Future Agenda Items". For the May agenda it was agreed that the Bay Trail would be discussed. Granholm will invite Larry Tong to the meeting. Also, a continuation of the short-term improvements will be on the May agenda. Cheasty would like to include an update on the bulb transition to Eastshore State Park. The remaining items will be put on the June agenda:

- a. Eastshore Community Market
- b. Eastshore State Parks funding for Albany: list of funding needs
- c. Bond issue/financing options for potential land acquisition at the Waterfront
- d. Invite EBRPD to discuss funding of short-term improvements at waterfront and "temporary license" for trail through Magna property.

#### X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.