

Present were: Gail Fleming, chair; Joann Quintana, member; Marianne Edain, recording; Stan Berryman, Public Works; Tim Callison, Mayor; Peter Morton, City Council liaison; Jay Davenny, Seawall Park consulting designer; representatives of the Seawall Park subcommittee; Frank Rose of the Arts Commission; Guy Burneko and others.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm

Review and approve July 11, 2018 minutes: The July 11, 2018 minutes were approved as presented.

Seawall Park design presentation: Jay Davenny presented 4 large drawings and gave a detailed report on his proposal. He proposes to move the extension of Anthes to the west and to provide space for future stairs or a lift parallel to the Dog House. He proposes a shower/wash station by the stairs to the beach and to pave the existing trail as a concrete walkway, but segmented to allow for drainage. The intent is to integrate the private easement with the public area. He intends to use hedges to define individual areas. He proposes long narrow tables and a "serenity circle" surrounded by shaped windbreaks. He agrees that all plantings are to be native material, recognizing that at present the bluff is overgrown with invasive exotics. He proposes a raised viewing table surrounded by a hedge 4' – 6' tall with a native grass understory.

He proposes to put a cover over the stairs at the Boy & Dog, which would also provide the necessary scaffolding to begin restoration of the bluff, and a canopy at the base of the stairs. He proposes a large "sharing table" with chairs and planting a small grove of Garry oaks close to the bulkhead.

At the east end he proposes a covered picnic shelter, with all sides open but surrounded by an oyster-shell filled double fence and a wood fence and yew hedge directly adjacent to the existing dilapidated fence at the far east end.

Joann presented power-point slides to demonstrate some of the concepts. There is a need to verify continued vehicle access to the public works facilities at the base of Anthes. There is consideration of painting that access road. On top of the old treatment plant – Whale Bell Park – there is a proposal for something Jay calls a Sand Dabber, a sand filled frame with light shining from underneath, something like a giant etch-a-sketch. There is also a proposal for a "burning stump," which is designed to look like a burning cedar stump. The fire is provided by a propane flame. This would actually be a building, a warming area, roughly 12' x 14'. The flame would likely be on a timer, so burning only when people are present. The current trail would be converted to a promenade by creating curves. Into the pockets of those curves would be the small narrow picnic tables.

Mayor Tim gave a bit of history, saying that there is no legal easement on the private property, just a "trail of use." He pointed out that Seawall Park is on reclaimed land. The owners gave the tidelands to the city in exchange for the city building the seawall to protect their properties. Those owners have an interest in legal access to the lower levels of their structures. Mayor Tim said there was work to be done to deal with the city's ownership. Jay repeated that it was his intent to make the walkway/promenade on the easement. Joann explained that Mayor Tim is in discussion with the property owners on this point. That matter is not yet resolved.

The Serenity Circle would contain metal sculptures. The canopy at the base of the stairs below the Boy & Dog would hug the bluff and have a translucent roof. There would be a scaffolding in place to provide access to the roof for periodic cleaning. The shelters at the east end would be surrounded by windbreaks made of welded wire 6" – 8" apart, filled with oyster shells. There would be two wash stations, and possibly lockers, made of wire mesh so contents are visible.

Mr Chris Salomone, who works on accessibility issues stated that at the Dog House end an elevator was likely the most economical solution. At the east end he suggested a funicular. This, of course, led to some intense discussion. He pointed out that he was looking only from a pricing viewpoint. He was hoping to create a universally accessible loop, which he said would be a boon to economic development. He also said he was looking into funding.

In response to a question about replacing the current fence on top of the seawall, Jay said he liked it as it is, but recognizes that it is deteriorating and will eventually have to be replaced.

Pam Schell asked about the tall light posts. Joann said those would be coming down, to be replaced by low pathway lighting, activated by motion sensors, so they would not be shining all the time.

In response to a question about the earlier 'needle panic,' Mayor Tim said that had all died down, but that this current process is a result of that. The needle users have evidently moved on. The working hypothesis is that by making Seawall Park more popular there will be more eyes on the area.

Mayor Tim said he had looked up all the relevant documents, and wanted to know where the interpretive signs would go. Jay said that will happen, but in a later phase. Right now he is working on the basics. Likely signs could go inside one of the shelters. Mayor Tim suggested consulting with Bob Waterman, who was responsible for the relatively new signs at the marina.

Joann said that POS is actively seeking feedback, and intends to bring this proposal to the public in September.

Councilman Morton pointed out that several parts of this presentation are really art. That leaves an opening for future action. It would be good to make that known.

Marianne questioned the energetics of the lighting and the flame. Jay responded that the lighting would be on demand. He had not yet analyzed the propane use but thought it would likely be affordable.

Ms Robin Black expressed safety concerns around the presence of a propane tank, the risk of fire, and use by homeless people. Joann pointed out that there would be no enclosed structures, so all activity would be visible. Jay said the propane tank would be by the Whale Bell to allow for access by a propane delivery truck. From the tank the propane would be piped down to the “burning stump.”

Gail asked about a sheltered changing area. Jay had not considered that need.

Gail said that Edmonds Beach Park contains a lot of Georgia Gerber sculptures, which she thought were delightful. She wondered if Georgia might be amenable to providing one or more sculptures for Seawall Park, and thought that would be a good Arts Commission project. Joann agreed to look into it.

Pam Schell seconded the need for a changing space, saying that ocean swimming is becoming very popular. Jay suggested that people could change in the “burning stump” structure. Joann suggested a minimalist shelter by the shower.

Jay presented a prototype of the light for examination, and of the sand dabber.

Mayor Tim said that he wants action from POS, to be able to go forward either to council or to a community meeting.

Councilman Morton said council would ask for a budget. Stan responded that he would include this in his 2019 budget request. Joann pointed out that this will be accomplished in phases and that various groups are discussing fundraising. Mr Morton continued that we have a budget, we have phases, but we have no specific duties as yet. POS needs council approval to take this concept to the public. City staff will help with the staging. There following an in-depth discussion of funding, sources, and city obligations. It was noted that the project would need to be reviewed by the city’s consulting engineers.

It was agreed that Peter Morton, Stan Berryman, Sharon Emerson, Frank Rose, and Joann would meet to refine the proposal, including budget projections and public outreach.

POS, after much discussion and a great deal of wise counsel from Peter Morton, resolved to recommend to council the Seawall Park concept and plan, to present the concept and plan to the public, and to return to council with a summary of those public comments.

Goosefoot grant update: Marianne reported that the application was submitted, and now we wait for a response from Goosefoot.

Access Committee update: because time was running short, this item was not addressed.

Trails update: Former assistant planner Kelsey provided a draft trails plan. The first priority is outer loops, the second is inner loops, and the third is connectors between those loops. Kelsey was unable to finish a final draft before she left. Gail invites POS members to do a final review and edits and post them to her for forwarding to Stan. Gail reported that Guy Burneko and Shanti Loustaunou attempted to explore and map a connecting trail from Coles Road to Al Anderson. Guy was impressed with Shanti’s intimate knowledge of the area. Gail read Shanti’s report, which concluded that there was no clear path forward. Guy suggested that a follow up visit with a GPS and detailed maps would be helpful. Joann suggested contacting Debra Waterman, owner of one of the intervening properties. All agreed that to have worthwhile and functional trails they need to be on land whose owners agree. He proposes that we consider offering tax breaks, hold harmless agreements, and similar inducements.

There being no other items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

The next regular meeting will be September 12, 2018 at 3:00 pm.