

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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Elaine Wine, Vice Chair

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Adam Amrhein

Erica Bush

Elizabeth Conner

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Amalia Leighton

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Molly Spetalnick

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
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Planner

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November 3, 2022

Convened 9:00 am

Adjourned 11:00 am

Projects Reviewed

Lake City Floodplain Park

Commissioners Present

Vinita Sidhu, Chair

Matt Aalfs

Adam Amrhein

Erica Bush

Elizabeth Conner

Jill Crary

Amalia Leighton-Cody

Molly Spetalnick

Commissioners Excused

Elaine Wine

Puja Shaw

Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Windy Gay

Juliet Acevedo



November 3, 2022
9:00 am - 11:15 am

Project: Lake City Floodplain Park
Type: CIP
Phase: Concept Design
Previous Reviews: None
Presenters:
Tracy Banaszynski, Mid Sound Fisheries
Amber Mikluscak, Watershed Company

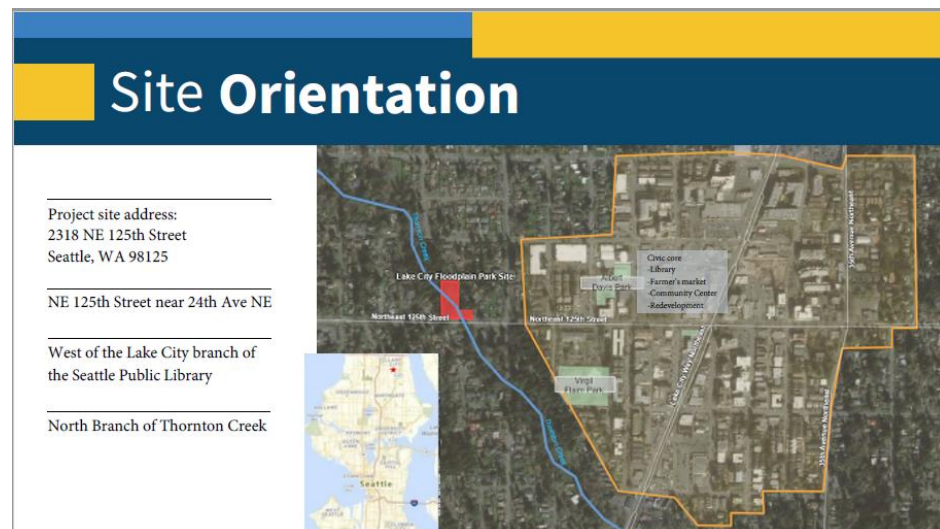
Attendees:
Amani Moyer-Ali, Mid Sound Fisheries
Holly Scarlet, SPU
Chapin Pier, SPU
Dave LeClergue, SPU
Jonathan Pagan, SPR

Recusals and Disclosures

Amalia disclosed that she works on other creek projects but not this one.

Project Description

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) have developed a proposal to revive the health of a segment of Thornton Creek at and near the Lake City Flood Plain Park, while supporting community programming within the park. Through a partnership between Mid Sound Fisheries, SPU and SPR has proposed upgrades to the segment of Thornton Creek to advance health of the creek and enhance the public open spaces at Lake City Flood Plain Park.



Meeting Summary

This is the Seattle Design Commission's (SDC) first review of the Lake City Floodplain project. The purpose of this meeting was to review the concept design phase (30% design) for the project. The SDC voted 7-1 to approve the concept design with several recommendations. The project will be reviewed again at the schematic design phase (60% design) and at the design development (90%) phase.

Summary of Presentation

Tracy Banaszynski, Project Manager for Mid Sound Fisheries led the applicant team in a presentation on their initial concepts for the Forest City Floodplain Project. The vision of the project is to:

- Create a space that connects a diverse Lake City community to an improved, accessible natural area.
- Restore Thornton Creek on the property to a more natural state to reduce large-scale flooding.
- Create and restore healthy habitat for salmon and wildlife.

Concepts for the project and the program included:

- Relying on science to drive all decisions about creek alignment
- Elevating equity through active community engagement exercises
- Using public engagement outcomes to guide park program and design

The following image shows the options to accomplish the project vision and concepts.



Conceptual Design Options

Agency comments

None

Public Comments

None

Summary of Discussion

The Commission deliberated over five topics - ACCESS, SAFETY, PHASING, DESIGN, and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. Their discussion points are below

1. ACCESS

- Commissioners would like more information on pedestrian and vehicular access to the site, to better understand how people will arrive to the site.
- More information should be provided on how onsite access will occur for site operations and maintenance crews, including the role of the ROW versus onsite access in achieving this work
- Commissioners support a 2nd access point to the site, with the understanding that topography provides challenges to accomplish that goal
- A slide should be provided to illustrate how visual and physical access will occur from the abutting public realm, including any vegetation or tree management to accomplish this. This should include information on existing trees and topography (existing conditions) with design options
- SDOT should be included and engaged in all ROW solutions for access and circulation, including crosswalks and other ROW improvements
- Explore partnerships on abutting properties for trail easements, including properties from the north

2. SAFETY

- Commissioners are concerned that personal safety will be compromised with one access point
- More information should be provided on how safety will be enhanced through the size and scale of circulation and site lighting
- Dead ends should be reconsidered as they can affect safety within the park area
- Where long stretches of walkway occur, there should be improvements that allow people to pass each other with ease
- Make sure widths of paths will support all types of users (passing strollers etc.)

3. PHASING

- Phasing of site improvements and culvert installation are the key to a successful outcome. Without this integration and coordination, the Commission is concerned about how the project can proceed. If coordination on project delivery isn't possible, a plan should be developed to show the reality of installing the culvert after implementation of the park portion of the project.
- Drawing that shows your thinking around phasing is light of culvert

4. DESIGN

- Commissioners commented that the 3 design options shown may be only one option and that it would be nice to see the team explore other design language and/ or concepts that might help them solve some of the problems that currently exist with access and safety.
- Update each design option to show vehicular access - on and offsite - integrated into project design

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Work with the Office of Arts and Culture on opportunities to integrate Art at the site
- Continue to work and expand on the public engagement strategies to inform project designs
- Provide demographic information on the individuals or groups involved in the public engagement
- Continue community involvement via on-site walk-throughs with diverse population representing all local communities.

Action

The Seattle Design Commission approves the Concept Review for Lake City Floodplain Park Project

... with the following recommendations:

- Listed in bullet points above

Votes for: 7

Votes against 1

Abstention: 0

Reason for voting against (by commissioner)

Amalia Leighton-Cody | **Broader approach to Thornton Creek** - Commission wants to see a broader approach to how community engages with the creek in general (not just this site). What are the various efforts past, present and future along Thornton creek and how can this project slot into those efforts to address the needs of the creek and community more broadly. Can you combine this work with other work to apply for more funding?