



Seattle Design Commission

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Mary Johnston

Dennis Ryan

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Executive Director

Layne Cubell
Senior Staff

MEETING OF THE MINUTES

March 15, 2007

Projects Reviewed

Fire Station Building Program
Fire Station 28—Rainier Valley
Denny Park and Playspace
Commission Business
Alaskan Way Landing
Major Projects

Convened: 8:30am
Adjourned: 3:00pm

Commissioners Present

Karen Kiest, Chair
Pam Beyette
Evan Bourquard
Brendan Connolly
John Hoffman
Mary Johnston
Dennis Ryan
Darrell Vange

Staff Present

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15 Mar. 2007 Project: **Fire Station Building Program**
Phase: Overview
Previous Briefing: January 2004, August 2004, March 2006
Presenters: Dove Alberg, Fleets and Facilities Department
David Kunselman, Fleets and Facilities Department
Chief Molly Douce, Seattle Fire Department
Christina Faine, Fleets and Facilities Department
Theresa Rodriguez, Fleets and Facilities Department
Ruri Yampolski, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs
Attendees: Jess Harris, Department of Planning and Development

Time: 1.0 hours

(SDC Ref. #169/RS0609)

Summary: The Design Commission appreciates the thorough overview of the Fire Station Building Program. The following are the highlights of the presentation:

- **Understand the important connection between station siting and response time**
- **Commend the highly successful public outreach process and use of the web**
- **Appreciate the use of station apparatus bays as the focal point for public meetings and the two-stage process of public involvement as well as the inclusiveness of the open houses**
- **Sustainability goals for fire facilities parallel the Mayor's Office goals for sustainability. Strategies include: investing upfront to reduce costs, celebrating place, enhancing operations and promoting health and wellness, among others**
- **Green features such as water reclamation and thermal comfort are included in most fire stations and most will strive for Silver LEED certification**
- **The art program includes 11 stations. The artists will be involved with the design of the projects and include community input. About \$90,000 will be spent per project.**
- **The walk through of a "Day in the life of a fire fighter" was very engaging**
- **Critical aspects for fire fighters are response time, replenishing supplies, preparing for the unexpected and the unpredictability of the job**

Proponent's Presentation

Projects

There are five different types of projects: new, replacement, seismic retrofit, additions and renovations. Some have been designated historic structures and will be reviewed by Landmarks. Fire Stations #28 and #31 are the first stations to be reviewed by the Commission. Currently there are five other projects in the pre-design phase that will be reviewed by the Commission in 2007:

Fire Station #30, Mt. Baker: Urban, near light rail and Franklin High School

Fire Station #35, Crown Hill: Tight site, challenging project

Fire Station #37, High Point: New site, City Light substation, lot line project

Fire Station #38, Ravenna: Property acquired, corner lot, currently in remediation, tight site

Fire Station #39, Lake City: Second largest, some flexibility on the site

Upcoming Projects that are in other stages:

Fire Station #21, Greenwood

Fire Station #32, West Seattle Junction

Fire Station #6, Central District
Fire Station #20, W. Queen Anne – on hold?

Fire Station #9, Fremont:
Fire Station #22, Roanoke

Public Process

Websites are being used more to engage the public, as well as direct consultants, contractors and architects. Christine is charged with getting the word out to the public (residents and businesses) about fire station projects. There are two open houses scheduled: the first shows the scope of work, the second shows imagery to get public reaction. Open houses are held in the apparatus bays and tables are set up in the station where consultants talk about the projects and fire fighters talk about their duties and also do blood pressure tests, emergency preparedness, etc. The turnout has been great—kids and parents are excited to attend. Notification is done in the neighborhood service area through the direct mail.

Sustainability

The goals for sustainability in the Fire Station projects are aligned with the Mayor’s goals, which include: climate protection, green Seattle urban forest, restore our waters, and healthy people in communities. Remodels/additions and replacements are eligible for Silver LEED certification. Seismic safeties are not eligible for LEED certification; however they are encouraged to integrate sustainable features when the opportunity arises. Eco-charrettes were funded by DPD and took 1.5 days. These examined sustainable strategies for fire stations.

Five primary principles were used to guide design strategies:

Invest upfront	Promote health, safety and wellness
Water reclamation	Enhance operations
Celebrate place	Let nature work for you

Water reclamation and thermal comfort were foremost concerns. Most Fire Stations currently have limited ventilation. Fire fighter’s needs are different than office workers, and they are there 24 hours a day and undergo more stress and heat than other occupations. Eco-charrettes focused on specific stations will be held for all LEED eligible projects.

Arts

We had to ask ourselves if it was feasible to add art in every project. When looking at the budget, it made more sense to select new stations and focus on those. Since funds have expanded, there will be art incorporated into all 11 new and replacement projects. We are looking for art that engages the community and is visible from the exterior. For practical purposes, the stations have requested that the art be able to be moved if needed. A roster of 50 artists has been created to bring to communities. At that point the artist will be selected. Additional selections will be made this summer.

A Day in the Life of a Fire Fighter

Some stations have 8 cars; some have EMS units that are staffed by paramedics, who are also fire fighters. Fire fighters work 24 hour shifts, starting at 7:30am. There is some predictability, and there is a certain element of stress of uncertainty. Regular duties include: equipment checks, cleaning and maintenance, stock supplies, and inspect buildings. Once the alarm goes off, they should be on the rig in less than one minute. The key is to be as available as possible all the time.

Commissioner Questions and Comments

- Did the arts planning process consider stations that are not affected by the redevelopment plan?

- A new station gives the ability to leverage funds and the more you divide them the pot gets smaller. This is also used to attract more capable artists. There are also geographic equity concerns. This will be explored further given the funds.
- Why are stations referred to by number in the possessive which implies ownership?
 - It is more inclusive.
- Does the fire department review designs prior to the Commission?
 - Oh yes! We have collaboration and they take our concerns to heart and incorporate them prior to presenting them to the Commission. There are also two representatives from the station assigned to each oversight team.
- Are there areas of friction between how stations want to be designed and what is required in the land use and building codes?
 - Yes, curb cuts should be wider and we are currently working on it. Also site coverage in residential areas. Simply locating these in areas where the zoning does not allow is challenging. These require council approval if they are in a single-family zone.
- Please clarify what are the pros and cons regarding water re-use.
 - In some stations fire fighters drill off of a hydrant—this is a lot of water use. If this can be recaptured then water is saved. Also the truck is cleaned daily. The payback period is long—it doesn't pay for itself in the short-run. The storage and filtration is costly. Technical briefs are written so resources are available to do research. Sources and uses need to be balanced.
- Are there other sustainable strategies that you've deemed inappropriate?
 - Indoor air quality and natural ventilation has been examined and is a real challenge in these facilities.. Exhaust and hazardous material upon returning from calls raises concerns. Energy conservation is a main strategy.

15 Mar. 2007 Project: **Fire Station 28—Rainier Valley**
Phase: Schematic Design
Last Review: February 2007
Presenters: David Kunselman, Fleets and Facilities Department
Keith Schreiber, Schreiber Starling and Lane
Stephen Starling, Schreiber Starling and Lane
Jennifer Barnes, Schreiber Starling and Lane
Jess Harris, Department of Planning and Development

Time: 1.0 hours

(SDC Ref. #169/RS0609)

Action

The Design Commission would like to thank the design team for its thoughtful consideration of previous concerns from the Commission as well as those from fire fighters. The Commission unanimously recommends approval of schematic design with the following comments:

- **The evolution of the landscape design and the incorporation of vegetated group elements is appreciated, but it is suggested that these be more integrally included at this point**
- **The evolution of the landscape design and the incorporation of vegetated group elements is appreciated, but it is suggested that these be simplified and more integrally included at this point**
- **Enhanced integration of architectural and landscape elements is encouraged**
- **Editing and simplification of the landscape palette is encouraged**
- **Recommend the inclusion of the drive apron in the palette of landscape materials**
- **The Commission supports the aggressive water and solar strategies, particularly the adaptive re-use of the basement as a water reclamation storage tank and encourages that these elements be presented in an understandable manner to the public (without relying solely on explanation plaques)**
- **Remain concerned with the placement of the beanery and dayroom functions and their relationship to the public face of the building, but realize and understand the needs and concerns of the fire fighters and their activities in the building**
- **The Commission encourages the increased transparency of the public lobby and circulation core**
- **The Commission appreciates the incorporation of natural ventilation opportunities and supports the use of the natural stack effect in the pole chimney spaces as a mechanical strategy**
- **The Commission has some concerns over the material demarcation on the façade and suggests simplifying and reinforcing the simple and elegant building diagram**
- **The Commission encourages future collaboration between the artist and landscape architect**

Proponent's Presentation

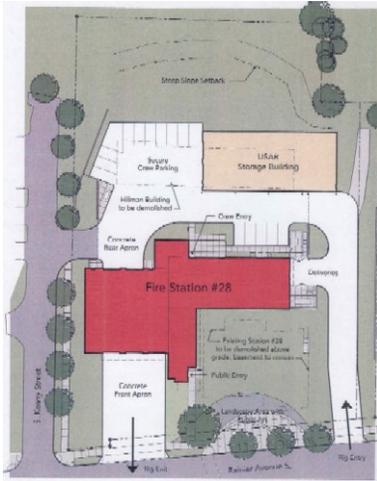
Seven elements that were brought to the Team's attention at the last review:

- The placement of activities on the site
- How the building addresses the street

- How this project is approached given it is a single family neighborhood
- Exploring further the opportunity to incorporate sustainability features
- Further development of iconic Fire Station features
- Reducing pavement
- Landscape integration

Building

The fire engines are the most recognizable iconic element for fire stations. There is a small, but public function in the front office area. During site development, the objective was to achieve a balance between public amenities while allowing privacy for the fire fighters that essentially live there. It should be a public amenity, but not for sleeping and with low maintenance.



Major sustainable design initiatives that we are examining include surface water collection and reuse for truck washing. It is proposed to store this water in the existing basement. Roof mounted solar panels will be used to heat water and roof water will be used for toilet grey water and green roofs. Heat gain will be reduced using window overhangs, etc.

Brick is the primary exterior material; the fire fighters have advocated for brick to stick with tradition. Red and brownish-grey is being considered. Pre-cast concrete detailing is also being considered at windowsills and a band at the base. Fire poles are iconic and are celebrated. The rigs are also iconic and the apparatus bays are more transparent to highlight these. Signage is also an important iconic element. Bringing life to the street is important and making the front transparent. The crew has been met with and the permeability has been explored. They want their living functions on the back of the site. Windows have been added to the dayroom.

Landscape

Low irrigation and low maintenance plants have been selected. The landscape should be public, but separate from the station. There is a gravel walk included that winds through the landscape, but not too close to the building. Guiding principles include movement, color, texture, providing a backdrop for the art and visual access guided design. Plant materials selected are drought-tolerant and meet the project goals. Undulation is occurring with the material which is brought across and to the north. One existing oak tree will remain onsite.

Commissioner Questions and Comments

- Have the artists had conversations with the landscape architect?
 - This is in the works, but is not in full swing. There have been previous meeting and the artist is scheduled to spend a day with the crew and he is to present conceptual proposals.
- This is outdoor artwork?
 - Yes, he is a bronze sculptor.
- Why do they not want the dayroom on the public side?
 - The beany is the kitchen, the dayroom is more of a cave where they watch TV or listen to music. This is a sanctuary for de-stressing. They have preconceived

ideas of what it should be given what it is currently like. This also needs to directly address the apparatus bay.

- How much soil is on the basement?
 - It has not been graded, but we are estimating 2-3 feet. There is an opportunity for mounding also.
- Could it be phased to add activity to the back? There is a large space on the front without activity and the back is confined. Could the back be flipped?
 - The fire fighters insist on being in the back. They will be in the back regardless of which space is nicer.
- It is great that the discussion has happened. Could some activity switch to create a little transparency? We encourage you to push them just a little further.
 - Placing the beanery on the front was explored and is not feasible.
- Reusing the existing basement is great! This should remain a core function. This could be used to educate the public and as a rationale for why the building is set back so far. Make this an interpretive element and help the public understand. This should be more intuitive and obvious and not a small detail.
- I do not think the fire fighters need to be put in the public's eye. This is not their primary job and these functions do not need to be pushed to the front.
- The elevation is unsatisfying and broken up into different materials. You need to make the public element a lot stronger; it needs to stand out more.
- It seems there are two different projects; it seems there are some architectural elements that are lagging. Currently, there is a tree blocking the tower—these should be more coherent. The artist's input should be brought in earlier on.
- Could you talk more about the air and mechanical element?
 - There are two wings, one dirty and one clean. There is a natural break from the dirty wing; this is continuing to be explored.
- There is no way to make the back yard bigger?
 - The site plan reflects a larger patio and landscape area, there are 5-6 more feet
- The storage building is not developed in the plans
 - Right now it is budgeted as a pre-engineered metal storage building. Patterning or coloring is being explored to relate it back to the remainder of the site.
- In terms of the landscape plan, if there are too many species how will this be kept?
 - The plants have been selected for their low maintenance—taking off flowers, which is seasonal. There will be a maintenance manual for each plant so that they are not carved and more maintenance is required. This is packed in to minimize weeding.
- We are encouraging editing, so there is no need to understand several species of plants. The pallet is too big.
- The gravel path through the front and adulation is striking in the plans—this should be stretched through the apron.
- The glass entry is light and airy, but the grey brick is above it is contradictory. This should be rethought, and the split on the organization (wings) is suggested that the grey brick and red brick they grey should go above the canopy—change the material break. This makes the apparatus seem more like a unit.
- Roof gardens are not articulated.
 - This will end up being an alternative bid item. The tray system will be used. It shouldn't look sloppy, so the plant selection will be critical and reflect some of the color from below and mostly sedums.
- The roof garden is encouraged and should be designed to fit in the budget.

- The building is elegant, the material and application of color fits with the diagram of the building at this point. Consider further color schemes.
- I appreciate the enlargement and different treatment of the patio, but encourage taller landscape elements and more enclosure for the patio.

15 Mar. 2007 Project: **Denny Park and Playspace, 100 Dexter Avenue North**
Phase: Schematic Design
Previous Reviews: No previous reviews
Presenters: Pamela Kliment, Department of Parks and Recreation
Dana Staikides, The Berger Partnership

Time: 1.0 hours

(SDC Ref. #169/RS0605)

Action

The Design Commission would like to thank the design team for their presentation. The Commission unanimously recommends approval of schematic design and provides the following comments:

- **The Commission commends the team for their thorough public outreach and numerous open houses and workshops**
- **The general goals of revitalization which serve to make Denny Park more safe and useful are supported**
- **Questions remain about the funding of this ambitious plan**
- **The Commission would like to know more about the security plan for the park**
- **The Commission would like to see a stronger strategy and rationale for tree removal**
- **There should be stronger gestures at the corners of the park to enhance views both in and out**
- **Including the Park's Department parking lot in the plan is encouraged**
- **The Commission encourages the design team to take a longer-term view**
- **Having sections and larger studies of the surrounding area to put the park in context is recommended**
- **The Commission urges you to promote this plan in the South Lake Union interpretive center**
- **Generally the Commission supports retaining elements of the 1930s plan rather than other plans**
- **The Commission supports the removal of the under story and supports the removal of trees only if trees are added along 8th Avenue**

Proponent's Presentation

Site and Project Scope

"Renew and Remember" is the motto for the friends of Denny Park. This aims to respond to the changing nature of the neighborhood. It is located on the corner of Dexter Avenue and John Street. Currently there is an administration building, a parking lot and a large center with radiating pathways. The current scope of work does not include the administration building. This process began when a coalition of schools asked for \$70,000 for construction of a play area. They were given \$100,000 and asked to use the neighborhood matching fund for an



additional \$100,000.

Public Process

The public process was unusual from Parks typical protocol. There was a large amount of people who responded to the site signage—there were three public meetings, three open houses and mailings. Those who were using the park were questioned as well as the tenants of the Denny Park Apartments. This gave ideas about what should be retained.

Current Design

Currently this park has an identity crisis; it is not well used, not visible from the street and it is unsafe. This is Seattle’s oldest park. A site analysis shows circulation patterns, relationship to the street and parking and areas with sun breaks through the dense tree canopy and also neighboring structures such as residences and churches.

Users of the park include students from schools, administrators, residents, churches, but overall it is not well used. Drug dealers and prostitutes inhabit the park. Trees were planted in the 30s, they are large, still growing and worth retaining. They do provide too much shade and are too numerous. There are only small pockets that allow sunlight to penetrate the canopy. There are a few poor heath/hazard trees that will be removed. The visibility was hindered by shrubs which were not part of the original design—this under story makes it feel closed in. Conifers are less desirable and can be removed to create more sunshine.

Design Guidelines

Safety	Tell the history
Revitalize the park	Make connection to the neighborhood
Give it an identity	Maintain accessibility in the park
Respect the trees	Increase its usefulness
Provide vegetation management	Celebrate its uniqueness

Park Uses

Children’s play area	Water
Lunch eating spots	Neighborhood information center
Gathering spaces	Urban wildlife habitat
Green retreat to decompress	Concessions
Arboretum using existing trees	Parks administration, context
Athletics (active vs. passive)	

Proposed Design

When designing the park, the design team used community member’s comments. The community wanted to hang onto the configuration of the park and not use the organic path system. They also preferred the central openness. There was a strong desire for water incorporation and they were not opposed to careful tree removal. They also wanted gathering/sitting areas.

The seating takes advantage of views of the space needle. The statue was kept. The Parks administration building has public restrooms which may be renovated. The crisscross pathways are narrowed and park entry points at the corners with special paving. The open area has some trees removed for the lawn. The play area is located in the northeast area because it was the flattest. People did not want the large colorful playground. The design was inspired by the create uses of simple elements. It is very natural but not over-intellectualized. The community event

space is paved and there are covered shelters with picnic tables. The story of the park should be told, possibly along the paved walkways. Plants should be easy to maintain.

Commissioner Questions and Comments

- The existing building, is there a future plan for that?
 - It is not in the scope of this project, and the future is unknown. We do not want to include this in the conversation. The community had many different thoughts.
- This does not look like \$200,000. What is the long-term funding strategy?
 - This is a \$300,000 budget, with design development; the cost will be more understood. Lighting is also a concern. The interactive water feature is costly, but it should be kept in the discussion. There is a possibility for pressuring more funding from City Council.
- Did you include park security or police in the planning efforts?
 - Yes, there was no formal CPTED analysis, but there has been communication with parks security.
- It is important to have something to be realized with the budget.
- The edge should be reconsidered. The central area and parking lot should be addressed with this project.
 - The edge has been considered.
- Section drawings should be done to see how this park relates to the larger context.
- Is the basketball court remaining?
 - Probably not, it will be developed by Vulcan.
- Massive development will occur east of this and the tax revenues should allow for more funding.
- Interpretive center in South Lake Union should promote this park through their marketing.
- Parks has suffered with the removal of trees at Occidental Park—this removal effort should be proactive.
- Instead of having a net loss of trees, add trees to the edges near the streets.
- That is great that you are looking beyond the scope some and not limiting to the play area
- Are you waiting for funding to define the play area?
 - Correct, there are some fun doodles, but it is early in conceptual design
- Keep in mind what is real with the budget.
 - This is a piece we will install first
- In retaining the neoclassical character, it is great to having a different non-Olmstead park to provide differentiation and diversity.
- The tree planting system does not correspond to the walkways.
- The parking lot looks odd.

1 Mar. 2007 Project: Commission Business

Time: 2.0 hours

ACTION ITEMS

A. Timesheets

B. Minutes from 03/01/07/Bell

DISCUSSION ITEMS

C. 2007 DC Recruitment/Cubell

D. Outside Commitments/All

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E. City Industrial Lands Discussion Series, March – May

15 Mar. 2007 Project: Alaskan Way Landing
Phase: Plan Update
Previous Reviews: May 2005, July 2006
Presenters: David Graves, Department of Parks and Recreation

Time: 1.0 hours

(SDC Ref. #220/RS0605)

Excused: Commissioner Darrell Vange did not attend this session
Disclosure: Commissioner Evan Bouquard and Commissioner Brendan Connolly both announced the involvement of their firms in the renovation of the Aquarium, a separate but adjacent project

Action

The Design Commission thanks Parks staff for the plan update presentation. The Commission approves the latest conceptual plan with the following caveats:

- **An improved pedestrian environment should be created as part of this plan and the beach experience should include a promenade and extension of the pedestrian environment over water or directly to the beach**
- **The visual and physical access to the beach should be explored further**
- **The programming for festivals and desire to accommodate events should be considered in the shape and design of the pier while making the space compelling when events are not occurring**
- **The park planning concept should extend the educational mission and value of the aquarium along the waterfront**
- **The Commission recognizes that this is a concept proposal and careful programming and design is subsequent to this EIS process**

Proponent's Presentation

The Seattle Aquarium is not included in the site plans because they have an independent plan and design. Pier 62 and 63 had structural problems and was an impetus for the team to look at these spaces. Since the July review, the draft has been issued as well as a final EIS and a preferred alternative—the multi-purpose pier. Pier 62/63 would be reconstructed outboard of the nearshore environment with connections to Alaskan Way and the Seattle Aquarium. This pier could be up to 77,000 square feet, approximately the size of the current structure, but designed to host a variety of public and private events, celebrations, and festivals throughout the year. Habitat enhancements would be made along the seawall to improve the area for use by juvenile salmonids. Waterfront park is in worse shape than pier 62 and 63, it needs about \$4M worth of work to bring it up to standard and \$1M every five years to maintain.



Alaskan Way Landing plan:

The festival (multi-purpose) pier explores what could be done with 77,000 sq feet of space. The majority of Waterfront Park would be removed, except for a small portion adjacent to the Aquarium. This area could be used by the Aquarium and potentially provide public access down to Elliott Bay. Shallow water could be created in place of Waterfront Park, which would allow for a gravel beach similar to the one at the sculpture park.

Commissioner Questions and Comments

- Can you talk about the ramifications of the seawall on the 5 block area and the possibility of expanding a high tide walk for pedestrians?
 - We are assuming the seawall remains in its current location and will be rebuilt by someone else—it is not in the scope of this project.
- The current Waterfront Park doesn't work well, why?
 - It was built in the 70s and there are no eyes on the park—lots of hiding spots. It is 5-10 feet below Alaskan Way.
- What is in your prevue? You only have 1 foot.
 - There is some room to maneuver.
- The shape of the festival pier is a placeholder, should we examine that? It feels that there is a widening on the festival pier—should it be encouraged to have more of a connection back to the promenade along Alaskan Way?
 - People want to see less structure towards the near shore. The walkways are supposed to be smaller.
- The morphed shape of the festival pier has no attitude and needs a purpose and a geometric definition. This needs more attention.
 - Later the discussion will begin as to the shape and purpose.
- Design is not something that comes after the fact; it needs to be thought about now. Council may be looking at these concepts as design plans.
 - This is at the plan concept stage.
- I am worried about the next 10+ years and have something in between the site and the future aquarium—there needs to be a placeholder in the meantime. Something should be integrated there, maybe how to get to the beach. This can be incorporated into what is currently planned.
- Will you go out for a RPF and find new design firms?
 - We have not got there yet.
- Can you get to the beach?
 - Yes, there will be steps down to the beach.
- In West Seattle at Seacrest Park there is finite access, only at each end of the seawall, which gives a barrier. It would be better to maximize access.
- The character change is too abrupt between Alaskan Way and the beach, there should be an intermediate step at the bottom of those steps that makes the transition more realistic and reflects the real conditions. We would like to encourage the design to reflect the transition for pedestrians.
- We need something in the drawings that reflects an improved pedestrian environment.
- This serves an audience larger than the aquarium.
- Scuba divers use the public area in West Seattle at Seacrest Park, are they going to use this area?
 - I would not envision this, it is not friendly--there are waves and boat traffic. Seacrest is very protected.
- Is a beach environment a good idea given the water quality?

- We have struggled with that, just because there is a beach are people going to want to go down to it? The issue with the beach area is whether you get more value with a habitat bench or a beach.
- Initial thoughts include whether water circulation will mitigate the current trash collection and retention.
 - A beach may not be the best choice, it is still be conceptualized
- Right now there is a barrier to the water, and throwing away the beach concept would be a shame
- We need to explore this further.
- What is precipitating this? Does Parks want to replicate a naturalistic beach environment on the central waterfront?
 - There is a tendency to get caught up in the central waterfront microcosm. Seattle has miles of salt water shoreline, some very naturalistic, even as close as the Olympic Sculpture Park. Creating a more naturalistic setting at Waterfront Park provides a certain educational component to accompany the aquarium
- Is what is being presented to Council for Piers 62/63 and Waterfront Park as grand as other parks, or is this a platform for summer concerts on the pier?
 - Sensitivity to potential view blockage will need to be considered in the actual design of a new pier. We have not got that far. Right now it is a flat deck. The plan is to reconstruct usable 62 and 63 piers for multiple uses.
- Previous lawsuits have been filed regarding blocked views. There are some items that can break the ground plain. We need to conjure up greater possibilities.
- There are a number of festivals that would use that park. Something more visionary and unplanned would be good to consider.
- The flat slab is flexible, and a central area provides shape and purpose.
- At this stage, the idea of a pier regardless of shape, etc. is being looked at. There needs to be exploration of a venue for large scale festival.
- We are planning without activity context which makes for no context.
- The planning process should expand a bit more.
- If you create the elements for a public gathering and use general rules, this gives an opportunity for accommodating multiple purposes.
- The points in our action should be connected to what Council votes on since we want to best advise them.

15 Mar. 2007 Project: Major Projects

Phase: Staff Discussion

Previous Reviews: N/A

Presenters: none

Time: 1.0 hours

(SDC Ref. #169/168)

The Commission and staff discussed the role the Commission might play on two major transportation projects in the coming year.

- Alaskan Way Viaduct/Seawall

The public vote results are in and a two-year cool down period has been announced by WSDOT. The commission should work hard to be involved over the next few months as it is a pivotal design project that will affect the City for decades to come. If there is a re-analysis, *all* options need to be taken into account. The tunnel option is no longer viable.

 - Is there a benefit to say we are open to all options that are not the elevated viaduct?
 - It has been said previously, so there is probably no additional value.
 - It is important to remain consistent and advocate for positions already on record. For the Commission, this includes the surface transit option as a fallback to the tunnel.
 - We should be involved heavily with design guidance, as in the past.
 - Staff are working on reengaging the City/State team in regular briefings on the project.
 - Looking at both SDOT's new Pedestrian Plan and the Center City Open Space plan is important to the Commission and will likely influence the next steps with the Viaduct project.
 - Similarly, looking at related SDOT major projects will inform the Viaduct project.
 - Staff is at work on scheduling presentations on the Spokane Street Viaduct, South Lander and East Marginal Way.
 - People are not bringing broader views to the table—everything is based on transportation, it seems.
 - The Commission could ask to have a representative on the mediated solution committee. The Commission could help that effort and summarize the design issues to create a framework for moving forward.
 - There is growing concern that a temporary fix will slip into a retrofit after two years and impede a more viable long-term solution.
- King Street Station

A briefing with SDOT and WSDOT staff is planned for this spring and the Commission will soon get an updated look at the scope and schedule for the project. Beyond regular briefings, any other role for the Commission is still to be determined, but attending or even hosting a workshop is worth consideration. The project is identified in the DC Work plan as a priority this year and has been identified by City leaders as a key project for Commission input. Commission staff will continue to explore opportunities for involvement with SDOT and DPD staff.