

Summary Report  
Estuary Park Project  
Community Meeting, October 17, 2018

Sandy, Robert, Jennie, Bill, and I (together with some 200 others) attended the first community kickoff meeting for design of the new expanded Estuary Park (which surrounds the Aquatic Center on the Embarcadero, just west of the Oak to Ninth development). In the coming months, two other community meetings will be convened at the same location.

Public Works Project Manager, Ali Swartz

Ali clarified that design of the "new" Estuary Park will not be confined to the original park configuration, but will include the full 11-Acre site

Landscape Architect: Hargraves & Associates, San Francisco, with a large contingent of consultant firms including historical-archeological.

A waterside parks specialty firm, Hargraves has completed over 35 waterside parks in several states (including Crissy Field in SF). Estuary Park will be the firm's first commission in Oakland. Work has been in process appx 3 months.

The gathering began with registration conducted outdoors, followed by a short (voluntary) tour of the area. Ali opened with a brief history of parks at the location. The total park area has been expanded by 4 Acs of the former Cash & Carry building, constituting an appx 11 Ac park. Toxic remediation -- in the Oak to Ninth contract -- will be delayed until just prior to construction of the park to avoid fencing off for years the entire existing park.

The Hargraves project manager was introduced, who presented a Powerpoint of the firm's approach, examples of installed parks, parks elements, and the objectives of the initial community outreach meeting.

It was emphasized that 100 ft of the shoreline is State Lands-restricted, meaning that uses within those areas must be mostly "passive" and be regional attractions. Attendees were asked to consider 2 questions in the small group discussions: (1) What would each like to see and do in the park ? (2) What kind of park should it be ?.

The assembly was seated at large round tables which constituted individual small groups each with a firm member as facilitator. The small groups held discussions for about 30 minutes, beginning with each participant given a sheet listing several elements of 6 park themes, and was requested to select their 3 top elements of each theme.

This was followed by Small Group 'report-outs' to the assembly: some of the highlights included:

- "water-themed" featuring various opportunities to interact with the Bay
- "environmentally interactive," including advance thinking on potential accommodation of homeless populations
- "rowing-centric theme," with free boating, improved infrastructure, and wayfinding signage for easy access by distant neighborhoods.
- "community green space" with water elements
- "safety & convenience features built-in
- "inclusive aquatic culture" theme
- "interior park of multi-uses"; ample parking but away from water
- "continuous perimeter access by public throughout the shoreline
- "public transportation access" for those without cars
- "unified park with integrated Aquatic Center" including desired upgrades

The Hargrave Manager thanked those assembled for coming and participating, and stated that the evening's responses exceeded expectations.

Ali summarized next steps:

- 1) Actual construction of the park is 2 to 3 years away -- but that something will get built; even if only a Phase One
- 2) \$18 Million is allocated by Meas DD; additional funds must be raised
- 3) Final concept is targeted for Jan 2019
- 4) Toxic cleanup & remediation will begin when project is ready to "let for bids"

Ali concluded with final questions & comments from the assembly:

- a) Staff is aware of and apologizes for the scheduling conflict of tonight's meeting with the Planning Commission Hearing on requested amendments to the Oak to Ninth development; and that actions are in place to avoid such conflicts for the next two planned community meetings.
- b) The second community meeting will test design concepts. The third and final community meetings will respond to schematic design proposals.
- c) Will others have the opportunity to give feedback to the survey? The survey will be posted online when the website is set-up with a limited time to receive additional survey responses.
- d) How will ongoing maintenance of the new park be secured, Answer: HOA dues from the Oak to Ninth development are dedicated to a "Maintenance Trust Fund" for Estuary Park and the 4 parks of the development.

The meeting concluded at appx 8:15pm.

Submitted by James Vann, Measure DD Coalition