

TO: CALM Associates
TO: Meas DD Agenda Committee

Subject: Summary -- Community Outreach Meeting #2 on "New" Expanded Estuary Park & Survey on Design Options

Appx 100 highly interested persons attended the second community outreach meeting, Wed, Dec 5, on design of the to-be-renovated & expanded New Estuary Park. Estuary Park is an existing run-down, almost invisible Oakland waterfront park (currently out of service). The park surrounds the Aquatic Center on The Embarcadero, just west of the Oak to Ninth development and just east of the Portabello Condominium development at Embarcadero & Oak Streets. A final community outreach meeting will be scheduled perhaps in mid-January 2019 when the preliminary design is ready for presentation.

Ali Schwartz, Project Manager, Dept of Public Works, welcomed attendees to the meeting, and introduced Gavin, the Design Team Leader of Hargraves & Associates, Landscape Architects for Estuary Park.

Gavin expressed appreciation in reviewing the participation of the initial community outreach meeting of Oct 17, 2018. 130 persons attended, and 700 survey forms were received or returned following the first community meeting. Gavin summarized the resulting stakeholder recommendations as defining 3 major themes: (1) "Urban Green"; (2) "Landscape Green"; (3) "Tidal Green." The three themes were illustrated by both a PowerPoint presentation and 3 large panels pinned to the facing wall.

The "**Urban Green**" concept is characterized by a full-length lawn with smaller areas delineated for children and for dog play. A wet-land reserve forms the West boundary between the Portabello Apartments and the meandering path along the edge of the lawn. The large lawn area is envisioned to support a variety of uses, and terminates in step-down planes of concrete seating into the Bay.

The existing Trellis deep along at the Easterly side is retained, renovated, and extended to terminate in a small boat pier and kayak launch at the Bay.

The "**Landscape Green**" concept is characterized by variously-sized lawn areas interspersed with walking paths to specialty areas for children, dog play, a park pavilion with toilets and showers. For this option, a larger parking area and a smaller wet-land forms the West boundary with the Portabello Apartments. At the South terminus of the park, a grassy decline is installed sloping toward and into the Bay. The existing Trellis at the East side is removed and replaced with a hard surface containing 3 cut-in tidal basins with steps to access the water. A tree bosque shaded picnic area aligns the hard surface to the East and the largest lawn area to the west -- which is envisioned to support a variety of uses. . . .

The "**Tidal Green**" concept is characterized by a large parking area across the park at the North, parallel to, and buffered from The Embarcadero by a small mounded green area. A narrower wet-land forms the West boundary with the Portabello Apartments. A large irregular shaped lawn area is at the center of the park. Utility areas -- including children's play, dog area, a small kayak launch, and a pavilion building are variously located around and convenient to the central lawn. The South and lower East edges of the park terminate in an organic-formed green edge looking out to two unconnected habitat islands (reached by boat or kayak). The existing Trellis at the East side is removed and replaced with a free-flowing meadow.

Following the Design Team Leader's presentation, the assembly broke into nine (9) smaller groups and discussed "likes" and "dislikes" of the three (3) design concepts. A design team member summarized discussion comments on "sticky notes" which were appropriately placed on enlarged plans of each option. After 30 minutes of discussion, a volunteer participant of each small group reported the "bright ideas" of its group to the assembly. The summarizing "sticky notes" generated in each small group were transferred by a design team member to the relevant large panel displayed on the facing wall.

The Design Team emphasized the key themes for design guidance as: respect for nature, environmental equity, water access and orientation, and provision for a variety of community events and activities in a tranquil, peaceful, accessible, and safe environment. Construction of the project-based Bay Trail is included in the project's scope; also, there will be no loss of existing parking capacity.

General questions and discussion ranged from concerns about anticipated "sea level rise," the effect of "king tides," EIR impacts; priority of interacting with nature; and the ancillary role of art and education.

The Hargraves Team Leader thanked those assembled for coming and participating, and stated the Team's desire that many survey forms will be filled out and submitted (See access link below). .

Special Note: The existing Jack London Aquatic Center Building, decks, and wharfs -- all in need of renovation -- are included "as-is" in each option. Staff states that \$18 million of Meas DD funds allocated for Estuary Park is insufficient to perform needed upgrades to Aquatic Center facilities but, it is the desire to improve all the present facilities of the site into an integrated new park, and that the city is committed to seek additional funds for work on the existing Center.

Ali Schwartz, PW Project Manager for Estuary Park, listed the website for updates, past actions, and general information on the park and the progress of design:

< www.oaklandca.gov/projects/estuarypark/ >. Ms Schwartz may be contacted directly at: < aschwartz@oaklandca.gov >

The meeting concluded at appx 8:15pm.