



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

April 26, 2023
5:00 PM
MINUTES

Attendees: Commissioner Pointer, Commissioner Reid

Staff Support: **Marty Stump**, Deputy Director - Planning and Development; **Kristi Evans**, Capital Program Manager, Community and Neighborhood Parks; **Hunter George**, Policy & Government Relations Officer; **Jennifer Bowman**, Executive Administration

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the March 15, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

Discussion Items

Titlow Park Project Updates

- Marty reported on the Titlow Park project and stated we are at a decision point regarding restoration of the lagoon, replacement of North Hidden Beach bridge and future shoreline improvements. He explained that consultants have done a preliminary evaluation for the trestle replacement and have provided two alternatives for the lagoon restoration. Before any further steps are taken staff want commissioners to have an awareness of the range of alternatives. It was noted that public meetings are also being planned with the City of Tacoma (COT) to give the community a chance to weigh in on the options.
- The Titlow Park Master Plan of 2010 was discussed, and a map of the area involved was presented. Marty explained that water on the park's side is moved through a culvert pipe and the desire is to re-naturalize the lagoon and surrounding area. Project goals: improve flow at mouth of lagoon by replacing culvert with large span rail bridge, removal of bulkhead and house from shoreline to north of lagoon to enhance beach structure and sediment transport, improve water and stormwater treatment through creation/restoration of freshwater wetlands and improve pedestrian access and flow while providing public educational opportunities and engagement.
- A 1931 picture showing the old trestle bridge was shown. It is thought the trestle was buried when the culvert pipe was installed. Marty also noted the lagoon's different shape.
 - Commissioner Reid asked if the elevation of railroad tracks was changed or was the trestle cut out and sunk.
 - Marty stated it might have been partially disassembled, noting the consultant has found what looks like buried remnants of the old trestle. He continued that we are looking at a couple trestle variations – either rebuild in the old location or shift the location so excavation of the old trestle isn't required.
 - Kristi added the location might also depend on the scheduled Cultural Resource Study.

- In addition, a construction sequence needs to be developed that doesn't disturb rail traffic.
- Regarding lagoon restoration there are 2 options: Alternative 1 – Minimizes Park impact so not to displace existing park features. The trestle will be in the old location and feature loop trails around upper and lower lagoons to help contain tidal fluctuations. Alternative 2 – Maximize restoration that is more expensive, grows size and connectivity of upper and lower lagoons. Includes rebuilding courts in a new location that allows lagoon reconfiguration. This might ease certain permitting requirements should MPT seek to reconstruct the courts in their current location. The trestle would be shifted south and closer to the lodge making construction easier.
 - Commissioner Reid reported moving the tennis courts is problematic because the water table is so high. Marty reported that COT is interested in managing the stormwater flow. One idea is below ground vaults that control water flow to the lagoon with the courts built on top.
 - Commissioner Reid likes a combination of the alternatives: Alternative 2 that moves the trestle south and Alternative 1 for the lagoon. He summarized the project's goal: get rid of culverts and make opening wider to increase water inflow.
 - Marty concluded that trestle relocation is currently the preferred option and staff are considering options for moving the courts.
- A parallel project that Metro Parks is working on with COT and Department of Environmental Services to improve lagoon storm water treatment was discussed. It was noted that agreements will need to be in place because this COT managed storm water treatment project will be partially on park property.
 - Commissioner Reid noted all sides will benefit from this partnership, noting increased recreational and ecological value.
 - Commissioner Pointer asked if COT's engineers have any recommendations. Marty noted the images being presented are from COT, adding we need to be comfortable with their plans.
- Next steps: Internal review and workflow refinement, Park Board presentation (CIC brief upcoming), community outreach, partnership agreement (COT, BNST, SPSSEG, others) and advance project design and funding. Staff will be looking for both state and federal funding since it is a critical infrastructure improvement.
- Commissioner Reid asked if this has been presented to our Nature & Environment Advisory Council. Marty reported yes, early on in the process, and that we'd plan another presentation to this advisory council in the future.
- Marty updated commissioners with the complimentary, but separate, North Hidden Beach Bridge project. He reported that staff are looking at a couple of options including concrete beams like Wilson Way and a pre-cast steel bridge as was the approach to the Wright Park bridge at the duck pond. The bridge will be a bike/pedestrian/service bridge that doesn't encourage private vehicles.
 - Commissioner Pointer asked if there will be emergency vehicle access. Marty reported ambulances yes, but likely not fire trucks. Although, because the project includes new water service staff are considering bringing a fire line up to the bridge with a hydrant set there for fire response.

Dash Point Pier and Park Planning Update

- Kristi provided the commissioners with an overview of the first public meeting for the Dash Point Pier and Park project. Held March 14th the meeting's goal was to introduce the project, share information and gather community input. The site's history, project goals & timelines and existing conditions were discussed. To gain public insight, attendees broke into small groups to answer specific questions about their park experience. These same questions are being asked through an online survey.
- Kristi showed pictures of the existing site and pier condition. She reported the project's scope includes reconstruct/replace fishing pier, assess entire park property, future improvements, critical facilities re-investment, and extend the service life of the site. The goal: restore local fishing, consistent park theme, safety and accessibility, high-quality feature, protect habitat, consider sea-level rise impacts and be in harmony with neighborhood.
- The project's timeline was presented: **Spring thru Summer 2023** – Park & Pier Schematic Design – Public meetings to determine preferred concepts; **Summer thru Winter 2023** – Pier Design Development – Refine design, cost estimates and a public meeting to present full pier design, along with full park schematic design; and **Winter 2024** – Environmental Permitting – Aquatic, shoreline, cultural permitting.
- Kristi reported we are currently looking at a couple pier options i.e., shorter pier, same length with bump outs, new pier location. She noted the site's protected eel grass and its mitigation requirement. She concluded that the next public meeting would bring forward 2-3 viable pier options.
- Commissioner Pointer asked if the first public meeting was well attended. Kristi said yes.
- Commissioner Reid asked if the residents feel this is their neighborhood park. Kristi reported yes. Commissioner Reid added he heard complaints about non-residents fishing from the pier. Kristi report the community is ok with outsiders fishing from the pier, however driveway parking is a problem that is currently being addressed.
- Marty noted an equity issue, explaining this is a high-value fishing location for non-boat owners. It will always be a small park with a large draw. The question is how to balance this need. Most agree on a pier replacement, but where do we want to land...small, the same or additional capacity.
- Commissioner Reid addressed the parking issue. He suggested a "Lot Full" sign. Kristi said we have talked about road signs, but asked who will manage. Commissioner Reid suggested since it's not required year-round, I could be alternative employment for students.
- Commissioner Pointer recommended using the pier's same location and size but addressing the parking issue. Commissioner Reid agreed stating the community would like to see the same pier, just new version.
- Commissioner Reid asked about tribal input and how they feel about our plan. Kristi said we have a meeting with them in 2 weeks and are working on a Cultural Resource study right now.
- Commissioner Reid asked when these two infrastructure projects will be presented to the full Board. Marty reported Titlow Park will be presented in the coming 2 months and Dash Point Pier & Park possibly by the middle of this summer.
- Commissioner Pointer said the Hunter George/ Policy & Government Relations Officer should be included in all discussions so he can go after state and RCO grant funding. Kristi pointed out that the design phase of the Dash Point project is being funded by an RCO

grant. Marty added that there is funding interested in the work at Titlow once we get closer to construction.

Other Topics

- Commissioner Reid asked if there were any ramp updates at the Tacoma Yacht Club. Marty reported no. He added that the yacht club has been working with engineers on the project, however we haven't heard any updates.

Action Items

N/A

Meeting Adjourned