

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Seattle City Council
FROM: Charley Royer and Maggie Walker
Co-Chairs, Central Waterfront Committee
DATE: May 9, 2012
SUBJECT: Central Waterfront Committee Strategic Plan

The purpose of this memorandum is to update Councilmembers on the recent work of the Central Waterfront Committee (CWC) and to preview our recommended next steps towards realizing the vision for our waterfront.

But first, we want to thank you for your leadership on and support of the City's Waterfront Program. We couldn't have reached this critical stage without your sustained effort and deep engagement in transforming our waterfront.

As you know, the Central Waterfront Committee is chartered by the City, pursuant to City Council Resolution 31264, as a continuation of the successful work of the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee (CWPC). The CWC has overall responsibility to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the City's Central Waterfront Project to ensure that the Project hones to the Guiding Principles established by the CWPC and adopted by the City Council.

In addition, the CWC is charged with developing a Strategic Plan, intended to be a dynamic, evolving plan for the implementation of the Waterfront Program over time, and subject to periodic updates and amendments. The Strategic Plan is envisioned as a thorough but relatively basic and general plan encompassing the entire Waterfront Program, including but not limited to the Central Waterfront Project and the Elliott Bay Seawall Replacement Project. The Strategic Plan and periodic amendments are subject to the review and approval of the Mayor and City Council.

Our Strategic Plan will summarize and incorporate the enormous amount of work done by our working Subcommittees during the past two years. In addition, it is based on an unprecedented public outreach effort that has creatively and successfully engaged thousands of citizens in the process of realizing the waterfront vision, and in the more specific conceptual designs developed by the City's design team thus far.

The CWC's Executive Committee is currently preparing the Strategic Plan, with the support of and in close collaboration with the membership of the CWC, City staff and the Project's design team. The design team will be submitting the Concept Plan and Framework Plan to the City in June or July. Concurrently, we plan to submit our Committee's Strategic Plan to the Mayor and City Council.

Attached to this memorandum is a draft of a key component of our forthcoming Strategic Plan, which we are calling the “Action Plan.” It proposes a concise series of steps and a clear timeline for moving the Waterfront Program forward, from Summer 2012 through 2018. Our full Strategic Plan will build on this Action Plan and will include reports from our four working subcommittees: Design Oversight; Finance and Partnerships; Long-Term Stewardship; and Outreach.

We are working with City staff to draft a Council Resolution on the Strategic Plan, which will reference the Action Plan, Subcommittee Reports and other attachments. We hope to have the Council take up the Resolution and have the Mayor sign it this summer. As you know, Norm Schwab has attended our Committee’s meetings from the beginning and is fully up to speed on our deliberations. So we are confident that the Council is aware of our Committee’s progress and our recommendations for moving the project forward.

Thank you again for providing the vision, engagement and effort to bring us to this point. Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions or comments.

cc: CWC Executive Committee
Norm Schwab, Council Central Staff
Ben Noble, Council Central Staff
Goran Sparrman, SDOT
Bob Chandler, SDOT
Hannah McIntosh, SDOT
Marshall Foster, DPD
Nathan Torgelson, Parks
Ken Johnsen, SOJ

Attachment: Action Plan (Final Draft dated 4/24/12)