



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 2008

TO: Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee

FROM: Mike Bergstrom, Planning & Community Development
Robin Cole, Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: September 18, 2008 Steering Committee Meeting – **Agenda Item #2.b**

On July 31, the Steering Committee was presented with a draft vision statement for the Meydenbauer Bay Park program that was prepared by the consultant team based on discussions at your May 29 meeting. At the July 31 meeting, one change was requested to the statement. That change has been made, and is reflected in the attached document.

The Committee has several options with respect to the enclosed statement:

1. Approve the statement at this point in the meeting;
2. Defer action on the statement to a later point in the meeting; or
3. Request additional revisions, and approve subject to those changes.

Ultimately, this statement will be used to help portray the character and traits of the park as envisioned by the Steering Committee, and will help subsequent review bodies (Planning Commission, Parks Board, City Council) as well as the general public understand the Committee's intent.

Attachment: Revised vision statement

Meydenbauer Bay Park Program

(Revised per July 31, 2008 comments)

Meydenbauer Bay Park offers the citizens of Bellevue an opportunity to reconnect their community to Meydenbauer Bay and Lake Washington. Located just blocks from downtown Bellevue, Old Bellevue, and Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Bay Park offers a respite from urban intensity at the same time it represents the community's most important access to a remarkable and memorable shoreline experience.

The park's design should fundamentally be grounded in environmental stewardship. Our first question should be, "how does the site function ecologically?" The park's development should improve and enhance natural drainage and the bay's water quality, at the same time it offers a visual amenity to surrounding properties and downtown Bellevue. Specific restorative actions, such as day-lighting the creek at the west end of the site, improving natural filtration, improving water quality in the bay, and native vegetation should be high priorities. The park should enhance the bay, both visually and ecologically.

While grounded in our environmental vision, we also see Meydenbauer Bay Park as a remarkable shoreline experience for all of Bellevue's citizens. A successful design solution for the park will balance environmental stewardship with enhanced access for everybody in Bellevue. We see lots of people using the park in summer and in winter, but not in ways that ~~disrupt~~ degrade natural systems, interfere with native species, or annoy the park's neighbors. We envision the park as a place that downtown Bellevue users can walk to for a break from the pressure of an intense urban environment – to contemplate a quiet stream; to stick their toes in the lake; to stroll and reflect; to watch or participate in boating activities.

Specifically, we see a variety of activities in the park, including a beach, swimming, picnicking, trails and paths, children's play, ecological and historical interpretation, and a water's-edge promenade. The park will continue to host a marina for moorage, as well as new uses such as rowing, canoeing, and kayaking. The whaling building also offers opportunities for programming of activities featuring water-related trades such as boat restoration.

The park should be inclusive of all age groups, pedestrian accessible, and easily reached by water. We should welcome non-motorized marine craft. While the park might be home to a vendor or two, it shouldn't try to replicate the active, intense, and major events use of Downtown Park.

The park should be inspired by the area's history, both ecologically and culturally, but the interpretation of this history should not be in the form of a museum.

Perhaps in summary, Bellevue's Meydenbauer Bay Park should be "a waterfront oasis for all citizens of a burgeoning 21st century city."