

#	Date Rec'd	Subject	Citizen/ Group	<p align="center">Citizen Comments on New Whatcom Waterfront Planning – April 2008</p>
<i>Last Update 3/31/2008</i>				<i>Citizen comments received from citizens submitting comment to the Port and City and through the New Whatcom website through April 2008. Prior month comments can be viewed on the website in separate monthly documents.</i>
319	4/21/08	Non-motorized watercraft facility	Peter Ambrose MD, Etchells owner	<p>As a member of the Bellingham Yacht Club and Whatcom Recreational Boaters Association, I wish to express in writing (I have verbally expressed these ideas at several public meetings) a need for a keel boat, dinghy and small non motorized watercraft facility in the proposed plans for waterfront development. For those that don't race sailboats, one design keel boats are light fixed keel racing boats that have no creature comforts and are stored on trailers to keep the boats lighter, not require bottom paint and have cleaner bottoms. Also, a boat has less value for resale if it has been stored in the water. Various groups have previously suggested some of these facilities, but the number of people represented suggests a need for further comment.</p> <p>Besides the Etchells, Melges, J24, Soling, Express 27 to mention only a few, would also be interested in such a facility. Dinghy sailing through the Bellingham Yacht Club and the Junior sailing programs would use the facilities. Another large group are the kayakers and other non motorized small boats.</p> <p>I have raced one design sailboats on Bellingham Bay every year since 1976. The type of boats change but the sport remains. Besides the competitors, many people come down to the waterfront to see the boats prepare to race or to watch the racing from one of the parks. Similarly, it is not only the kayakers that use the facilities, but the interested spectators or farmer boaters that enjoy the events.</p> <p>Finally, it is simply beautiful to watch the sailboats glide out of the harbor powered by the wind. What I am trying to say is that interest in these activities is bigger than just the participants.. It also adds something special to the flavor of the city and separates us from other cities that don't have such facilities and activities.</p> <p>From a commercial standpoint, these sports lead to sales of boats, parts, services, storage revenue to the Port and food lodging that fuel our economy. For instance, adding more dinghy and keel boat regattas would lead to increased food and hotel revenue.</p> <p>So, what is needed for such facilities? For keel boats, you need a locked storage area (uncovered) with water and power, two stiff arms or small cranes,</p>

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				<p>and a float to tie the boats to after they are launched or waiting to be recovered. These facilities must be in a protected spot so launching and recovering can take place. The present crane for the gillnetters is downwind from the fishing fleet and tends to collect an oil scum from the commercial boats which lies against the bulkhead. As you pull your boat out it leaves the entire bottom covered with petroleum. On the other hand, the lift at the end of the pier for the seiners is unprotected and difficult to use due to exposure to high winds. I add this because the details are important.</p> <p>The dinghy fleets need a shallow launching ramp, floats to tie up to, storage areas(Seattle stores the dinghies on floats), a water source, trailer storage for visiting boats and a grassy area to fold sails.</p> <p>Kayaks and other watercraft would need launching areas and storage areas. During regattas, parking areas for trailers would be needed but could be open to the public at other times.</p> <p>Numbers are hard to estimate since we have not had such facilities. There are ten Etchells now actively racing in this area. The fleet would grow if better facilities were added. Other classes are now represented as well. Kayak and dinghy numbers are large and growing. Junior sailing programs are offered through the Bellingham Yacht Club. New classes of boats are being added every year.</p> <p>I have personally contacted the Port of Seattle and Chicago Yacht Clubs. Both of these areas have just added state of the art dry storage areas mentioned above. Since we are smaller in numbers, we would not need areas that large. However, they are great templates and sources of information. The Belmont facility in Chicago is supposed to be one of the best in the world. I am sure specific plans and costs could be obtained from these facilities and others.</p> <p>Although I have been speaking more directly as an owner of an Etchells sailboat, I have contact members of the BYC dinghy group and kayak groups. They agree with above in principle but would undoubtedly have particulars they would raise.The groups mentioned above represent a large number of people in Whatcom County. You must remember to add the families and children businesses that serve them as well as interested spectators.</p> <p>We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to redesign the waterfront, I think the above facility would be a great addition.</p>

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318	4/11/08	Concept Planning	Mark Fontana	<p>The designs are exciting! I would say keep the existing street grid plan as it already is, simply extend old streets in their same directions. Since Cornwall Avenue is already there and appears to be in good shape start without having to build any new infrastructure. I also suggest more parks, plants, trees, and open space and fewer buildings.</p> <p>Hold design competitions in order to get the best architects to design buildings of real quality. No more “junk” buildings that look cheap and dated in five years. The city of Columbus, Indiana does this and results are impressive. People make it a tourist destination just to see the fine architecture. Plan for housing for middle income people. Many younger professionals want to own homes downtown, but there are few options. Finally, by all means keep those brick silos. They are wonderful to look at and could never be replaced. One last idea-if any brick buildings are torn down, reuse the brick for new side walks.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Mark Fontana Terry Montonye Bellingham</p>