

#	Date Rec'd	Subject	Citizen/ Group	<p align="center">Citizen Comments on New Whatcom Waterfront Planning – March 2009</p>
<i>Last Update</i>	<i>2/28/09</i>			<p><i>Citizen comments received from citizens submitting comment to the Port and City and through the New Whatcom website through November 2008. Prior month comments can be viewed on the website in separate monthly documents</i></p>
410	3/20/09	<p>Architects' Waterfront Report</p>	<p>Edie Norton edwinanorton@earthlink.net</p>	<p>Dear Council Members, Port Commissioners, and Mayor Pike,</p> <p>I was pleased to attend the WAG meeting March 11 to hear the architects' Waterfront Evaluation Report. I am very grateful to them for their valuable contributions to the waterfront planning process. I want to comment on the recommendations they made that are especially important to me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The street grid compromise seems to be a good solution. It meets the city's need for connectivity to downtown and the preservation of historic buildings, and the Port's desire to have the rotated grid for maximum sunlight and reduced wind impact. 2. Parks and open space - The suggestion of creating a greater variety of open spaces throughout the neighborhood, including in the inland areas, is great. A diversity of park areas placed throughout the waterfront will encourage people to visit and use the entire area, supporting the businesses and services there. 3. Multiple ways to cross the railroad tracks are also a good idea, including a plaza. 4. I support the recommendation to preserve the historic buildings until feasibility studies can be completed so that we can incorporate some iconic Bellingham history into the area. Our past is part of what makes our community special. 5. I agree with the recommendation to keep the block size in the new area in the scale of the downtown block sizes in order to further connect the waterfront with the downtown. 6. Establishing a design review board for the waterfront neighborhood is critical to ensure good, compatible building and landscape design as well as to ensure

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				<p>flexibility of design into the future. The architects' insight that we don't know now what the future needs and opportunities will be is correct. An ongoing design review board will be key to successful development over the many years to come.</p> <p>7. I like the idea of the library location and think its proximity to the WWU site is a good idea. I agree that the library might be one of the first structures to be developed and thereby draw citizens right away into the neighborhood.</p> <p>8. Most of all, I applaud the architects' recommendation that views and access from downtown are paramount for this project. The major delight of living in Bellingham, even though I have no view or access to the water from my home, is to see the water from various locations in the city and to access it easily at the marina and at Boulevard Park. More than any other feature, I want the new waterfront development to enable people--visitors and citizens alike-- to connect with and enjoy the water and the beautiful views of the islands.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued hard work on this important and exciting development. Best wishes in resolving the remaining differences between the Port and the City and in moving forward to develop the Master Plan.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Edie Norton</p> <p>P.S. Sharon, please pass along my thanks to the others on the architects team; I don't have their addresses. Thanks.</p>