

South Hill Neighborhood Association

March 14, 2003

Ms. Patricia Decker, Director
Waterfront Futures
1801 Roeder Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Input on Waterfront Futures from South Hill Neighborhood Association

Ms. Decker;

On behalf of the South Hill Neighborhood Association I want to thank you for your commitment to public involvement in this critical issue in the City of Bellingham. The South Hill Neighborhood Association looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Waterfront Futures organization in helping to shape this important area of our community.

The association believes, as do many others, that this is a unique opportunity in the history of our City. As one of the neighborhoods that border the waterfront, South Hill has a special interest and high level of commitment to involvement in planning future waterfront development that protects the ecology of the waterfront and the integrity of our existing waterfront residential areas. Our neighborhood association also feels that from the very beginning long range thought and planning for the neighborhoods adjoining and encompassing existing waterfront areas must be incorporated into you're planning to ensure preservation of our sense of residential "place". In this light we would like to submit a preliminary list of Do's and Don'ts, from our organization for your consideration:

DO's:

- Connections to the existing City fabric (let the site tell you what this is)
- Look to the past, our shared history
- Look to the future, our common destiny
- Enhance what is good about this city
 - Access to the bay
 - Views of the islands
 - Views of the mountains
 - Views of the City
 - Views of our neighborhoods
- Provide "homes" on **and** near the water
- Provide a variety of services
- Provide for places to work
- Provide for citizens of the region to do real business there
- Provide for people to be seen and not to be seen
- Provide for industry
- Provide for apartments of all types without sacrificing the historic character of our neighborhoods

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- Provide for all of us to have a reason to be there
- Provide a Town Square
- Provide a link – Bellwether-Old Towne-Downtown-Fairhaven... by water and land
- Capitalize on transportation links of all types
- Focus on people, their safety, comfort and their quality of life

DON'TS

- Wall off the waterfront with development
- Block views from our neighborhoods
- Cater to just tourist spots
- Flood the area with single use facilities – only hotels – only retail – only restaurants...
- Create a theme park atmosphere
- Stifle variety in design of buildings and public spaces
- Say “No” too often to new ideas
- Forget the airport (it may need a link to the waterfront some day)

These are some of our preliminary thoughts for your consideration. We look forward to future workshops and the exchange of information and ideas between our Association and the Waterfront Futures group.

Sincerely;

David Willett
President
South Hill Neighborhood Association