

March 18, 2003

To: The Waterfront Futures Group
Re: Waterfront Development and Whatcom Creek
Waterfront Action Program(WCWAP)

I am writing this public comment on behalf of the Old Town Business Association. We would like the Waterfront Futures Group to take into consideration the work of the Whatcom Creek Waterfront Action Program. This group spent countless hours creating this document, and as a result, many projects outlined have been accomplished, most notably the amphitheater/hill climb and overlook at Maritime Heritage Park. We feel the future vision for this part of Old Town offers some of the most complete visioning for the waterfront so far. We would like to see the Waterfront Futures Group use this vision as a starting point, much in the way Bellingham started in Old Town and grew outward.

Some important visions not yet realized in the WCWAP are public access to Whatcom Creek via city owed land on the North and South sides next to Roeder Avenue. We would like to see enhanced access points made a priority as well as the removal of the sewer line under Roeder Avenue. With the loss of Citizen's Dock, came the loss of a great opportunity for public access to the water.

We understand WCWAP has been included as a one page summary in the information the Waterfront Futures Group will be reviewing. We would ask that it be pointed out as a starting point for this new visioning and planning process.

Thank you for the opportunity and foresightedness for public comment in this planning process.

Sincerely,

Dean Fearing
Manager, The RE Store
Co-president, Old Town Business Association