

Compendium of Comments received January 2004 through April 2004

RE: I have an image of waterfront

April 2004

I have an image of a waterfront that has a collection of house boat restaurants with a common eating area that is heated but outdoors (using energy efficient heat lamps. This common area would alleviate the need for food servers to have restroom facilities and spacious seating areas. The uniqueness of this feature would be an attractor and the 'communal' eating would be a solid setting for community. Please see what you can do.

RE: The waterfront should...

April 30, 2004

The waterfront should be a structure that brags that it will last 1,000 years and should use materials that are from the future. The waterfront could look very portable or movable – sliding doors to increase or section off functions – multiple banquets (Japanese style). The waterfront should be used not by a bunch of stores but be a place where people can do things – maybe even get on a soapbox! The waterfront would make a great place for a library – a place for seniors to walk. The waterfront should move – have lots of motion – not just stationary buildings that enclose things – open and airy and accessible. The waterfront could be powered by wind mills or fuel cells or solar energy – a very alive place for telescopes to see the stars. The waterfront could be another Ashland – a place for outdoor plays and pageants. The waterfront could be one big place for people to exercise (walk) glass-enclosed maze like walkways for exercise to stay healthy! The waterfront should be another place to walk around and should be clean and happy place for dogs too!

Barbara Corbett

RE: I would like to see Boulevard Park Plus

April 2004

I would like to see Boulevard Park plus a spectacular place to walk the length of the shore, with folks playing music and ball and the old ladies at because and babies in the grass and art work here and there and handicap access, picnic tables, and a gazebo for the string quartet or a wedding. Folks talk about the River Walk in San Antonio but ours would be world famous as the Bay Walk!

Mary Mele

RE: No concrete, no overbearing lights...

April 2004

No concrete, no overbearing lights to block the sky at night. No asphalt. Just native plants left untended after the first year to allow return of animals and people to the water's edge playground.

RE: Reiterating a desire for a wooden floor facility on Bellingham's waterfront

April 22, 2004

What do the 'final plans' consist of...specifics? I guess there is a group of about 50 of us who want to know if a large hall with wooden floor will eventually at least be in 'the plans'. Do you know? Marcia Robey

RE: Thoughts to consider in the Vision

April 14, 2004

I thought the Tuesday work session was very productive and very inspiring. I was tempted to break my vow of "Poverty, Chastity and Silence" during the discussion on theme. My thoughts on this key issue are summarized in the attached brief. I hope you will find them sufficiently relevant and timely to forward the brief to Marci, Jerry and the Core Group. I was somewhat disappointed that the committees on Access and Transportation and Jobs and the Economy were not more creative in their visioning. More importantly, I strongly oppose allocating waterfront sites, e.g., Uniflite, to non marine related uses. Our water-front is a limited and precious asset and we should reserve it for marine related uses to the greatest extent possible. Ralph Thacker

RE: Environmental Priorities

April 19, 2004

I keep being away on travels for the WFG meetings, so I'm not completely up to date, but am pleased to see that the ideas are beginning to coalesce. I'm writing to repeat two comments that were thrown in much earlier, to make sure they have a chance of making it into the final plan. I'm limiting this to my immediate neighborhood, the Whatcom Creek Estuary.

1) Sewer line. This is a high priority. The 48-in sewer line blocking the entrance to Whatcom Creek should either be lowered so it does not obstruct small-craft navigation, or raised to the level of the two bridges it sits in between. It is supported by wooden pilings and will have to be rebuilt sooner or later. We are getting closer to realizing our collective visions for the rehabilitation of the estuary northeast of the sewer line, and the rehabilitation of the waterway to the southwest, but need to have a plan in place to remove this obstacle in between.

2) Salmon observatory. We should build an underwater salmon observatory on Whatcom Creek. The area just upstream of Holly St., adjacent to the new Environmental Learning Center and where the shoreline is going to be reconfigured, would be perfect for this. It doesn't need to be as elaborate as the observatory at Ballard Locks, but that's a good example to give the general idea. With best wishes, George Dyson

RE: Promote Restaurants and shops on the waterfront

March 29, 2004

I'd like some of it to be like San Pedro, CA with shops and restaurants and lots of walking areas. I think we're getting that down by the marina. Eventually, the main restaurants there will be tied together with shops. A. Haffner

RE: Keep automobiles impact to minimum on waterfront

March 27, 2004

Keep the cars out. No parking lagoons, no car roads flooding our waterfront with noise polluting, dangerous privately operated automobiles. Inendate the waterfront with healthy, non-polluting quite modes of movement. Invite pedestrians, bicyclists (an limited transit) In by providing first-class facilities for these modes alone. Think, plan and build out of the box by refusing to extend our city's, county's and cultures care slum to our precious waterfront.

RE: Work with the Lummi Nation in future waterfront opportunities

March 29, 2004

I want to write regarding the Lummis' appeal for inclusion and understanding. Their message and the humble, hopeful spirit in which it was offered [at the March 26 WFG meeting] challenges us to embrace community building as the goal for our shoreline stewardship and to regard spatial improvements as a means. A more profound experience of community will ground the environmental and architectural factors that make Bellingham unique. The resulting sense of place will enrich the quality of life for this generation and the following ones. It will also draw people seeking rest and recreation and also those who are looking for a permanent home. We have a priceless opportunity with a limited window. If we respond with sensitivity and imagination and courage, we may initiate a process that will satisfy ourselves and provide a model that other cities would emulate. Could we have fun helping them?

RE: Housing Ideas for Bellingham's Waterfront

March 22, 2003

While pursuing an architectural degree at the University of Maryland, many of our student projects were located in the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore, where a thriving business center, tourist destinations, and urban residences were to be found. The Market Place, docks and ships to tour, the aquarium, 14' wide townhouses (many undergoing renovations), hotels, and other businesses contributed to the excitement and economy of the area, and made it an ideal place for study. Much could be applied to Bellingham's waterfront as well.

I am particularly interested in a place for urban flats or single-owner townhouses, so that eventually a more diverse neighborhood would develop, rather than the sterility of condo buildings. I envision two-story, zero lot line units with a 5' setback to the sidewalk and 30'-40' lot widths, with private rear patio/gardens and garages or carports on alleys. While the upper levels would be lofts or bedrooms, the ground floors would have living areas and a versatile space suitable for a master bedroom, a family room, a home office, or an artist's studio where light commercial endeavors would take place, giving life to the streets. Let's leave the 'big box' apartments and condos out, and maintain a smaller scale and diversity near the waterfront edge. This would leave views and sight-lines open. The larger apartment-style living would be back, above commercial spaces, or 'hidden' within the taller buildings that would be broken into three or more areas.

We all can dream of the perfect place...I would like to be a part of the process. The initial presentation in the Ferry Terminal was a good start of what will undoubtedly be a long project, complicated by expensive engineering on filled land. Please add my name to the mailing list, and to volunteers interested in developing housing ideas.

Sincerely, Ellen Grybeck 3630 Illinois Lane, Bellingham, WA98226, llengrybeck@hotmail.com

RE: Bellingham's New Water Wonderland

September 28, 2003 (posted late...)

Dock for a cruise ship

Small food concessions

2 large restaurants

Large conference center

Mom and pop stores

Maritime Museum dock – Lady Washington

Ferris Wheel and small rollercoaster, merry go round

Art – Indian carved dolphins, orcase, seahorses, mermaids, whales
Ferry Boat Seats
Farmers Market and Fish Market
Nautical murals – paintings showing shipping history, sealife, city and county history, Native American influences, historical GP murals

Due to my being out of state much of the time, I leave this list of suggestions and hope that it helps to bring about a creative, long living part of Bellingham. I feel much of the existing structures' aesthetic value will keep this area ongoing by utilizing and combining an art of its own for many years. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this great project. Good luck!
Joan Fritz (past board member of the Maritime Museum)

RE: Citizen Involvement
March 9, 2004

Thanks Allison for continually sending me this information. I have one question/concern. I have noticed that other than you, all the members of the group and the vast majority (if not all) of the consultants, those providing perspectives, etc. are adult men. A large percentage of our population are not being explicitly included in this process and by default are being excluded. This includes, amongst others, women, youth and children.

I think it is critical that a meeting be held with women constituencies to ensure that their voices heard and their visions, dreams, perspectives and interests are included. I also think it would be invaluable to include the voices and interests of our children and youth since the future is theirs and they will be the ones using the waterfront for years and years to come. I'd be more than happy to talk with you or group members about ways that such meetings might be held. I am just concerned that half the adult population and the entire youth population are being excluded from this process (inadvertently or not does not matter).

Thanks. I look forward to hearing your thoughts. Warmly, Cat Zavis

RE: Reclamation of Brownfields
February 27, 2004

Hi Patricia - In a respite of "web surfing", I saw this about the redevelopment planning for Edinburgh, Scotland's waterfront. I thought it was cool. Don't know if any ideas are applicable, but figured it's worth sharing... (I know, bigger city, different culture, etc. etc., but nonetheless forward-thinking). Here's their overview, and I'm pasting in the link at the end.

The Granton Waterfront site covers some 140 hectares (345 acres) and involves three major landowners: Waterfront Edinburgh Limited owns or is responsible for some 57 hectares (159 acres), Forth Property Developments Limited owns the land at Granton Harbour comprising some 39 hectares (96 acres), and SecondSite Property (formerly Lattice Property Holdings Limited) owns approx. 44 hectares (109 acres).

The project will entail one of the largest reclamations of brown field land ever undertaken in Scotland, and a comprehensive Master Plan has been prepared by Llewelyn-Davies Architects. The length of the Master Plan site exceeds the distance from Holyrood Park to the Castle or the whole length of Leith Walk, while in width it is similar to that of the extended New Town from Princes Street to Stockbridge. The area is roughly the same as that of the whole of Holyrood Park.

Development of the area as a whole is expected to last 12-15 years during which time it is hoped some 7000 new jobs will be created and 6,500 new homes built (15% of which will be affordable housing for rent or low cost home ownership). Education, retail, community, entertainment and leisure facilities will also be accommodated on the site.

<http://www.scottisharchitecture.com/new-articles-0011.html>

Sam Crawford

**RE: Research vessels, trainings, U of W, oceanographic studies, NOAA on the waterfront
3/2/04**

We should develop an educational facility on the waterfront with a research and educational goal. This would be a great use of existing space and buildings as part of the Shipping terminal area. NOAA ships could dock at the facility as well as others. It would be great for the area and bring together all of the educational facilities already present in Whatcom County. Logistically it works and educationally it works. The maritime and marine sciences are a good fit for this. It would be a great facility for the Port and would put Whatcom County on the map.

**Re: Grateful for Nov 9th DAT
2/04/04**

I have watched your Nov. 9 presentation on Channel 10 twice recently and am grateful for the amount of intelligence and hard work put into research by the committee members. Again, thank you! Ann Haffner

**RE: New idea for an anchor tenant on waterfront
Not entered until March 1, 2004 (Received and forwarded to Stephan Jilk 12/13/03)**

Hello! I attended your "Talking Up the Waterfront" focus group last week. In my workgroup, a comment was made about the possibility of leasing a large portion of the waterfront to an "anchor" tenant, and there was some discussion as to what kind of tenant that might be. One of the people in my group additionally mentioned that water costs will likely go up for the entire city without a tenant to replace General Pacific as a major water consumer.

So, I had an idea (not sure how practical it would be, obviously). An "anchor" tenant that not only has a system of ethics in place in tune with Bellingham's tendency to buy local and organic, but also used an enormous quantity of water would be ideal.

Swiss Water Process decaffeinated coffee would appear to be a perfect fit. (<http://www.swisswater.com/>) It is a chemical free and organic method of decaffeinating coffee by rinsing the caffeine from the bean with water. (A LOT of water.) Most "decaf" coffees are decaffeinated with chemicals, which is a relatively controversial topic in the coffee industry. The Swiss Water Process of decaffeination is often lauded along with the Fair Trade, Organic, and Shade Grown marketing movement which is becoming extremely important to coffee drinkers. The company is extremely well established in the coffee industry, and is currently based in Vancouver, BC. Whether they'd move or whether there are other companies doing likewise that would find Bellingham an ideal hub for Pacific Northwest distribution, I don't know - but it might be worth researching. Thanks for listening!

Teri Bryant, The Black Drop Coffeehouse, 300 W. Champion Street
Bellingham, WA 98225, 360-738-3767, www.theblackdrop.com

RE: Old Town, height restrictions, and fill
12/17/03

Let us please recognize once and for all that the portion of Old Town which is built on fill is no place for tall buildings or residential density. Residences need to go onto safe, solid ground above the bluff and the tall buildings need to go farther inland where they won't block views of and access to the water for everyone else.

Water access is Bellingham's great undeveloped asset and potential economic engine. Let us develop to maximize that potential. How about an area similar to Granville Island, with artisan studios, interesting shops, and a marketplace with local vendors of fish, flowers, and produce? I'd love to grab a bowl of chowder, stroll through the park, and either head uphill to the museum or down to a waterside promenade where I could share my lunch with the gulls while watching the picturesque foot ferry go back and forth to Fairhaven. It would dock not down at the cruise terminal, but up on that wonderful piece of property where the Port wants to put an office building.

A plan of this nature would serve our visitors and provide needed water access for residents and downtown workers. If all the lovely new downtown apartments are to stay filled, there must be park space and amenities close at hand. Can we do this? Of course we can, if we're willing to stay the course and be absolutely clear with developers about what is allowed. Do not be swayed by arguments for short-term gain; we are building a city for the long term. We'll find that plenty of builders are excited to cooperate with the community plan, if they only know what that plan is. Sincerely, Eileen Herring

RE: The ASB Should be converted to a Marina
February 23, 2004

Would you please convey this to your good members? Thank you for your exceptional work and thorough research as you try to plan wisely for our community's important waterfront asset.

I have followed your progress via email and Channel 10. Please accept this respectful but urgent suggestion: The diagrams that I saw recommending that the GP sediment lagoon be converted to a wetlands beach...a place for "a spontaneous game of pickup football" or just "watching the tide rise and fall", will hopefully go the way of the ebb tide. With historic 4 and 5 year waitlists for slips in Squalicum Harbor (alleviated only recently, and temporarily, by the expansion of Blaine Harbor and the simultaneous unfortunate contraction of the commercial fishing fleet), coupled with the population forecasts for Whatcom County and the expense and environmental concerns of building another breakwater, should make it transparent that any proposal for using the GP lagoon for a purpose other than a marina must incur a substantial burden of proof for its case. The case for a marina is compelling, and I have heard zero evidence to the contrary. Thank you for reading. Roger Van Dyken

RE: Youth Hostel on or near the waterfront
January 20, 2004

I propose the implementation of an international Youth Hostel which would capitalize on tourism and help bring Bellingham into the international forum. I'm wondering what the city's reaction is towards this business endeavor? Also, how can I go about obtaining land us on or near the waterfront area?

**RE: Response to G-P presentation
January 16, 2004**

In follow up to the presentation made last Friday by GP's consultants, and this weeks current events the concept of putting the Courthouse Annex / Jail on GP's property fits perfectly into your long range plans. As was pointed out by Arlan Collins you need five or six things to make the project a success.

The county and city need to build a new jail, and courthouse space, they need about 50 acres, they desire to have a low profile complex rather than a high rise. It seems to me this need fits perfectly into your plan for the waterfront and specifically for part of the GP property. I would consider building this complex along the back side of the GP property East of Cornwall Avenue. I think it could be two stories tall, with maybe parking and a park like setting on the top of the building. The jail area could be on the lower floor but I would also re-route the rail road track under this building, if you have to keep them (the railroad) on the waterfront. This linear building could be the kick start needed to spur development on this property. Given the change of elevation between the GP property and the property above it seems to me that this concept might work well.

GP could consider gifting the property to the County in exchange for tax credits for the value of the property. The city would get development in the core of the city, providing support to the business district. The Courthouse Annex /Jail would be in the core of the city near to the current location. The permits and other entitlements would then be put in place (fast track) for this property and the rest of the area.

The project site and surrounding area would have the infra-structure in place to support other development which might come from Western Washington University building something next. These two concepts would them spur development for other commercial, retail and residential development. Your engine may be warming up, is this an opportunity that should not be missed?

Larry Halgren

**RE: Concern about Cornwall Avenue site idea for WWU extension
January 9, 2004**

Last spring I submitted a proposal to the Waterfront Futures Group requesting that you designate the Cornwall Avenue landfill site as public open space. Based on my continued pursuits for this idea I am even more confident that the People of Bellingham would thoroughly embrace a park at this location.

The subject of this letter concerns the recent discussion with regard to designating all or a portion of the Cornwall Avenue site to an expansion or satellite site for Western Washington University. Western brings many wonderful things to Bellingham, however, the delicate balance much be achieved when a university borders a neighborhood of predominantly single family homes.

I am concerned that designating a portion of the Cornwall Avenue site to the college would have several detrimental consequences. First, it would most likely lead to the construction of multi-story buildings on our water's edge severing Bellingham's connection to the water. Second, university activity at this location would further increasing the pressure for student rentals in the South Hill neighborhood making it less attractive for the retention of owner occupied homes, specifically on North Garden and North Forest Streets. Third, in a long-term

perspective, it is only logical that if Western has teaching and/or research facilities at their present location and at the Cornwall site that the two areas would eventually be connected. This would result in the destruction of beautiful and historic portions of South Hill and/or Sehome neighborhoods and result in even stronger university pressure on the remaining homes.

Thank you for promoting a process that requests and considers public comment and for weighing my concerns.

Rick Black, Interested citizen and Vice President South Hill Neighborhood Association and founder of the South Hill Historical Society

RE: The WFG is on the mark!

January 23, 2004

Please convey to our Waterfront Futures Group how proud and pleased I am with their work. They are really on the mark!

I was very impressed with today's meeting. There were bright, inquisitive, and professional people bringing forth historic proposals. Since I last attended a meeting there has been a remarkable advance in thinking. And most of all I felt inspired to help. The City needs to share in this dream and help in setting the infrastructure in place.

Thanks for your work. I hope I live a long time if for no other reason than to see the fruition of these plans (and to ride the tram up to Western and the jittney about the bay).
Sincerely, Grant Deger

RE: Shoreline

January 2004

I would like the primary focus of future development of waterfront development to be centered around a working port and not necessarily a tourist attraction.

The development of a 'Citizens Dock' in the waterway could be a good weekend sales site for fresh salmon and other seafoods by commercial fishers.

I do not want to see the commercial fishing industry squeezed out of existence by a loss of working space at the harbour.

The shoreline of Bellingham Bay has been armored with rock. This has caused the loss of healthy beaches and has made our beaches difficult to walk and hike. We need to locate areas where Bellingham can remove this rock armouring and return the riparian area to natural processes.

Many areas along our shoreline have been filled with garbage and pollutants. Removal and clean-up is necessary.

In 1971, I came to Bellingham. In my driving around in search for the harbor, I drove down to the foot of F Street. I was greeted by a D-9 caterpillar pushing garbage into Bellingham Bay. We have many sins in the past that will rear their ugly heads in the future.

During the development of harbor, the lower estuary of Squaticum Creek was removed, in addition the floodplain and bankfull has been severely compromised due to bank armouring and floodplain filling. Increased road flooding events will increase in the future. We will have to deal with this problem in the future with increased storm impacts affecting the capacity of the stream channel.

Shannon Moore