

03/16/2017

Waterfront Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Meeting Time and Location:

We decided for now to meet on the **3rd Thursday of every month, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm, at the B:Hive, located at 285 Fairfield Ave. in Downtown.**

Our next meeting will be on April 20th from 6:00-7:30pm at the B:Hive.

Group Purpose:

Technical Advisory

Please see the attached “Technical Advisory Committee Matrix” for a list of the organizations who will be available to the Board to provide advice on a variety of issues, from how to hold an event in the City to how to find grant money for a community project. These organizations are also all members of the Board and will generally send a representative to the meetings.

Next Steps:

Recruit!

Please think about whether there are any people or organizations who are active in their communities or would have an interest in this board and invite them to come to our next meeting. We would like to begin this Board by having as many people as are interested attend, so that we can gauge how the group should best be structured.

Pilot Projects

At our next meeting we will discuss the selection of initial pilot project locations and talk about ideas for the sites and how we may be able to move towards implementation. The three locations that the City and Civic Moxie believe should be our first projects are listed below, with relevant materials and maps attached to this email. Please review if you can.

1. Sliver by the River

This site is highly visible – from the highway, train and Seaview Avenue Bridge – and close to the growing Downtown and future Steelpointe Harbor. This site has also been identified as an Opportunity Site in the Waterfront Master Plan. The City and Civic Moxie believe that this site would be an important pilot location that can have an exceptional impact on the perception of our waterfront if it were to be successfully cleaned up and turned into a publically accessible and active space. The City has

released an RFP for the site, which can be found at this link:

http://www.bridgeportct.gov/filestorage/89019/89751/94935/RFP_Sliver_By_the_River.pdf. While the City is already moving forward to some degree with this site, designating it as a Pilot Project would mean that even more focus and attention would be devoted to developing this site ASAP, and we would recommend to the Advisory Board that we begin thinking about specific ways in which we all could help to move this project forward. A pathway along the 'Sliver' could also tie into "Waterfront Park", which is located on the pier adjacent to the train station.

2. Johnson's Creek (focus area .47 miles)

This site is an opportunity to have significant positive impact on a historically underutilized segment of the Bridgeport waterfront. This project would focus on the segment of waterfront that runs parallel to Central Avenue. Along this corridor, a number of industrial businesses have fenced off public rights of way, eliminating access to City parcels of waterfront property. There is also significant likelihood of contamination in the ground at this site. There are multiple designs for this segment of waterway that involve abating contamination and some re-naturalization along the water to filter contamination, protect from flooding and reestablish natural habitat. In the longer term, building an elevated walkway along this segment of waterway could be a way to provide access without exposing people to contamination. I will try to provide some of the designs that have been created for Johnson's Creek by various entities over the past few years in a follow up email. This segment could also be connected to the Pleasure Beach Water Taxi by creating a marked walkway/pathway along part of Central Avenue.

3. Yellow Mill West (focus area .5 miles)

This site is another visible segment of waterfront that ties into the future pathway that will be constructed as part of the Steelpointe Harbor development. The project would focus on the segment of waterfront that runs parallel to Waterview Avenue. The site benefits from two existing city parks that border the water, but do not utilize their proximity by making the waterfront accessible. There are also two connected elementary schools (Waltersville and Barnum Elementary Schools) nearby, presenting an opportunity for educational collaboration. Additional components include the MOVE Yacht Club, two boat repair facilities with floating docks and City owned parcels across from Eastside Park.