

04/20/2017

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 May 18th from 6:00-7:30pm at the B:Hive.

Pilot Projects

We discussed the three potential pilot locations and it was agreed that these were a good place to start. Information about the pilot projects locations is below. The City is now moving forward with reviewing three responses to the Sliver by the River RFP, working with the City Attorney to issue notifications to industrial properties on Central Ave. who have intruded on waterfront access and working on to provide riparian rights for docking on the Yellow Mill just above I-95 while allowing a private investor to build benches and other amenities on the landside that will both provide access and deter illegal dumping on the parcels. Attached is a document with more information on each Project Site.

Advisory Board Structure

I presented an outline of a potential structure for the Board, which would have 19 members. Each of the 19 members would be affiliated with the Bridgeport community in different ways, to ensure broad representation. Learn more by viewing the presentation attached.

Working Groups

I presented the idea of having four working groups which would each have at least member of the Advisory Board involved, but would be open to non-board members without a maximum size. The working groups would be focused on 4 main areas: Funding Projects, Marketing/Branding, Programming Events, Arts/Culture/History/Education. We'd expect each group to meet once a month, so Advisory Board members would automatically be signing up for 2 meetings per month (one of the overall board and one of their working group).

May 18th Meeting Topics

As I had expected, there may be more interest in participating in the Advisory Board as a full time member than is allowed for in the proposed structure. At the next meeting, we can discuss whether people would like to voluntarily decide not to on be on the Board, whether to increase the size of the Board or other options for making sure everyo

ne can be involved in the capacity that they'd like to be while maintaining a functional organizational structure.

Also, there are many more people on the Arts/Education/History/Culture Working Group than any of the others. This may indicate that we need to split this into two groups. We will discuss this as well.

I will update you on the progress that the City has made on the Pilot Projects. I will also be showing an informational video about the Waterfront Plan that can be shared on social media and with community groups to tell them about what we are planning for the Waterfront.

I will be attending the National Planning Conference in NYC this weekend, including at least one panel about waterfront revitalization, so I will share any relevant information that I've picked up there with the group as well.

Please email me if you'd like to discuss anything else at the next meeting. I will follow up with emails about your working groups in case you would like to meet before May 18th.