



# Waterfront Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

June 23, 2025

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**3:04 PM**

Joseph Oliver, Chair

Members in attendance - David Bartholomew, Ben Coppage, Scott Marshall, Joseph Oliver, David Russell, Josh Scallate, Josh Schott, Bill Suter.

Absent: Mike Sutton

### **II. MINUTES**

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June 3, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by David Bartholomew and seconded by Bill Suter.

Minutes approved as presented.

### **III. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL SOP'S AS RULES OF ORDER**

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Motion to adopt was made by Bill Suter and seconded by David Bartholomew.

All were in favor, motion carried.

### **IV. WFP ENGINEERING UPDATE**

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Bill Barna, with McSweeney Engineers, is the Project Manager for the Waterfront Park Relieving Platform Consulting Services. The Project team consists of McSweeney Engineers, JMT, Davis and Floyd, F&ME Consultants, and O'Quinn Marine Construction.

Mr. Barna went over a brief history from original construction in 1974 to the Phase 1A tasks currently in progress. Phase 1A is for information and data collection which includes As-Built Surveys, Geotechnical Investigations, Geospatial and Reference Information, Design Water Levels, and Structural Analysis and Capacity Determination.

He showed a cross section of the Relieving Platform to show its constructed layers. The structural conditions noted in 2024 were disclosed. He also discussed a multi-phased approach from data collection to construction.

The draft report of the Structural Analysis was just received. Mr. Barna anticipates being able to further refine and share those results by the end of the week. Once done, they will be sent along to the Committee.

Councilman Bartholomew inquired if top access could be incorporated in the future. Mr. Barna stated due to the Free Board design, access is limited.

Mr. Oliver inquired about the make up of shoal material.

A question was asked how a new design could address the shoaling issues. More study needs to be done before this can be answered. Could possibly use mechanical jets that work with the Ebb Tide. They will need to study the Hydrodynamic Model which will help inform them what the patterns and behaviors of the current are.

Mr. Marshall questioned whether there is enough data so far to rule out any possible solutions. Could backfill be used. It is highly unlikely from a regulatory standpoint that driving sheet pile and back filling could be done.

Councilman Scallate asked what the difference in the regulatory process for backfilling is versus rebuilding the park. Mr. Barna was not certain. Councilman Scallate then stated if we do not know the difference, then how can we rule out backfilling under the justification that regulations would be too much to render backfilling feasible.

Mr. Copping asked if there are shoaling issues down near the marina. Mr. Barna stated based on their dive inspection in 2024 there were some issues along the marina seawall as well.

Councilman Bartholomew inquired about the use of better building materials moving forward. Mr. Barna stated that concrete has come a long way since 1974. High performance concrete, possibly using steel fiber for reinforcement.

Mr. Barna mentioned there are still a lot of “what ifs” they cannot address at this point since data collection is still taking place. They will need to analyze all the options to include alternative options that are required by the Regulatory Agencies.

Phase 1A should be completed by the end of the Summer. There is no timeline for Phase II at this time. Mr. Barna said the regulatory for this will be significant no matter the direction taken.

The presentation is attached to these minutes.

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

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JJ Sauvé, Deputy City Manager, and Ashley Brandon, Public Information Officer, went over the communication strategies which include holding multiple meetings for the public, downtown business and stakeholders, and one to connect with neighboring communities.

Once all the public engagement efforts, technical reviews, and stakeholder discussions are complete, the committee will compile engagement findings, by synthesizing public input, survey results, and stakeholder feedback into a comprehensive summary that will include engineering reports and studies. A formal presentation is to be delivered to City Council during a Worksession outlining findings, options and recommendations for improvements. No timelines have been established as of yet.

Mr. Scott stated this is a committee that will be standing for a while. In his mind, it could be for at least two to three years. This will be a marathon and not a sprint.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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No public comment.

