

# BREAKOUT SESSION | ROOM #4

Facilitator:

BMASP Community Workshop #1 | January 28, 2021 | Summary of Community Comments

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## Key points

- Concerns over balancing existing quiet, natural space with commercial development that would result in more foot traffic and limited parking
- Need for:
  - more family-oriented activities and leisure options like commercial kayaking. If there's a ferry consider destinations other than San Francisco (like Angel Island). Make the ferry a regional attraction.
  - docking stations for electronic bikes/scooter to generate some revenue and minimize car traffic
  - open air dining especially because of Covid. Should have dining that synergizes with ferry service.
  - boat in destinations- There are few places that you can go to and park a boat. That way to bring in people without the car problems
  - secure bike parking
- More can be done with Cesar Chavez park to attract special events if the dog park was fenced and landscaping was improved
- How can we incorporate and serve homeless population in this Plan.
- Because of Covid companies are going to re-work their employee's needs, therefore the need for transportation is un-projectable right now and for the unforeseeable future.
- A kiosk would help with security and can count users of the marina. You can put in annual passes and generate a little revenue. This would give you a sense of who is using the marina.

### ➤ **Tell us about yourself**

- does all the things there are to do at the Waterfront
- Slip holder, member of yacht club, moved to 6<sup>th</sup> street, marina is his backyard, walks across the bridge in the mornings. Special place to him.
- open water swimming, launch kayaks from the dock, Cesar Chavez Park running and walking, appreciate that it's his backyard
- Children and grandchildren good for family, swimmer, dog walking interested in planning.
- 12 years in east bay go to sailing club baptisms in Shorebird Park, barbeque, bikes, restaurants, good place to hang out
- Use mostly walking and biking and birdwatching. AP and Marina are the only good nature places, not a lot of other quiet natural spaces. Shame about the pier, remembers roller-skating on the pier on Thanksgiving. Disappointed about T1 funds, more funds should have gone to more public projects, like the marina.
- West Berkeley resident, it's her walk to walk to the waterfront and birdwatch.

- With two small children, Cesar Chavez is a good resource, loves biking on the waterfront. It's available and accessible even if they aren't right on the water.
- Been in Berkeley over 30 years, kids grown up going to the marina with dogs. Love them having that open space. Lovely walk for dogs and humans.
- Used marina for a lot of activities, belongs to Cal Sailing and swims in marina. Typical use is to bike there and birdwatch and sit and look at the Bay. It's a quiet and natural place that's what makes it special. Sacred in how beautiful it is. Loves the compost material is down there for residents. Maybe that can be a revenue source.
- Since 1968 many activities and windsurf, biking and kids use Shorebird. Knew financial day of reckoning was coming.
- Use it for the dog runs, walk the marina a lot. There's a Hamm radio club that uses the space
- Family regularly uses the Waterfront

➤ **What type of revenue-generating facilities would you support?**

- All of them. There's a lot of space and just needs to be a sustainable resource for years to come. Worth asking that you're not talking to place these right in the middle of Cesar Chavez park. No impact over all but potential source. Ferry service would be amazing. More fun than taking BART.
- Parking would be an issue with the ferry. Nice that there's a bus service but not everyone wants/can take the bus. Not something that has come up. Not sure who owns property around Hs. Lordships, would be a nice place to have a super green hotel. A real showcase kind of hotel that can bring in revenue to the city. With the fish market- have one line jack London square that has a whole variety of things. As long as there's still a place that's wild and nice. If parking is added it'll be nicely integrated.
- The trauma of Covid is going to keep us social distanced- we need facilities out there that accommodate open air dining. Dining that synergizes with ferry service.
- Concerned about the parking and the impact of the revenue-generating options. Over-estimated during the week and under in the weekend in the ferry study. Parking is the biggest thing that will negatively impact current users. Reconfiguration of marina slips and more pop ups is a good idea.
- Hs. Lordships has great parking and can be a wonderful facility for meetings and special events. Can be coordinated with the rest of the pier. Advocate fencing licensing dogs and fencing the park. And the rest of the park should be landscaped for revenue generating events.
- There are serious restrictions on what can be done. The whole area was filled for recreational purposes BCDC and may not be used for anything else. City has an ordinance that requires a public vote for lease of land. Team needs to take public through the constraints in a realistic way.
- My concern is that I understand the need for revenue, but I don't see any component of the specific plan that addresses the growing homeless population in the East bay. We have the poor among us and they are part of the community and what would it look like to incorporate something that serves them as part of this plan. It gets thrown out in favor of profit.
- Who is conducting the ferry ridership study's projections and general parking needs? The Berkeley ferry for commuter relationship to Alameda is not appropriate because Alameda doesn't have a BART option.

- Thinking about the housing question- can we do a Sausalito houseboat situation? Or is this not legit given the regulations.
- Staff: we would need BCDC permits, right now we are looking at opportunities.
- At this stage we need to acknowledge error in transportation needs. Companies are going to re-work their employee's needs. There is a dynamic there that it is un-projectable right now and for the unforeseeable future and it will be hard to make reliable projections. Just want to acknowledge at this part of the process.
- I would look forward to having the ferry. Additional traffic would bolster other ideas. More foot traffic. As a boater, it sounds like a reasonable thing to reconfigure the slips.

➤ **Let's talk about supplemental funding sources**

- Favor with kiosk would help with security and can count things. You can put in annual passes and generate a little revenue. This would give you a sense of who is using the Waterfront.
- All of these have potential and maybe are all part of the solution. With regards to new commercial development, we keep thinking about increasing the amount of people who use the Waterfront. Can potentially undercut the quiet and natural amenities that people love about the marina. Ferry can be a regional attraction. Need other ferry destinations other than sf, like angel island, etc.
- To what extent is there a tolerance for commercial development? There is a plethora of bonding mechanisms- can we do revenue bonds. It all depends on how much you are willing to put in infrastructure that is revenue generating. Development vs natural space. Need to dissect the funding measures to flesh out options.
- I'm not opposed to a ferry or hotel. But i ran the campaign for t1 and it was over-subscribed. Berkeley residents are generous but what is the stomach for revenue generating services vs gradual deterioration of the marina?

➤ **What existing amenities can we improve? New amenities?**

- the diversity of waterfront recreational uses. Would be great if there was more a focal point to build community, bringing different uses together. What is the aquatic center?
- they recently redone Albany beach- now it's a family beach. Children's place structure and place that you can be outside with the kids would be a huge draw for people. We want people to use our parks and public amenities. Understand concerns about disrupting the feel of the space but in my mind we have to think about getting people in instead of keeping people out.
- the AP area in map and Tom Bates are part of BMASP map they are great spaces for a restaurant

➤ **Events and programming**

- Seems like that the commercial kayaking could be more done in terms of a company that offers kayak trips. Favor the pop-up generating options, the ones on the slide are preferable. What does a boating center mean?
- One of the things that the bay is lacking are boat in destinations. There are few places that you can go to and park a boat. The way to bring in people without the car problems and secure bike parking. If you want to go to a restaurant and want to park your bike, you want to make sure it's safe.

- Unless we fence the dog park, there's huge acreage in the park that is unusable. There needs to be native plants there and opportunities for people to do other things. The homeless situation has to be acknowledge. In terms of the brick yard needs to be integrated more with the city land. There is an amphitheater in the brick yard. When I first moved to Berkeley in 1972 there was a boat that went to Angel Island.
  - I want to support the last speaker's recommendation to fence off the dog park. Dogs do not stay in their area. Berkeley yacht club is a prime location for revenue generating. Don't know why there aren't any docking stations for electric bikes or mope heads (shared bikes) might be revenue generating and better than where they are on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - If the area was reimagined for the dog park he would respect the boundaries.
- **Anything else?**
- I'm a member of the yacht club and they are a lease holder. They are part of the revenue that the marina currently collects. They do have an event space already.
  - How do we lock in the maintenance needed to keep things looking nice?
  - The plan should help us address how much money we should keep aside to keep the Waterfront alive.