

# BREAKOUT SESSION | ROOM #5

Facilitator:

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

---

## 1. Introductions & how do you use the Waterfront and the Marina?

- Liveaboard uses everything, land, water.
- Walks 4-5 d/week at marina. Birdwatch (not on list—Important!) Drives and bikes, concern more cars.
- Has a boat at Marina. Drives down, walks on trails.
- Swims in the bay, walks, bikes to, sunset. Visits Elise on boat
- Walk Cesar Chavez., goes to Restaurants, Adventure park when kids little, 4th July
- Learned sailing there, prom at restaurant, likes open space and boat sounds.
- Bikes there, walks with friends, Walk Cesar Chavez, goes to Restaurants, intersection at frontage road scary so many lanes.
- Young son uses—it's their closest water...can put feet in the San Francisco Bay, playground, likes little beach, walks dog at Cesar Chavez
- Involved with Cal Adventures, Transportation
- Uses Adventure Playground, likes new paved lot near Cal Adventures, walks along Cesar Chavez, misses the Pier and fishing there.
- Learned windsurfing at the Marina, son to sail there, member of Cal sailing, likes South Sailing Basin.
- Live aboard at Marina, member BYC, walks dog at Cesar Chavez Park
- Spent much of childhood at waterfront, Cesar Chavez every weekend.

## 2. Which revenue-generating facilities do you support? What are we missing?

- Re: Revenue Generating, doesn't think the Waterfront needs to be self supporting. This should be rethought. It is a park space, with public pathways and spaces. Needs support.
- Concerned about Sea Level Rise. Whatever we do, don't encourage more cars, be sustainable. Could we have more of a working marina, commercial?
- Likes fishing and fish market likes.
- Likes conference centers.
- Food trucks until Lordships re-opens.
- Liked outdoor movies at the Lordships lot.
- Like some type indoor facility –winter birthday parties, etc. Need recreation that can also be indoors. Need a real draw for families and kids. Great for kids, and great to stay afterwards.
- Could marina get portion of property or hotel tax? Public place. (ala Pillar Pt and SMCHD)
- Special tax support? Vallejo did it in their troubled times. Would like in Berkeley.
- Doesn't think commercial will work there, relies on driving to get to the waterfront – it's not easy enough.
- Would prefer housing to hotel.

- Another commenter agrees with above - allow housing (staff clarified housing not permitted due to Tidelands restrictions)
- Wouldn't support bond, except maybe a bond for the pier.
- It seems like the Waterfront layout encourages people to drive. Make the access road 1 lane instead of 2, use 1 for bike lane. Make it harder to drive.
- Yacht club can't have restaurant but thinks it should be able to serve public.
- In favor of vehicular entrance fee, as long as good bike access and bus. Nearly all in attendance supported a parking fee. Suggested a shuttle for the ferry.
- Concern with homeless population enroute, safety concern, obstacle for people to walk and bike.
- Liked Seabreeze restaurant, need more casual dining to grab a coffee or budget while at playground.
- Special tax or Bond— in favor.
- Parking fees – in favor. Hassle to ride bike, would pay \$10/15 bucks to park.
- Would support measures on the financial side, Bond, special tax that would create a more substantial and reliable improvement.
- First move, have to look at current tax routine. City uses the Waterfront and therefore needs to support the Waterfront more than just raise revenue and keep it.
- Bond measure for Pier makes sense because this is a cultural amenity. Important to all of Berkeley, and the region.
- Percent for the arts – could the Waterfront access this? Could we increase it?
- Fishing, people, foot traffic – it will all help.
- Ferry and pier project will take care of some big capital improvements, bring in big dollars to help with the pier, comes off the plate. Spin off effects.

#### 4. What new amenities or enhancements to existing ones would you like to see?

- Bike/walking amenities non-vehicle transportation to reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve access – resounding yes from the group.
- Fishing? Nine in the group, a strong majority, wanted to see fishing amenities.
  - Several said wouldn't support fishing amenities because fishing on the old pier was a large trash generator, smelly, and led to a ton of garbage. Sentiment that fisher people don't often pick up after themselves. Discussion followed in which community members suggested more staff, and more garbage receptacles to find middle ground.
- Nature and viewing areas:
  - Nine in the group, a strong majority, wanted to see nature related amenities.
  - Habitat generation, living seawall berms, seaweed.
  - Pilot project to restore tidal marsh land.
- Trash. Why is it okay for people to trash a place.
- Public Art: – 2 or 3 in the group wanted to see public art. One was not against it but doesn't want CIP dollars to pay for art.
- More staff to maintain the Waterfront. Need to take care of what we have, and what we build in the future. More employees – including people who would clean up trash on a regular basis. The trails are wonderful, the park area is great, it looks like there is going to be a Pier! That's great. You have great staff, but only 3 or 4 of them. It's not enough.

- Ferry service to San Francisco, Marin and Alameda.
- Don't need a shuttle, public transit is fine. Why pay for a fancier version when what we have is perfectly good?
- Anything the group does not want to see?
  - Trampoline park
  - Another hotel
  - Commercial Fishing
  - Space between freeway and marina is unfriendly.

## 5. Which events and programming opportunities (supplementing current offerings) would you like to see?

- Likes all examples in the slide – they're all great: fishing, culturally, groups of people that congregate around these activities. Diversity of groups that use the marina in different ways, if fosters a general for the landscape.
- Environmental Education – strong majority in favor.
- Karl take out as much pavement as possible – several nods.
- Environmental Education, outdoor grab go dining, community concerts; (another community member agreed).
- Outdoor dining, food snacks.
- Concerts – follow Alameda example.
- Concerts, and any development/programming, do it in a way that supports more walking/biking, outdoor dining.
- Snack option.
- Good diversity of uses for diverse groups – majority in favor.
- Concerts at C Chavez – majority in favor.
- Snack shop – majority in favor.
- Concerts, more walking biking and outdoor dining – majority in favor.
- University entrance road is unappealing, connecting 6th st to Marina would be great,
- Thinks T1 could be handled better (staff shared contact info to follow up)

## 6. Anything else/final comments:

- Fishing buying (ala Seattle Market), Hs Lordships.
- Spend funding on environmental features, habitat development around marina, will generate jobs.
- Maintenance. Maintenance and ability to care for the Waterfront was a big topic for the group. Many of these uses generate trash, the waterfront looks really bad after events – really bad every day. Need to change cultural attitude, if you love something why do you trash it? Discussion ensued. Many feel that if the appearance of the waterfront upgraded and properly cared for, that visitors would respect it more.
- Bond or Special Tax: A tax/bond should be considered to fund. In all public's interest.
- Public art. If you build it, they will come.
- Seeking environmental grants to fund what we need. Fed, State? Another commenter works for State Coastal Conservancy and familiar with grants—explained that City has to match, can only be for capital improvements. State has to pay bonds back. Not a great source.

- Ferry is 4-5 years off and uncertain. Find other revenue sources to count on.
- Makers' market/workshop space.
- City place a surcharge on the ferry fare?
- Wants greater coordination between projects in City. Why isn't University Avenue being fixed (Staff noted that Marina Streets project breaks ground this summer).
- Recreate marsh lands.
- Improve shoreline to get feet in water, remove sharp rubble along shoreline.
- Staff: Good ideas all around, now which of them would help bring an increase in revenue needed to sustain the Waterfront?
- Why do we start with the premise that it has to be self-supporting?
- Ferry will help build spin off effects of capital improvements: Pier, improved parking, and generate a better feel, and more revenue.
- Parking fees and entrance seem favored by several.
- Concerns over access to Waterfront to all with an entrance fee were expressed. Staff explained that the Waterfront is for all the people of California. Fee could be charged, but workarounds for equitable access would need to be considered.
- Put more things in at Sea Breeze (Staff: not City property)
- Bond - group in favor of several bonds and funding mechanisms.
- Habitat, environmental education, nature viewing – big themes, supported by the group.
- Group does not want more vehicle traffic. Likes the idea of charging cars.

#### Additional Comments received in chat bar:

Chat Comment:

- Do Doubletree revenues indicate demand for additional hotel rooms in that area?

Chat Comment:

- We bike here!
- What about a food truck park and outdoor movie screenings in the parking lot area until we can be inside again.
- Ferry service to San Francisco, Marin and Alameda would be great! We could visit without driving.

Chat Comment:

- More things like the kite festival? People go there to be outdoors and recreate/be physically active, close to the bay/how can you make money on that?

Chat Comment:

- A special tax would be ok if BERKELEY would use the funds for that in a timely fashion. I feel like we pay a lot of property taxes for infrastructure upgrades that have not happened yet....ie street repairs.

Chat Comment:

- As I understand the Yacht Club lease with the city, it prevents the club from offering food service to the public in a non-compete effort in regards to the local restaurants like Skates and Hana Japan. We could look at renegotiating that lease to allow the club to offer food service and other

public events. It would probably be a small contribution but could be favorable to both the marina and the club.

Chat Comment:

- If we were to simply levee parking or vehicle fees. It would nose dive the little traffic we do get. Dog walkers would just go elsewhere.

Chat Comment:

- Grants up and down the coast. Grants available. Two points. Grants are almost always bond funded by state tax payer, only used for CIP (capital improvements).
- City always has to come up with percent.
- WETA ferry is not certain, everyone is changing the way they work, who knows 2026. Even if hefty fee. Not short timeframe.
- Sports amenity.
- Outdoor maker space, innovators prototype marine science applications. Sucking up plastics.

Chat Comment:

- Housing with ferry service would bring commuters to Berkeley

Chat Comment:

- Increase public transit, walk, bike.

Chat Comment:

- Whatever we do that brings in more people: we must meet with garbage/trash collection. Also, general education about carrying out trash or depositing it in proper containers.

Chat Comment:

- I want to put a plug in for regenerative aquaculture and agriculture - enhances fish market etc. also sea level rise... disaster planning climate carbon sink

Chat Comment:

- Friends of the Berkeley Pier is a great idea. Could also be used for fundraising.