



Washington Park Reservoir Improvements Project Community Sounding Board Meeting #6 Summary

October 30, 2013

6:00 to 8:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
1838 SW Jefferson – Room 202

CSB Members Present

Bill Welch – *Northwest District Association*
Terri Davis – *Portland Parks & Recreation*
Nicolas Clark – *Neighbors West Northwest*
Charlie Clark – *Northwest Heights NA*
Chris Kent – *Goose Hollow NA*

Annie Mahoney – *Historic Group Representative*
Eric Nagle – *Arlington Heights NA*

CSB Members Absent

Dave Malcolm – *Sylvan-Highlands NA*
Patty Gardner – *Pearl District NA*

Staff & Public Present

Tom Carter, *Portland Water Bureau*
Jerry Moore, *Portland Water Bureau*
Marie Del Toro, *Portland Water Bureau*
Dan Hogan, *Portland Water Bureau*
Alan Peck, *AECOM*
Carmen Nale, *AECOM*
Marilee Hanks, *AECOM*

Jeanne Lawson, *JLA Public Involvement*
Sam Beresky, *JLA Public Involvement*
Meredith Meacham, *Student*
Cary Bubernick, *Hoffman Construction*
Kathryn Notson, *Resident*
Carol Lane, *Resident*

Welcome and Introductions

Jeanne Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to present refined reservoir concepts, review input from the public, and to get feedback from Sounding Board members. She reminded the group of the role of the Community Sounding Board; the group is a sounding board to the Portland Water Bureau and the project team providing feedback on concepts, consensus is not needed. The team is interested in individuals' reasons for liking or disliking concepts. Because of the historic designation of the area, there is a land-use decision that the Historic Landmarks Commission is responsible for. Ultimately, the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) will propose a single concept to the City Council.

Meeting #5 Summary

There were no comments about Community Sounding Board meeting #5 summary.

Project Update

Dan Hogan from the Portland Water Bureau gave a brief project update. The project held an in-person Open House, an online Open House, hosted three reservoir tours for the public, had a design advice meeting with the Historic Landmarks Commission, met with the Bureau of Environmental Services, and Portland Parks & Recreation.

The team is moving towards 30% design and have identified significant geotechnical challenges. He said that the team has identified the need for two, 20–30 foot vertical walls, which is 60–70 feet of excavation. The walls may be designed as temporary or permanent and will most likely be a soldier pile walls. The walls will most likely be drill shaft and not pile driven. Because of these challenges, there could be impacts to the nuances of the design of the visible features. For construction access and shoring for the walls, the Weir building could be lost.

Alan Peck mentioned that the concepts that have water at the 300-foot level of Reservoir 3 will be more difficult to construct because of fill and the landslide. He let the group know that the shape of any water at that level might need to be altered somewhat from the current concepts.

Marilee Hanks provided a brief review of the design advice meeting with the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). They had two sets of questions. The first set questioned the decision to locate the new reservoir in Washington Park and other “big picture” questions. The second set of questions focused on different aspects of the project:

- Retaining walls
- Weir building
- Historic onsite drinking fountains
- Height of the proposed fences
- What we have heard from the public – is there a desire to have it be an active space?
- Access to historic structures

Some members of the HLC wanted a deeper investigation of other site options to locate a reservoir while others trusted the work done to identify the Washington Park site. It was requested that a detailed list of preservation gains and losses be created. There were comments about the relationship of water, the dams, and the gatehouses, providing reference to the original reservoir shapes, restoring the promenade, lighting, drinking fountains, and providing interpretive elements. In general, the HLC members seemed to support maximum expanses of water and that the grand staircase be saved, however said that the weir building seemed out of context. **Bill Welch** mentioned that the HLC seemed to prefer a larger expanse of water at Reservoir 4.

It was noted that audio of the HLC meetings can be found online:

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/index.cfm?=43126&a=168808>

Tom Carter gave a brief overview of a handout provided to the sounding board about the work completed that identified the Washington Park site as the only suitable site on the Westside for a large reservoir. He said that a technical analysis was completed to find potential sites on Portland’s west side for a large reservoir at the 300-foot level. Sites on the east side of the Willamette River were not considered as they fail the resiliency criteria (river crossings increase the vulnerability of the system). Eight sites on the west side were identified but four were removed from consideration, as zoning would not allow a reservoir. The four remaining included Mayfair, Sam Jackson, Duniway Park, and Washington Park. When these sites were analyzed for construction suitability, size of the sites, reliability and vulnerability (pipes, hazards, pumps, etc.), and permitability, Washington Park was

identified as the only site that could handle a 15-million gallon reservoir. The other sites would need multiple tanks, pipe alterations, and other factors that would reduce the resiliency of the system.

Reports from sounding board members

Terri Davis let the group know that Portland Parks & Recreation has met with the Portland Water Bureau and a liaison has been assigned to the project. Generally, Portland Parks & Recreation is supportive of the direction the Portland Water Bureau has taken on the project so far and appreciates the involvement of Portland Parks & Recreation and the public early in the process.

Eric Nagle said that the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association discussed the need for another access point to the reservoirs from the southwest, from the soccer field and elephant playground. **Nicolas Clark** said that similar sentiments were discussed at his neighborhood association meeting.

Charlie Clark said that Tim Hall from the Portland Water Bureau presented at his neighborhood association and discussed the Portland Water Bureau's plans to address future growth to the west and functionality of the system.

Bill Welch urged the team to work with Portland Parks & Recreation to provide more and better access. He mentioned that there will be more park rangers in the park that might help alleviate security concerns with any new access.

Public Input and Reservoir Concepts Review

Marilee Hanks gave a presentation (handout) that included:

- Project schedule
- Concept renderings from different vantage points

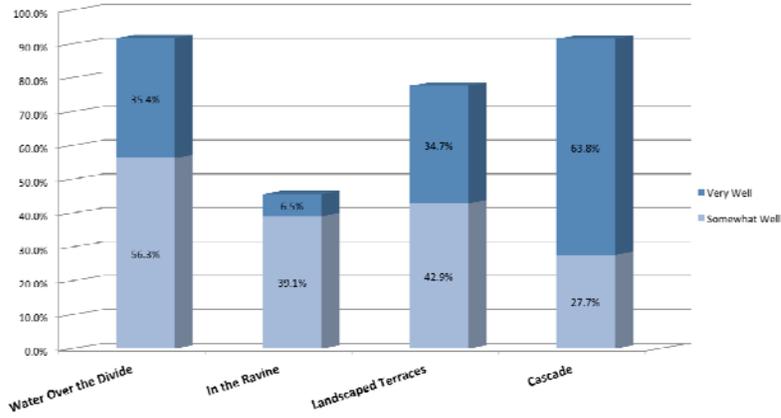
There was one clarifying question about whether there would be enough historical fencing to fully fence the Water Over the Divide concept. Marilee said that portions of the historic fence from Reservoir 4 could be used and that there are different types of fences that could be used in the place of the historic fence if Water Over the Divide was selected.

Open House Overviews

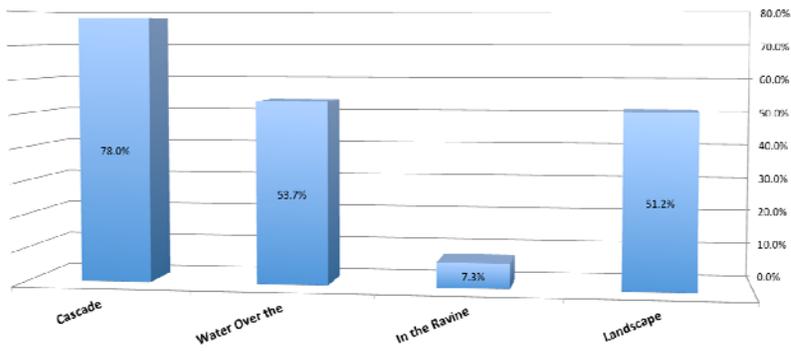
Sam Beresky gave a brief overview of the input received at the in-person and online open houses as well as the three reservoir tours. 13 people signed into the in-person open house, 47 people participated in the reservoir tours, and 80 responses were received through the online open house. Comments from the tours and in-person open house will be incorporated into the online open house summary that will be distributed to sounding board members.

Sam let the group know that there were no big surprises in the feedback from the public. Generally, input from the public mostly resembled what the team has heard from the sounding board (see following graphs for a summary of public input).

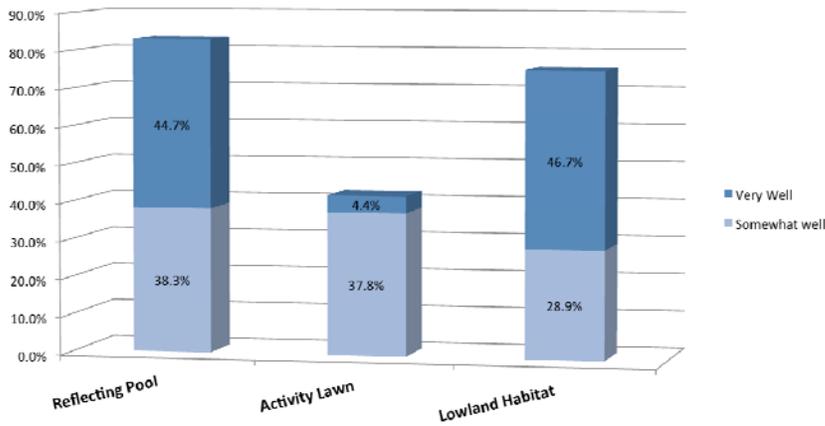
How well do you think the Reservoir 3 concepts meet the project Goals and Objectives?



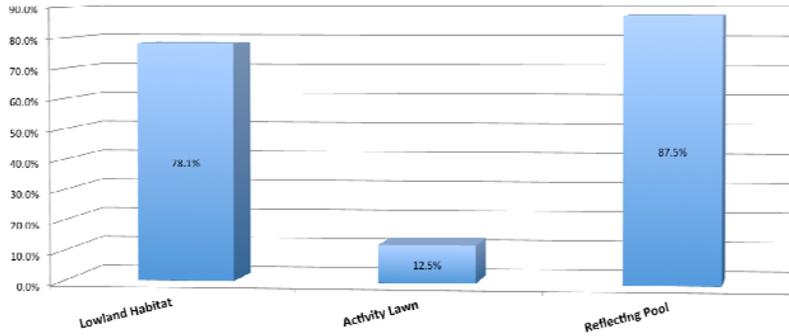
Select your top two preferred concepts for Reservoir 3



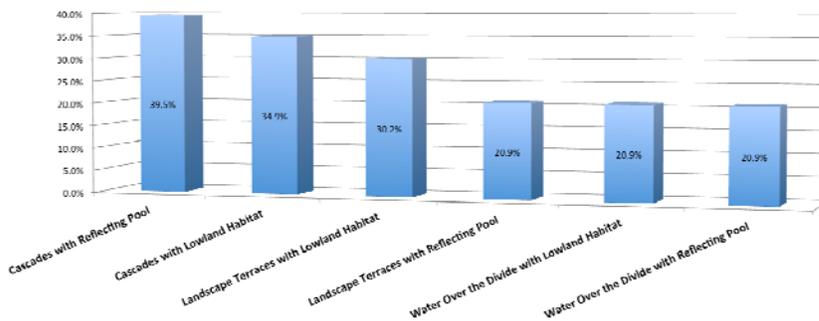
How well do you think the Reservoir 4 concepts meet the project Goals and Objectives?



Select your top two preferred concepts for Reservoir 4



Which pair of concepts are the most complementary?



Jeanne Lawson asked the committee members to keep the project Goals and Objectives in mind while discussing the concepts. Jeanne asked each member to let the group know which concepts were acceptable, which were preferable and why.

Committee Discussion

The group agreed that In the Ravine and Activity Lawn could be removed from the discussion.

Chris Kent said that all the concepts are acceptable but Landscape Terraces combined with Lowland Habitat would not be acceptable, because at least one of the reservoirs needs to have a large expanse of water. He mentioned that cost is important and worried about the challenges faced by Cascade increasing its cost. He felt that Cascade was mostly preferable as long as its cost didn't increase beyond the estimates given to the sounding board.

Eric Nagle questioned the need for a fence. He was not sure why the Portland Water Bureau would be worried about litigation. He agreed with the need to not have the features be a wading pool but felt that there would be better barrier options than a fence. He also mentioned the high cost of replacing the historic fence. He asked the sounding board to vote on if they wanted a fence. Five members do not want a fence. One member who was not sure said that as much of the historic fence as possible should be saved but access inside the fence to the water should be provided. One member appreciates the view of the historic fence from above and said that a fence could be part of a successful design, just as with the historic fences on the current reservoirs. **Terri Davis** mentioned that a barrier will deter most people, but for a small group of people it doesn't matter how tall a fence is, they will still jump it and get in the water.

Eric Nagle mentioned that any of the proposed concepts would be nicer than the current reservoirs, even with fences. He prefers Cascade with Lowland Habitat and reiterated the need for more lowland habitat in Portland.

Terri Davis felt that all the remaining concepts are acceptable. She mentioned that the reservoirs are an iconic element in an iconic park and as long as a good design isn't wildly more expensive, it will be okay to spend money on a good design. She said the main question should be, "what will serve the park best?" She said that large expanses of water are important. She preferred the combination of Cascade and Lowland Habitat or Landscape Terraces and Reflecting Pool, but felt that the unknown geotechnical issues need to be worked out before a final concept is selected.

Annie Mahoney agreed with many of Terri's sentiments – that it is an iconic park, the Olmstead Plan should be respected. She prefers the larger expanses of water and the connection of water to the dams and gatehouses in Cascade and Reflecting Pool. She also felt that Landscape Terraces combined with Reflecting Pool could be a nice alternative that would provide event space. She also felt that Water Over the Divide could be nice but more details are needed.

Nicolas Clark asked about the cost differences between the two reservoirs. **Alan Peck** mentioned that Reservoir 4 has a much larger surface area, which is what much of the cost estimates are based on. Nicolas mentioned that he mostly agrees with the sentiments of the rest of the sounding board. He likes the combination of Cascade and Lowland Habitat or Reflecting Pool. He also felt that Landscape Terraces is okay but prefers larger expanses of water.

Charlie Clark agreed with many of the sentiments of the rest of the sounding board and said that the concepts are creative. He prefers the combination of Landscape Terraces with Reflecting Pool. He said that the Landscape Terraces offers flexibility and more interaction, as people will be able to wander through the landscaping, whereas not everyone will be able to walk all the way around a pool.

Bill Welch said that he prefers the combination of Cascade and Lowland Habitat or Reflecting Pool. He mentioned that the Historic Landmarks Commission preferred the Reflecting Pool option but he felt that a pool is less important on the lower reservoir because not many people will see it.

There was a general discussion about the value retaining of an element of discovery in any design with subtle connections and trails between the two reservoirs.

Public comment

Carol Lane, historic preservation volunteer, said that a combination of Lowland Habitat and the Reflecting Pool would be nice. She suggested better connections between Reservoir 3 and Reservoir 4, possibly with falling water or a path. She mentioned that she loves the historic fence but having more accessibility and the potential to touch the water is important.

Kathryn Notson asked if the landslide was worse for Reservoir 3 or Reservoir 4. Dan Hogan mentioned that the toe of the landslide moves slightly more at Reservoir 4. She also asked if the water proposed in concepts for either reservoir could leak and quicken the slide. Dan said that a liner would be used to prevent water from re-activating the landslide.

Kathryn wanted a distinction in language between the historic fence around the reservoirs and the boundary security fence around the site.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Jeanne Lawson summarized the discussion. In the Ravine and Activity Lawn were removed from further discussion. The Community Sounding Board felt that all remaining concepts are acceptable. There was a general preference for larger expanses of water. Cascade was favored by most of the members, with one member cautioning that Cascade has a potential to cost too much. There was some support for Landscape Terraces, as well. The committee saw benefits of both the Reflecting Pool and Lowland Habitat for Reservoir 4.

There were suggestions to improve connections between Reservoir 3 and 4, as well as add a trail to Reservoir 4 from the soccer field and Elephant playground to the southwest. In addition, the group has concerns about the mandate to have a fence surrounding any water.

Next Meeting

There was some discussion about the next meeting of the Community Sounding Board, the project schedule, and the design advice meeting with the Historic Landmarks Commission. The project team will communicate with the sounding board members well in advance of the next meeting; it could take place in mid-December or early January.

Sam Beresky will distribute the Public Input Summary via email in the coming weeks.

Jeanne Lawson adjourned the meeting.