

# BREAKOUT SESSION | ROOM #3

Facilitator:

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

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## Summary of Key Ideas

- Strong support and appreciation for the Marina
- People use and enjoy the Waterfront in diverse ways: boaters, liveaboards, SUP (stand up paddle boarders), swimmers, kayakers, windsurfing, restaurants, dog walking, trails and paths, Adventure Playground, Nature Center, etc.
- Interest in maintaining natural/wild areas, separate from commercial areas
- Interest in preserving Marina as-is; concerns about too much commercial development
- Interest in a bond measure or tax, perhaps instead of more commercial development
- Interest in more community events/amenities: movies, concerts, markets; need to make sure that appropriate cleanup is done.
- Interest in more public transportation, more bicycles, and better accessibility for people with wheelchairs, etc.
- Interest in ferry, along with concerns about ferry impacts on parking, questions about revenue benefits to Marina.
- Some interest in parking fees, perhaps an annual fee or something like Lake Merritt model.
- Some interest in additional amenities like pickleball, BMX.
- Some interest in a hotel/conference area, perhaps eco-oriented

## Discussion Notes

### *1. How do you use the Waterfront and the Marina?*

Comment

- Lived in Berkeley since 1973, going to Marina since it was a City dump
- Go for walks to watch sunset and moonset
- Take dog for a walk
- Take photographs
- Watch birds
- Wants to improve current uses, but doesn't want to have it built up; leave as natural as it can be
- Wants more bathrooms; happy about Cesar Chavez bathroom coming in.
  
- Berkeley resident
- Uses CC off-leash area once a week
- Sometimes goes for a bike ride or walk
- Seeks better designation of OLA so people follow rules
- Wants increased enforcement

- Maintain OLA in future of Marina
- Berkeley resident since 70s
- Loves Marina
- Cal Sailing Club
- Adventure Playground
- Open-water swimming
- Suggests using parking lot at Hs Lordships for pickleball courts
- Berkeley resident since 1969
- Uses walking and bike areas
- Loves Adventure Playground
- Appreciates need for finding new funding
- Parking is at a max now.
- Researching ways to increase fees but keep houseboats and live-aboards still possible; keep them diverse.
- Knows someone to do permaculture.
- Whole challenge is financing all of this.
- Difficult given the one point of egress
- Wants to see bicycles increase
- Live-aboard
- Paddleboard, kayak and walk around Marina.
- Biggest concern: Safety. We get homeless people camping in bathrooms. Men in women's restrooms; no longer feel safe in her home. We have vehicles broken into; and constantly parking is used by non-marina people so can be hard to find parking.
- Water has a lot of debris: broken down pieces of dock plus plastic and garbage. Other marinas have put in catchments to catch the trash.
- Hopes all fees don't fall on our shoulders.

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

- Touched a lot of different activity areas. Goes to Marina 150-200 days a year: windsurf, SUP, walk dog, etc.
- Old Berkeley Pier is where he brought his daughters who learned to fish there; it's a jewel
- Attended the WETA ferry meeting; also attended ferry meetings 10 years ago.
- Would like to see old pier restored. It was a beautiful, iconic structure.
- Would like to see the pier open, free of charge.
- Would love to see a boutique hotel w/conference center centering around environmental uses

- Didn't come away from meeting seeing how that would generate revenue for Berkeley
- Important for everybody to understand revenue generating potentials and is concerned about ferry not generating revenue
- Would be great to get more solar panels out there.
- Big supporter of the dog park because she's a founder of it.
- South Cove is a gem.
- If there's a viable hotel, that would be great because it would generate a lot of money.
- Would love to see restaurants, snack places or beer garden.
- Pickleball would bring users and if there were places to spend money, they would support that.
- He recently bought fresh crab from a guy down there
- Increasing recreational opportunities everywhere would be great.
- Wanted to express interest in having ferry service at the Marina.

### *3. What new potential funding mechanisms would you support? Can you think of any additional ones?*

- New idea: Capture more room tax from the Hotel, and go to the Waterfront.
  - Events *can* generate income, but right now they do not.
  - We don't get any money from the Kite Festival, we pay for it.
  - Likes the idea of more festivals as long as they pay for it.
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- Wants a bond measure to support the Waterfront, especially while rates are low.
  - Wants to get away from commercial development.
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- Concerned about it becoming a boardwalk, very commercialized.
  - Been going there almost daily.
  - Loves the place. Has a feel of wilderness to it.
  - Would want to be sure that in the design, it remains the case that there is some area left unspoiled from some money-making little area.
  - Needs to be separation: wild/nature-oriented vs. money-generating
  - Favors a modest annual vehicle fee, not that you have to stop every time.
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- Is there a history of a bond measure or special tax?
  - Is Lake Merritt's fee generation for vehicles successful?
  - Public transport – can we get it to come down more regularly?
  - Would be very willing to work towards that.
  - But understands that you need to get beyond that to figure out funding operations.
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- There was an effort to put a conference center there; but the Berkeley voters rejected it.
  - There will be a huge need for parking if ferry comes.

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

- Pickleball
- Windsurfing: would like to see access at Hs Lordships improved.
- Closest grocery store is far away. A little market with some grocery options would be great.
- As Pier gets developed, it's common to go under the pier for passing through; you just need to keep an eye out.
- Doubletree Hotel, how much revenue does it raise? (Staff: 20% of marina revenue in a good/normal year.)
- Came out here in 1962, used to be on high school tennis, doesn't like to see the Marina altered too much especially with more courts.
- There's enough courts around Berkeley.
- Being a senior, a young senior...would like to see more accessibility for disabled people...the whole area. She doesn't see a person in a wheelchair or crutches moving around too easily. Doesn't see too many seniors or disabled.
- Likes to see all the houseboats.
- If there are any hotels developed, or any development, would like to see 50% of that be affordable housing.

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

Comment

- Different kinds of concerts sound great.
  - Movie nights, too, especially in summer time.
- Environmental education opportunities for all ages sounds good.

Comment

- Movie nights: Berkeley Marina hosted a couple with the Doubletree and those were absolutely phenomenal events. Thinks of Dolores Park and how popular they are and great at bringing communities together. Could be an income generator
- Love the idea of concerts
- Loves the idea of environmental education opportunities: summer camps, programs, combine w/getting people on the water and teaching about ecosystems; birdlife in Eastshore State Park

Comment

- Food trucks near old pier area by houseboats

- Farmers market in same location; it's a location crying out for a use
- BMX courts along University Ave.
- Loves the idea of concerts and movie nights. If at CC Park, really want to make sure that hosts clean up afterwards.
- Great comment on accessibility; so many areas aren't accessible. Some pathways are so decayed, you couldn't fit a wheelchair. Front of OLA was supposed to be paved to accommodate, but wasn't.

Comment

- Likes environmental educational opportunities
- Wasn't aware festivals weren't money makers
- Would caution that festivals need to actually produce funds for the City.

Comment

- Make sure festivals clean up after themselves.

Comment

- Get a night market started. Did one at the race track: food truck and vendors.
- More festivals and concerts

Comment

- Supports movie nights, thinks it is a wonderful idea. So many movie makers in town here.
- Loves the idea of environmental education opportunities
- Wants to warn against food stands; can see the dirt and paper flying everywhere. Fine with informal dining in specific areas.

Comment

- Is Seabreeze are included in this planning effort?
- Staff: No, it is on East Bay Regional Park land, outside City jurisdiction.

Comment

- Doesn't like the idea of people being charged to use the Marina in any way; doesn't need development of any kind. The more accessible, the more likely people will use them. Another commenter seconds that.

Comment

- Resident of Albany
- It's an important regional amenity.
- Especially the pier was something that we'd take all out of town visitors to see.
- Loves all these ideas.
- Agrees with those that say we should minimize permanent development that excludes other things.

- People's interests change over time. Keeping spaces flexible for different uses as things change over time seems important.

Comment

- Question for CM Terry Taplin: what are your thoughts?

Comment

- Grew up in Berkeley , spent childhood here, loves the Marina
- Doesn't want to take up space in the input, role here is to listen to the community
- But to reflect back what he's heard tonight and from constituents:
- Strong interest in environmental education
- Preserving a multiplicity of uses
- Cultural uses like festivals, outdoor dining
- Most of what I'm thinking about is a bond
- Long term environmental and infrastructure needs.
- Feel free to write to Terry if people want to brainstorm about this.

Comment

- Can you walk us through what is the procedure for the bond?

Comment

- We would have to write it and put it on the ballot.
- So if we were doing it for 2022, we would move towards drafting language late this year or early next year.
- Then we would need to campaign through the summer.

Comment

- Can we do another bond alongside T1?
- Staff: Yes

Comment

- Do we need to specify projects and how much for each?

Comment

- We wouldn't need to indicate projects and how much for each.

Comment

- If the money is earmarked for something specific, you need a two thirds vote. If \$ goes into the General Fund, you only need a simple majority.

Comment

- Environmental education: having a dedicated space is helpful.

Comment

- Loves Shorebird Nature Center. Encourages that we think about it broadly. One thing you have at Cesar Chavez Park: you have lots of people coming with dogs. Teach them to be environmentally minded.

Comment

- Need a cultural community center.

Comment

- Maybe a new hotel could include a community center. Put it at Hs Lordships.

Comment

- You want to get rid of Hs Lordships, fine with me.

Comment

- EB Reg Parks do an amazing job, patterning after them or partnering would be a great resource.
- Commenter: agree.

Comment

- A lot of groups in the Bay Area doing conservation work. Lots of opportunity to partner and teach youth and adult programs. Waste management and wildlife.
- Thank you for doing this.