



memorandum

date October 6, 2005
to David Molgaard, City Manager
from Mitch Glass
project name Charleston Riverfront Master Plan
Charleston, West Virginia
project no. 54263.00
subject Written Comments from 9/29/05 Public Meeting #2
Phase 2: Master Plan Design Alternatives

S A S A K I

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On September 29, Sasaki and Gannett Fleming conducted a Powerpoint presentation to approximately 150 people at the Charleston Civic Center. After an introduction by Mayor Danny Jones, the consultants presented the Master Plan Design Alternatives for Kanawha Boulevard and the riverfront improvements, including Magic Island and Haddad Riverfront Park.

The following written comments were submitted after the presentation:

1.

As a tenant of the Union Building, I am concerned about the prospective loss of our parking lot. Will any of the on-street parking on the Boulevard be allocated for Union Building tenants? It would be a shame if it were all metered parking, leaving us to utilize parking garages that are far away. Closer parking garages are usually full, not taking any more monthly parkers.

2.

Please –

Consider what happens on the south side of the river at the same time –

- Think holistically
- Traffic effects (will there be more?)
- Recreation/green space opportunities / threats (can we expand it, link it, or lose it?)
- Paddling from one side to the other to go to work, etc. (my friend lives near Eliz St., works by Univ. and paddled to work!)

Your firm is top notch. Thank you!

3.

What you have proposed is an awesome project that makes Kanawha River & Elk River a showcase and that is accessible to everyone. I walk/jog along the river 4 or 5 days each week and am fully aware of the changes that need to be made that are safe and pedestrian friendly. I am in total agreement that we currently have excessive space for traffic flow and that the current flow prohibits pedestrian use of the river.

One other comment that needs to be addressed by the city immediately: please clean up the riverbank and the lower walkway & bank now. Cut the grass and place trash receptacles at

the bottom of the stairs. There are places on the upper slope that are eroding rapidly and will only worsen this winter.

Travis F. Baldwin
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4.

Keep 4 lanes for smooth flow of traffic
Parking along the river side would block sight lines to river

Bill Kelley

5.

How many (new) parking spaces on the Blvd with Plan B?

6.

Like:

- 1) Plan B – 2 lanes driving + parking – This is to bring people to the river as you say-
- 2) Pavillion /sidewalk around Union Bldg
- 3) Magic Island upper level -
Use sidewalk mapping Like in Memphis
here of history of New & Kanawha Rivers – (i.e. their map of Mississippi River laid into paving).

Consider – umbrella awning needs to be positioned to face more West towards I-64 bridge. That's where the intense sun comes from at "Friday Night Live".

Power Park takes care of larger events - TV of WVU game was great fun.

Put a butterfly house /habitat on the Elk River area. We have the man in Elkins who wrote the WV Butterfly book who has helped do this in other cities. Do something "different" than a zoo or aquarium.

7.

Loved Plan B and the remainder of the project! Can hardly wait to see the final plan!

8.

Go with Plan B!

Be bold and do it.

Just returned from Rapid City- SD which has erected statuary on every corner (all US presidents). Check out the Rapid City website. How about statuary of famous West Virginians at the gateways?

9.

Long term – I would like to see included a new bridge, perhaps at Brooks to connect to interstate ramp. This will be a future need for growth. This would also be connected to

a new road from South Hills through 12th Street with an under pass for the railroad (like Ruffner, Porters), access to MacCorkle.

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