

September 14, 2017

Community-inspired concept for 3.5-acre waterfront site shared – survey open until end of month

Campbell River's Waterfront Task has presented a conceptual plan that reflects community ideas for the 3.5-acre property – and residents are invited to review the concept and participate in a survey by the end of the month.

"Thanks to the inspiration residents brought to this process, the task force and consulting team have achieved what we set out to do: provide our community with a solid, consensus-led concept plan for developing this portion of our waterfront," says Mayor Andy Adams. "Many of the great ideas people pitched for this site were incorporated into this concept. There was an excellent turnout, and people who attended the open house Sept. 12 gave the recommendations for the site a 96 per cent approval rating."

The conceptual plan maintains the 3.5-acre site as public property, with more than 60 per cent of the space as an urban park – blending green areas with extensive tree cover, benches and areas for sitting, views along the waterfront, a new structured walkway to the beach at Roberts Reach, and areas for entertainment, food shops and shopping for local products.

The concept also includes a mixed-use building, which would house a range of public services and amenities, such as an aquarium, exhibition areas, a market for local small-scale products, a world-class Salmon Centre of Excellence, a 220-seat venue for cultural events and conferences, meeting rooms, and a mid-scale restaurant overlooking the ocean, islands and mountains.

"People who attended the most recent open house had the opportunity to see how community ideas suggested through the extensive consultation process were incorporated into the recommended concept for the City's portion of this vacant waterfront property," says city manager Deborah Sargent. "For people unable to attend, the information, including an animated flythrough of the conceptual plan, will be posted on the City's website – and we welcome people to complete the survey by the end of September."

Timing for the project would depend upon funding. The overall cost for the project is estimated at up to \$25 million, which could be financed through senior government grants, corporate and private sector partners as well as lease payments by building tenants.

"The proposed concept for the site is being prepared in detail so that we can incorporate it into grant applications," Sargent says, adding: "We're also looking at how this project could be done in stages as funding becomes available."

"The conceptual plan is based on the Community Measures of Success that emphasize environmental protection, as well as economic and public benefit. The public spaces, services and amenities in the project design are anticipated to become an important recreational, social and cultural resource for the community," says architect Stephen Cohlmeier, who worked closely with the task force on designs for 3.5-acre property

The City will post all the information related to the waterfront task force's process (including the link to the survey) at campbellriver.ca/refresh. Paper copies are available at City Hall. Additional community feedback will be incorporated into the final Waterfront Task Force review, and a final recommendation will be reported to Council in October.

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Attachment: two-page summary of conceptual plan