



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Item 3
April 1, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Luther Burbank Dock and Adjacent Waterfront Concept Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Review revised products; approve the Concept Design; approve the recommendation memo to City Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

PRESENTERS:	Paul West, CIP Project Manager	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson	
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Luther Burbank Dock and Adjacent Waterfront Concept Design 2. Elements of the Concept Design 3. Draft Recommendation Memo to City Council 4. Concept Design and Alternatives Analysis 	

SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed a draft concept design at the March 4, 2021 regular meeting. The Luther Burbank Docks Subcommittee met and discussed input from the PRC and provided City staff with direction to finalize the Concept Design with the consultant. The subcommittee requests the full PRC review and recommend the revised Concept Design (Exhibits 1 and 2) to the Mercer Island City Council.

REVISIONS

Based on the March 4 discussion, the docks subcommittee discussed issues that were raised by the full PRC. Slight adjustments to the design were made as described below. For the most part, the design remains as presented previously.

Covered Areas – the subcommittee declined to add a seasonal or permanent covered area to the plan. Commissioners agreed that portable canopies can be used to meet the needs of programming, including in the outdoor classroom area. Coverage on the dock was not considered useful.

New Tree Quantity and Locations – the subcommittee looked at two configurations for trees at the south end of the plaza. The commissioners concluded that three trees would be too many if they were to grow to full size. The subcommittee recommended that one or two trees would be better. The number and location(s) would be developed during 30% design.

Bulkhead Steps – Following the March 4 meeting, a commissioner received a concern about the bulkhead steps being a place where children or dogs could fall into the water. The commissioners considered the existing bulkhead steps at Clarke Beach Park for comparison. Staff noted that the steps will be designed to code, which will likely address any fall hazard that they may present. The subcommittee also discussed alternatives to

poured concrete to improve aesthetics and environmental impact of the steps. These issues will be explored in 30% design.

RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

If the PRC approves the Concept Design as presented in Exhibits 1 and 2, the PRC as a whole would then transmit the work product to the City Council for consideration. The subcommittee and staff have drafted a cover memo from the PRC to the City Council which contains an overview of the process, the design and the reasoning for it. See Exhibit 3. The Concept Design and Alternatives Analysis (Exhibit 4) has been included with this memo to support the PRC’s recommendation. It is important that the PRC also approve the contents of the memo as an accurate framing of its decision.

Large, regional park projects such as this one (and the recently approved Aubrey Davis Trail Safety Improvements project) benefit from an additional public review step in the design process. The Concept Design specifically calls out elements for PRC review at 30% design. Therefore, the memo recommends that the PRC and the City Council revisit the design again at 30% completion. That milestone is expected in fall of 2021, although earlier consultation with the PRC and the Arts Council may occur to facilitate design development.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the ***Luther Burbank Dock and Adjacent Waterfront Concept Design*** for recommendation to the Mercer Island City Council.
2. Approve the recommendation memo and authorize the chair or his designee to transmit it to City Council.