

**Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station  
Design Advisory Group**

**Meeting Summary**

***February 12, 2015 6:00- 8:00 p.m.***

***South Seattle College Georgetown Campus, 6737 Corson Avenue South, Seattle***

**Overview**

On February 12, 2015 the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted the second Design Advisory Group (DAG) meeting for the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. The DAG members will work collaboratively with each other and King County on design guidelines that will inform the facility's design. The DAG will also consider and explore joint uses that complement the needs and constraints of the facility and the broader community.

Topics for the February 12 meeting included:

- Review and approve the draft Design Advisory Group charter
- Discuss advisory group and King County design examples and share thoughts on community design aesthetic
- Develop design guidelines
- Learn about the City of Seattle Street Improvement Permit process and City of Seattle Conditional Use Permit

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting facilitator Penny Mabie welcomed participants and thanked everyone for their attendance. Penny led a round of introductions and reviewed the meeting purpose, ground rules and agenda.

Penny also conducted an action item check in using the action item tracker that was included in the meeting #1 summary. She also referred to the answers to the technical questions that were shared in that email. King County will use those technical questions to develop a technical FAQ that will be posted on the website.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**DAG Charter**

Penny reviewed the revised draft DAG charter. At the first meeting, the DAG members requested that the charter be updated from "aesthetic design" to "programmatically and aesthetic design." There were no other proposed updates. There were no further edits and the DAG approved the charter. King County finalized the charter and posted it to the project website.

## **Design Images and Examples**

Penny Mabie reviewed the iconic Georgetown images provided by the DAG members and invited the DAG members to share their thoughts about the images. The images and discussion were divided into seven categories. The discussion was captured on flipcharts and the notes will be used to develop design guidelines.

### Historic Images (slides 6-8)

- DAG member Cari Simson described the historic images she provided, including the Geographic Information System (GIS) and aerial images. She specifically mentioned the views of wetlands, creeks and waterways. She also shared that the history of Georgetown is interwoven with the Duwamish River and she noted that the proposed facility location is on or near one of the old river bends. She suggested bringing the history of the river into the building and landscaping, and telling the story of the river through interpretative signs.
- DAG member Angielena Chamberlain noted that there is a continuous style and particular aesthetic of buildings throughout Georgetown. She indicated that some of the design elements of these older buildings (e.g., natural brick, arches) should be incorporated. Angielena also noted that the educational elements of the building and property could be enjoyable for people to visit from all over the world.
- DAG member Sherell Ehlers suggested sharing information about wetlands through interpretive signs.

### Nature Images (slides 9-12)

- Sherell said that native plants could be used at the facility.
- Cari remarked on the colorful nature of the images.
- Sherell said that farming, food and healthy soil were themes.
  - DAG member Allan Phillips shared that these themes are tied with Georgetown's history as most of the produce from Pike Place Market used to come from the Duwamish Valley.
- DAG member Emilie Shepherd indicated that wetlands would provide a good habitat for various local birds.
  - Cari noted that an osprey platform could be built as part of the building.
  - Allan said that bat houses could also be built.
- DAG member Erika Melroy referred to the image of the pocket park of bird houses (slide 11). She indicated that this photo represents whimsy, finding interest and beauty in unlikely places, and use of found items.
- Cari shared that the facility could be part of the Georgetown Art and Garden Walks.
  - DAG member Grace Lothrop noted that people from within Georgetown and the greater Seattle community attend those events.
- Angielena noted that the people of Georgetown are tough, but whimsical and playful.

### Architecture Images (slides 13 -17)

- Sherell referred to several of the photos that highlight stormwater management through permeable pavement and other elements.
- Grace noted that the colors of the facility should tie into some of the more notable colors in the community like the green of Carleton Grocery or the pink house (slide 14).
  - Allan added that the facility should highlight colors other than gray.
- Sherell talked about the unique elements of the existing brick buildings around Georgetown (slide 16).
  - Angielena shared that the buildings are graceful despite their size.
  - Cari mentioned the effect of the sun on the bricks at sunrise and indicated that that effect/color should be incorporated into the facility.
- Sherell referred to the Job B. Dove image (slide 16), highlighting its whimsy and use of found pieces.
- Sherrell indicated that the facility should feature sustainability, such as solar panels or wind turbines.
- Cari noted that the facility should feature wayfinding signs.

### Character Images (slides 18-21)

- Angielena said that the boots are a playful element and an object of neighborhood pride. She also referred to the industrial copper elements of the neighborhood.
  - Sherrell noted that the boots have also become a play space for children.
- Emilie shared that bikes should be prevalent in all artistic elements. She also mentioned that industrial arts should be featured, specifically the works of Equinox Studios.
- Angielena noted that the area is home to many metal and glass workers.
- Emilie referred to the mural (slide 20) on the Brass Tacks building, and indicated that mural art is becoming a feature of the community.
- Allan, Cari and Sherell noted that many of the character images feature metal.
- Penny pointed to the whimsical wayfinding signs (slides 20 and 21).
  - Allan noted that many of the destinations featured on the sign refer to other Georgetowns (around the world) or reference areas in Seattle that are part of Georgetown (or were at one time).
- Grace said the neon signs are iconic.
  - Sherell shared that the Kettles neon sign was transformed from an owl into a kitten when it became Kittens. She also shared that Georgetown used to be the owl district.
- Sherell said that Georgetown has an “old town” feel, specifically when it’s snowing.
- Emilie noted that seating should be incorporated into the facility. She also shared that the South Treatment Plant has cats that live on site to catch the rats, and that cats could be used as part of the new facility.

### Landscape Images (slides 22-25)

- Sherell noted that stormwater should be celebrated.

- Sherell indicated that the facility could include an urban climbing wall or skate park. She said that the Seattle City Council is interested in developing a skate park in the South End. There aren't a lot of places for youth in the Georgetown area to go for outdoor recreation.
- Angielena referred to the picnic area (slide 24). The seating was developed from recycled products.
- Angielena also indicated that the facility should be child and dog friendly.
- Sherell said that evergreen trees could be used to screen noise pollution along Marginal Way.
- DAG member James Rasmussen noted that the hat and boots are an iconic element of Georgetown.
  - Angielena said that the hat and boots at Oxbow Park are central to the community and serve as a gathering place for community parties, movies, etc.
- Emilie noted that the photos feature open spaces and indicated that she believes that open spaces will increase safety.

#### Industry Images (slides 26-27)

- James and Sherell noted the beauty in the industrial elements.
- Emilie said that Equinox Studios specializes in making art from industrial elements.
- Cari shared that these images represent the volume of materials going through the Duwamish Valley.
- Angielena said that being able to see the inner workings and mechanisms could be used as an education piece.

#### People Images

Penny noted that the images of people that were provided by DAG members were included in a handout rather than the presentation for privacy reasons.

- Allan noted that the Georgetown area includes residences and industry.
- Emilie referred to the image of the woman and her daughter in front of the hat and boots. The hat and boots represent old Georgetown; the mother is a local business owner and represents the present; the child represents the future.
- Angielena noted that the whole Georgetown community participates in raising children.
- Sherell shared that Georgetown is inclusive, quirky and whimsical.

#### King County Examples (slides 29-31)

Michael Popiwny, King County Project Manager, shared examples of how King County WTD has worked with communities on design, including incorporating art and interpretive elements into facilities or developing screens to hide facilities from public view.

#### Developing Design Guidelines

Mark Johnson, Signal Architecture + Research Project Architect, presented a few examples from the project design team of water, wastewater, solid waste and gateway facilities. Mark presented design guidelines solicited from the various communities and images of how those guidelines were interpreted by the design team.

## Design Guidelines Group Discussion

Penny handed out example design common themes developed by the Murray CSO Control Project Design Advisory Group. Penny asked the group to think about the iconic elements of Georgetown discussed previously to frame them in terms of design guidelines.

- DAG alternate Aaron Korngiebel (a representative from the South Seattle College) mentioned that a common theme was the duality between the nature and beauty of the Duwamish and the industrial elements of the neighborhood.
- James indicated that there is an historic element to Georgetown that is really important to the community and makes it quirky. The King County examples don't include anything historical. Georgetown is an "old town" and the facility design should represent that.
  - Sherell said that she appreciates the juxtaposition of old and new (e.g., the Fran's Chocolates factory). Historic elements should be incorporated but the buildings shouldn't "pretend" to look old.
  - Emilie noted that she likes the interior of the Fran's building because they saved the original iron elements and put new elements around it.
    - Neither Grace nor Emilie are fond of the exterior of that building.
- Angielena noted that it would be great to let people see into and be part of the facility. This will prevent it from looking jail-like. The facility should be a "window into Georgetown."
- Sherell noted that the design should include iron elements and embrace the industrial feel of the city.
- Cari mentioned that the images included a lot of skylines. The new facility could have a varied roofline to impact the view of the skyline.
  - Angielena noted that the buildings should contain organic elements such as roundness, turrets and pilings on top.
  - Allan added that roof spires are iconic Georgetown elements.
- Penny asked the group to clarify what they meant by "windows into Georgetown."
  - Grace said that it could be actual windows or figuratively being able to expose the inner workings.
  - Allan and Sherell said that the facility should draw you towards it and allow you to see the inner workings like the Georgetown Steam Plant.
- James mentioned incorporating trees to screen sound and help with air quality. He indicated that reducing sound pollution has been a priority of the community.
  - Penny asked whether the trees should screen the facility or if the facility should be visible.
  - Grace said the facility should not be screened but that trees should be included where possible.
  - Allan indicated that trees will bring in wildlife and create habitats.
- Penny noted that the themes the group has shared so far are:
  - Nature and industry

- Historic
- Windows into Georgetown, inner workings
- Varied skylines
- Trees
- Michael asked the group to think about open and closed spaces and the safety implications of closed spaces.
- Cari asked how big the site, facility and public space will be.
  - Michael indicated that King County is still trying to determine the size of the facility and the public space, but that the facility will likely take up three out of the four acres. He also mentioned that industrial neighbors have indicated that they are interested in ways to treat stormwater and this facility could serve as an example for them. Michael also asked the group to consider how the landscape around the facility might be maintained and managed in partnership with the neighborhood.
- Sherell suggested celebrating the Duwamish clean up and the transition from dirty to clean.
- Cari noted that the site should celebrate “gray to green.” The site could be a place where people come to learn, take their lunch breaks, or a destination for people from around the city.
- Emilie shared that the facility and site could be a learning tool for students and they could provide maintenance to the grounds (e.g., gardening).
- Erika said that the facility should not hide its purpose; it should be a visible part of the community.
- Sherell noted that it is difficult to access the site and it seems disingenuous to provide a destination that won’t be accessible.
  - Cari suggested that King County reach out to SDOT to put some streets funds into the Marginal Way corridor to improve access and sidewalks.
- Angielena said that the facility and site should be ADA accessible.
- Allan mentioned that the facility could provide a high viewing point for the downtown skyline.
- Allan and Sherell noted that spires and towers should be included and that the building should be whimsical.
- Sherell mentioned the group could work with the City on a skate park.
  - Michael noted that skate parks are large and might use the entire public space.
- Penny suggested that King County provide a map and pictures of the area surrounding the facility at the next meeting.
- Sherell said that she wants people to come to Georgetown from all over the city and make Georgetown known for something other than bars.
- Allan shared that the people that work at the businesses around the site could walk to the location.
  - Michael added that there are many industries and businesses within walking distance.
- Cari asked whether the building could be used as meeting space or office space.
  - Michael asked if there was a need for meeting space.
  - The group indicated that this is a need in Georgetown.
  - Michael clarified that there will be a meeting space incorporated into the building and that there is potential for this space to be open for public meetings if it were designed correctly.

- Penny asked the group to confirm whether or not they wanted covered areas in the public space.
  - The group indicated that a covered area is needed to escape the rain and heat.
  - Michael raised safety concerns.
  - Sherell and Emilie indicated that there are covered spaces in other parks around Georgetown. The covered area could be closed at night if there are concerns.

Michael shared that the design team will capture the thoughts shared by the DAG as draft design guidelines and share them with the DAG for confirmation. The design team will then bring conceptual designs to the next meeting in March.

### **City of Seattle Street Improvement Permit Process and City of Seattle Conditional Use Permit**

Michael discussed the City of Seattle Street Improvement Permit Process and the City of Seattle Conditional Use Permit Process. He indicated that the City has input on the use of public rights-of-way including streets, sidewalks, and street trees.

Michael indicated that King County will share the DAG's and community's wishes for the design, and that King County will come back to the community with an explanation of why the design was changed if there are any modifications through these processes.

- James indicated that this facility could help to improve the Georgetown community and that the people that live in Georgetown are part of making that possible.
  - Michael shared that the County is required to integrate Equity and Social Justice directives into its processes. King County is working to make sure that all its facilities are equitably designed, provide equal access to resources, and that they work with the community. Sustainability is also a requirement.
- Cari asked about the job development opportunities through the design, building and maintenance of the facility.
  - Michael noted that job opportunities are included in the County's determinants of equity list. The County is interested in exploring an apprenticeship program. Stormwater management could also be a research tool and a training opportunity.
    - Aaron indicated that this would fit well with their Sustainable Building Science Technology Bachelor of Applied Sciences program.

### **Wrap Up**

Kerri Franklin will send out an email to confirm the proposed DAG Meeting #4 date of April 29, 2015.

- Emilie shared that they are currently working with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to develop a festival street that will be complete on May 30. It will include space for a farmer's market.
- James asked if the facility will be used to treat industrial waste.
  - Michael clarified that King County works with all permitted industries to ensure pre-treatment is done for water entering the sewer system.

## **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **Next Steps and Action Items (see table)**

## **Attendance**

### Design Advisory Group Members

- Allan Phillips
- Angielena Chamberlain
- Aaron Korngiebel (alternate for Victoria Hardy)
- Cari Simson
- Emilie Shepherd
- Erica Melroy
- Grace Lothrop
- James Rasmussen
- Sherell Ehlers

### Public

- Hannah Kett (alternate for James Rasmussen)

### King County

- Michael Popiwny, Project Manager
- Will Sroufe, Deputy Project Manager
- Kristine Cramer, Community Relations

### Envirolssues

- Penny Mabie, Facilitator
- Chelsea Ongaro, Notetaker

### Signal Architecture + Research

- Mark Johnson, Project Architect



Pending - on hold

In progress

Complete - results still need to be shared

Closed

Ongoing

Last updated: February 20, 2015

Task	Date Assigned	Due	Status	Response
Share with appropriate staff at KC that the Georgetown community is very interested in Rainwise	1/29/15 - DAG #1		Closed	Community letters requesting RainWise could re-open the conversation about bringing the program to Georgetown
Gather information on the facility's technology and the decision making process for using the selected technology. Share information with the DAG.	1/29/15 - DAG #1		Closed	Information shared via email and at DAG #2 on February 12. Information can be shared via small group meeting by request.
Use both Georgetown listserv and Georgetown Gazette for communications	1/29/15 - DAG #1 2/12/15 - DAG #2 3/12/15 - DAG #3 TBD - DAG #4	1/22/15 2/5/15 3/5/15 TBD	Ongoing	Complete for DAG #1 Complete for DAG #2
Send e-alert Monday following DAG meetings	1/29/15 - DAG #1 2/12/15 - DAG #2 3/12/15 - DAG #3 TBD - DAG #4	2/2/15 2/16/15 3/16/15 TBD	Ongoing	Complete for DAG #1 Complete for DAG #2
Develop strategy/schedule to briefing community groups (GCC, etc.) during DAG process. Share and coordinate strategy with the DAG.	1/29/15 - DAG #1		In progress	
Update Charter text to include "programmatic and aesthetic design"	1/29/15 - DAG #1	2/9/2015	Closed	Shared revised charter with DAG at DAG #2. Post to the website.
Define primary treatment and advanced primary treatment. How are they different?	1/29/15 - DAG #1	2/9/2015	Closed	Advanced primary treatment has more advanced solids settling technology as compared to standard primary treatment. Coagulants and flocculants are added to the treatment process to accelerate the solids settling process.

Task	Date Assigned	Due	Status	Response
Find additional specifics on what is coming into the facility (stormwater, water runoff, industrial waste, residential sewage, etc.).	1/29/2015		Closed	<p>Currently, overflow events average 75% stormwater and 25% sewage. After the treatment station is built, the one allowed CSO is projected to be 95% stormwater and 5% sewage. This is because that one event per year (on average) accounts for the biggest storms, with the most stormwater entering the system, in comparison with current overflows which can occur with smaller amounts of rain.</p> <p>King County has an industrial waste program that supports industry and business in meeting federal regulations for the discharge of industrial waste. Industries along the Duwamish, such as metal plating businesses and Boeing's North Field, must go through stringent pre-treatment before they can discharge their waste into the sewer system. These businesses are inspected at least annually to ensure compliance. So most industrial waste that would reach the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station has already been treated. There is no additional treatment planned at the station. For more information on King County's Industrial Waste Program, visit <a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/Regulations.aspx">http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/Regulations.aspx</a>.</p>
Develop technical FAQs and post to the project website	2/12/2015		In progress	
Finalize and post DAG charter to the website	2/12/2015		Closed	
Share information with the DAG about how large the facility will be and how much space will be leftover for public use	2/12/2015	4/30/2015	In progress	

Task	Date Assigned	Due	Status	Response
Bring a map of the area with pictures of adjacent terrain to the next meeting to support accessibility of site discussion.	2/12/2015	4/30/2015	In progress	
Is there a way to improve connections to the site?	2/12/2015		In progress	
Is the City of Seattle interested in a south end skate park? Is there a way to partner with the City?	2/12/2015		In progress	
Develop draft design guideline themes and share with DAG members via email for revision and approval	2/12/2015	3/4/2015	Closed	Sent out with meeting summary email
Confirm DAG availability for 4/29 meeting	2/12/2015		In progress	
Send the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance to the DAG	2/12/2015	3/12/2015	In progress	