

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 18 October 2018

HC/12/2018

Progress Report from Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from July to October 2018, where one Task Force meeting has been conducted.

MEETING HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thirty-second Meeting – 7 September 2018

2. The Task Force discussed the following issues/items -
 - (a) **Advance Promenade from Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section) to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre**
 - (b) **Advance Promenade near Wan Chai Ferry Pier**
 - Representatives of the Harbour Office and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) consulted Members on the proposed design of the two advance promenades to be constructed in Wan Chai North. Upon their completion in 2021, the two promenades would provide 2 hectares of additional open space and extended the existing promenade from Sheung Wan all the way to the Wan Chai Ferry Pier.
 - The meeting in general supported the designs and urged for the early implementation of the two promenades. The adoption of different themes and designs for the two promenades was agreed, having regard to the site conditions and surrounding environments. The meeting was also supportive of the bold and innovative design of the promenade near Wan Chai Ferry Pier which would enhance its vibrancy and local identity. Members offered various suggestions in respect of shading, activities permitted and connectivity to the bus terminus etc., and invited ArchSD to provide the final design to them for reference.

(c) Invitation for Expressions of Interest for Operating Two Licensed Ferry Services

- The Transport Department (TD) gave Members an update on the invitation of expressions of interest in operating the Central – Hung Hom Ferry Service and an In-harbour Circular Service, the latter of which was intended to respond to the community’s “water-taxi” suggestion.
- While welcoming the provision of additional water transport, majority of the Members considered that the proposed In-harbour Circular Service might fall short of the community demand for “water-taxi” service which should have the flexibility of anchoring at any berthing points. Members were of the view that more berthing points with better accessibility to passengers should be considered. Members also suggested TD ascertaining the positioning of the service, and considering how the new service could enhance the harbourfront. The Task Force invited TD to finetune the proposal having regard to comments received.

(d) Study on Pedestrian Connectivity between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan

- The TD consulted Members on the Study including the proposed schemes developed to enhance east-west connectivity between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan. As regards the north-south connectivity, linkages proposed under various urban design studies would also be followed.
- Members in general welcomed the initiative of enhancing pedestrian connectivity, but objected to the proposal of removing a set of landing steps inside the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park. They also stressed that according to the Harbour Planning Principles and Guidelines, physical accesses for pedestrians to and along the harbour as well as harbourfront areas should preferably be at grade. In addition, any new accesses to be constructed should not divert people away from the harbourfront. They also suggested TD working out an overall plan on enhancing the territorial-wide walkability in Hong Kong Island hinterland to the harbourfront area.

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(e) 2019 Hong Kong E-prix

- Supported by the Tourism Commission, the 2019 Hong Kong E-prix will be held in March 2019. The event organiser consulted Members on the proposed short term tenancies of five Government sites in the new Central Harbourfront area for staging the race.
- Noting that the land use arrangements would be largely similar to that of the same event in December 2017, the Task Force rendered support to the proposal.

Secretariat

**Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
October 2018**