

Harbourfront Commission
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments
on Hong Kong Island

Minutes of Thirty-sixth Meeting

Date : 15 May 2020
Time : 3:00 pm
Venue : Conference Room 8, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Present (in person)

Mr Ivan HO	Chair, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
Mr Vincent NG	Chair, Harbourfront Commission
Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Representing Business Environment Council
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Representing Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong
Sr Francis LAM	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	Individual Member
Ms Angela SO	Individual Member
Ms CHAN Po-king	Co-opted Member (Representing Eastern District Council (DC))
Prof Raymond FUNG	Co-opted Member (Individual)
Ms WONG Kin-ching	Co-opted Member (Representing Central and Western DC)

Present (online)

Mr Anthony CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr Paul CHAN	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Mr Edward LO	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Mr Desmond NG	Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr Ken SO	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Mac CHAN	Individual Member
Mr Karl KWOK	Individual Member
Ir Janice LAI	Individual Member
Mr NGAN Man-yu	Individual Member
Hon Tony TSE	Individual Member
Ms Lisa LAU	Co-opted Member (Individual)

Official Members (attending in person)

Ms Doris HO	Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning & Lands) 1, Development Bureau (DEVB)
Mr CHEUNG Mun-kit	Chief Traffic Engineer/Hong Kong, Transport Department (TD)
Mr Wilson MA	Chief Engineer/South 3, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Louis KAU	District Planning Officer / Hong Kong, Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Henry LAI	Secretary

Official Member (attending online)

Mr Benjamin HUNG	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
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In Attendance (attending in person)

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB
Ms Daphne LI	Architect (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr NG Shing-kit	Engineer (Harbour), DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Dr Vivian WONG	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Ms Vivian LEE	Individual Member
Mr Alan LO	Individual Member

For Agenda Item 3

Mr KING Kwok-cheung	Chief Project Manager 101, ArchSD
Ms Juana CHAN	Senior Project Manager 136, ArchSD
Mr Dick WONG	Project Manager 172, ArchSD
Mr WONG Chi-yung	Senior Engineer/District, CEDD
Mr Patrick KEUNG	Senior Engineer 2/Central Wanchai Bypass, HyD

For Agenda Item 4

Ms Sam LAM	Director, Business Development & Projects
Ms Lam Mei-ping	Project Manager

Welcoming Message

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, in particular Ms CHAN Po-king and Ms WONG Kin-ching who attended the Task Force meeting for the first time.

He also informed Members that (a) Mr CHEUNG Mun-kit, Chief Traffic Engineer of the Transport Department (TD), had taken over the post from Mr Eddie LEUNG; and (b) Mr Benjamin HUNG, Assistant Director of the Leisure and Cultural Department (LCSD) had taken over the post of Ms Rebecca LOU.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 35th Meeting

- 1.1 **The Chair** said that the Secretariat circulated the draft minutes of the 35th meeting on 11 May 2020. Since no comments were received, the minutes were confirmed at the meeting.

Item 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

Item 3 Quick-win Promenade Projects Proposed in Water Sports and Recreation Precinct and East Coast Park Precinct under the "Incremental Approach"

Introduction

- 3.1 **The Chair** welcomed representatives from the Harbour Office, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and Highways Department (HyD) to the meeting. He informed Members that an informal briefing on the item had been held on 11 May 2020. He added that the Secretariat had also circulated among Members comments submitted by Mr Ian BROWNLEE, representative of the Hong Kong Water Sports Council (WSC), on the design of the promenade at the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct.

A. Quick-win Promenade Project Proposed in East Coast Park Precinct

Briefing by the Harbour Office and ArchSD

- 3.2 Upon **the Chair's** invitation, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members on the background of the project as follows:
- (a) HyD had agreed to release parts of the work site under the Central - Wan Chai Bypass (CWB) project early for public use and committed to allocate resources to facilitate the quick-win project; and
 - (b) an incremental approach would be adopted with a view to opening the site progressively in Q2 of 2021.
- 3.3 With the aid of the PowerPoint, **Mr KING Kwok-cheung** and **Mr Dick WONG** presented to Members on the conceptual design of the Quick-win Promenade Project proposed in East Coast Park Precinct.

Discussion

Proposed "Victoria Harbour" word art competition

- 3.4 Noting that the Government had held a Victoria Harbour Icon Design Competition years ago, **Prof Raymond FUNG** suggested the project team making clear how the objective of the proposed word art competition differed from the previous competition. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** would also like to know more about the objective of the competition.
- 3.5 Regarding the proposed location of the word art, **Prof Raymond FUNG** and **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek** opined that the word art should be placed on the breakwater for better visibility. **Mr Vincent NG**, **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** and **Ms CHAN Po-king**, considered more appropriate to locate it near the East Ventilation Building (EVB). **Ms CHAN Po-king** opined that the pathway on the breakwater was already quite narrow, and benches and space for picnic were more preferred there. **Mr Vincent NG** and **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** considered that it would be more attractive if visitors could take pictures of the word art from the breakwater. **Sr Francis LAM** proposed placing the word art on the roof of the EVB with the harbour as backdrop, provided that the rooftop could be

opened for public use. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** was concerned if visitors could take pictures with the word art if it was placed on the breakwater, and he was equally concerned that visitors could only use the highway as the backdrop instead of the harbour if the word art was placed near the EVB.

- 3.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that consideration could be given to stacking up the words. **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek** shared his view and further suggested elevating the Harbour Sign to free up more ground space if feasible. **Mr Paul CHAN** considered that the competition brief should allow flexibility for participants to create with their innovation.
- 3.7 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the aim of this competition was to promote Victoria Harbour. The positioning of the word art would be further reviewed and it was difficult for visitors to capture the entire installation practically if the sign was to be placed on the breakwater. **The Chair** remarked that the proposed competition was first raised to Members at the informal briefing on 11 May and invited the Harbour Office to provide further details to Members when ready.

[Post-meeting note: a site visit-cum-briefing was held on 15 July 2020 to brief Members of the Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation and the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island on the detailed proposal of the competition. Location of the word art was also agreed during the visit after considering the various locations proposed in person.]

Shelters and shading

- 3.8 **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek, Ms CHAN Po-king, Prof Raymond FUNG** and **Mr Paul CHAN** highlighted the importance of shelters and shading. **Prof Raymond FUNG** considered that while the site was subject to a long-term development, it would not be ideal to plant clusters of big trees as such might pose limitations to the long-term design. In this connection, large shelters should be provided as far as practicable at suitable locations. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** agreed and suggested adding shelters at the landing steps for public who went fishing there. **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** cited that Pier 46 and Christopher Street Pier in New York were good examples of shading and shelters. **Mr KING Kwok-cheung** responded that the project team would look into the issue in greater details during the detail design.

Access and connectivity

- 3.9 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested setting back the fence of the CWB works site to allow access from the Causeway Bay Substation building and Whitfield Road Rest Garden. He also proposed to open the strip of harbourfront east of the project site and provide pedestrian connections from Oil Street to the west and northeast, forming a circuit route which visitors might go round the harbourfront.
- 3.10 **Sr Francis LAM** suggested connecting the East Coast Park to another section of the harbourfront near the Causeway Bay typhoon shelter.

Kids Land

- 3.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested including vertical grades and curves instead of a flat ground surface in the design of the tracks to offer more fun for skaters and cyclists. **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** opined that the tracks were too short and preferred a big green lawn with better cooling effect instead. **Mr KING Kwok-cheung** responded that the design of this area was constrained by various limitations as it was built on top of the underground basement of the EVB and the CWB tunnel.
- 3.12 **Mr Paul CHAN** opined that children should be engaged in the planning process, for instance, via a trial run or workshops. He added that safety compliance and play-value design checking of the play area were needed. **Mr KING Kwok-cheung** responded that the issue would be further studied.

Other comments

- 3.13 **Prof Raymond FUNG** complimented the overall design and supported incorporating lighting into the environment instead of erecting standalone street lamps. He also commended the use of squares as a simple design with various functions. In addition, he advocated the use of common materials in various projects on certain aspects to demonstrate coherence of the entire harbourfront while enshrining particular designs and attributes of each section of the promenade.
- 3.14 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested congregating facilities including toilets, food and beverage and water dispensers into

the areas near Watson Road and Hing Fat Street where accesses would be provided.

- 3.15 **Mr Ken SO** considered that the quick-win projects were great opportunities to experiment ideas for future designs and suggested that ways to collect information regarding user experiences for future reference should be explored.

Way forward

- 3.16 **The Chair** concluded that Members were generally supportive to the quick-win project. Members expressed concern on the provision of shading and shelters which needed to be further considered by ArchSD.

B. Quick-win Promenade Project proposed in the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct

Briefing by the Harbour Office

- 3.17 Upon **the Chair's** invitation, **Ms Daphne LI** presented the design of the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct and **Mr NG Shing-kit** supplemented with an overview of future short- and long-term plans.
- 3.18 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** informed Members of the background of the project and addressed issues raised in the informal briefing as follows:
- (a) Phase I of the quick-win promenade was expected to complete in Q4 2020. A simple design would be adopted and vibrancy and diversity of the site shall be enhanced through pop-up exhibitions and activities;
 - (b) with regards to the recommendation of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas to introduce water activities in the area, the Harbour Office was in parallel working closely with the WSC, which had responded positively and had expressed interests in running trial activities in the summer of 2020;

[Post-meeting note: A trial on dragon boating was conducted in late June 2020.]

- (c) Members' suggestion to utilise the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) Works Area at the finger pier of the former Public Cargo Working Area ("the finger pier") was deemed unattainable as the site had to be made available for works area for a specified period under contracts; and
- (d) the Harbour Office had contacted the HyD as a follow-up on Members' advice to beautify the temporary site office on the east of Hung Hing Road. Members would be kept informed of HyD's response when its reply was received.

Discussion

Collaboration with the WSC

- 3.19 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested inviting the WSC's comments on the appropriate location of bollards.
- 3.20 **Mr Hans Joachim ISLER** welcomed the participation of the WSC in the project so as to tap on their relevant expertise.

"Finger pier"

- 3.21 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that further negotiations with the Mass Transit Railway should be conducted as the "finger pier" and access road would bring much amenity to the project. **Mr Hans Joachim ISLER** and **the Chair** echoed his view. **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the Harbour Office noted Members' views and had had multiple negotiations with the relevant departments. She added that the work site would soon be utilised to facilitate the early completion. In any event, the Harbour Office would continue the efforts in communicating with the relevant departments.

Management

- 3.22 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** enquired about the management agent of the facilities. He also asked whether visitors could use the facilities in the absence of official water sports events. **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the Harbour Office would cooperate with the WSC to host water sports activities in the coming future. The WSC had liaised with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club in providing necessary support. In the long run, the Harbour Office envisaged to run the site by way of

public-private partnership with expertise from the water sports sector, organising events for both the public and experts.

Design

- 3.23 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested that the arbours should have wider covers. **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** and **Mr Paul CHAN** enquired about the provision of food and beverage and permanent changing facilities. **The Chair** supplemented that as observed in the overseas visit in Australia in early 2020, simple and temporary changing facilities, e.g. converted containers, were sufficient to support water sports activities.
- 3.24 **The Chair** suggested that the design of the harbour steps should take into account tidal patterns.
- 3.25 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** stressed the importance of ensuring public safety. **The Chair** shared his views and advised to further study the lighting design of the harbour steps.

Other comments

- 3.26 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about the findings of the Study on “Further Enhancing Quality of Coastal Waters of Victoria Harbour” commenced by Environmental Protection Department in 2016 and questioned the added value of the proposed water quality assessment. He also requested removal of the existing hoarding and fences at the harbourfront side of Hung Hing Road.

Way forward

- 3.27 **The Chair** concluded that the project had received general support from Members. He supported the continuous collaboration with the WSC but remarked that issues of the “finger pier” and shelters and shading should be further followed-up by the project proponent.

Item 4 Lessons from “#dd Design District Hong Kong” for the Harbourfront

Introduction

4.1 **The Chair** welcomed representatives from the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) to the meeting.

Briefing by the Harbour Office and HKDC

4.2 Upon **the Chair’s** invitation, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members on the background of the session as follows:

(a) Besides hardware, software element such as pop-up events were also crucial to enhance visitors’ experience along the harbourfront.

(b) Since the opening of the promenade between Tamar and Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (“The Connector” in Wan Chai in October 2019, the HO has launched various initiatives there. The HKDC, while being one of the parties engaged in the initiatives, had also launched the subject initiative in Wan Chai District. Such experiences of the HKDC would be useful in enhancing the future pursuit at the harbourfront and hence, the HKDC was invited to share their relevant experiences at the meeting.

4.3 With the aid of the PowerPoint, **Mr Henry LAI** presented the initiatives along “The Connector” initiative in Wan Chai and **Ms Sam LAM** presented the experiences and key approaches of the Creative Placemaking Public Engagement & Tourism Project namely “#dd Design District Hong Kong”.

Discussion

Future collaboration with the HKDC

4.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Mr Vincent NG and Prof Raymond FUNG** supported adopting the placemaking approach in engaging the public and welcomed future collaboration with the HKDC.

Item 5 Any other business

A. Kennedy Town Waterfront Temporary Promenade design and Design Concept from residents

5.1 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** informed Members that a PowerPoint presentation on the subject was submitted by Ms WONG Kin-ching before the meeting and it had been circulated among Members. The project proponent of the initiative concerned was the Central and Western District Office (C&WDO). She added that the design of the project was being discussed at the District Council but details were yet to be affirmed for further discussion among Members. Upon the Secretariat's enquiry, the project proponent undertook to consult the Task Force when ready. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** remarked that the subject site in Kennedy Town was important and concerned multiple departments. **The Chair** asked the Secretariat to maintain ongoing communication with the C&WDO and arrange consultation with the Task Force when the project proponent is ready.

B. Action Area Table of the Hong Kong Task Force

5.2 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** wished to know the progress which he raised in the email sent to the Secretariat on 11 May 2020. He proposed to incorporate the issues raised into the action area table and dedicate time for discussion in future meetings. **The Chair** suggested the Secretariat ensuring systematic reporting on the progress of harbourfront enhancement initiatives which were of general interest by the Task Force.

[Post-meeting note: The Action Area Table has been updated accordingly and issued to Members on 12 June 2020.]

5.3 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.