

Harbourfront Commission
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments
on Hong Kong Island

Minutes of Thirty-ninth Meeting

Date : 17 May 2021
Time : 3:00 pm
Venue : Room 1303, 13/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre, 345 Nathan Road, Kowloon

Present (in person)

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman, Harbourfront Commission
Mr Ivan HO	Chairman, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Representing Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong
Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Representing Business Environment Council
Sr Francis LAM	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr Ken SO	Representing The Conservancy Association
Prof Raymond FUNG	Co-opted Member

Present (online)

Mr Anthony CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Ms Sam LOK	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Ir Victor CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Desmond NG	Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr Mac CHAN	Individual Member
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	Individual Member
Mr Karl KWOK	Individual Member
Ir Janice LAI	Individual Member
Mr Alan LO	Individual Member
Ms Angela SO	Individual Member
Hon Tony TSE	Individual Member
Ms CHAN Po-king	Co-opted Member
Ms KOO Kwok-wai	Co-opted Member
Ms WONG Kin-ching	Co-opted Member

Ms Lisa LAU Co-opted Member

Official Members (attending in person)

Mr Vic YAU Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning & Lands)
1, Development Bureau (DEVB)

Mr Alex AU Chief Traffic Engineer/Hong Kong, Transport
Department (TD)

Mr Raymond LEE Chief Engineer/South 3, Civil Engineering and
Development Department (CEDD)

Mr Benjamin HUNG Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 2, Leisure and
Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr Louis KAU District Planning Officer/Hong Kong, Planning
Department (PlanD)

Mr Henry LAI Secretary

Official Members (attending online)

Ms Anny TANG Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission
(TC)

In Attendance

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB

Ms Angora NGAI Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1 (Des), DEVB

Mr William CHAN Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB

Mr Carlos FUNG Senior Engineer (Harbour)1, DEVB

Mr Steven LEE Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 2, DEVB

Mr Ray LEE Building Services Engineer (Harbour), DEVB

Mr Helen CHU Landscape Architect (Harbour), DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Dr Vivian WONG Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity
Limited

Mr Paul CHAN Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape
Architects

Ms Vivian LEE Individual Member

Mr NGAN Man-yu Individual Member

For Agenda Item 3

Mr Raymond LEE	Chief Engineer/South 3, CEDD
Mr Godfrey HO	Senior Engineer/6 (South), CEDD
Mr Daniel LEUNG	Operation Director - Infrastructure, Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment Limited
Mr Paul WONG	Director, LWK & Partners (HK) Limited
Mr Terence CHOW	Associate Director, LWK & Partners (HK) Limited

Action

Welcoming Message

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and informed the meeting that-

- (a) Mr Alex AU had taken over the post of Chief Traffic Engineer/Hong Kong of Transport Department (TD) from Mr CHEUNG Mun-kit;
- (b) Mr Raymond LEE had taken over the post of Chief Engineer/South 3 of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) from Mr Wilson MA; and
- (c) Ms Anny TANG, Senior Manager of Tourism Commission (TC), was attending the meeting on behalf of Mr Anson LAI, Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 2.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 38th Meeting

- 1.1 The draft minutes of the 38th meeting were circulated to Members on 11 May 2021. Since no comments were received, the minutes were confirmed at the meeting.

Item 2 Matters Arising

5.5km promenade on Hong Kong Island between Shek Tong Tsui and Wan Chai North

- 2.1 Upon the Chair's invitation, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members on the pamphlet on 5.5km promenade on Hong Kong Island between Shek Tong Tsui and Wan Chai North as follows. The pamphlet:

- (a) promoted the longest promenade along Victoria Harbour, a pamphlet had been produced and tabled for Members' reference;
- (b) introduced different highlights and facilities along the harbourfront from the Former Wan Chai Public Cargo Working Area (now known as Water Sports and Recreation Precinct) to the Western Wholesale Food Market in Shek Tong Tsui.

She welcomed Members' to help distributing the pamphlet to public to promote publicity.

Item 3 The Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor (Paper No. TFHK/01/2021)

Introduction

- 3.1 **The Chairman** welcomed representatives from the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and its consultants to the meeting. He informed Members that an informal briefing on the subject was held on 12 May 2021.
- 3.2 Upon the Chair's invitation, **Mr Henry LAI** briefed Members on the background of the project as follows:
 - (a) the Task Force was consulted on the gazetted scheme of the Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) ("the Boardwalk") at the 38th meeting held in September 2020;
 - (b) after receiving the general support of the Task Force, CEDD published the gazettal of the proposed scheme under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) (the Ordinance), and the Ordinance as applied by section 26 of the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulation (Cap. 358AL) on 31 December 2020; and
 - (c) as committed at the meeting, CEDD and its consultant commenced the detailed design of the Boardwalk in parallel. In order to engage members early on the design, an informal exchange session was held with the Task Force on 3 February 2021, followed by a site walk on 8 February 2021.

Briefing by the CEDD

- 3.3 Upon the Chairman's invitation, **Mr Raymond LEE, Mr Paul WONG** and **Mr Terence CHOW** briefed Members on the latest architectural and landscaping design of the proposed Boardwalk with the aid of PowerPoint.

Discussion

General Comments

- 3.4 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Hon Tony TSE, Mr Vincent NG, Mr Anthony CHEUNG, Prof Raymond FUNG and Ms Lisa LAU** supported in-principle the proposed design of the Boardwalk and urged for early implementation to the project.
- 3.5 **Mr LEUNG kong-yui** suggested that CEDD should consider setting up an information centre and making use of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technology to introduce to the public about the Boardwalk project. He also indicated that he had no objection of the proposed temporary works area near to the quick-win promenade in the East Coast Park Precinct provided that it would not affect the construction works of the winning piece of the Word Art "Victoria Harbour" thereat. **Mr Raymond LEE** replied that CEDD had established a dedicated project website to keep people abreast of the latest information about the Boardwalk project. He added that they would publish leaflets for distribution to the community at the Community Liaison Centre during construction of the Boardwalk project.

Design

- 3.6 Noting that soffit painting and column beautification works would be carried out in the project, **Prof Raymond FUNG** shared with the meeting his concerns on maintaining the colour since it would gradually fade out or even disappear. Citing the project of Fly the Flyover Operation at Kwun Tong, **The Chairman** said that the project team would make reference to their beautification works and adopt similar materials to the soffit painting and column beautification works.
- 3.7 To further advocate the vision of "incremental approach" when pursuing the development of harbourfront in recent years, **Mr**

Vincent NG considered that the design of the Boardwalk should be made flexible with basic infrastructure and facilities installed so as to allow greater public participation in the design process. He was of the view that the proposed design had provided space to allow fine-tuning the design as time progress and situation changes. **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** supplemented that from the recent experience of organising pop-up initiatives at the harbourfront sites, the public response and feedback were always unpredictable and so, by reserving space to address up-to-date needs was important. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** shared the same view. He considered that a flexible design with all infrastructure such as electricity, drainage and piping system in place could facilitate the change of design at a lower cost.

- 3.8 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** commented that the design was rather conventional and suggested adding sustainable and smart features into the design, such as a mobile application informing people of the availability of parking spaces, upcoming events along the harbourfront, etc. **Mr Vincent NG** agreed and it could be a useful reference for all harbourfront sites, for instance, installation of a LED screen display showing information of events happening in future. **Mr Ken SO** also agreed adding sustainability features in the design. Apart from that, climate resilience principle should also be taken into account in the development of harbourfront promenade too.
- 3.9 **Mr Alan LO** stressed the importance of provision of all essential basic facilities including water supply, drainage system as well as electricity so as to support a flexible design of the Boardwalk, especially if food and beverage (F&B) facilities might be provided later. Recently, there were many events or happenings at harbourfront sites, for example, the displays of some public artwork or some pop-up installations, he enquired if the loading capacity of the Boardwalk could support the displays of artwork or installations. **Mr Raymond LEE** replied that the designed loading capacity of the Boardwalk could support the display of public artwork.
- 3.10 In response to Members' comments that a flexible design should be adopted to the Boardwalk, **Mr Raymond LEE** indicated the project team had provided essential utility supply such as water supply, drainage, electricity and had made available space to allow greater flexibility in the design. He planned to reserve more space to address people needs to the Boardwalk at different times.

- 3.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** asked if it was a heritage structure so the Pier located at Tong Shui Road was preserved. If not, he considered that the pier should not be kept. **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** concurred his views.
- 3.12 **The Chairman** said that a Member asked about the safety of riding a bicycle on the glass panel during the informal briefing session held on 12 May 2021 and wished the project team to give a response. **Mr Terence CHOW** replied that the glass panel was made by special texture and it could ride a bicycle on it.

Facilities

- 3.13 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that the glass balustrade has a reflective effect, which was hard to look through into water at night. **Mr Raymond LEE** undertook to review the orientation of lighting taking into account of Mr ZIMMERMAN's views.
- 3.14 **The Chairman** appreciated the project team's efforts in providing shading and shelter, which would be beneficial for the people. On the other hand, he considered that the project team should provide more tables and seating for people to enjoy their food along the Boardwalk. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** agreed and suggested further increasing the seating by referring to the West Kowloon Cultural District.
- 3.15 **Mr Ken SO** opined that more bicycle rental stations should be provided. **Mr Raymond LEE** responded that one bicycle rental station was sufficient given the Boardwalk was 2 kilometres long. The number of the bicycle rental stations should be further reviewed if the cycle truck further extended in future.
- 3.16 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** considered that the Boardwalk was a steel structure and might be difficult to modify significantly, and hence he suggested planning all necessary facilities before commencement of works. He also enquired if there were provision of indoor and outdoor event facilities such as pavilion for public using for wedding or other activities like drawing.
- 3.17 **The Chairman** stated the provision of public toilet should be taken into account of the lighting, ventilation and hygiene, he also stressed the importance of providing rest room for the cleaning staff.

Link / Movable Bridges

- 3.18 **Hon Tony TSE** asked for more details on how frequent the movable bridge would be operated and the connectivity between the Provident Centre and the Boardwalk. **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** would like to know the operation mode of the movable bridges. **Mr Raymond LEE** replied that the movable bridges would allow government vessels to access the coastal areas bounded by the Boardwalk. According to records, the bridges might need to open for their access once a month. A contractor would be engaged and be responsible for the operation and management of the movable bridges.
- 3.19 **The Chairman** was in favour of the construction of a link bridge to connect with the Provident Centre. This could encourage people walking from the hinterlands to the harbourfront through a beautiful public open space.

Signage and lighting

- 3.20 **Ms Sam LOK** considered that the lighting should accommodate both functional and decoration purpose especially for festive occasion. **The Chairman** agreed her views. **Mr Raymond LEE** replied that they would review and further enhance the lighting design as appropriate.
- 3.21 **Ms Lisa LAU** considered that signage and wayfinding system were important for directing the public to visit the Boardwalk. She suggested placing more signage in the early opening of the Boardwalk. **Ms Sam LOK** shared her views and suggested placing signages or banners on the footbridge or government buildings near the Boardwalk to guide and welcome the public to enjoy the harbourfront.

Other comments

- 3.22 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** wanted to know if the design had took account of the requirements of the Hong Kong Police Force for conducting crowd control. In addition, as Members were supportive of the flexible design for allowing adjustment to the design of the Boardwalk, he would like to know if there were any adjustment or review mechanism available for the Task

Force to monitor the progress of the project. **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the project team would brief Members the latest progress of the project regularly.

Way Forward

3.23 **The Chairman** thanked the efforts made by the current and previous Task Force members as well as the HO and CEDD for the project. Members and the public were looking forward the early completion of the Boardwalk. He also asked the project team to take into account of Members' comments of the project and considered to promote community engagement through different means.

Item 4 Any Other Business

A. Change of Secretary

4.1 **The Chairman** informed that Mr Henry LAI would be posted out from the Harbour Office of the Development Bureau on 17 May 2021 and Ms Angora NGAI would take over the post as the Secretary of the Task Force on 18 May 2021. **The Chairman** proposed a vote of thanks to Mr LAI for his contribution to the Harbourfront Commission throughout the years.

B. Date of next meeting

4.2 **The Chairman** informed that the Secretariat would inform Members of the next meeting schedule in due course.

4.3 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Secretariat

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

Harbourfront Commission

September 2021