



# CITY OF CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA



## COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

**Mary Jean Davis**  
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**Planning Committee, Chairperson**  
**Planning Commission**  
**Human Rights Commission**  
**Facilities Committee**  
**Riverfront Committee, Chairperson**

### Minutes

#### Riverfront Committee Meeting

Mayor's Conference Room, 4:00 pm

May 25, 2005

Mary Jean Davis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the Mayor's Conference Room.

**Committee Members Present:** Mary Jean Davis  
Charlie Loeb  
Ed Talkington  
Bobby Reishman  
Marc Weintraub

**Others Present:** Susie Salisbury                      Rod Blackstone  
David Molgaard                                      Dan Vriendt

Committee Member Talkington moved to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2005 meeting and Member Loeb seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairperson Davis began the meeting by addressing questions about Sasaki's design of the Haddad Riverfront Park and various changes in those design plans that resulted in the present-day layout. She provided drawings, plans and documentation that showed that the original design for the park had a lot of green space and trees. However, members of the City's committee, along with the Corps of Engineers with whom they had a 50/50 contract, changed these plans in order to allow for cost-savings. Chairperson Davis believes it is important that all Riverfront Committee Members be

aware of how the Haddad Riverfront Park evolved in order to address questions that might arise from utilizing the same designer for our riverfront project.

Next, David Molgaard updated members on the agreement with Allistar McIntosh, Principal for Sasaki Associates, Inc. He advised that Sasaki signed a contract with the City and reviewed the various phases of the project with the group. He stated that Sasaki has not yet received a copy of the November "Think Tank" summary prepared by Tom Heywood and the Committee agreed to provide this to them.

Molgaard mentioned that Beth Cade, from the Corps of Engineers, is currently working on the bank stabilization project between Magic Island and Patrick Street. He stated that she is a resource for obtaining matching grants for the riverfront development and will meet with Sasaki in order to discuss them.

Dan Vriendt, Director of Planning for the City, stated that an architectural landscaping student from WVU is interested in doing his thesis on the riverfront project. He asked the Committee for their thoughts on this request and it was agreed that the student be allowed to participate in the project.

The Committee discussed the need to tie the Master Plan for the Riverfront into ongoing and proposed developments, including the Florida Street area as well as the Rails to Trails program. Additionally, the proposed fountain project at Magic Island is a consideration for incorporation in the Master Plan and Molgaard said that he would ask Sasaki to consider these ideas.

The first phase of the project is the Analysis Phase where Sasaki will hold "kick-off" meetings with city officials and other stakeholders to discuss general expectations. They will interview business owners and riverbank property owners, hold a public meeting, review existing maps, studies and other information. This phase is expected to last 1 month.

The Committee began preparation for this phase by assembling a list of stakeholders within the community whose support and feedback is critical. The Committee discussed various constituents and community leaders, compiling a list for use by the Committee and Sasaki.

Ideas for meeting settings included a riverboat cruise, trolley rides through the City, and the use of Marc Weintraub's office overlooking the river. It was suggested that the group size for each meeting be no larger than 12 – 14 people and be allotted 45 minutes to 1 hour over the course of 1 ½ days of Sasaki's stay.

City departments to be included in the planning process include Planning and Public Works (specifically Traffic Engineering and Street Maintenance within this department).

Members decided upon the dates of June 22 – June 24 as the most favorable for the initial meeting with Sasaki representatives. Chairperson Davis and David Molgaard will

be responsible for fine-tuning this initial list and arranging for meetings between stakeholders and Sasaki consultants during that time. David Molgaard will finalize the dates with Sasaki and Marc Weintraub will reserve his office's eighth floor conference room for use on by the Committee on June 23 and 24.

The Committee discussed the need to publicize the public forums so that those expressing strong interest in the development of the Riverfront will be aware and able to attend if desired. Members agreed that efforts would be made to ensure that Susan Johnson and Don Booth, both local parties who submitted proposals, be made aware of public forums as they are scheduled.

It was suggested that June 22 be the date for the initial kick-off meeting for Sasaki Associates, Inc. and that a public forum take place during Sasaki's stay in the City. David Molgaard is to finalize the meeting time with Sasaki and confer with Committee Members to arrange for meetings with stakeholders.

Committee Members identified the following stakeholders as those whom Sasaki representatives should meet with during this first visit to Charleston:

- Beth Cade, Corps of Engineers
- Coast Guard, Huntington
- County Commissioners: Kent Carper, Dave Hardy, Hoppy Shores
- Brooks McCabe, Senator
- Dan Foster, Senator
- Troy Body, Commissioner of Division of Culture & History
- Danny Jones, Mayor
- Charlie and Nelson Jones
- Nell Chilton, property owner
- Drew Payne, property owner
- Charleston Area Alliance – Ted Armbrrecht, Pat Bond, Jerry Walker
- Historical Society - Henry Battle, Allan Tweddle, Richard Andre
- Becky Cain
- Jim and Newt Thomas – foundations and Renaissance
- Beautification Commission – Troy Stallard, Mary Jane Vanderwilt, Bill Miller
- West Side Association – Dennis Strawn
- East End Historical Association – David Marshall
- Karen Haddad
- James Hemey
- Mike Stadjuhar
- Ed Maier
- Carroll Hutton
- Carrie Webster, House of Representatives

There being no further business to conduct, motion was made by Committee Member Ed Talkington to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Davis seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p m.

cc: Rod Blackstone, Susie Salisbury, Dan Vriendt

MJD/lgj