

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**  
**URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 27, 2011

**Meeting No.:** 121

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**Project:** Pierce's Park

**Phase:** Final

**Location:** Pier 5, Inner Harbor

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**PRESENTATION:**

Laurie Schwartz, Executive Director of the Waterfront Partnership, provided a brief update regarding the funding for the project. Scott Rykiel and Joe Burkhardt of Mahan Rykiel Associates, gave an overview of the design changes since the last presentation, as well as provide material samples and slides of the various park elements, including walkways, seating, and lighting. David Hess, sculptor for the project, shared models and drawings with the Panel of the two sculptures that would be located within the two primary open spaces of the park

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL:**

The Panel complimented the designers and sculptor on their responsiveness to the Panel's previous concerns. Although final approval was given, the Panel had two final recommendations:

Increase the number of trees: The Panel was disappointed to see fewer trees in the final design than previously shown. In particular, the Panel would like to see the trees along the Eastern Avenue entrance drive and turnaround north of the hotel planted closer together. This would provide a better sense of enclosure and separation between the park and the hotel, which was one of the goals of the project to create a quiet and more protected area. Additionally, trees should be added to the extent possible between the park and the parking lot to the east, for the same reasons and to screen the parking lot. Finally, additional trees between the western open space and the smaller secluded garden would provide the opportunity to walk between trees; as shown, with the reduction of the number of trees, park users are primarily walking next to a row of trees rather than among them.

Connection to the Promenade: A better connection – visual and actual – needs to be made between the promenade on the western edge of Pier 5 and highlighted planked walkway that passes between the two open spaces of the park. The Panel recognizes the challenge of the taxi lane, but feels that the small path that crosses the lane to the highlighted walkway can be strengthened as a connection between the park and people coming from the north.

**PANEL ACTION:**

Final Approval with comments.

**Attending:**

Laurie Schwartz – Waterfront Partnership

Scott Rykiel, Joe Burkhardt – MRA

Jeff Ratnow – WRA

David Hess – Sculptor

Molly Moyer – GBC

Ed Gunts – The Sun

Messrs. Bowden, Ramberg and Cameron – Panel

Wolde Ararsa, Bob Quilter - Planning