

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

Date: June 14, 2012

Meeting No.: 148

Project: Baltimore National Aquarium – Solar Panels

Phase: Discussion

Location: Inner Harbor

PRESENTATION:

Tim Pula of the National Aquarium provided the background to their proposal to add solar energy photovoltaic panels to the roof areas of their Pier 4 building. He highlighted the Aquarium's commitment to universal conservation efforts as the primary driver of the project. Study drawings by Design Collective were presented. Although, as presented, the panels would also be employed on the flat roof areas of the building, the primary discussion concerned the iconic pyramidal roof, which is currently in need of other repairs and replacement. The Aquarium is continuing discussion with two possible providers with the intention of completing the installation by the end of November 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL:

The Panel enthusiastically endorsed the idea and felt that this important location could be an ideal site for promoting alternative energy applications. The primary concern centered on the best ways to express the panels on the very visible pyramidal roof. The Panel suggested that further study would be appropriate in the following areas:

- Alternative panel layouts that may better define and identify the role of the individual panels themselves.
- Alternative panel layouts that may be more sympathetic to the actual triangular shape of the roof plane with particular concern for the edge conditions.
- Layouts which appear to be more creative, graphic and dynamic in the spirit of the Aquarium's original design original principles and its location in the Inner Harbor.

PANEL ACTION:

No action required – discussion only

Attending:

Tim Pula, Bonnie Howell, Sarah Elfreth - The National Aquarium
M. J. Brodie, Irene VanSant – BDC

Messrs. Bowden*, Burns and Cameron, - Panel

Director Stosur, Gary Cole, Anthony Cataldo, Wolde Ararsa, Gary Cole, Eric Tiso, Alex Hoffman, RJ Koscielniak -Planning