



City of Seattle

Central Waterfront Oversight Committee

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Attendees: Marshall Foster, Tiffani Melake, Alyssa Hall, Tessa Pilz, Bob Donegan, Rachel Ligtenberg, Peggy Sloan, Emily Hoober George, Geraldine Poor, Shawn Jackson, Leslie Veloz, Joy Shigaki, Gerry Johnson, Joy Shigaki

1. Mayor Transition (Marshall)
 - a. Marshall Transition
 - i. Leaving 3rd week of January, transitioning to Sound Transit
 - ii. Diamatris Winston will become interim director, beginning January 19, 2026
 - iii. Seattle Center Foundation will be working with Mayor Elect to select a new Director of Seattle Center
2. Co-Chair announcement (Gerry)
 - a. Emily has agreed to be co-chair
 - b. We welcome her with grand enthusiasm
 - c. Tiffani, Gerry, & Emily will be working closely together
3. Budget – YTD (Tiffani)
 - a. Projected to have just over \$1Mil as carry-forward
 - i. Most likely will be seen later in the year (~May)
 - b. 2026: initial increased funding by 1.6M
 - i. Starting year with a bit more
 - c. Secured funding through SDOT for 2 y, 11m to do medians & pioneer square connections for landscaping
 - i. Does not include public safety funding
 1. To be used for landscaping only
 - ii. Includes a newly hired gardener who will join the team in early 2026
 - iii. Hiring a second candidate, late 2025/ early 2026
 - iv. Q: Are all gardens turned over to WF yet?
 1. A: Not yet, expected by Q2 2026.
 - v. Goal is to get through 2028 before additional large spends
 1. Hoping to have underspend for cushion
- d. Q: Any costs higher than expected/ unexpected costs
 - i. Bathroom water usage
 - ii. Overlook Walk upkeep of concrete to maintain it and keep it clean
 - iii. Robberies/ break-ins -> stolen equipment costs (minor)
 - iv. Payment for operations spaces
- e. It is important for CWOC to be highly engaged in our upcoming phase

- i. Will need to make it clear what our needs are/ what we're asking for with the Metropolitan Parks District (MPD) renewal
 - 1. These conversations are in early stages
- ii. It is important to get our #'s correct for annual operating costs, as it may lock us in for multiple years moving forward

4. Park Inspections (Tiffani)

- a. We completed 3 of 4 park inspections this year
- b. Park inspections take a while to complete
- c. Identifying guest surveyors + Subcommittee
 - i. Volunteers with annual recognition
 - ii. Group of 10-12 dedicated surveyors
 - iii. Would be trained by staff on how to complete surveys, what to look for
 - iv. Ideas/ feedback
 - 1. CWOC members still complete survey, in different cadence; perhaps each committee member completes the survey once a year, rather than 3 or 4
 - 2. Request for public engagement from public/ general park visitors
 - 3. Simplified version of survey is preferred
 - v. Data Validation of waterfront park
 - 1. We've failed previously due to comments received outside of our jurisdiction
- d. Public engagement
 - i. Social pinpoint
 - 1. Simplified survey platform
 - 2. Landing page, easy to use, guiding screens for questions
 - ii. QR codes to come, place around park for guests of park to take survey/ provide feedback
 - 1. Ex. "do you feel safe?"

5. 2026 Work Plan (Gerry)

- a. Annual Report (Q1)
 - i. Mostly Gerry, Tiffani, & Emily to put together
 - 1. Everyone else on committee to review it
 - ii. Will include budget, data on who visits park, info about public safety
 - iii. In the past it included construction updates, but this upcoming report will likely be a bit retrospective
 - iv. Timeline:
 - 1. March:

- a. Submit to CWOC chairs
 - b. Review from committee
- 2. End of March/ Beginning of April:
 - a. Send to Mayor/ council
- b. Review Performance Standards (Q2)
 - i. Deep dive on data, present how we think we performed, Friends does an internal pass, we look at that & digest, and put it all in one place for CWOC to review and make recommendations
- c. Brief Council (Q1/Q2)
 - i. Once committees are settled in early 2026
- d. Financial Planning (ongoing)
 - i. Very important in the coming 2 years

6. Subcommittees

- a. Financial Planning
 - i. Looking at what's next for 2029-2034
 - ii. Volunteers:
 - 1. Chair: Gerry, Emily
 - 2. 1-2 additional members
 - 3. Preference to keep a smaller group
 - 4. Joy
- b. Park Inspections
 - i. Scope of work: pull together thoughts discussed today on how to implement, how frequently inspections are completed; committee members to have ownership of how that involved
 - ii. Volunteers:
 - 1. Chair: Bob
 - 2. Volunteers:
 - a. Leslie
- c. Performance Standards
 - i. If we're looking for more public data
 - ii. Volunteers:
 - 1. Chair: Leslie
 - 2. Shawn
 - 3. Ed
- d. Fourth Subcommittee: name TBD
 - i. Safety task-force group focused on park rules enforcement
 - ii. Ideas for names: advocacy, policy
 - iii. Volunteers:
 - 1. Geri Poor, Peggy

7. Open Discussion

- a. Adjusting to a full and open park
 - i. We opened Pier 58, opened the restroom
- b. Estimated visitor counts from SHWA
 - i. 7.7M to 8M from 2024 to 2025
 - ii. Expecting to reach 9M in 2026