

Jacob Leon ([00:00:00](#)):

Former Commissioner Emeritus Dukie Valderrama will be the first person to welcome everybody in for tonight's workshop. Commissioner Dukie. [inaudible 00:00:14]

Dukie Valderrama ([00:00:20](#)):

First of all, Dukie Valderrama, I've been a Port commissioner for 16 years. I want to thank Commissioner Naranjo for inviting me to come in and say a few comments. As I indicated, I've been a lifetime resident. I grew up in Old Town National City and when I grew up in Old Town, Pepper Park or the 24th Street area is where me and all of my friends used to hang out. As a young kid, we used to ride our bikes down there. In high school, we used to go down there to socialize and do a little bit of partying and even to this day, even as I'm retired, my wife and I go there at least once a week to go sit there and get the breeze coming in off the bay.

Dukie Valderrama ([00:01:03](#)):

So I spent a lot of time at Pepper Park. As I indicated, being a lifetime resident, Pepper Park has had many great events down there. We've had Mariachi fest, we've had thousands of people show up and we're kind of limited as far as what we can do at the park because of the size. So this is an opportunity for the National City community to provide their input as far as what they would like to see with a new Balanced Plan. There's a lot of great ideas out there. There's talking about expanding the park there's talking about, putting in a community building. One of the things that was a pet peeve of mine is that when I was in high school and we wanted to go to the Sweetheart ball or the prom, we always had to do something like that in San Diego.

Dukie Valderrama ([00:01:52](#)):

If we increased the capacity of what the building is there, we could potentially have functions like that at Pepper Park. But you know, this whole event, this evening is to give the community an opportunity to come in and provide their input of what they want to see as far as moving forward. So I really want to thank the Commissioner Naranjo, for allowing me to say a few comments regarding the process that is going to be utilized. And I want to thank everybody that's taken the time to come out and speak to who's going to speak in the breakouts today. So with that being said, I'm going to turn it over to Commissioner Naranjo. And thank you once again Sandy, for inviting me.

Sandy Naranjo ([00:02:31](#)):

Thank you Emeritus Commissioner Dukie. And before I go into my comments, I wanted to say this real clear, it was not our intention to have a limit. We want one of these workshops to be open for everyone to join. So I know this is recorded and we're going to post this. My apologies that there are folks that aren't able to get in. And also this will be posted on our website and we will make sure this is a lesson learned on what we need to do on our end to make sure that everyone can join. So Good evening everyone. And again, Commissioner Emeritus, Dukie Valderrama, it's great to be presenting you this evening. I really have to say you left pretty big shoes to fill in on the board, but I assure you, I remain as committed as ever and will work as hard to represent National City on the Board of Port Commissioners, especially when it comes to increasing public access to the waterfront and National City.

Sandy Naranjo ([00:03:32](#)):

A topic of interest that I share passionately with Commissioner Emeritus Dukie. I want to see the National City Balanced Plan certified by so that we can get working on this project. It's going to expand

Pepper Park, giving our children more room to play and our community to breathe, giving National City residents and visitors more public spaces to commune and to enjoy our beautiful bay so that the people we attract can in turn patronize our local business and economy. It will open up the area and provide environmental and aesthetic benefits to a part of San Diego that has at times been made to neglect these concerns as a result of the social inequalities, racial divisions and economic inequities. Manifesting in large part from the community being excluded from the decision-making process. We are part of a larger chance to correct these egregious accidents and sometimes deliberate policies, which is precisely why public outreach is an integral component of this process and has included small stakeholder working sessions, public meetings and individual meetings with interested parties.

Sandy Naranjo ([00:04:36](#)):

Tonight is another step in the longer arc of this journey, giving you the public, the community, a chance to share your vision, feedback, and potential features that you want to see included at Pepper Park aimed at helping us establish a larger vision. The park will be expanded by an additional two and a half acres as part of this project. It is a modest number, but one with so much potential. On behalf of the Board of Port Commissioners, thank you for participating tonight. We welcome all of your ideas and input and appreciate them. Now I'll be turning it over to Jamie LaBrake director at Sycuan Cultural Center, and Ana Gloria Rodriguez, cultural coordinator and instructor for a land dedication ceremony. Jamie and Ana. Jamie, can you unmute yourself?

Jamie LaBrake ([00:05:47](#)):

Can you hear me now?

Jacob Leon ([00:05:49](#)):

Yes. Okay.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:05:51](#)):

Well, thank you Sandy. Thank you Janice for allowing me to be here to partake in this meeting tonight. I think what you all are doing is wonderful. Before I start, I'd like to offer a little bit of tobacco for gratitude and thanks for today. Tobacco was a first plant that came from the creator's heart. And when he gave it to us, he gave it to us whenever we're sharing or receiving, to always be grateful for today. And always being grateful to meet new people, to bring resolution to issues or most important to bring to fruition, great ideas. And I think that's what's happening tonight.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:06:29](#)):

I'm also going to offer a little bit of the Sage plant right here. This provides us the transport of our prayers and our ideas to the heavens above. The smoke will carry all our wishes and our efforts to the creator as we ask for guidance, or as I do things at prayers like that. [foreign language 00:06:50] welcome relatives and welcome to our homelands? My name is Jamie I'm with the Sycuan band of the Kumeyaay nation. And I'm here to give you gratitude and thanks for acknowledging that this meeting is taking place in our homelands. The reason why; because it allows me and the common people to welcome you into our homes. I think what you're doing with confidence and comfort, knowing that you can bring changes on that is very important and we acknowledge you and we see you for these efforts.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:07:20](#)):

Our Kumeyaay lands extend from the ocean to the desert, 75 miles north of the border and also 75 miles south to the border. There's 12 bands of the Kumeyaay people that reside on this side, but I'd also like to include my family. There's four bands to the Kumeyaay nation, there's Neji, Necua, Mapahal and La Huerta. And I just want to bring them into this dialogue too. I want to share a little story about us, on how we got the ability to use our language and our songs, and to build a philosopher.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:07:56](#)):

A man one time for the mountains was sent to the ocean by his people. And he was sent down there to ask the creator my [foreign language] for knowledge. So when he got to the ocean he created himself into the form and he floated out to middle of the ocean. We ask the creator for this knowledge, dictator sent him back home with the instructions to tell his people to build him a large [foreign language 00:08:16] , which is a home, and that he was going to come in three days. So he went back to the mountain where his home was. And he instructed people to build a large [foreign language 00:08:26] in three days to create her came, but he came in the form of a snake. From what I heard it was miles and miles long. So he got to the home and he crawls into this home, and he kept coming and he kept coming and the people got scared.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:08:41](#)):

So they hit it with fire [inaudible 00:08:43] . And when they did this, the snake unraveled and as it did this, it exploded. It exploded into the skies by the people. Some of the people swallowed the flesh and that's how we got our name, which some of them swallowed our songs, that's how we got our songs. And some of them swallowed the philosophy and the knowledge to be able to take care of the waters, take care of the skies, to take care of the plants and know which plants are used for medicinal use, for diet use and tool use. But most important the instructions of the creator was that we share this knowledge. You see, he came with more than just enough for that village when he exploded the knowledge landed everywhere that's why there's mountains of repositories and another indigenous people with different dialects but the same ability to communicate.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:09:37](#)):

And I want to share that because the instruction was to share this knowledge to share what we knew from different areas. And that's why I see this meeting today because we both have the desire to protect our environment. Mother earth is just that, she's our mother. Father sky is just that, he's our father. So being a part of this meeting today and to not just acknowledge that you acknowledge that this is our homeland, but to acknowledge the hard work that you're all putting together. A hundred people are in on this meeting. That is important. It's amazing that all of you are out there trying to protect these waters and the air so your children grow up in a cleaner environment, so your elders can enjoy the park lands and not have to worry about the quality of the air. To prevent industrial movement and growth from choking off our backyards, preventing parks from being built.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:10:27](#)):

Very important pieces when it comes to raising a family, a family where we can have joy and prosperity, not just economically, but emotionally and spiritually too. I can't wait for our next meeting. I can't wait to meet you all in person one day so we can share a collaboration to find resolution of issues that only just impact your community, but our community too. We all want the same thing, just an opportunity to raise a family in a clean environment, protecting our climate, bringing cleaner waters toward community

and cleaner air. So in that way, I give you many thanks and my gratitude and acknowledgement to all of you. [foreign language 00:11:08] Thank you.

Jacob Leon ([00:11:12](#)):

Thank you so much Jamie. Those were beautiful words and we appreciate you being here tonight.

Jamie LaBrake ([00:11:16](#)):

Thank you, sir. Appreciate that.

Jacob Leon ([00:11:18](#)):

Thank you. And it is now my pleasure and honor to also introduce honorable mayor from National City, Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis who will give some few additional remarks for everybody tonight. Mayor, thank you for being here.

Mayor Sotelo-Solis ([00:11:39](#)):

All right. Buenas tardes everyone, what a beautiful [crosstalk 00:11:46], Jamie and to Commissioner Naranjo. Amazing turnout! To pass Commissioner Valderrama it's always great to hear and see the building stones with which we are making and building our paths and continuing to grow as the community. 100 people have been and put on this zoom and the reason I am giving my remarks now, I feel that it's important to have a community member give their perspective and share their ideas. So I am going to exit and give up my virtual seat to a community member so that they can participate and it's a really important that we hear your perspective, that we see what the future of Pepper Park really can be. Think big. Think bold. Think about the future, the connectivity to the water, the indigenous, the transportation corridors, our hubs. Really think big.

Mayor Sotelo-Solis ([00:12:55](#)):

Think about water, everything that we have all dreamed of. Why not us? It's time! [foreign language 00:13:04] . This is well-deserved and you my community have earned it. So dream big and the Port's going to spend the money so dream even bigger, go lobster, go surf and turf. But I just, again, want to thank you all for being here. Very excited. And again, to Joe Stuyvesant, I want to say "hola," thank you again for leading the charge at the Port and to all of the staff let's keep going because we're going to have an amazing event. So I will be giving up my seat. And if there's any other staff who is open to giving up their seat, please feel free to do so. Thank you again so much. Have a great meeting.

Jacob Leon ([00:13:48](#)):

Thank you Mayor. We appreciate it. And I'd like to also call on Ana Rodriguez. You are also going to follow up and Jamie, you have some additional words for everybody here tonight.

Ana Rodriguez ([00:13:58](#)):

Okay. Thank you. [foreign language 00:14:02] Hello everyone. Thank you for the invitation to be part of this meeting and thank you for all these people who really care about having a better world for our kids and for our families. And then like a gentleman was saying, this is, Kumeyaay [foreign language 00:14:27] this is our homeland, this is our holy land for our Kumeyaay nation. So we really would like to be involved too, with the planning, because we are here to protect our ancestors. And then everything you guys, any development you guys do in the city will affect our spirits, our people. Every time you guys

remove soil that's our ancestors [inaudible 00:14:54] here according to a creation story since time immemorial so it's very important for us to be involved with any of the developments in the city because we need to protect our culture, our ancestors. And then I just want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this meeting. And [foreign language 00:15:17] thank you.

Jacob Leon ([00:15:20](#)):

Thank you Ana. We appreciate you too. Thank you. Great. Well, I'm really happy and I'm honored to have provided the opportunity for those welcoming remarks. So thank you. Thank you. We're going to move ahead with our presentation and hopefully we can have some really great engagement and conversations once we go into our breakout rooms. So I will go ahead and share my screen again so we can move on and continue this great conversation. Thank you Jamie, Mayor and Commissioners. We appreciate it. So we're about to do a quick poll for those who are joining us tonight. We're going to launch a quick little question here for you. And we would like to know what your relationship with National City is. And you can select more than one answer. You can select that you're a resident, if you're a business owner, if you're employed, if you're just a visitor tonight or other. And so Jesse and our team will launch the survey and we'll give you about 20 seconds to select your answers.

Jacob Leon ([00:16:35](#)):

Okay? So thank you so much. I'm seeing the answers come in on the fly right now. I'm glad to see that it's working. Okay. Another 10 seconds, Jesse, before we close it. We have residents, business owners. We'll close the poll in a few moments and we'll also share it with everybody.

Speaker 1 ([00:17:00](#)):

Okay.

Jacob Leon ([00:17:00](#)):

Thank you for those who quickly participated. As we can see here, we have a good division. We have residents, we have business owners, people who are employed within the city and lots of others. So again, thank you so much for participating in this poll. So what I will now do is I'm going to provide a brief overview of the history of how we have arrived at this destination, tonight's workshop. And so part of that is a little bit of the history. So in 2016, the Port and the City of National City held public design charrettes to discuss a rebalance of land uses for the maritime, commercial and the public uses near Pepper Park, as well as Pier 32.

Jacob Leon ([00:17:54](#)):

The resulting land use reconfiguration is what we commonly refer to as the Balanced Plan. The Balanced Plan contemplates and considers a reconfiguration of all the maritime, commercial and the public park uses. One of the highlights of the Balanced Plan was that it included a 2.5 acre expansion to the existing Pepper Park, that is approximately five acres. And with that, and then it also included the possibilities and the opportunity to reconfigure the existing Pepper Park where necessary. Part of the overarching goals for this Pepper Park expansion study is to explore park features and recreation opportunities that will help transform Pepper Park into a resource, into a park that first and foremost National City residents will be able to enjoy and cherish as well as the visitors and our neighbors and San Diego and National City.

Jacob Leon ([00:18:54](#)):

This process is about engaging with the community and our stakeholders in a collaborative format so that we can effectively and successfully design the future of Pepper Park. Part of this process is to identify park features and the amenities and big ideas that can leverage the waterfront. That was so that we can also try to balance the priorities and not only the port, the region and the local National City community's needs. And at this moment, I'd like to introduce Mike Singleton, who is the principal-in-charge at KTU+A. He will spend the next a couple of minutes explaining the existing conditions of Pepper Park so that we can all start kind of thinking about exactly what is possible and what we can and what we can do with those spaces. So, Mike, thank you so much for joining us today and we'll let you get started on this.

Mike Singleton ([00:19:50](#)):

Thank you, Jacob. What we're going to be asking a lot about tonight is what would you like to do in the park? But it's also good for you to understand a little bit about Pepper Park. A lot of you probably know it very well. You've used it a lot, but in context, from a planning standpoint of what's available or what we call what's at play. So those areas that are in red are probably things that based on their overall investment and condition are likely to stay in those locations. The orange area that you're seeing on the screen are really areas that are great opportunities to infill new amenities that could go in those areas. And then the park expansionary is the 2.5 acres of expansion. A lot of it comes from the Pasha side of where they're currently doing the car importing. Some of it goes across the top of the band of the park.

Mike Singleton ([00:20:36](#)):

And then there's also an area right now that is a parking lot, that fronts on the marina that is part of Pepper Park in terms of the changes that can occur. So next one. What we'd like to do is, we call it local context, is really important to understand what a park is about and how people are using it. And the way we try to explain that is that there's opportunities, there's constraints, assets, and limitations that we need to take into account and slides we'll go through will hit on some of the major elements that we see in the park. Next.

Mike Singleton ([00:21:10](#)):

So one of the things that I think is very interesting, that I've learned working on this park area and a lot of National City work over the last 20 years, is that there's not many places where we get like close to a 270 degree view. Now most of you are aware of the view of the marina, the view of Sweetwater River channel and the bay. But also if you get up a little bit higher, it doesn't take a lot of height to get to, but you can see all the way down to downtown San Diego and the Coronado Bridge and a lot of Coronado. So in essence, you have a 270 degree view that is potentially an opportunity here at the site. The proximity of this water edge is a great opportunity to, because of its relatively calm and protected and clear nature of the water that's in that area.

Mike Singleton ([00:21:56](#)):

There's a lot between the Pier 32 and the aquatic center that set the stage for a little bit of design excellence that occurs in these areas. There's quite a number of areas for additional art that could occur throughout the park. There's interpretive topics that are great between history and culture and the importing business. All those types of things in this area would be great to have interpretive topics that could be used. The roundabout itself, the street is not going to come in in the same location as it currently exists, so the roundabout area can be repurposed for public space. Then there's also the ability to capture water on site from stormwater that can have a beneficial use and make sure that there's

improved water quality that does eventually find its way into the bay. There is some discussion on a water shuttle that could actually use the piers, the dock itself at the boat launch ramp or modify the fishing pier in some manner.

Mike Singleton ([00:22:53](#)):

And there's certainly a lot of sun that's out in this area. So there's always wind and solar options on the site. So there's a great deal of opportunities that we are working with on this site. So next slide.

Mike Singleton ([00:23:07](#)):

Now the constraints again, I went over some of those with some that, that need a little bit more clarification. The boat launch ramp will remain as will the boat launch parking areas. Those need to remain in those basic locations. The aquatic center is a high investment facility in good shape. That's not going to move. And even the restrooms are in pretty good shapes and the picnic area directly adjacent to it. The fishing pier itself is a great asset that should remain in those sites. And then all around the edge of the site itself is pretty much a walking edge that gets you to the water's edge and that's going to remain as well. So next slide.

Mike Singleton ([00:23:44](#)):

And then some of the assets, again, I mentioned that the restroom facility is in pretty good shape, the playground is in pretty good condition. There's certainly the need to diversify the age capabilities of that playground itself. The fishing pier and viewing area are also great assets. There's quite a number of mature and healthy trees in the parks.

Mike Singleton ([00:24:02](#)):

So we want to be careful not to place things that's going to remove a lot of those larger trees that are great for shade. The Aquatic Center building itself, there could be probably been more programming occurring with this and more activities that might involve more of the public and the boat launch and the boat parking themselves, again, are assets. Next slide.

Mike Singleton ([00:24:23](#)):

Now, limitations. We don't always like to talk about limitations or just things that are, point out to some things that we may want to make sure we address. Certainly access to the water is a great opportunity, but if that access might be a little bit too close to the docking of the Pasha's large ships, we have to be a little bit concerned about how that's going to function. So we do want the opportunity potentially of allowing people to dip their feet in the water. There's some options that could occur there, but at least the importance of that whole water edge is very critical.

Mike Singleton ([00:24:56](#)):

The wind currents do kind of protect a fair amount of the site. There's certainly some winds that come across the site at different times, but we have to take into account there's usually a breeze all the time down here at the waterfront, which is a great asset, especially in the heat of the summer, but in a colder air, windy weather time, it may not be considered the same asset. The wildlife refuge across and the Sweetwater River itself are things that must be protected. There must include priorities to make sure that those are kept intact. So there's a great number of things that we are all working with here. If you want to go on to the next slide.

Mike Singleton ([00:25:35](#)):

So a lot of people ask questions about, "We really can't get down. It's not real obvious or perceptually well connected to the rest of the city". So there are a number of things that National City has been working on that I wanted to bring to everyone's attention.

Mike Singleton ([00:25:49](#)):

It's not really the focus tonight, but as you ask about how this park can be used, and some people will also potentially ask about, "How can you access it better?". There is a number of grants that the city has won recently. One is a neighborhood electric vehicle shuttle system that will, that money has been promised from the State of California to run it for a three-year period. So right now it's mainly focused on the 8th Street Trolley Station, but it will potentially can be expanded down to Pepper Park. The Homefront to Waterfront study itself identified a number of improvements, including how to better provide a walking surface and bike lanes that come under from National City Boulevard to Bayview, Waterfront. 19th Street improvements is another location that's going to have some additional improvements, Bayshore Bikeway is being expanded in the area that goes on a north south basis.

Mike Singleton ([00:26:47](#)):

And as, as I mentioned before, a Water Taxi study is potentially going to be commissioned too, and we're looking at federal grants to maybe help fund that particular program- those grants went in just last week. There's also a request to do a feasibility study on a pedestrian bridge that connects 24th Street over to the empty lots that are on the west side of I-5, as well as how it connects into Bayshore Bikeway. So there's a great number of things at the park. There's also a great number of things of how to improve access to the park as well that we've been all working on. So with that, I'll turn it back to you and Jacob.

Jacob Leon ([00:27:23](#)):

Thank you so much, Mike, we appreciate the background. One more slide regarding history and background. One of the main things we wanted to communicate to the attendees here on tonight's workshop is that we aren't starting from scratch. You've just heard that there's a little bit of history, there is a big effort that took place in 2016 with the Balanced Plan and with that Balanced Plan and other ongoing efforts, there's this running list that you see here are some potential park features that have moved forward and that these are opportunities for us to now finally take a closer look and see how they could be implemented in Pepper Park and the expansion of Pepper Park. So some of these items include expanding the playground and water features, adding or improving gathering spaces, such as group picnic areas like gazebos or kiosco, expanding waterfront views and gathering spaces, such as viewing decks or perched beach areas. Like the ones that currently exist over at Pier 32. And just ensuring that there's nice walkways that are facing the waterfront.

Jacob Leon ([00:28:27](#)):

We've just heard, Mike just went over about circulation, but I think there's opportunities to ensure that circulation has also improved within Pepper Park itself. There's been talks about making sure that there's some form of outdoor plaza spaces for, whether it's food trucks or even like shipping container converted venues that can have food and drink or opportunities for, to have rotating exhibitions that can support special events. The city has worked on exploring the idea of relocating Granger Music Hall and having that be part of a bigger outdoor music performance space. We've discussed, and the topic of special events and that we want to make sure that Pepper Park can serve the local National City

community for special events here. And there's been talks about even having a dedicated special events center that would complement, potentially, Granger Hall. And lastly, part of the previous planning features is the, we want to communicate that the boat launch and the boat parking will remain, that that is an integral part of Pepper Park itself. Great. And we have one final poll for everybody tonight, and you just heard a little bit of the history of Pepper Park and the National City Waterfront. We want to launch one more poll and really ask whether you have participated in a previous workshop related to Pepper Park or the Balanced Plan. And you can just select yes or no. And Jesse, go ahead and launch this, the poll. And we'll give people about 30 seconds to answer.

Jacob Leon ([00:30:08](#)):

Thank you, everybody. Jesse, let's go ahead and close the poll. And we, the results are in. So about 24% of the attendees here tonight have participated in some form or fashion regarding Pepper Park or the Balanced Plan, and about 75% have not. So we have a mix of people familiar with the site and those that are relatively new to the planning process of Pepper Park. So welcome back those who have participated and welcome to those new to the process. Great. We are just about ready to go into your breakout rooms too, for the exciting part of this process, but what I'm going to do, I want to start getting everybody excited with some of the ideas and topics that we're going to be talking to you all about. So I have a set of images that I'm about to share with everybody right now. And hopefully, it sounds like everybody's really already engaged and excited to start talking to all of us, but here are a set of pictures to help those who maybe are not quite there yet.

Jacob Leon ([00:31:32](#)):

And I want to begin with the Well-Being Active Improvements. These are things that we want to talk to you about that involve playing on or exercising with. We have the topic of Passive Water Experiences. So, that is all about how we experience the water. There is a topic about Event Supporting Improvement, so the things we can do, the special events that can take place here in Pepper Park. We want to hear about educational opportunities and improvements, and then this is about learning from the history and the environment of the site. And lastly, we want to hear your thoughts on access improvements. So it's about the journey to Pepper Park and the waterfront.

Jacob Leon ([00:32:17](#)):

So under Well-Being Improvements, things that each of your team leaders in the breakout rooms will be talking to you about are, "How much of the grassy areas do we preserve?" or "Do we keep within the existing Pepper Park in the expansion?" We know we have a nice playground that it gets heavily used currently right now, but we've identified an opportunity to maybe expand it and make sure that there's appropriate playground structures for appropriate ages. So it could be an additional playground structure for a smaller group of kids and one for a bigger group of kids. We've heard loud and clear in previous workshops that a splash pad or a water feature would be something really fun and exciting for the community. Waterfront promenade that can not only provide views and access to the water, but it can also double as circulation for walking and jogging. And lastly, we want to hear your thoughts about flexible spaces. So again, grassy areas that would allow for, whether it's Zumba or yoga or Tai-Chi, type of exercise programs that could take place here at Pepper Park.

Jacob Leon ([00:33:22](#)):

For Passive Water Experiences, there are some really fun images here that we wanted to share with you. The perched beach that see on the top left corner, that's at Pier 32, just a 7, 10 minute walk from

Pepper Park. So it's an idea of creating a beach and having that experience over at Pepper Park with sand. We want to hear whether having decks over the water so you can really be above and floating over the water, if that's something that resonates with you. Some pretty simple but attractive waterfront seating that capitalizes on viewing out to the water, the bottom left image is stepped seating. This is a really popular idea that a lot of waterfront parks and areas around the country and the world are taking advantage of. It's a fun way to let people get closer to the water and be at the water's edge without exactly being in the water.

Jacob Leon ([00:34:15](#)):

Similarly, the viewing decks that I mentioned earlier, whether they're smaller for wildlife viewing or for interpretive signage, or just even some of those quieter moments that you may want to have. And I am a big fan of lighting. I always say, do not underestimate the power of lighting in a public space. And so whether it's through thoughtful and artistic design, lighting can really change the experience for a person once the sun goes down. So we want to hear your thoughts on lighting if that's something you're interested in.

Jacob Leon ([00:34:42](#)):

Events Supporting Improvements- these are some fun ideas. Mike mentioned the roundabouts. So, do we want to repurpose the roundabout and have a beautiful multi-purpose kiosko just like we've seen in a lot of Latin American countries. My own parents met and fell in love in a kiosko in their hometown of Atotonilco, in Jalisco. So hey, maybe this is something we want to have available here at Pepper Park. If the kiosko doesn't resonate with you, you may want to share your ideas on my multi-purpose stage. These two pictures that you see right here are about buildings. Do we want to have multi-purpose buildings for food and drinks or for some type of small commercial setting for a local business. Festivals- we've had history of the Mariachi Festival taking place here in Pepper Park. So how do we plan appropriately so that we can host big types of events that are appropriate for Pepper Park and the National City community.

Jacob Leon ([00:35:34](#)):

And lastly, simply having group picnic areas where somebody can rent for a birthday, a quinceañera, or for some type of ceremony. And then building upon some of these past passive improvements, there's the educational component. So the first image, very straightforward is are there different topics about history that we can educate when people arrive at Pepper Park. We want to acknowledge, and we want to ask people about Indigenous Peoples and their history again, Jamie and Ana, thank you for being here today. So we're excited to hear your thoughts on how do we tell history and tell the story and acknowledge Indigenous Peoples here at Pepper Park. Historic structure- this picture is from Liberty Station up in San Diego. There's lots of history, especially with a working waterfront and in National City. So is there something that you think might be a cool idea to include here in Pepper Park. Educating people about the water and the natural environment can be done with viewing platforms.

Jacob Leon ([00:36:34](#)):

So there's this really fantastic image on the bottom left, where there might be an opportunity to elevate people physically, and look above and really see how there could be some really beautiful views out into the wildlife refuge on the bay. Let us know if that's something you're interested in. Lastly, we have pavement, we can use actual pavement designs on the ground to tell a story, to educate, or simply as a form of art. And lastly, educational signage, such as the one you see on the bottom, right. Signage

doesn't have to be boring. It could be fun and unique like this to educate people on, about flora and fauna in a park.

Jacob Leon ([00:37:13](#)):

The last topic that we'll talk about is access improvements. So anything related to parking, parking lots, fencing, active transportation, like secure bike storage at Pepper Park, improving local connections, east to west, under and through the Interstate 5 Freeway. Acknowledging that Pepper park could be, it is a pit stop for some of these regional connections, especially if you're going along on the Bayshore Bikeway. So as you can see, there's lots we can talk about in today's breakout rooms. So I'm really excited and I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas.

Jacob Leon ([00:37:48](#)):

I want to remind everybody that once we get into our breakout room, feel free to turn on your camera. I am noticing that lots of people have their cameras on. So that's great. That will let people like myself and the other team moderators help answer questions and call on people, physically raise your hand if possible, so that we can make sure that everybody has a chance to voice and share their feedback. Be respectful of people's feedback. We may not all be on the same page of what we want to see at Pepper Park. So let's just be mindful of each other's thoughts and ideas. If you happen to be in a noisy environment, feel free to mute yourself and then unmute yourself when you're speaking. And lastly, I'm seeing that the chat window is very active, very engaged. So if you want to just type your comments, rather than say it out loud, you're more than welcome to use the chat window function.

Jacob Leon ([00:38:41](#)):

And so now I'm going to take a quick pause. And what we're going to do is ensure that our IT Team has been working in the background, getting everybody ready to go into their breakout rooms. And there might be a few moments. So bear with us. And in about a minute, we're going to launch the breakout rooms and you're going to be teleported and into your room. Those that are in here joining us in our Tagalog interpretation, you will stay here in the main room, so you can sit back and just wait for your turn. Everybody else, including the Spanish speakers, we, and three and two other English breakout rooms will be created.

Jacob Leon ([00:39:23](#)):

So Jesse, I'm giving you the green light, as soon as you're ready, you can launch, but in a moment, before I forget, if everybody has their cameras on right now, Commissioner Naranjo wanted to make sure that everybody can raise their hands, smile. We're going to take a quick screenshot. I'm going to cycle through. I have five pages to cycle through it because it is a complete, a packed room. So on the count of three, we we'll do one, two.

Jacob Leon ([00:39:55](#)):

Great. I'm going to do it four more times. Bear with me, one more time and okay. You're probably hearing the camera click. One, two and three. One, two, and three. And one more screenshot. Thank you everybody for your patience. This is great. We want to make sure that we have a recording of the full house today. There we go. Commissioner Naranjo, we have our screenshots of tonight's participants. Great, so at this point, now that we have taken our pictures, we will, Jesse feel free to launch the breakout rooms as soon as you're ready. And if you were put into an incorrect room, let us know and we

can change you and make sure you're in the right room. Thank you so much, everybody. I look forward to speaking with you all in a few moments. You'll see the clicks, so go ahead and click join.

Mike Singleton ([00:41:33](#)):

So if everyone wants to make sure that their camera is on, this is the main room and you can mute or unmute yourself, but we would like to see raised hands where possible. I'm also going to show at least one element here. The pictures again is a good way to kind of walk through. Is everyone seeing those pictures at this point? Maybe just give me a thumbs up? Okay. So, let me go back to the beginning of those pictures. These are the categories that Jacob went over. The first one being Well-being Active Improvements. What I'd like to maybe try to do, and I don't know if Ryan, if you can kind of toggle through all of these galleries and maybe see how many people are raising their hands on certain things. I kind of like to have open discussion, but also like a quick overview of the things that are on here as a way of kind of recording what your opinions are for what can happen in the park.

Mike Singleton ([00:42:34](#)):

So maybe just by a raise of hands, how important are open grassy areas for you? And Ryan, if you can kind of count those, I'll try to watch. So it looks like about five there. Ryan, do you actually have...you're off of mute? Does that seem about the right number, Ryan?

Ryan ([00:42:56](#)):

Yeah. There's quite a few people that aren't sharing screens, but yeah.

Mike Singleton ([00:43:00](#)):

Okay. And this is not an official poll, but just trying to get an idea of what people are most... Want to make sure is included their playgrounds and [inaudible 00:43:10]. You have a playground there, but it certainly can be expanded and different ages. So hands-on playgrounds. How important is that to you? It's like a slightly higher percent, but it depends on whether or not people have kids and family members. That's usually the biggest determining factor on how important playgrounds are.

Ryan ([00:43:29](#)):

Got about eight or nine.

Mike Singleton ([00:43:30](#)):

Okay. And how about the splash pad? I know it's been popular in the past when people think about the splash pad. Oh, less hands than I would expect on that one because it's been a very popular idea in the past. About the same eight or nine would you say? And the waterfront promenade itself is really just getting a little bit closer to the edge, whether that's overhangs or actually getting your foot in the water. How important is that to folks on the call, raise your hands again.

Mike Singleton ([00:44:09](#)):

A walking/jogging path. Of course there's already walking surfaces there, but maybe some expansion of those are certainly into the new areas of the park that can be added to. Is that an important aspect for people that are on the call?

Mike Singleton ([00:44:20](#)):

And the head shake. Now I see [inaudible 00:44:28] that counts as a raised hand, who was shaking his head like that. So that must mean yes. Same thing with you Donald? And then just a flex space, which really mostly means either a hard quarter or soft surface grass area where different activities can occur, mostly oriented towards exercise on this one. So how about that on that one? Okay.

Mike Singleton ([00:44:54](#)):

So now's the time for people to raise their hand if they want to add something to this list under the category of Well-being Active Improvements that are again, mostly about healthy activities and exercise. So if anyone wants to raise their hand and unmute themselves and kind of bring up some ideas and Ryan we'll get those typed down in the notes. It looks like Frances has her hand up. If you go ahead and unmute yourself. And Donald we'll get to you on that one. I'm not sure Frances was having a difficult time in unmuting? Let me go back then to her. Well, let's try it, Desiree Santos [crosstalk 00:45:51] has her hand up. Is this Desiree or is it Rachel?

Desiree ([00:45:54](#)):

Yes, its Desiree.

Mike Singleton ([00:45:55](#)):

Okay, if can you go ahead and add any comments to this category.

Desiree ([00:46:00](#)):

I would like to add a lifting...not exactly a lifting weights area, but in some community parks, I've noticed that they have outdoor working out area for calisthenics and things like that. I think that would be just amazing.

Mike Singleton ([00:46:18](#)):

That's quite popular in East Asian parks. They're not electrified so they can be out in the weather, but they use your own energy to help you get in shape more. How about another hand, Jennifer? Do you want to add something? It was just a thumbs up on that last one? Okay. And Donald, I know you had your hand up before. If you mute yourself and jump in. You should have it on unmute down at the bottom. And I can also ask you to unmute. You might see a message that comes up.

Donald ([00:46:52](#)):

There we go. Thank you. Yeah, two things. I like what someone else said about the, hang on one second.

Mike Singleton ([00:47:01](#)):

That's a new one to start with.

Donald ([00:47:02](#)):

Got the TV on. Sorry about that. So I have the TV on. I like the fact that someone said about the working out area. In the city I live in, they have work out areas for adults. It's kind of a really nice thing to have along with the playground for the children. [inaudible 00:47:17] for workout. And two, I'm a cyclist and a lot of cyclists start at that location, bicycling either the Bay Area Bikeway or the Sweetwater [crosstalk 00:47:32] exactly. So in Coronado, they have some locations that have actually bicycle pumps for your bicycle. And then for bicycles also to basically start at that location. So that's what I would have to say.

Mike Singleton ([00:47:44](#)):

Great. And Frances, I know you were trying to ask something before and maybe if I ask you to unmute, maybe it'll work for you. Still didn't work? How about there? Are you seeing any message to unmute yourself? There you go.

Frances ([00:48:02](#)):

I think we got it now. Thank you for that.

Mike Singleton ([00:48:03](#)):

[inaudible 00:48:00]. There you go.

Speaker 2 ([00:48:03](#)):

I think we got it now. Thank you for that. Yeah, it wasn't allowing me to unmute. So I want to express my support for native plant landscaping and any type of habitat space that would be conducive to butterfly habitat and pollinators. And I just think that type of landscaping would really lend itself to some of these active improvement ideas. So yeah, just really interested in incorporating natural habitat wherever it's feasible.

Mike Singleton ([00:48:27](#)):

Okay. It's Great. Thanks. Any other hands. I'll try to keep scrolling through. Ray Horres? I keep sending a message to you to see if you can unmute, but...

Ray Horres ([00:48:50](#)):

Okay. Can you hear me?

Mike Singleton ([00:48:51](#)):

Yep.

Ray Horres ([00:48:51](#)):

Okay. Avid bike runner, been doing that for 30 years, doing that whole bay run and great stuff that's happening down there. Along that bay shore, really connecting with Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, National City, San Diego, seeing people from Mission Valley, I think this is awesome. One of the things that I've mentioned before was the lights, especially along the Sweetwater River, if there could be, and I know there's certain, different jurisdictions that are involved in this. So that they could start at least lighting up when it goes under those bridges, just some lighted area, because especially in the winter, when it gets dark early, just to have light, you can see further down a lot better. I think that that would be... And I like the air pump stations. That's excellent also.

Ray Horres ([00:49:44](#)):

And I'd like to see some way that we could maybe put some signage to remind people of the basic protocols between pedestrian walking and bicycle walking, because I think sometimes people don't understand that pedestrians do have the right of way in the sense of bikes need to, especially when you've got a family with two little kids on the bikes, you got to pull over, you just got slow down. You know what I mean? This is not a racetrack. It's enjoyable scenic, and it's beautiful. Let me tell you, I'm

getting so many good responses from community, from outside community. And I would recommend people look at that YouTube Ted talks bicycles.

Ray Horres ([00:50:28](#)):

There's about five, six videos that are super good. I don't know if you're familiar with Ted talks and they really break it down as to why it's so important that we start to change our mentality from the, all the time vehicle. Especially if you're going to 7/11 to get a gallon of milk, you don't need to get in your car. You know what I mean? Kind of things like that. And how the benefits, personally, communally, environmentally and in my case, spiritually, because when I'm out there, I really love it and I really get a lot of good feedback.

Ray Horres ([00:51:03](#)):

So I'm just saying those things, what you guys are talking about, the air pump stations are great. And again, getting that word out there, because I'm starting to see a change as to, even how the interaction between vehicles and bicycles. I think vehicles are starting to realize that, you know what? These guys are not going away and I think I'm starting to see more positive interaction. And I also-

Mike Singleton ([00:51:29](#)):

Ray, we're going to need to move on because there are a lot of other folks [crosstalk 00:51:32]. Thanks for your input.

Ray Horres ([00:51:34](#)):

I'll get going if I don't get stopped, but thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you for doing [inaudible 00:51:39].

Mike Singleton ([00:51:39](#)):

Cynthia, I unmuted you. So anything you'd like to add on this first category?

Cynthia ([00:51:43](#)):

Thank you. Yes. My background is healthcare nutrition. That space is directly connected to the waterfront and a lot of the needs that we have in National City, particularly with the youth population, is regarding health and wellness, have to do with nutrition. That space provides an ideal opportunity to connect our kids with the source of food that comes from the water. And downtown San Diego, there's a lot of activities where the fishermen are selling direct to the locals.

Cynthia ([00:52:20](#)):

And out there, Saturday market, they do, a lot of times, have UCSD scientists doing meet your meal, touch tank type things, or at least they did pre-COVID. So I think there's an opportunity to, particularly being right near the water, to use the spaces down there to connect our kids with a healthy foods, particularly those foods that come from the water.

Mike Singleton ([00:52:45](#)):

Great. Deserae, I know you had your hand up. Let me see if you can unmute yourself. There you go.

Deserae ([00:52:53](#)):

I just have a quick question. It may be slightly off topic. What will you do about the homeless population? I know that there is a lot of them, especially downtown. And I do know that the police kind of move them around and do specific raids in different areas, but that doesn't really stop the migration. How would this park stay clean and just safe, and just keep this investment that you're going to be making into it.

Mike Singleton ([00:53:26](#)):

It's a challenging project for most communities to be dealing with these days. It's challenging for park designers, but there are certain, what are called, CPTED principles on how you make sure that you're designing the park to make sure it's visible and safe and very apparent. Certainly activation of a park always helps in limiting the number of people that might be... People staying there overnight, especially. So there's a number of things to do, but we need to... It's not an easy task to take on.

Mike Singleton ([00:53:58](#)):

So let me go on to the next slide. You just have to keep kind of moving on this. So under the category of passive water experience that has all these images that are on screen. The idea of a perched beach, how does that sit with everyone? If you can raise your hands again, and Ryan, if you can try to count those up quickly. So again, it's sand, you can't actually get in the water, but you feel like you're at the beach and at the water's edge, but you can't put your feet in the water itself. Okay. About how many did you get there, Ryan?

Ryan ([00:54:33](#)):

I'm not seeing a lot of cameras on. I only got two, but I think there's a lot of cameras off right now.

Mike Singleton ([00:54:38](#)):

Yeah. Again, it's not an official poll, but gives us some idea of what's important to folks. Deck over the water, which might be cantilevered over the water, so it feels like water's going underneath you slightly. How about that one? Is that an important one for folks?

Mike Singleton ([00:54:56](#)):

Okay. You already do have a fair amount of waterfront seating, but you can always have more. How about that as an important element for passive water experiences? And then the concept of the step seating where you, again, you may not actually put your feet in the water, but you're coming down closer to the water and usually a place to kind of sit and look out. How about that one?

Mike Singleton ([00:55:25](#)):

Okay. Great. All right. So the viewing the deck, I think those are pretty obvious and unique lighting, those are all great things along there. How about those two combined? Is that important to folks? Again, the head going like that and try to count those two Ryan, when someone's shaking their head. Thumbs, hands or whatever it takes to get our attention. Okay. So anyone want to come offline and add to this list of things that are at the edge of the water, but they're passive in the sense, not necessarily like swimming, but passive on how you interact with the water at the edge?

Mike Singleton ([00:55:59](#)):

So anyone? I know Deserae, did you want to ask a question again on that? I'll bring you up first since you got your hands up.

Deserae ([00:56:08](#)):

Was my votes being counted with my hand up for the selections?

Mike Singleton ([00:56:11](#)):

No. If you don't have your camera on, it's kind of hard to tell. I don't know, Ryan, were you counting the hands that are up there as well? You have someone who's raised their hand up for the regular to be... Like you see on Deserae's right now?

Ryan ([00:56:25](#)):

Yeah. I saw a couple of thumbs up. Let me see if I can...

Mike Singleton ([00:56:31](#)):

We'll try to watch for that in the future. Anyone else want to add anything to this category? Any other ideas for us to consider? I know Deserae has that hand up again. So does that mean you want to add to what you just said Deserae?

Deserae ([00:56:57](#)):

No.

Mike Singleton ([00:56:57](#)):

Okay. Thank you. Okay. Did you see any other hand? Sherry, if you'd like to, your hands up?

Ryan ([00:57:05](#)):

Yeah, the numbers for each of those categories were about the same. We're running about five people.

Mike Singleton ([00:57:12](#)):

Okay. So Sherry.

Sherry ([00:57:15](#)):

Yep. Can you hear me okay?

Mike Singleton ([00:57:16](#)):

Yes.

Sherry ([00:57:18](#)):

I saw you were talking about a perched beach. I would maybe strongly suggest not that. The perched beach that you have actually displayed in this photo is where we live at Pier 32 Marina and it becomes just a big cat box and it's pretty, actually disgusting.

Mike Singleton ([00:57:37](#)):

Yeah. I imagine they may not all be cats, they may be dogs too, to be fair to both pet species, but yeah, it does require some maintenance from that standpoint. Any other comments on this category? Okay. And then let's go onto the event supporting improvements. So this is something that can handle a special event of some kind. So it could be from the very large facility that could handle a lot of larger events down on the waterfront. It could be something small, like the kiosco or just even group picnic areas.

Mike Singleton ([00:58:13](#)):

So let's say on the multipurpose, some people call it a bandstand, but a kiosco. How important would that be in the park to accommodate different, special events? And Francis, I see your baby in the background raised his hand, so I don't know if that's a... He or she it's hard to tell from here. Okay. It looks like a fair number of hands went up on that one. And then a multi-purpose stage where you might have played music, amplified music, or it doesn't necessarily have to be amplified music, but it can be. So how important is that one for everyone?

Mike Singleton ([00:58:48](#)):

I see a yes, that popped up from David. So that's great. Yeah. Hands, thumbs, shaking your head, raising your hand, any of those things count as a quick vote. Okay. And then food and drink building where you could actually order something and potentially eat there as well. The outdoor plaza space. We have talked about, you can sometimes make some very interesting shapes out of shipping containers and Pasha has a lot of them right next door, but it's something that could be made with a deck on top. And it can be made to have some small outdoor spaces that are either on top of the building or next to a building. How important would that be for the water front?

Mike Singleton ([00:59:44](#)):

So maybe not quite as many hands on that one. A festival space can be big, open lawn areas, you just kind of make sure that you can handle a little larger festival such as the Mariachi Festival, which is a problem. What's occurred to National City, that they kind of ran out of capacity and lost that event. So with another two and a half acres, it could be maybe accommodated a little bit better as well. So how important is festival space where bigger events might occur? Hands up on that one. And then finally on the group picnic areas, there are a number of them out there, but you could certainly infill with a lot more that can fit in the park itself. Is that an important asset and an amenity for anyone that's online right now? Okay. Then at this point, for anyone that wants to add to this list of supporting events themselves, now would be the time. It looks like Michelle maybe has her hand up. There you go.

Michelle ([01:00:56](#)):

No, sorry. That was just me raising my hand [crosstalk 01:00:59].

Mike Singleton ([01:00:58](#)):

Okay. How about Cynthia? Is that a new hand up?

Cynthia ([01:01:06](#)):

Yes. Regularly scheduled events and one of the things that National City has been lacking is, farmers' market, fishermen's market. Something that regularly draws people down to the water with a scheduled, cyclical, a regular event. Also pop up event spaces for the businesses, food businesses in San Diego and National City, excuse me.

Mike Singleton ([01:01:40](#)):

Anyone else with additional add-ons to this category? It looks like Damien.

Damien ([01:01:50](#)):

Hi, maybe instead of doing [inaudible 01:01:55] engineering buildings, actual infrastructure, maybe like Cynthia was saying, doing farmers' market, also inviting local food trucks to come out in those events, that could probably attract more people in that events as opposed to the investment on an actual fixed structure.

Mike Singleton ([01:02:15](#)):

Yeah. That makes sense. I wonder if a good spot for that is between the park and Pier 32. So you can pull people from both directions. Okay. Any more on this topic? And forgive me if I missed your hand going up for that, but we've got to try to move along here too, so we don't get cut off on this last topic. Okay. Educational improvements. It's mostly about signage, but it's also about the way you experienced the environment and learn from it by looking at [inaudible 01:02:50]. So there's a broad range of elements that are on here. Let's just go right into, is there any of them that are on this list that you see up there that particularly grabbed your attention and you want to comment on? Now Deserae, is that your hand up from before or would you like to comment on?

Deserae ([01:03:19](#)):

I can only see the last two.

Mike Singleton ([01:03:22](#)):

Okay. Well I can maybe make it a little bit smaller. Does that work?

Deserae ([01:03:27](#)):

Yeah. A little bit. I can see it's two and a half now.

Mike Singleton ([01:03:32](#)):

Okay.

Deserae ([01:03:34](#)):

Does anybody else have that issue or is it just me?

Mike Singleton ([01:03:35](#)):

Is that getting you there to all three rows?

Deserae ([01:03:41](#)):

I see four now.

Mike Singleton ([01:03:45](#)):

Oh, really? Wow.

Deserae ([01:03:45](#)):

It may just be me. I don't know. Maybe if someone else can [crosstalk 01:03:49].

Mike Singleton ([01:03:49](#)):

I have a small screen.

Deserae ([01:03:50](#)):

Oh, okay. It's me.

Mike Singleton ([01:03:53](#)):

Okay, Jennifer?

Jennifer ([01:03:59](#)):

I was just thinking, you have a nice structure already there that is attractive by the waterfront, but the signages for education, I see your posters on the first one, is that what you're saying, like posters [crosstalk 01:04:18].

Mike Singleton ([01:04:17](#)):

We usually call them interpretive panels, that go up. That's a permanent panel that stays in place and it picks a topic to explain. Most people don't realize the actual rich history that this whole waterfront actually had and how much it's changed from when the original wharf was built. It's gone through a lot. And even the lagoon is not where the original lagoon was. None of this goes back completely, except for the original wharf. So there's a lot of stories to be told, and it can be from cultural, going back, especially with Native Americans, they can be more recent history. It can be about wildlife, all those things.

Jennifer ([01:04:57](#)):

I was thinking as far as for children, more interactive style educational experiences, would it be nice.

Mike Singleton ([01:05:07](#)):

Yes, that's a great point to make out. It's not just a static sign that can be interactive and kinetic as well. Okay. Let's see. Cynthia, did you want to add something else to this? Okay.

Cynthia ([01:05:19](#)):

And a number of waterfront areas they have underwater cameras that are out there being able to bring what's under the water to the folks who were actually at the waterfront for educational purposes. I think that's something that might be highly educational, particularly for our younger population here.

Mike Singleton ([01:05:44](#)):

Yeah. Something like that could maybe happen on this loading dock, where you somehow build onto that, so people can gather around and see what's an underwater right there. Okay. Jennifer?

Jennifer ([01:06:03](#)):

Am I unmute? Okay.

Mike Singleton ([01:06:04](#)):

Yeah.

Jennifer ([01:06:09](#)):

In the past, you had a building that people would, sometimes you would have people come in to learn about things. Is that building still going to be [crosstalk 01:06:19].

Mike Singleton ([01:06:18](#)):

Are we talking about the aquatic center?

Jennifer ([01:06:20](#)):

I think so.

Mike Singleton ([01:06:22](#)):

Yeah. Okay.

Jennifer ([01:06:22](#)):

Because a lot of places have interpretive, what are called interpretive centers, where they have a lot of the educational... Where you would have cameras, where you would have signage that explains the history. Have you thought about that? Not like a museum, but I don't know how to... It's like an interpretive center.

Mike Singleton ([01:06:42](#)):

Yeah.

Jennifer ([01:06:45](#)):

Is the aquatic center used only for the aquatic things or are you thinking... Is it possible to have another area for that educational purpose?

Mike Singleton ([01:06:55](#)):

It would be built into a special event center as well. It could be part of a special event center. It could be more on the deck that overlooks the bay with maybe some shelter above it. There's a number of ways of doing that. Also Granger Hall has been discussed in the past of that moving down here. So you could have a music event center that could also be educational from a perspective of music and the science behind music. A lot of good ideas there. Okay.

Mike Singleton ([01:07:26](#)):

And I know we only have three minutes left, so I'm going to go onto the last one here. And this is mostly about access. Could anyone maybe explain if they feel that they have difficulty in getting down to, or maybe even if it's something, maybe you'd like to walk down there once in a while, but around comfortable walking and underneath I-5. And maybe just express the experiences and whether, or not some time and attention needs to be put on getting there as well or options to get there. So any hands up on that? Okay. Damien? Having problems unmuting yourself there? Let me ask you to unmute yourself then. You should get a message there. Okay.

Damien ([01:08:24](#)):

[inaudible 01:08:24]. Hi. Actually, we just moved to National City. We've been here for about five months. The only way we've been able to get there is through car and even getting there by car was scary coming from a city... Coupled with-

Speaker 3 ([01:08:42](#)):

San Diego city.

Damien ([01:08:43](#)):

I mean San Diego city. We never had to actually get into a car. So I really do like all the images here shown as access improvements. I think active transportation improvements are definitely a must. I'm not so much of a fan for parking lot improvements, especially since car sales are reducing by the year. And then one thing I wanted to ask was, if I'm on the East side of the Walmart Super Center, how would I access there, through bike or walking?

Mike Singleton ([01:09:24](#)):

Well, it's really coming down to Mile of Cars and Bay Marina Drive, is really the only thing that gets under I-5. There is 19th Street as well, that you can get under the bridge in that location. So that's really the two primary ones. I'd also like to ask the question, if there was a pedestrian bridge that was built over, one that was actually able to be... Handle a bike as well as pedestrians, that came over from the 24th Street Trolley Station and dropped down onto the empty lots there, right where the Bayshore Bikeway is, would that be something that you would feel could really improve access to it and would people actually walk that? So maybe just a raise of hands would be interesting to hear, if people would do something like that.

Mike Singleton ([01:10:10](#)):

They're not cheap to do, but there is money, potentially, these days for infrastructure that it could be at least explored. I only saw two or three hands up on that one. So just to make sure we get an accurate count on that. Okay. Okay. Any other categories of things that you'd like to add to this? Because I know we're going to be bumped out of here, or actually we're going to be joined by everyone else.

Cynthia ([01:10:39](#)):

Just at the site with access, going back to vehicles being discouraged, I think, cars in particular is a good thing, but we also need to think about more electric vehicles, electric bikes, things like that. And making sure that there are charging stations that are available too, for alternative fuel vehicles.

Mike Singleton ([01:11:07](#)):

Great. Okay. Okay. Let's see, Damian again.

Jacob Leon ([01:11:15](#)):

Hello Mike. We're all coming back to the main room.

Mike Singleton ([01:11:18](#)):

Okay. Then we'll stop. Ryan, if you could email me your notes. That would help me in setting up the briefing. So could you send it to [mike@ktua.com](mailto:mike@ktua.com)?

Ryan ([01:11:32](#)):

Yeah. I'll send it over, Mike.

Mike Singleton ([01:11:34](#)):

Thank you.

Jacob Leon ([01:11:36](#)):

Thanks Mike. Can you go ahead and stop sharing your screen, Mike? That way I'll be ready to... We can start getting to our debrief.

Mike Singleton ([01:11:44](#)):

There you go.

Jacob Leon ([01:11:46](#)):

I'd like to remind everybody to ensure that they are in the proper language channel. So if you had selected Tagalog or Spanish, please go ahead and do so, so that the interpretation can continue accordingly.

Jacob Leon ([01:12:06](#)):

We'll wait about a minute before I kick off the debrief. We had some great conversations in my room and it sounds like everybody was busy sharing their ideas as well in the other rooms.

Jacob Leon ([01:12:26](#)):

And please continue sharing any ideas and thoughts into the chat window. The chat will be downloaded and it'll be part of our summary that we'll be putting together, so feel free to continue adding notes into the chat.

Jacob Leon ([01:12:52](#)):

Hello Juan, Jorge, welcome back. Hopefully you all had a good conversation in your room. I see Stephan and Lesley, you're all back. Great.

Stephen Nunez ([01:13:03](#)):

Yeah. Great conversations. Really good comments.

Jacob Leon ([01:13:08](#)):

Okay. We'll just have to wait a couple more seconds before we start to debrief.

Jacob Leon ([01:13:16](#)):

Juan can you give me a thumbs up? Are you correct? Are you hearing the interpretation successfully?

Jacob Leon ([01:13:20](#)):

Yes. Thank you.

Juan Alberto Bonilla ([01:13:23](#)):

[foreign language 01:13:23]

Jacob Leon ([01:13:34](#)):

Again, friendly reminder, please feel free to continue adding your ideas in the chat. That will all get recorded.

Jacob Leon ([01:13:53](#)):

Great. Well Anna, you were my note taker. I have a good list, I was taking some out, I was writing down some of the important things that, since it seems like our room was having consensus on. So I will do my debrief and if there's anything you'd like to add, feel free to interject. And then so I will kick off the debrief and then we will follow. Mike, you'll go after me, then we'll go to Juan, and Stephan, you'll close out our debrief, right after.

Jacob Leon ([01:14:24](#)):

Great. Thank you everybody who was in my room, I really appreciated all of the feedback. I think there was a lot of consensus actually in my room, but some of the ideas that people would like to see for the future of Pepper Park. One of the main items that we talked about was the open space and so the idea of maybe not over programming it, making sure that there's opportunity for nice, passive open space would be something important. And related to open space is parking, ensuring that we take a really close look at exactly how much parking is needed so that it doesn't take over the opportunity for there to be more park open space. I think there was a good consensus on that in our room regarding that. We heard a lot about being family oriented and making sure that design features such as playgrounds or other interactive elements are really geared towards youth, family, because we know lots of families use Pepper Park. And so my group wanted to make sure that that continues as a focal point for the expansion.

Jacob Leon ([01:15:27](#)):

Related to that, there was commentary about... I thought it was really special that somebody mentioned, "let's make it feel like home," that it's National City's park here on the waterfront, so I think that's a very special comment that I think resonated with my group. We had an attendee who really appreciated the waterfront, but they asked, "Is there an opportunity to introduce water into the park as well?" So I think there's some really great potential elements with that and that could be connected with education with maybe interaction, but not only doing the water at the water's edge, but also potentially bringing it into the park itself. I think we're definitely going to explore that element. There's in our chat and in commentary, we've heard about inclusive play, accessibility, and also not only physically, but also about sensory. There are people who, whether it's through smell or sound or just the ability to be outside and in nature, and we all know the studies on how nature has some really positive effects on our bodies and our minds.

Jacob Leon ([01:16:38](#)):

So I think there was a good consensus about just making sure that we're diverse and inclusive and equitable in the type of experiences that are provided here in Pepper Park. Great, I think commentary and consensus on acknowledging and bringing in Indigenous People's history, whether it's through the planting itself, the art, signage, even events. I think there's no question about that. We want to expand on that and ensure that it's part of the storytelling here at Pepper Park. One last comment was about timeline and budget. A couple of people in my groups said, "What is the timeline?" They hope that

communication continues being transparent and about setting expectations and ensuring that things get built in a timely manner. So thank you so much for everybody in my group. Hopefully I did you justice in kind of highlighting the main elements. Anna, is there anything else that you think I missed that you wanted to share?

Anna Buzaitis ([01:17:36](#)):

I was just going to add also, because I heard it from a couple of folks about having food options, snacks, or will there be snacks for cyclists moving through the area or people that are at the park, especially healthy snacks or food options in the area.

Jacob Leon ([01:17:54](#)):

That's right. Thank you for catching that Anna. Great. Well, I'm going to pass it on to Mike Singleton. Thank you to my group, thank you so much. I'll let Mike take over now for his debrief.

Mike Singleton ([01:18:06](#)):

Great, thanks Jacob. So we actually went through it and had people raise hands on each of the items as well, so we can get an idea where the existing photos that we were using, how popular they were. So the promenade and the outdoor workout area was pretty important and that outdoor workout area makes sense to be next to the playgrounds as well, so you can kind of watch over on kids that way.

Mike Singleton ([01:18:34](#)):

The splash pad was highly rated. Bike facilities and amenities, two people pointed out how a lot of rides start and end here or stop-overs there along the rest of the Bayshore drive itself. Facilities like air pump stations and good lighting, especially at nighttime when people use those facilities. Nutrition, the connection here is wellbeing, so it's about good nutrition and connecting the idea of being down in this park that might be related to the bay and the water from that particular stand point. Under the passive water experiences, the perched beach, it was pointed out that someone that lives down in that area, that it's kind of like a cat box all the time, so you're never quite sure what you're stepping through, so maintenance would be a big issue on that one. Farmer's market potentially as a waterfront oriented use.

Mike Singleton ([01:19:31](#)):

Also, the idea of potentially food trucks instead of just fixed structures themselves. Multipurpose kiosko was very popular. The festival space was an important thing for people. Again food and drink was brought up under this topic, but pointing out again, maybe food trucks, and maybe food trucks that might be somewhere between the marina and the park itself to be able to pull from both directions on that. Under the education one, just the idea of an interpretive center or at least an interpretive deck or an overhead structure where you might have something a little bit more than just signage.

Mike Singleton ([01:20:10](#)):

Also, the idea that kinetics and making things physical that people could actually talk through and learn from, especially kids, can be in that center as well. Under the access, it's really kind of difficult to get down here other than by car, so people then... I thought of the question of a pedestrian bridge that goes over I-5, how many people would actually use that? A third definitely raised their hand on it, but everyone knows that they're kind of expensive. But the idea of having more car parking wasn't popular with a couple of people saying, "Well, you already got enough parking there, we got encourage people to come down here in other methods as well." That's kind of the main highlights. Other ones, obviously

we can't really hit on all the topics to try to capture them, but we do have it down in our notes and certainly if you add it to the chat box so they're all captured as well. Thanks everyone in our breakout group. I appreciate your input.

Jacob Leon ([01:21:08](#)):

Thank you, Mike. It sounds like there was some overlapping ideas between your room as well. Let's go on to Juan. Go ahead and unmute yourself then let us know what the conversations that you had in your room.

Juan Alberto Bonilla ([01:21:21](#)):

Can you hear me?

Jacob Leon ([01:21:25](#)):

Yes, we can hear you.

Juan Alberto Bonilla ([01:21:26](#)):

Okay. All right. So, one of the main concerns or one of the main things that we're talking to in our group was the fact that the community wants to see more open green space. There were concerns about some of the buildings that are being proposed, such as the community center, because they might already be taking too much space up of that new open space. That was one of the main concerns. Another one is improved access to the park and ensure that parking, especially parking fees, are reasonably priced, because even though right now the parking is free, during the events they charge for it and it can be really expensive. So that doesn't allow for a lot of people to be able to drive there because they did not afford the parking, so just keep it reasonably priced and also ensure to provide things such as bike parking will also kind of incentivize the use of bicycles.

Juan Alberto Bonilla ([01:22:35](#)):

They also really like the idea of installing of having educational components and signage, as well as art throughout the park, because they consider that it will make the whole promenade more interesting. And the one thing that we're very interested in is being able to participate in the art-making process, because they've done it before for other projects in National City, and this will really create the sense of ownership of the park because the community will be involved throughout the whole process.

Juan Alberto Bonilla ([01:23:15](#)):

We also talked about considering installing lighting, but solar lighting, to increase the sense of safety, especially at night and the afternoon, but while also remaining environmentally friendly. And also, they liked the idea of probably having some sort of snack bar or things where people can purchase food, but a lot of the times, these areas tend to sell... Some of the products, they tend to be really expensive, that also kind of doesn't allow people to purchase them when they're in the parks. It's something that should definitely be kept in mind. And lastly, I guess one of the... There was this question that we all had, they want to know if the proposed buildings, such as like community centers, are they already going to be built or are they still in the planning phase? So, that was just one of the questions/concerns that the group had.

Jacob Leon ([01:24:16](#)):

Great. Thank you, Juan. I think that's one of the general comments that I'll be able to address at the ending of the workshop. So thank you Juan, Jorge and your group for all that commentary, we appreciate it. And lastly, Stephen, let's go to you and Lesley, what were the highlights of your conversation?

Stephen Nunez ([01:24:33](#)):

Great. Yeah. Thanks. It was a really good conversation. Lots of great thoughtful comments. So I appreciate everyone who has spoken. As Mike was mentioning, I can't necessarily cover them all in this debrief, but I'll go over some of the main major ones. And Lesley did a great job of noting these all down, so we have everyone's comments. So I had two people comment that they really wanted to see a community garden out in the park and just kind of focusing on some of the educational pieces of that too. So that's definitely something that people would like to see. There were a number of comments that relating to parking, in particular the boat parking, wanting to make sure that the parking is preserved and that there's enough parking for those who are bringing boats into the area. But there are also comments on just the balance of parking versus other use types and other different types of users. So not just looking out for the boat parking only, but also for others.

Stephen Nunez ([01:25:32](#)):

And there are also some thoughts about the fact that the area in the park is limited and when we bring in new uses, that may bring more people, so the need for maybe additional parking and possibly thinking about a drop-off area for other types of ride sharing or other users and other ways of getting to the park. There was also a thought that maybe a survey could be conducted to see how many of the spaces for the boat parking are being used on a regular basis so we can kind of get a better feel for that. There are also a lot of comments relating to connectivity and the fact that Pepper Park feels very isolated and just wanting to improve that connectivity for bikers that are using the Bayshore Bikeway, wanting to promote a direct access to the park, even thinking about maybe providing some access through the wetland areas, using elevated walkways with limited impacts, just to provide better access for bikers and pedestrians and other groups of people who want to get to the park.

Stephen Nunez ([01:26:36](#)):

Let me see, I'm kind of looking through some of these other ones. We also had some comments about water features. So there was the comment about including a fountain, a musical fountain, that could be useful for multi-generational users. So that's kind of being inclusive of different age groups and bringing in some water to the park. And there were several comments on the need for a beach or some type of access to the water and they just felt there is not anything like that for National City and just wanting to see that happen. The boat ferry idea was very well looked upon, and that's definitely something that people are excited about. There were some comments about the kiosko idea, and just liking that and thinking that that could really bring in some life and activity with performances into the park and keeping some grassy areas for multi-use types of uses, like dancing or picnicking and those sorts of things. And also several comments about the Kumeyaay and recognizing indigenous communities in the park. Maybe even having a name for the park that recognizes the Kumeyaay and indigenous people. So thoughts about that and how we can recognize that in the park. So those are some of the highlights, I think that's most of the major ones, and then again, haven't captured everything, but yeah.

Jacob Leon ([01:27:56](#)):

Great. Thank you so much, Stephen and Lesley for your group. I think there is what I'm hearing that there's a lot of overlap and there are some ideas, I think that as the team, as we get closer into actually looking at the actual designs, we're going to really have to consider and take a close look at. So there, I think it's a really exciting time right now that between the Port of San Diego and National City, that we're here at this moment to really try to envision the future of Pepper Park. And I think we can walk away at least from today's workshop with lots of overlapping ideas from the things we've heard today. So again, a shout-out to everybody who participated today, I'm going to go ahead and share my screen one last time and so that you can see, I have one more slide that shows contact information, and it's just a couple of things about next steps.

Jacob Leon ([01:28:51](#)):

Okay. Well, part of our responsibility is to go ahead and share a summary report of the chat of the conversations that took place in the breakout rooms. And that's something that will be posted to the Port of San Diego website that's been created specifically for National City. On this website that you see here is... We are going to be continuously updating it with more information. So here we'll post a summary. And we also have a link that you can all click on to sign up for newsletter. So that way you can stay in touch of all upcoming announcements or when we post something new. And so please stay tuned over the next month, a month and a half, when we'd get new information up on this website itself.

Jacob Leon ([01:29:36](#)):

We have Anna who was in my group. She is the project manager on the Port of San Diego side of things. And her contact information is listed below right here. So she's welcoming emails and phone calls when there's new commentary that comes up. So I'm going to check the chat. And great, so I'm just going to do a quick review of the chat to see if I can identify a general comment. And I think I'll start off by just saying that, with regarding to structures and buildings, all of everything is still in planning phases, nothing is set in stone yet. And so I think that's part of the design process with this Pepper Park expansion to see what is possible, feasible, and making sure that it reflects the wants and needs of the community. And we're seeing a good confirmation. We're seeing ideas about the kiosko, we're seeing things about native gardens and native plantings, educational components. So I'm seeing just a lot of great ideas, some ideas about active transportation, having bike stations that could be available at Pier 32 or Pepper Park. So once again, we are going to be saving the chat itself and that'll be part of the log and part of the report out. But there's some really great ideas in here that our design team will take home and start putting pen to paper and figuring out what exactly the future of Pepper Park will be. So I would like to, at this point, call on Commissioner Naranjo, if you would? I know the mayor earlier had some welcoming remarks, but I'll give you the opportunity right now to just kind of just close out tonight's workshop, if you're comfortable with that?

Sandy Naranjo ([01:31:33](#)):

Yeah, I do. Thank you, Jacob. First of all, thank you, all of you, every single one of you for giving up your hour and a half on a Thursday evening to be here. Your opinion matters, and this is our space. And so I want to make sure that you stay active, you get on our email list. If you have any questions, feel free to email me. I'm happy to do a one-on-one with you, but please stay involved and stay active because the success of this project relies on all of us. And so we need you. So please stay involved, stay active, track the Port of San Diego, always go on our website, [portofsandiego.org](#), and there's my email address and happy to support. And thank you all.

Jacob Leon ([01:32:23](#)):

Thank you, commissioner, we appreciate it. So if anybody has any last comments, feel free to throw them into the chat right now, if not, you are welcome to get to dinner, enjoy your night, get back to your families and loved ones. And we'll hope to see you all soon again. Have a good night everybody.

Mike Singleton ([01:32:40](#)):

Thank you all.

ENDS [01:32:56]