



Riverfront Projects- Collaboration with First Nations – Process and Aspirations

Council Workshop- October 30, 2023

ON TABLE
Council Workshop
October 30, 2023
re: Item 5.1.a

Workshop Overview:

- Introduce Project Facilitators, Rena Soutar (Cha'an Dtut) and Donnie Rosa
- Council to introduce themselves to Project Facilitators
- Provide Background Information on the Riverfront Vision
- Westminster Pier Park Fire Site and Insurance Claim
- Opportunity for Partnership with First Nations
- Questions for Discussion with Council

Purpose:

To provide an opportunity for all members of Council to share their vision, guiding principles and/or emerging priorities for the Riverfront.

This may include a wide range of perspectives on the proposed process, First Nation collaboration and/or big ideas for the city's Riverfront to explore further with our potential partners.

New Westminster OCP (2017):

A Riverfront City - On a Hill - In the Centre of the Region

Our connection to the river has always been significant. It has long been a place of activity and industry. First Nations have long found subsistence from the River and its surrounding resources, and are stewards of it to this day. Historical industry brought vitality and prosperity to our city but created barriers to the waterfront. We are now working to connect to and along the river — making it not only a community amenity but a regional amenity — that will eventually be part of a completed trail system connecting the region from the municipality of Hope to the Pacific Ocean.

The City should continue to... Promote and market the city's waterfront—The Riverfront— as a city-wide amenity and tourism destination.

Policy 9.5: Create connections to and along The Riverfront while also enhancing the diversity of experiences and activities.

Riverfront revitalization will ultimately deliver more parkland, improve public access and create a network of high-quality public open spaces that will attract tourism and investment.

Riverfront Vision (2016):

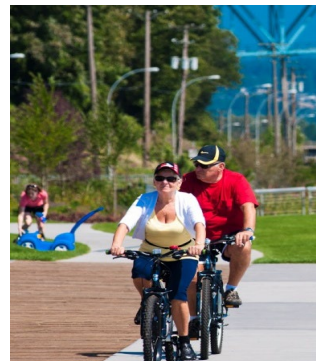
3 Goals:

Continuity. Creating a continuous network of attractive Greenways and parks.

Connectivity. Providing connections from all neighborhoods to the river.

Activity. Programing and animating the Waterfront with an active, engaging and dynamic series of experiences compatible with existing industrial uses that entice visitors to explore its many destinations and adjacent amenities.

The Waterfront is the City's most significant cultural, economic and natural asset. It is home to vibrant and diverse public spaces, high-quality recreation, business and housing, and significant natural features. It is an integral component of the local economy, providing employment, services and tourism opportunities while providing a living link to the city's past.



Riverfront Projects + Initiatives:



1. Ecological Restoration (Lower Brunette)
2. Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway
3. Cumberland Point Park (Metro Vancouver)
4. Sapperton Landing Park
5. North-South Connection (Sapperton Station)
6. Pier2Landing Greenway Connection
7. Timber Wharf (East End- Westminster Pier Park)
8. Westminster Pier Park
9. Fourth Street Overpass/ Elevator
10. Sixth Street Overpass/ Ramp
11. Front Street Parkade Removal/ Front Street Mews
12. Westward Expansion of WPP (660 Quayside Drive)
13. Fraser River Discovery Centre
14. Hyack Square Accessibility Upgrades
15. Riverfront Esplanade
16. Quayside to Queensborough connection (Q2Q)
17. Muni-Evers Park
18. BC Parkway
19. North Arm Riverfront Trail
20. Stewardson Way Crossing
21. Ewen Ave Greenway
22. Queensborough Perimeter Trail
23. Downtown Architectural and Public Realm Guidelines
24. Working Riverfront
25. Tourism Plan and Water-Related Activities
26. Public Art and Wayfinding

Riverfront Projects + Initiatives:



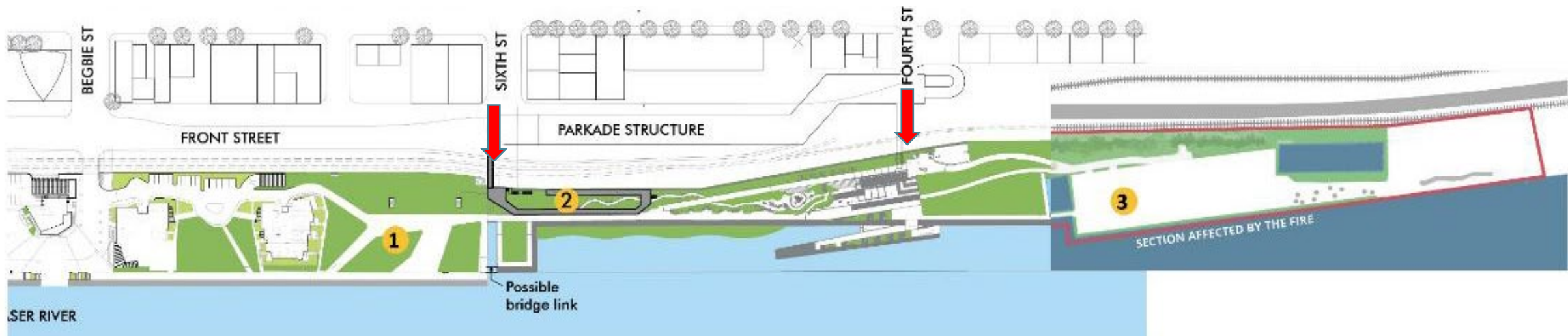
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Pier to Landing Riverfront Connection Concept:

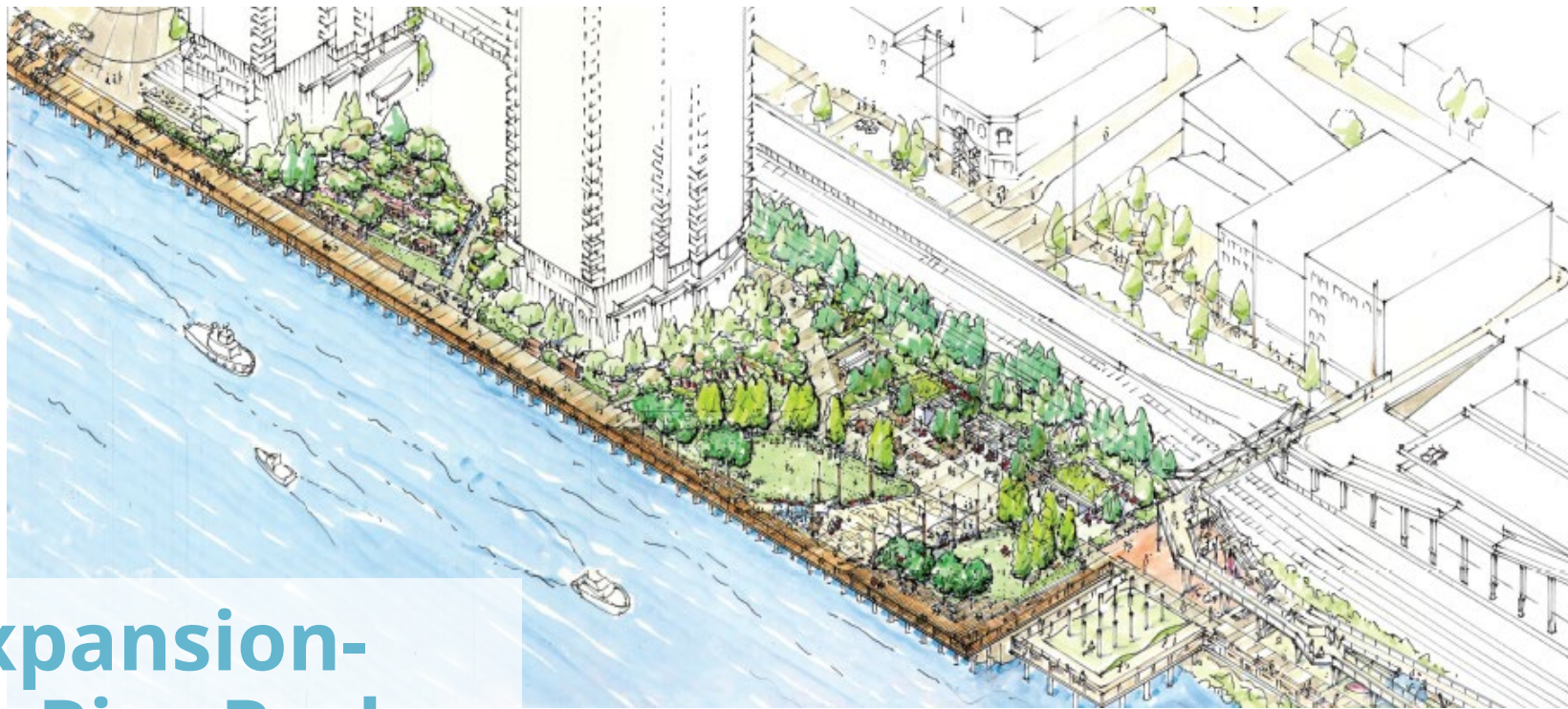
If technically feasible, this proposed linkage would complete the Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway by connecting Sapperton Landing and Westminster Pier Park, via a floating greenway underneath the BC Rail and new Pattullo Bridge. This new linkage will also facilitate broader connectivity to multiple greenways, parks, and regional cycling and pedestrian pathways.



Westminster Pier Park- Overview



- 1 Westward Expansion of Westminster Pier Park (660 Quayside Drive)
Detailed Design and Construction Documents (underway)
Start of construction anticipated in late 2024/ early 2025
- 2 Westminster Pier Park and North-South connections
- 3 Timber Wharf (temporary park destroyed by the fire in 2020)
*Process to determine partners is underway

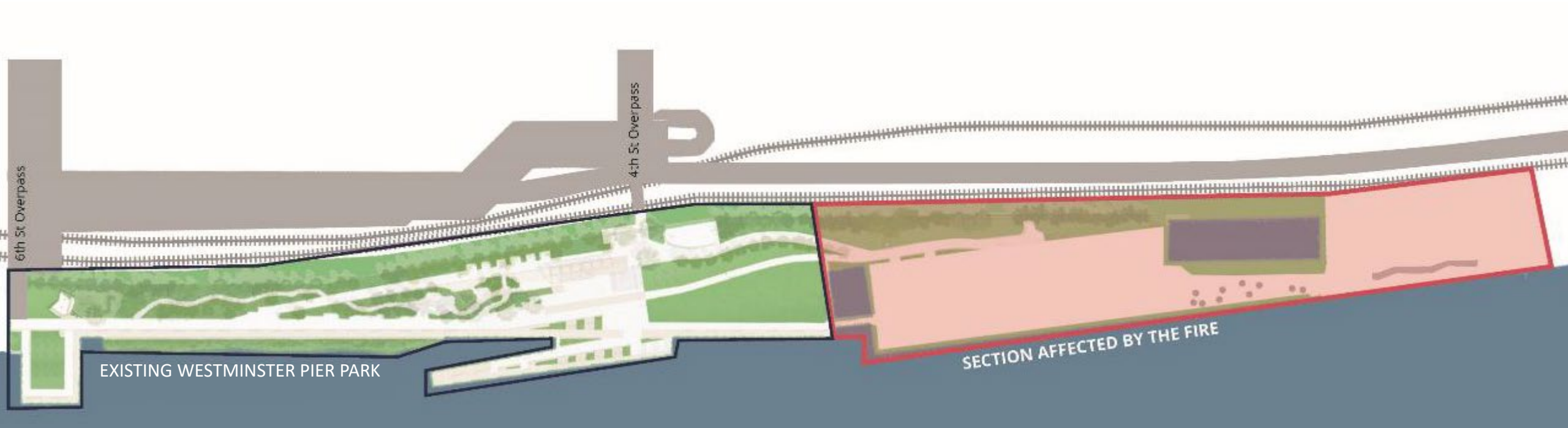


Westward Expansion- Westminster Pier Park



Insurance Claim Process

- The insurance settlement has resulted in \$22M in unrestricted cash balance after accounting for cleanup costs.
- Residual funds from insurance claim proceeds is unlikely to fully fund the redevelopment of the Fire site if developed as envisioned in the 2010 park Master Plan.



New Approach to Co-Develop a Project(s)

The City now plans to meet with six First Nations to understand if they are interested, and to what extent, in partnering/collaborating on a riverfront project(s) and advancing our relationship through this process.

Next Steps:

This project is an opportunity to do things differently as we are starting from a blank slate.

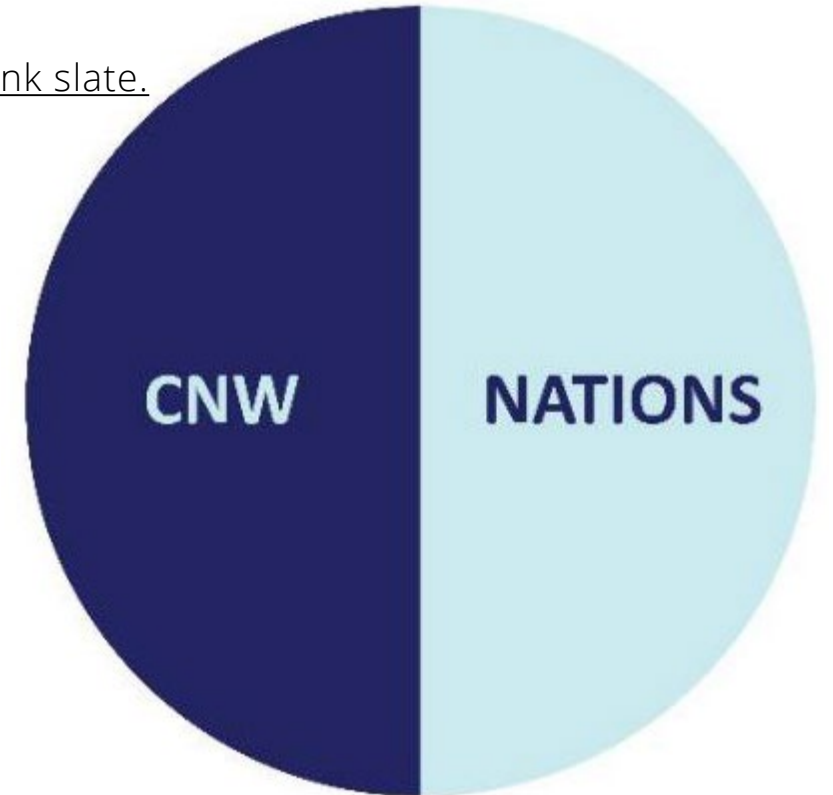
1) Inquire with First Nations:

- Do they wish to partner with the City?
- If so, how do they want to partner with the City?
- Explore creative ways to work together.

2) Create a True Partnership:

Utilize the co-development model for the Riverfront Park as a way to:

- Rebalance how we work with the Nations; and
- Discuss the Riverfront holistically.



Anticipated Next Steps:

Pending input from today's Council workshop:

- 1) Interdepartmental staff team and project facilitators will incorporate Council input to develop the framework for informal staff to staff information session with the identified six First Nations.
- 2) Iterative ongoing conversations with interested individual First Nations.
- 3) Updates to Council as potential vision, values and priorities are developed.

Questions for Discussion with Council:

- 1) What words would you use to define a healthy relationship between the City and the Nations?
- 2) What makes the Fraser River and/ or Riverfront special? What do you hope it would be like 100 years from now?
- 3) What uses of the Riverfront do you think are essential?
- 4) What feelings or qualities do you want people to experience when visiting the area?