

Local Food Committee Report

1. The Local Food Committee sent a resolution to council that does three things; affirms the identification of East Wash as the “preferred” location with park street and northside as alternatives, directs staff to negotiate with all property owners, and direct staff/PPS to move into phase 3 of the business plan.
2. The resolution was referred to the EDC and the EDC passed it without amendment
3. The resolution will be back at Council at their meeting on Oct 7.
4. Assuming the resolution is passed by council, the next step in the business plan is to convene a “public placemaking workshop” to get input from vendors and community members on components of the project. This would be followed immediately by a staff/PPS design work session to start laying it out. The full PPS team would come out for these meetings and likely do them during 2 days. We’ve tentatively identified the last week of October (10/28 - 10/30) for this and will finalize arrangements after the Council meeting. It’d be great to have folks from the Food Policy Council (as well as their contacts who might be interested) attend the workshop.
5. Assuming we move forward with the E. Wash site, I think it’s fair to say that the first phase of the District will likely incorporate the Fleet Building and grounds and possibly all or portions of the Fiore shopping center, with a co-design of Burr Jones Field and the Riverway as public space that remains parkland but contributes to the District as co-designed public space.
6. We’ve had very preliminary conversations with the owners of the shopping center. Without going into specifics, they are excited about the opportunity to partner with the City to make the project happen. The structure of that partnership is yet to be determined.
7. As for the capital budget, funding has been allocated for next year and future years for site acquisition and construction. Though we still don’t know the budget for land or construction, based on the opportunity to save money by utilizing the fleet building as part of the first phase, the Mayor thought it would be prudent to dial-back the allocation for next year but there’s still funds for site acquisition if needed.