



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK**

**SOUTHERN WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT
TASK FORCE MEETING**

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 6:30 p.m.

City Hall / Zoom

The Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force Meeting was conducted using videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Effective immediately and based upon notices and health advisories issued by Federal, State, and Local officials related to the Coronavirus, the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council will not hold in-person meetings. Until further notice, all future City Council meetings (including public hearings and committee meetings) will be held via videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Due to public health and safety concerns, the public will not be permitted to attend at the remote locations where the City Council members will be situated. The public, however, will be able to fully observe the video conference meeting by using the registration link that was posted with our meeting notice and the meeting will be available for viewing at a later date and available on our website.

Task Force Members Present: Kafui Attoh, Barbara Best, Councilmember Brannen, Nick Deluccia (late arrival), Cornelia Harris (late arrival), Legislator Johnson, Joan Mandle, Councilmember Menist (late arrival), John Mylod, Felicia Watson & Mike Young

I. Roundtable discussion on tourism & hospitality

Speakers:

David Bowd – Founder & CEO of Salt Hotels
Loren Daye – Owner & Founder, Hospitality Interior Design
Peter Ebright - NY Cruise Lines, counsel
Buck Moorhead – Architect / Developer
Craig Kanarick – CEO of NY Cruise Lines
Nancy Klepel – Architect

Steve & Samantha Turk – Turk Hospitality

II. Public comment

1. Nicholas Kalogris

2. Naomi Brooks – S. Grand Ave.

There is one part of the Delaval site that has been in use for years: the lower parking lot at the end of Rinaldi Boulevard. It is paved, it is surrounded with plantings and trees, and it has a rip rap edge along the river with a concrete promenade next to that. It is well used by the public for fishing, walking along the river's edge, and just resting and watching the boats and the river. It would be a great place to begin to define the Delaval parcel as its own entity. A new, separate entrance to this lot directly from Rinaldi Boulevard, welcoming signage at entry points, a thorough removal of the many invasive plants, augmenting existing plantings with a more natural palette, and new pedestrian/bike connections from that parking area and promenade to the undeveloped Delaval site beyond will work wonders in the public's intuitive understanding that this parking lot is the beginning of the Delaval parcel's parkland. Right now it feels like an extension of the Shadows parking area. That is mainly because right now, vehicle access to it is only through the Shadows parking lot, but also because its landscaping and materials used match those of Shadows. It "reads" as part of Shadows. Once it can be established with its own identity, new uses for it, and for the remaining Delaval parcel beyond, will unfold. Occasionally, the lot could even be closed to traffic and events staged within it – pop up food trucks, art exhibits, concerts and other performances. The area of about 200'-300' just beyond the parking lot could be open lawn surrounded by new native landscape to match the newer plantings in the parking area, and would become a viewing and picnicking spot. That is the area that is most directly in your line of sight as you approach either from Pine Street or from Rinaldi Boulevard. It currently does have a grass-covered raised area that is a natural spot for a "viewing platform". Beautifying just this beginning stretch of the open parcel will make a compelling foreground for the amazing wide river views in the background. With the addition of a path made of packed gravel along the river for walking, bicycling, and fishing, those improvements alone would bring great new opportunities for residents to enjoy the site and its spectacular views. I would like to see professional landscape architects, environmental consultants, and horticulturists engaged to make sure this small piece of the short term opening is done in the best way possible, so that little will have to be redone in the long term. We need their guidance in getting the specific details right. Naomi@verdantlandscapes.com, www.verdantlandscapes.com

3. Carmela Castiglione

4. Laurie Sandow

5. Lou Viglotti - emailed Public Comment:

Dear SWRTF Members,

At a recent meeting of the Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force, there was a discussion of public river views from and through the Delaval property. It was universally agreed that these public views are a natural resource that should be protected. Driving south along Rinaldi Blvd and entering the Delaval property from the north exposes one to some of the finest views in the Hudson Valley. From this vantage point, the width of the Hudson is stunning and the unobstructed views of the highlands, miles to the south, are priceless.

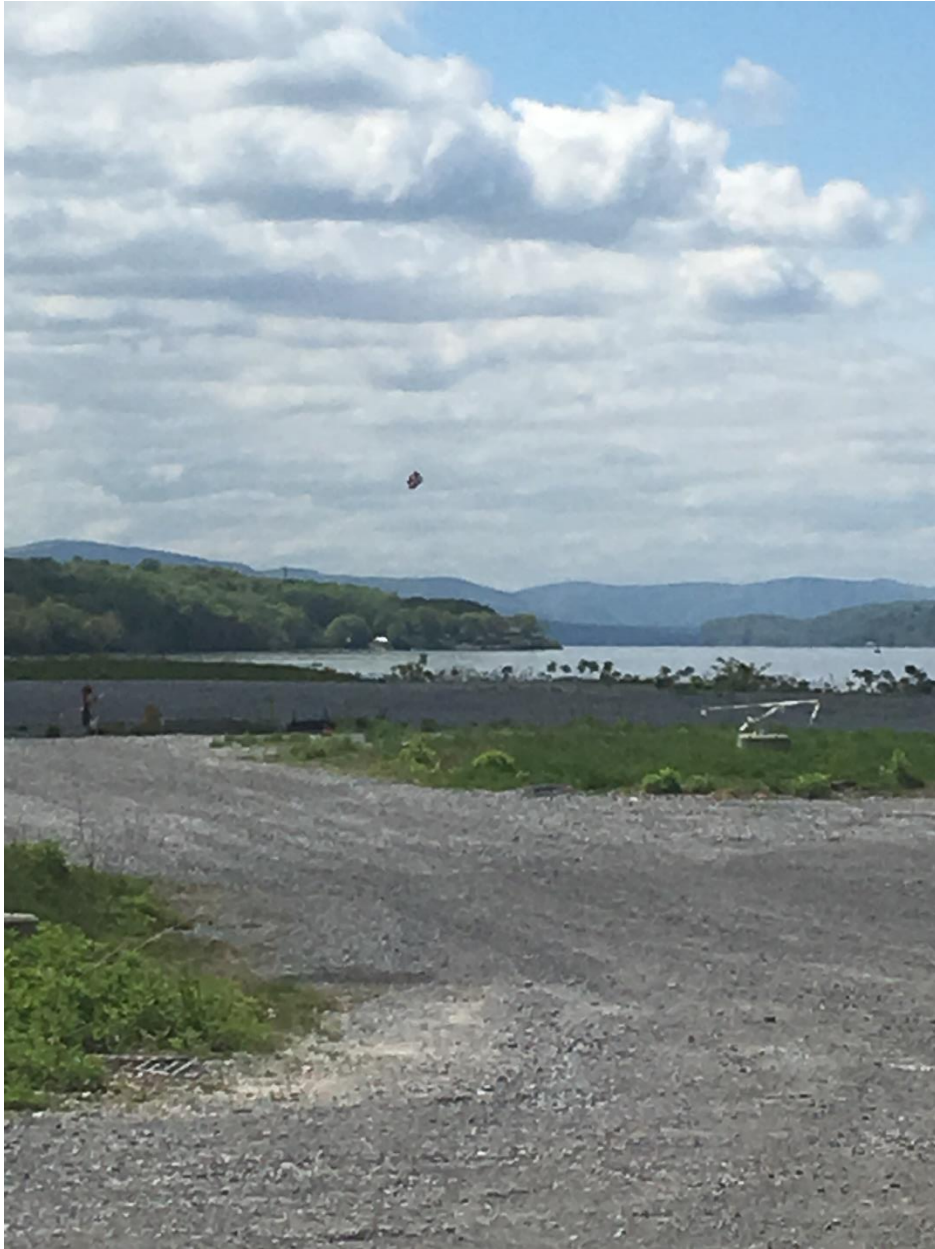
I have attached a photo taken 4 years ago depicting the scene looking south from the Delaval entrance. I took this picture because the developer had indicated, in one of the many iterations of his plan, that he sought to construct 2 approximately 40' high structures in his initial phase. The objects seen in the center of the picture are balloons we placed at 40' above the southwest corner of the proposed structure. To view the total obstructed area a line must be drawn to the left equal to the width of the buildings and to the right a distance equal to the length of the buildings. The result is an almost complete loss of the river and highland views from the entrance and from the north third of the Delaval site.

Other municipalities such as the Town of Poughkeepsie have authorized a balloon study when valued views are affected by construction. Such a study would assist this committee and the city in determining the extent of the impact and the proper placement of any buildings constructed. I hope you see the merit in this suggestion and

I thank you for your time and deliberations in this matter.

(picture below)

Official Minutes of the Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force Meeting
May 26, 2021



- III. Discussion of short-term recommendations
- IV. Update on public survey
- V. Adoption of minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes was moved to be voted on at the June 8, 2021 meeting.

- VI. Next steps
- VII. Adjournment

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A motion was made by Co-Chair Task Force member Harris and seconded by Task Force member Young to adjourn the meeting at 10:13pm.

Dated: May 28, 2021

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force Meeting held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

**Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain**

