

# WATERFRONT NEWS

The publication of the Cleveland Waterfront Coalition  
June 2005

## President's Column

Welcome, it has been some time since our last edition of Waterfront News. It has also been awhile since we held a membership meeting. We've decided to resurface.

For years, the CWC has advocated open public discussion and process in water-front planning. When Mayor Jane L. Campbell initiated Connecting Cleveland: The Lakefront Plan in April of 2002, we applauded. As a member of the Lakefront Planning Associates, we have seen the planning process up close through its three phases. It has been what we hoped it would be.

In December of 2004, the Waterfront District Plan was adopted by the City Planning Commission. As I said, speaking in favor of its adoption, it is doubtful that anyone agrees with everything in the plan. That shouldn't be a surprise.

The city team has done an admirable job of balancing the diverse uses and interests along the waterfront. Much of CWC's effort during this time has been devoted to following and commenting on the evolving plan. While this has kept us in the background, we hope the considerable amount of time spent there is appreciated. Adoption of the city plan gives us a framework to take forward. Our plan is to keep contributing.

Some of our board's efforts are listed on the back page and we detail some more of them in this newsletter. Many areas of the waterfront have advocacy groups, which we hope to complement. Some areas need advocacy, which we hope to provide.

Together, this should keep us busy. So here is our Newsletter highlighting the efforts of CWC and other members of the coalition to bring Cleveland the best Waterfront possible.

Finally, many thanks to past Presidents of the CWC. For many years, Genevieve Ray led the CWC and made it a beacon for public access. Thanks also to her late husband, Henry Shapiro, to Ryan McKenzie and to Bob Gardin for keeping CWC vital.

John W. Veres  
President

### CWC Board Members

Frank Barnett  
Ryan McKenzie  
Matt Montecalvo

Martha Senerchia  
Ellie Sullivan  
John Veres

## You are Invited

**CWC Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday June 15 6pm**  
**Great Lakes Brewing Company**  
**2516 Market Avenue, Rockefeller Room**  
**Featured Speaker**  
**Debbie Berry**  
**LAKEFRONT PLAN MANAGER**  
**Cleveland City Planning**

## The Steamship Mather

By Frank Barnett

As the Steamship William G. Mather starts its 15th season as a museum this May, (in addition to an impressive 55 years as an ore carrier), there are plans to move it a short distance to Dock 32. The move takes it from the east edge of North Coast Harbor basin to the west edge. The ship's engine hasn't been used since it last saw service in 1980, so a tugboat will be employed.

Proximity to the Great Lakes Science Center, as well as improved parking and sightlines, make this a dynamic change. And it should be interesting to see the East 9th Street Pier open on both sides again. The Mather "crew", some paid, but mostly volunteer, is accustomed to delays, but glad to have gotten this far. It took 10 years and a new mayoral administration to get a 40-year lease with the City. The commitment from the City was needed so long-term development plans could be made. It would be nice to move right away, but that takes preparation for the Museum and the City both. The ball is finally rolling.

The season's opening day, (April 30), like last year's, was free for anyone who could prove that they live, work, or go to school in Cleveland, to thank the City for its support. The Mather was the first public attraction at North Coast Harbor, other than the Goodtime and the harbor park itself. The park opened in 1991, a couple of years after the harbor opened. The Cleveland Waterfront Coalition has always supported the Mather. It is lakefront public access at its best, and a fine addition to the harbor park, which CWC inspired in the first place.

At Waterfront News press time, the Mather was preparing to hire a new Education Director, and for the annual training of new tour guides, mentored by the veteran tour guides.

## The Waterfront District Plan

There has been much discussion of the City's Waterfront District Plan (WDP) but how does the actual plan read? It starts with a vision statement that posits the "Lakefront as the most vital element in the transformation of Cleveland".

The other planning principles are then stated: linked neighborhoods and attractions, capitalizing on topographic and natural assets as development and open space assets, 3 great parks on our great lake, a lakefront scenic byway, and accessible and connected public spaces.

The Waterfront districts are then defined.

Although North River Valley and North Shore Collinwood are shown they are not included for adoption. The remaining districts of the continuous 8 mile lakefront are then grouped into "West", "Harbor - front" and "East". The 5 agendas or system plans are the bulk of the plan's text. The agendas are:

- 1) Water related improvements
- 2) Access and connections
- 3) Parks and open spaces
- 4) Neighborhood development
- 5) Sustainability

We have synopsised the agendas on our website. The land use plan is then revealed blocking out primary uses. Next are the conceptual maps that most of us are familiar with. Finally, the summary says we will need more study of the migration/relocation of shipping, Burke and it's needs, and the cost/priorities of the proposed changes. The Waterfront District also needs strategies to ensure cohesive development.

There are many other government levels and agencies, private sector actors, non profits, and supportive citizens that will be necessary to realize the goals of the WDP. Join us for a discussion of the WDP with Debbie Berry of City Planning on June 15, 2005.

## WHISKEY ISLAND

### MAKING OF THE PARK

When the County bought Whiskey Island, in December, 2004, Whiskey Island Partners agreed to deliver a park (Wendy Park), in 2005.

The park is being built, and the County is supervising. The beach has been cleared of debris, and undergrowth and trash have been removed in the park area. Also, some road work and grading has been done.

Volleyball has been played at the site for years and will remain.. Lighting improvements are being made in that area.

The Museum of Natural History is identifying invasive plant species, habitat for bird migration, and appropriate native grasses for propagation. Much of the eastern end of the park will be planted with prairie grasses native to Ohio.

Whiskey Island Partners are tentatively planning to dedicate Wendy Park on June 25.

### PROPOSED SALE

The Board of County Commissioners has been considering the sale of Whiskey Island (Marina and Park) to the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority. If the sale to the Port Authority occurs, we assume the City's *Waterfront District Plan* would override the County's *Whiskey Island Improvement Plan*.

On March 17, 2005 CWC wrote all three Commissioners urging them to support the implementation of its *Whiskey Island Improvement Plan*.

The City and County share many of the same goals for Whiskey Island. There are many common features in their plans. The main difference is that the County would retain all of the existing beach and the existing marina. Also, we are not aware of a timeline or funding for the concepts put forth in the City's plan.

The County was able to purchase Whiskey Island. The County appears able to implement its plan now. We do not view this as a case of one plan or the other as much as a case of one plan that is doable now.

Finally, we don't believe that the County' plan is beyond review in the future (say 3 to 5 years?). This is a good example of governmental cooperation that will be needed to realize the lofty ambitions of the *Waterfront District Plan*..

# JOIN THE CWC

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Cleveland Waterfront Coalition was recognized as a nonprofit 501c3 membership organization in 1981. Our mission is to increase public awareness of Cleveland's waterfront as a public resource and promote comprehensive waterfront planning and development that provides public access to a waterfront that is inspired by excellence in social, economic, and environmental best practices

<p><b>2003/4 Board Efforts</b></p> <p><b>Hulets/Canal Basin</b> Finding a home for the 2 remaining Hulets at the emerging Canal Basin Park, in partnership with the Ohio Canal Corridor.</p> <p><b>BLUE Project</b> In partnership with EcoCity Cleveland. See their website, (<a href="http://www.EcoCityCleveland.org">www.EcoCityCleveland.org</a>) for a discussion of Cleveland lakefront issues and waterfront design.</p> <p><b>Port/Whiskey Island</b> Meetings with the City Planning Director, Port Director, lead Whiskey Island Partner, and a Port tour were conducted to investigate the proposed Port move/park plan. Currently, the board supports the county's plan for Whiskey Island.</p> <p><b>PD Design Competition</b> The CWC entry offered reconfigured use of the area east of East 9th near the Shoreway and the Burke parking lot. Market housing was the main feature.</p> <p><b>Dike 14</b> Evaluation of proposals by the Dike 14 Committee.</p> <p><b>Committee Memberships</b> Representation on the Lakefront Plan Advisory Committee, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), and Innerbelt Study Scoping Committee.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:CleWaterfront@aol.com">CleWaterfront@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>SURVEY</b></p> <p>Please rate these issues from Very Important (1) To Not Important (10)</p> <p>Dike 14 _____</p> <p>Canal Basin _____</p> <p>Water Quality _____</p> <p>Public Access _____</p> <p>Burke Airport _____</p> <p>Bike paths _____</p> <p>North Coast Harbor _____</p> <p>Whiskey Island _____</p> <p>Hulets _____</p> <p>West Shoreway _____</p> <p>Port Relocation _____</p> <p>Housing _____</p> <p>Gordon Park _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>Become a Member,</b></p> <p>Send this form and a check to:  <b>Cleveland Waterfront Coalition</b>          3105 Bridge Avenue          Cleveland, OH 44113          216-281-8703          Website: <a href="http://www.clevelandwaterfrontcoalition.org">www.clevelandwaterfrontcoalition.org</a></p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY/STATE/ZIP _____</p> <p>PHONE (Home) _____</p> <p>(Work) _____</p> <p>VOLUNTEER _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>\$20.00 (Individual) _____</p> <p>\$50.00 (Organization/Corporation) _____</p> <p>\$200.00 (Sponsor) _____ \$10.00 (Students) _____</p>
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## **The Dike 14 Nature Preserve**

Perhaps you've heard about Dike 14? It is an 88 acre former dredge disposal site that has been closed to river and harbor dredgings since 1999. The rich dredging soil has supported a variety of wild plant growth. Habitats include grassland, forest, meadow, mudflat, shrub land, and wetlands. 280 species of birds have been documented at the site. Its unique location makes it a prime migratory stopover on this side of the lake. In October of 2000, the Audubon Society designated Dike 14 an Audubon Important Bird Area. In addition to the birds, many animal and plant species have been documented at the site.

The Dike 14 Nature Preserve concept plan was put forward by the League of Women Voters, Sierra Club of NE Ohio, and the Dike 14 Committee. It was part of the public input provided to state, county and city planning departments between 2000 and 2004. In 2004, the Cleveland Waterfront District Plan identified the use as: The Dike 14 Nature Preserve with public access trails, boardwalks, and environmental education. The City Planning Commission adopted the plan on 12/17/04.

Now the city is planning for public access at Dike 14. Sediment testing of the dredgings must be funded and done. And the city must seek a submerged land lease from the state for the use of the land.

Questions about who will operate and maintain the preserve are still very open.

On May 21, the Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative (EEC) hosted hikes and birdwalks to illustrate the site's potential. EEC is Audubon Ohio, Cleveland Metroparks Outdoor Education, the Museum of Natural History, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Assn., the Earth Day Coalition, the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

The EEC is planning a website for updates, signage and kiosks for Dike 14, outreach programs to the Cleveland Schools and others, and a field guide for schoolchildren.

The EEC, incidentally, meets monthly at the Natural History Museum. Contact Chris Trepal at [ctrepal@earthdaycoalition.org](mailto:ctrepal@earthdaycoalition.org) 216-281-6468 x227

The Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee Meets Monthly at various sites. Contact Barbara Martin at [barbaramartin2001@juno.com](mailto:barbaramartin2001@juno.com) 440-243-9070 or Bill Gruber [gruberw@aol.com](mailto:gruberw@aol.com) 216-371-3570.

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