



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office
COPY: Economic Development Committee
SUBJECT: Report from Foss Waterway Seaport Museum
DATE: September 9, 2014

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this memo is to inform the City Manager and Economic Development Committee of an upcoming presentation by Su Dowie, Executive Director of the Foss Waterway Development Authority, and Wesley Wenhardt, Executive Director of the Foss Waterway Seaport, on the progress of the Foss Waterway Seaport facility renovations.

BACKGROUND:

The Committee received its last update on the Foss Waterway Seaport museum in 2012, and the facility's leadership has expressed a desire to update the Committee on progress since that time and share information about the next phase of the project.

The Foss Waterway Seaport is a museum that celebrates Tacoma's rich maritime heritage. It is located in the historic Balfour Dock Building. The museum currently offers maritime heritage exhibits, land- and boat-based education programs, guest boat moorage, and event rental space. The Seaport site is an integral part of the continued redevelopment of the west shore of the Thea Foss Waterway.

ISSUE:

This presentation will provide an update on the Foss Waterway Seaport project, which restores the historic Balfour Dock Building, allowing for the expansion of the 17-year old Working Waterfront Maritime Museum and Heritage Boat Shop. It also retains open space of the waterfront for public use.

The next phase of the building renovation will involve the installation of an HVAC system that will provide heating to the building for the first time in its history. This will enable the facility to offer its programs and services to visitors all year round. The presenters will provide an update on their fundraising campaign for these improvements.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only. There is no recommendation.