

**What should the Harbor Square of tomorrow be? The Port wants to know**

By Bob McChesney, Executive Director, the Port of Edmonds

On Monday, June 21, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, the Port of Edmonds will be hosting another open house meeting to obtain public input on future Harbor Square redevelopment. It will be in the former Edmonds Yacht Club space below Anthony's Homeport restaurant.

This will be the last in the current series of public meetings, which have been going on since November. While this important event marks the conclusion of Phase I of the Port's public outreach program, it isn't final in the sense that decisions have been made.

Rather, it is an opportunity to obtain additional comments, suggestions and ideas on the future of Harbor Square in anticipation of another round of meetings later this fall.

Between now and then we will work to consolidate all the public input we have received to date.

We will be working with architects and planners to incorporate many of your thoughts and recommendations into design concepts, view shed analyses and potential marsh enhancements.

The idea is to create conceptual drawings and view perspectives of different redevelopment scenarios to present to the community at this fall's Phase II series of meetings.

You need to know that the Port Commissioners and I are committed to as much public involvement as possible, even if that means having more meetings than would otherwise be required for an ordinary project. That's why it is critically important that we hear from all the stakeholders. The success of future Harbor Square redevelopment depends on citizen input.

The format for Monday's meeting will be informal and casual. It will be a time for citizens to speak and for the Commissioners and me to listen. Let me emphasize that public input is absolutely essential to creating scenarios that reflect the needs and desires of the community we serve.

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The Commissioners and I sincerely appreciate all those who have participated to this point. We have received a number of valuable insights, ideas and offers of help.

For now, however, I would like to personally invite everyone with thoughts or ideas to please attend Monday's gathering. Again, it will be this coming Monday, June 21, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, in the former Edmonds Yacht Club space on the water side of the Anthonys Homeport building. Observers are welcome. I hope to see you there.

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