APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 18, 2011
Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 2:00pm

Projects Reviewed
Bell Street Park
SDOT Art Plan
Universal Design and Public Open Space

Commissioners Present
Julie Parrett, Chair
Malika Kirkling
Tom Nelson
Osama Quotah
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige
Debbie Wick-Harris

Excused Commissioners
Julie Bassuk
Laurel Kunkler

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast

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August 18, 2011

Project: Bell Street Park

Phase: 70% design
Last Reviewed: Feb 18, 2010
Presenters: Patrick Donohue, Parks and Recreation
Nate Cormier, SvR

Attendees: Shane DeWald, SDOT
Jason Huff, Arts and Cultural Affairs

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Project Presentation
The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation presented plans for an interdepartmental effort to create a park-like corridor along Bell Street, from 1st Ave to 5th Ave. through the heart of Belltown. One traffic and one parking lane will be removed; the roadway will be elevated to sidewalk level to create a continuous space, but not where Bell St. crosses the avenues. The four-block area will be improved with park type amenities such as trees, landscaping, better lighting and wider sidewalks on the north side of Bell Street. The design includes natural drainage cells that wind along the north side of the street to receive run-off and provide a continuous green element linking the four blocks. After construction, Parks and SDOT will do the maintenance.

ACTION
The Design Commission would like to thank the design team for its clear presentation of Bell Street Park. The commission appreciated the trees and for overcoming the hurdles inherent in such a complicated, cross-departmental project. By a vote of 7-0, the commission approved the 70% design, with the following comments:

- The design lacks the heart of public space; it reads more like street. The linearity of the design overwhelms spaces to sit and gather and inhibits cross movement and visual connection.
- Encourage placemaking through parks programming and ample, quality seating.
- Refine and make more dynamic the grid pattern in areas designed for intentional uses. Consider changing bandwidths, colors, and shapes.
- Develop a stronger visual linkage across avenues.
- Develop signage to signal drivers and bicyclists that they’re in a shared space. Consider using chevrons or bike and car image.
- Use light fixtures that don’t encourage climbing.
- Design and fabricate the objects so they bend when hit. They should not fly or remain rigid.
- Provide water and garbage service for food trucks.
- Do a debrief and lessons learned on the challenges of implementing an interdepartmental, shared space project.