APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

November 17, 2011
Convoked 11:00am
Adjourned 4:30 pm

Projects Reviewed
First Hill Streetcar
Tiger Asian Bear Exhibit
Maple Leaf Reservoir Park

Commissioners Present
Julie Parrett, Chair
Mary Fialko (excused from 1:45pm-3:00pm)
Malika Kirkling
Lolly Kunkler (excused from 2:40pm-3:40pm)
Tom Nelson
Norie Sato
Debbie Wick-Harris
Don Vehige

Commissioners Excused
Osama Quotah
Julie Bassuk

Incoming Commissioners Present
Mary Fialko

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Presentation

The design team presented its design development for the 16-acre Maple Leaf Reservoir Park, which will be built on a reservoir lid and includes the existing Maple Leaf playground and ballfields. The park’s design was limited by numerous constraints from SPU, the manager of the reservoir.

The project was on hold during the last year, but is now ready to move forward with construction in summer of 2012. The team highlighted the recent changes to the park’s design and the further development of park elements, including: the materials that form the waves on the Maple Leaf Terrace; the equipment envisioned for the Family Terrace; the selection of a standard picnic shelter; the configuration of the sports courts; and the details of the art, whose stone material reflects the watershed and the site’s past use as a reservoir.

ACTION

The Design Commission would like to thank the design team for its presentation of the Maple Leaf Reservoir Park. By a vote of 6-1, the commission approved the project’s design development, with the following comments:

- Lower or cover the picnic shelter gables on north and west side for more wind and rain protection; perhaps use a simple gable roof for the picnic shelter instead of a cross gable that is so high. Consider adding more shelters.
- Reexamine the overhang at the outlook; the expense and effort required to create the overhang might be more than the value it adds to the view. Instead, concentrate on improving the quality of the materials and the size of the View Terrace to enhance the view and experience overall.
- Use plantings rather than mounds and planting to create the effect of the waves on the Maple Leaf Terrace; do not use foam as a base for the plantings, as it is not environmentally friendly. Carefully consider how the Parks Department will maintain and mow around the shapes over time to retain the landscape design.
- Develop a plan for lighting so that park visitors feel secure and that complies with dark sky principles.
- Further develop the setting and placement for the artwork in collaboration with the artist; it is going in a good direction.

Commissioner Parrett voted no because she believed the design was not fully worked out to the level sufficient at this stage of design.