APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 5, 2012
Convened 8:00am
Adjourned 4:30pm

Projects Reviewed
Block 93 Alley Vacation
SR520 I-5 to Medina
Mapes Creek Restoration

Commissioners Present
Julie Parrett, Chair
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah
Debbie Harris
Laurel Kunkler
Tom Nelson
Norie Sato
Mary Fialko
Donald Vehige
Don Vehige

Commissioners Excused
Julie Bassuk

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented its plans to replace storm water facilities in the right-of-way in 52nd Ave S and S Henderson St. and restore Mapes Creek in Beer Sheva Park. The proposed design would move the creek from a storm drain into a parallel, dedicated pipe and restore approximately 350 feet of the creek into an open, natural channel through Beer Sheva Park and form a new stream mouth delta at Lake Washington. It would increase the quality and amount of habitat for threatened juvenile Chinook salmon by creating additional stream and riparian habitat. It would also provide an amenity in the park for visitors to enjoy and experience. The project will include an art component. The team anticipated construction to be complete by November 2014.

ACTION (by Sato)

The Seattle Design Commission approved, by a vote of 6-0, the 30% design of the Mapes Creek CSO and Restoration project. The commission appreciated the information on the creek’s ecology, the needs of fish, and the importance of daylighting the creek. The commission made the following recommendations:

- Coordinate with SDOT and others to optimize the location of the pipes along 52nd Ave S, under the Mapes Creek Walkway, to allow for a wider walkway and facilitate future improvements in that corridor. The commission had recommended in a workshop in 2009 that by shifting the slope east, grades might be created that would allow for better plantings and maintenance, improving the pedestrian experience and sense of safety.

- In designing the facilities and restoration of the 52nd Ave S and S Henderson St right-of-ways, tie the full length of the project corridor together visually somehow, taking the opportunity to make the story of the watershed, stormwater, and the stream visible. Explore low- or no-cost solutions to “trace” the route of the water from the south end of the project to the lake, creating a “line” with plantings or ground plane materials, paint, small reoccurring elements, etc.. Involve the community in seeking a meaningful expression of this. The artist may want to consider this too.

- When replacing the disturbed areas along 52nd Ave S and S Henderson St, consider that it is the community’s civic space and take advantages of opportunities to improve the public realm. Work toward a quality solution for the plaza at the north end of the Mapes Creek Walkway. Explore replacing or moving the fence at the Lake Washington Apartments to create a better pedestrian experience along the sidewalk and reinforce the connectivity between 52nd Ave.
and the park. If the artwork in the north plaza is displaced, it should be replaced possibly with refurbished artwork.

- Refine the design where the pipe enters the park.
- Create a visual connection down Henderson into the stream area.
- Create places where people can touch water. Make them kid-friendly.
- Refine the design of the pedestrian bridge to make it look less heavy and bulky.
- Work with SDOT, Parks, and non-profit partners to identify funding to enhance the area in tandem with the CSO and daylighting project.

The Commission asked the project team to show cross sections at the next presentation, of S. Henderson where the fence is being replaced at the Lake Washington apartments, but also wherever else necessary for better understanding of the design. Please show planting plans at the next presentation, and drawings of the area where the pipe enters the park.