

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2014

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Diana Kincaid
Brice Maryman
Yazmin Mehdi, Vice Chair
Mazohra Thami
Tom Tierney, Chair
Barbara Wright

Excused:

Bob Edmiston
Antoinette Angulo

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Christopher Williams, Superintendent
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator
Susan Golub, Strategic Advisor

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Tierney calls the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Commissioner Tierney asks for approval of the Agenda, the Acknowledgment of Correspondence and to approve the correction to the January 9, 2014 minutes in which the Original minutes mistakenly said the Cheasty Bike Pilot project would last 2 years instead of 3 years. Commissioner Kincaid moves to approve the consent items and Commissioner Wright seconds. The consent items are approved.

To hear and view the full meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591331>

Oral Requests from the Audience

Sarah Welch – Sarah is a Cheasty resident and she is requesting a moratorium on implementation of the bike park. She has reviewed correspondence and communications from the community and Seattle Parks and Recreation; she would like the Board of Park Commissioners to ask themselves whether they feel they supported a public process. She notes this project has significant impact to the whole neighborhood. It is not enough that the Park Board sent out the agendas; there needed to be post cards sent out to the neighbors. She requests more community process to let all members of the community figure this out together.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Williams congratulates Commissioner Tierney and Commissioner Mehdi on being the new Chair and Vice Chair. He thanks them for making the commitment to serve in these high demand positions.

Kinnear Park is having an Opening Celebration this Saturday, April 26 at 1pm. Kinnear Park was a recipient of the Opportunity Fund; this is a community-driven project that resulted in new ADA trails and park improvements.

Bell Street Park: The Bell Street Park opening was a big success. The park runs along 4 blocks of Bell Street; SPR worked in conjunction with SDOT to create a park boulevard in the heart of the city where people can gather. 250+ people attended the opening and Superintendent Williams says Parks will have special events spilling out of the Belltown Community Center into the park. More activation creates a stronger sense of community. The plantings are not as robust as imagined so they are looking into it.

Ft. Lawton Housing: The housing at Discovery Park was sold to a private developer. When the property was for sale, the city and the department were not in a position to buy it. The houses have landmark status and the landowners are working with the Historic Landmarks Board but the community wants tougher action; Superintendent Williams is optimistic that Parks will be able to work with the neighbors and hope the neighbors respect the historical integrity of the place.

Cheasty Bike Pilot Project: Superintendent Williams presented the Cheasty Bike Pilot project to the City Council. Superintendent Williams says Parks will stop development of the Pilot project until there has been more community meetings. He stresses the importance of Parks bringing communities together and not creating divisiveness. Superintendent Williams will be meeting with neighbors to find common ground and solutions. Parks received a very constructive letter from the Urban Forestry Commission, which offered suggestions for best practices going forward with the Cheasty Bike Trail. The Urban Forestry Commission suggested that the mountain bike trail be built on the perimeter of the greenspace; have a clear Memorandum of Understanding regarding the volunteer work and habitat restoration; ensure there won't be a competitive obstacle course and not design it for BMX. Superintendent Williams emphasizes the people who want the mountain bike park are the same volunteers who restore the greenbelt and want to see it used in a way that preserves the habitat and responds to all of the illegal activity; he believes this is a framework for success.

The Commissioners discuss the pitfalls of the public process better to figure out lessons learned. Superintendent Williams recounts that the conversation about a pilot project came from the change in the Bicycle Use Policy. He has heard from neighbors there was not adequate public engagement for this discussion. Commissioner Kincaid feels it is important for members of the Board of Park Commissioners to attend the meetings with the Cheasty people and the Superintendent. Commissioner Mehdi thinks communicating the goal of further public involvement is important so that people understand how the engagement will affect the outcome. Superintendent Williams agrees and adds that the goal is to gain a clearer intent and lower anxiety. Commissioner Mehdi says it is hard to track where a project is on a trajectory. Commissioner Maryman states that learning what not to do from this experience is important because many people feel disenfranchised, which Parks needs to address. Superintendent Williams agrees and emphasizes that change of use issues are always controversial. However, he feels that going forward Parks Commissioners may choose to season decisions over longer periods and create evaluations of how the community is feeling. Commissioner Tierney feels pleased that Parks is being so responsive to the community's needs.

Magnolia Manor: All off-leash areas start as an 18-month pilot project; this allows the department the ability to evaluate the location based on the following:

- Public meetings
- Environmental checklist
- Correspondence received from the community
- SPD and Animal Control reports
- Work Orders – to see if there are an inordinate amount associated with that site
- Talk with off-leash area volunteers – assess if there's an active volunteer base
- Any other data

Magnolia Manor off-leash area has concluded the pilot project and are in the evaluation process. Postcards were mailed to all residents that live within a 300-foot radius of the off-leash area for their input. Parks will bring this to the Park Board in the fall for a recommendation.

Henderson Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO): There will be a hearing at the May 6 City Council meeting to address initiative 42 issues. This is an opportunity for people who hate this idea to come out and tell the council about it. Initiative 42 prohibits park property being used for non-park purposes except when it comes to serving the greater good. Superintendent Williams argues that this is a public health issue and the benefit is huge. Construction will last 18-24 months; the neighbors feel this will cause undue difficulties. SPU is working to mitigate those issues. Commissioner Wright asks how this benefits Parks. Superintendent Williams says SPU will restore tennis courts and the parking lot; SPU will have to pay permit fees to install the tanks and that will be ongoing.

Related to utility use of park land, Superintendent Williams cites the Okeson case where Seattle City Light was sued by Seattle residents for using ratepayer funds to install streetlights. The Washington State Supreme Court decided it was an inappropriate use of ratepayer dollars. Reservoir lids are paid for by SPU customers but Parks is using the land and maintaining those parks. SPU utility ratepayers pay for the storage of those tanks. Negotiating with SPU for a trade-off to lower the use rate for those lid parks in exchange for CSO fees will be very prominent in budget decisions with huge impacts to the department. Commissioner Wright lived through a similar construction site in her neighborhood and she says it deeply affected the neighborhood. She feels it is important SPU have a tight mitigation agreement with the community around Seward Park so that the people who have been excluded from a public space are compensated.

Commissioner Mehdi brings up the benefits to the neighborhood because this will help with flooding and storm water overflow. Commissioner Tierney adds that he swims off the park there and feels clean water is invaluable. Commissioner Maryman asks about other options for locations for the tank and Superintendent Williams responds that SPU looked at 76 sites in the surrounding area. Commissioner Maryman says one of the other ways to manage storm overflow is to use distributed green infrastructure systems as King County is doing in the Barton Basin in south Seattle. Is there an opportunity to extend the network of green nature throughout the basin as opposed to in one location?

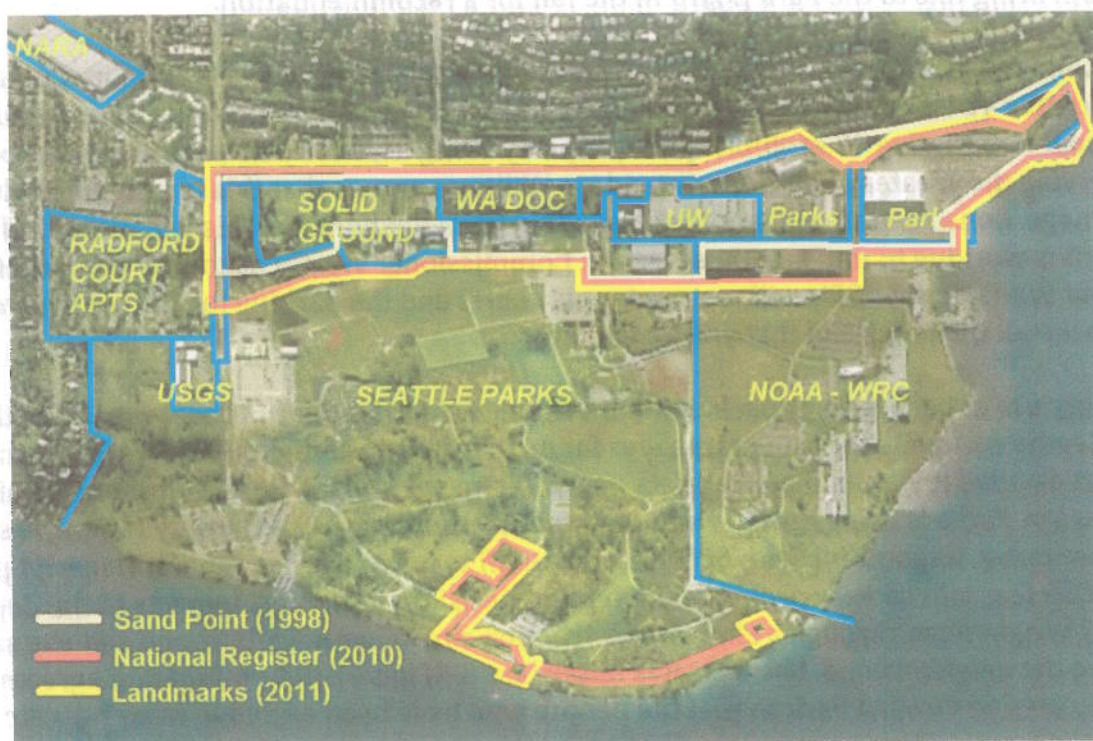
Moorages: There are 2 community groups – Leschi and Lakewood. The Leschi work group will be wrapping up soon. There will be a Request For Proposal (RFP) process. There are 200 slips at Leschi Marina and it will cost approximately \$14 million to repair it. Parks questions what level of subsidy for 200 people makes sense. Who should operate the moorages? Should Parks be in the moorage business at all? This issue will come back to the Park Board at a future date.

Sand Point Naval Air Station Landmarks Preservation District

Presented by Kathleen Conner, Sr. Planner

Kathleen is the liaison for Parks and works closely with Karen Gordon and Erin Doherty from the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) Historic Preservation. Parks has 30 historic landmarks around the city. She works with DON and community members to find commonality and work to maintain the park and its historical integrity. Kathleen lists some of the parks that have landmark status: Victor Steinbreuck, the Pergola in Pioneer Square, Gas Works, Cal Anderson, Ft. Lawton, Hat 'n Boots in Oxbow and Sand Point.

Sand Point, in various parts, is recognized as a Landmark District by the city, the state of Washington and by the federal government. The controls and incentives are much the same for the National Register and the city.



Sand Point is unique in that there are multiple owners with whom to negotiate. Karen Gordon, DON, says she really appreciates and enjoys the community involvement and collaborating with them to come up with terms everyone feels comfortable. She goes through the process of getting something landmark status.

- 1) Nomination – A brief chronology of its history is reviewed by the Landmark Preservation Board; Sand Point was approved February 2, 2011
- 2) Designation – Once the Landmarks Preservation Board designated the Sand Point area a Landmarks District, any changes to the District must be reviewed and approved by the Board. Approved March 16, 2011
- 3) Negotiation and Adoption of Controls & Incentives – This step of the process took some time because of the complexity. Grant money is available to develop guidelines, controls and incentives. Sand Point was approved July 3, 2013
- 4) Ordinance Adopted by City Council – This has yet to happen for Sand Point.

Following the designation, a Design Guidelines Development Committee was formed consisting of two Parks staff members, one representative from each of the other property owners (University of Washington, Seattle Department of Transportation, Solid Ground; note that NOAA did not participate), two architects (former members of the Seattle Landmarks Board), and two neighbors. DON Historic Preservation Staff staffed the Committee, and a consultant was hired to prepare the Design Guidelines. After a series of 6-7 meetings, the committee agreed on a draft document. During the review by the City Law Department, there were some minor changes made to the guidelines.

Concurrently, in accordance with the Landmarks ordinance, DON began negotiating with the property owners on elements to be included in the Controls and Incentives Agreement. An Agreement defines which architectural or landscape elements must be reviewed by the Landmarks Board or by DON staff (administratively), and what is exempt from review. It becomes a guide for the property owners for making physical changes to the District, such as exterior renovations, landscape changes, or adding new elements within the District. The Agreement does not govern the land uses or activities either in buildings or on surrounding landscapes. Each application is reviewed using the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

After the negotiations were finalized, and all the property owners and DON agreed, each of the owners signed the Agreement and DON staff forwarded the Controls and Incentives Agreement to the Landmarks Board for approval. At the same time, the Design Guidelines were also sent to the Landmarks Board for approval. The Landmarks Preservation Board approved these documents on July 3, 2013. Please note that the Guidelines and the Controls and Incentives Agreement became effective immediately upon approval by the Landmarks Board.

Assuming adoption of the ordinance, a local Architectural Review Committee (ARC) will be established for the District. The ARC will review Certificate of Approval applications for changes in the District. It will make recommendations on each application to the Citywide Landmarks Preservation Board, which makes the final decision. A longer-term goal is to have the State Historic Preservation Office accede review authority for the required State review so that only one application/process will be necessary. This action will achieve much to streamline historic preservation review. Since 2011, all projects that propose alterations must go through two separate processes. This has been time consuming for applicants and adds costs to every project, whether public or private.

Lynn Ferguson, member of the Magnuson Advisory Council, states this is the 1st new historic district in 20 years and warns Parks that members of the public want to have a voice and are watching carefully. She feels it is very important to protect the historical integrity so that Magnuson that serves the public. She is concerned with how Parks has managed Sand Point although she has noticed a change and she feels optimistic about the collaboration. She brought Bob Dempster and Captain Ron Miller with her to speak on the broad history of Sand Point.

Bob Dempster presents a PowerPoint that contains a comprehensive history of Sand Point starting with the first flight around the world in 1924 to WWII.

Captain Ron Miller continues the history lesson with his own personal accounts of Sand Point.
{I will transcribe his speech here}

Captain Miller feels the Freedom Tree monument, honoring those missing in action in Indochina, and the monument commemorating the 1924 Flight Around the World should be moved to places of more prominence and better visibility. Captain Miller diligently maintains those monuments in honor of his close personal connections to that place. He feels they deserve more visibility and community recognition.

Commissioner Tierney closes out the history lesson thanking the speakers and reiterating Sand Point's historical significance.

Old/New Business

Legacy Committee Update: Monday, the City Council proposed \$47.6million funding package with cuts across the board. The select committee votes on April 28 at 1pm on 2 ordinances; the first would put the ballot measure on the ballot and the second would approve the language of the Inter-Local Agreement.

There were major changes to the oversight committee structure – Councilmember Licata requested the committee have 15 members to include 4 members from several city commissioners. The proposal on Monday made the following changes:

- Transfer funding for community center operations into rehabilitating community centers; unless Parks staff creates a Strategic Plan for the community centers. The city council will review the strategic plan and decide whether to put the money back in the community center operating budget.
- The Major Projects Challenge Fund went from \$5million to \$1.6million.
- Get Moving Fund was cut in half
- Eliminated funding for the Community Response Fund

After the City Council votes to put the funding package on the August 5 ballot, there are more stringent ethics rules.

Susan states there have been a tremendous amount of meetings happening. Council wants to keep the amount of the funding package low because of other ballot measures coming soon.

The Inter-Local Agreement: City Council and the Parks Legacy Plan Citizen's Advisory Council worked hard to assuage any fears the public had regarding whether the land is city-owned and other issues; they will be part of the city ordinance. Commissioner Wright adds that it states in the Ordinance that Parks is required to re-prioritize every 6 years.

Commissioner Tierney thanks the staff and committee volunteers for all of their hard work. Superintendent Williams says the department feels great about the City Council's changes; if voters pass the ballot measure Parks will have 95% of what they asked for and feels it is worth celebrating. He feels incredibly grateful to all the work and advocacy of the volunteers who spent countless hours to make this possible. He thanks Commissioner Wright for her tireless work. Commissioner Tierney agrees and says that everyone loves parks and wants to support them. Commissioner Wright feels the staff work was extraordinary and they really guided the committee through the process and everyone thought so creatively. Commissioner Mehdi states that many of the items on the list of priorities for the Legacy Plan were in the Comprehensive Plan 24 years ago. It is thrilling to think of the real legacy that is being left for the children.

The Legacy Plan is an exceptional look to the future – creating healthy, vibrant communities that are economically thriving because people want to live in a place where there are opportunities for everyone to recreate.

Work Plan 2014: Executive Committee to meet on April 29 to get a sense of framework to move forward; create committees under new leadership. Superintendent Williams says Parks will be receiving the budget letter next week. Commissioner Wright recommends figuring out what the work is and how to accomplish it; revisit sub-committees. Commissioner Maryman reminds everyone that the Board put together a work plan in January

that could be useful. Superintendent feels this year should be a ramp up as a capacity building for the steering committee in 2015; a lot of work coming to the Board.

Commissioner Maryman asks about the budget issue; Superintendent Williams says that Parks will be receiving budget letter next week. Parks is under cone of silence and is not able to discuss budget. Commissioner Maryman asks about inter-departmental cooperation regarding projects and budget. Superintendent Williams says that they are collaborating with other city departments.

Commissioner Kincaid says she was misquoted in a newsletter. She specifies that the newsletter said she was the Park Board representative on the Parks Legacy Citizens Advisory Committee and it should have said she served on both committees. She apologizes. Commissioner Tierney says no apologies are necessary.

Commissioner Mehdi moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Maryman seconds the motion and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:50 pm.

APPROVED: Arzmin Mehdi, Vice Chair DATE 05/22/14
for Tom Tierney, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

