

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2014

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
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Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Antoinette Angulo
Diana Kincaid
Yazmin Mehdi, Vice Chair
Mazohra Thami
Barbara Wright
Bob Edmiston
Brice Maryman

Excused:

Tom Tierney, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Michele Finnegan, Finance Director
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 6:31pm. Commissioner Mehdi asks for approval of the Agenda, the April 10, April 24 and May 8 minutes and the Acknowledgment of Correspondence; Commissioner Maryman moves to approve the consent items and Commissioner Thami seconds. The consent items are approved.

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

Director's Report

Cheasty Greenspace: Christopher met with the pro-mountain bike people. He managed expectations, clarified Parks position on exclusive v. non-exclusive use and he clarified where Parks is in the process. He also asked them to make it clear on their website where Parks is in the process. The Cheasty Mountain bike people were very agreeable on all points and will remove some of their materials from the website to avoid being misconstrued. They have agreed to meet with all Cheasty community members and Michele asked for Park Board participation.

Combined Sewage Overflow: The City Council Committee recommended the CSO tank placement under the tennis courts at Seward Park. It was found to be consistent with Initiative 42 - which prohibits the use of parks space for non-park use UNLESS that usage will serve the greater good. SPU will be making improvements to the parking lot, tennis courts and will be doing some shoreline restoration.

Inter-Agency Collaboration: Parks will be partnering with Human Services Department (HSD) and Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to do strategic work in South East Seattle. A shooting occurred in Othello Park,

therefore Parks is working with other departments to create more activation and maintain the parks better for more sightlines; the focus will be on Rainier Beach, Othello and John C. Little parks.

Ballot Measure: Two challenges have been issued related to the August ballot measure regarding the creation of a Park District.

- Challenge to the ballot title will be heard in King County Superior Court next Friday
- Challenge to the Explanatory Statement that is indicting it for not being objective and it will be heard by the Ethics and Elections Commission on Tuesday, May 27 at Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 4070

Parks are busy! Peak season is upon us. Mounger Pool is open. Wading pools will start opening on the solstice and spray parks will start this Memorial Day weekend.

Presentation and Discussion: Central Waterfront

Marshall Foster, Urban Design and Public Engagement Manager for the Office of the Waterfront and Victoria Schoenburg, Seattle Parks and Recreation give a presentation on the Central Waterfront at 30% design.

This program is a major interagency collaboration. The viaduct is slated to come down in late 2016, which will open 20 acres for parks and public spaces. There will be an emphasis on connecting the city to the waterfront with east/west connections at Washington, Main, Seneca and Union; elevating the ecology along the waterfront; and creating a waterfront area that will bring more programming and community to the area.

The city is partnering with a lot of non-profit groups and government entities, the time for expansion/renovation is now; Pike place, Seattle Aquarium, WSDOT (Colman Dock) will all be doing some work to create a newer more exciting waterfront experience that isn't just for tourists.

Waterfront ecology – The program designers are doing their best to create a welcoming space that is not only pleasant but also takes into account the ecology of the area. They are working to elevate the ecology of Elliott Bay. They had environmental studies done and this is all quite groundbreaking. The water directly adjacent to the seawall is a corridor for juvenile salmon. Therefore, the designers are making the promenade closest to the water's edge glass block to allow light to go through to the water; this provides the juvenile salmon with food! There will be a shelf under the water because juvenile salmon like to feed in shallow waters. To help with the storm water drainage there will be green storm water design, which consists of planted areas that will slow the flow of water into the sewers and help keep the area free from flooding.

Outreach – Marshall reviews the outreach performed by his department; from giant public events to small walking tours. The elements people mention as important to them: parks and open space; people want to touch the water; places to stroll and sit; places to enjoy the setting; concerts and events; food; and places to run, bike and walk. DPD is also working with the tribes who are eager to have places to tell their stories and have community events; they are working with youth who want activities, arts and culture; and working with downtown families to integrate play.

Design – The viaduct will come down and where it currently sits will be a large roadway that will go from 4-lanes to 8-lanes (further south); the roadway will have to accommodate over-sized trucks and freight since they will not be able to use the tunnel. There will be a wide promenade, which will act as the spine of the waterfront.

There will be a dedicated cycle track; this track will serve bicyclists of all levels, not a commuter track. Commissioner Edmiston questions Marshall on how they will keep pedestrians from using the cycle track? Marshall responds that the cycle track will be flanked on the street side by a sidewalk and on the other side by

the tideline terraces; an area for sitting and greenscape. The cycle track will be a different paving than the pedestrian areas and the crosswalks will be clearly marked and consistent with pedestrian paving. They are also designing the cycle track in a way that prevents cyclists from high speeds; there will be curves before each pedestrian crossing to ensure they slow down and the paving will be slightly rough.

There will be east/west connections that continue the waterfront aesthetic and make the transition from downtown to the waterfront smooth and ADA accessible. The design extends the promenades across the street using the same paving materials across intersections and raises the street at crosswalks for better pedestrian safety. DPD is working to create timeless, durable and “not precious” waterfront; holding on to our industrial present and past. They are considering use of aggregate pavement to mimic Puget Sound beaches, inlays with different elements and historical elements.

There are 10million visitors to the Pike Place Market every year and only 1/5 make it down to the waterfront. There needs to be more welcoming connections from downtown to the waterfront. People love the view from the viaduct so the designers are working hard to capture those views for pedestrians. The Pike Place Market park will have better, wider, more attractive steps down to the waterfront with seating at different grading. They plan to integrate slides and bouldering areas.

The Commissioners said it appears to be mostly hardscapes; Commissioner Wright thinks there should be more green space. She says hardscapes look dated quickly while greenscapes look better over time. Marshall agrees but says there are those, especially waterfront businesses, who do not want deep landscaping because of the potential for illicit activities. Commissioner Angulo states she loves that they are going to design the new Central Waterfront to be more family-friendly with integrated play and playgrounds.

The Commissioners agree that the Central Waterfront design seems consistent with the Olmsted plan; a vision for securing a beautiful place for the public. Marshall agrees and says he would be willing to come back for 60% design in October.

Old/New Business

Locations/times for Park Board meetings: Commissioner Mehdi addresses Commissioner Edmiston’s question in regards to having the meetings at different places/times. Parks staff are figuring out the best way to accomplish this. Commissioner Edmiston suggested having the Japanese Garden update at MLK, Graham Visitors Center or Montlake Community Center, and Central Waterfront update at the Aquarium or Belltown Community Center.

Meeting adjourns at 8:30.

Commissioner Kincaid moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Mehdi seconds the motion and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:20 pm.

APPROVED: _____
Tom Tierney, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____