

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2002

Present:

Bruce Bentley, Chair
James Fearn
Susan Golub
Yale Lewis
Sarah Neilson
Kate Pflaumer
Kathleen Warren

Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program Public Hearing

The Draft Joint Athletic Facilities Development Plan was presented to the Park Board on August 9, 2001. Following that briefing the draft was circulated for public comment which was due October 5th. Three public workshops were held: September 10 at Bitter Lake Community Center, September 12 at Miller Community Center and September 20 at Jefferson Community Center. Staff reviewed the comments received with the Park Board on January 10, 2002. The comments were presented in two categories: 1) clarifications to the document and 2) feedback that would result in a significant change in the direction of the document. The Park Board scheduled a public hearing for January 24, 2002.

Tracie Edelson, Ingraham High School neighbor, stated she and her neighbors are wearing visors to block out the lights. She referenced the goals and guiding principles from the 2001-2002 Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program and stated it has now been suggested that these goals be removed from the program proper to be dealt with at a later time; a time when things would be too far along for any significant changes to occur. The only reason for removing the goals and principles are that they are an obstacle for developing and lighting all fields...they exist to be such to make the Parks Department and Schools stop and think to make sure the needs of the neighbors are just as high a priority as the needs of the field users. To make matters worse, none of the neighbors' concerns have been dealt with even now when these concerns are still part of the program's charter. Parking is an issue in the Ingraham neighborhood. They were told

a study had been completed and it was determined parking was not an issue. The neighbors have asked that there be blackout dates so the fields would not be played on continuously all year-round. The Department told them they would schedule the fields when they are needed. They asked that the fields not be lit and have learned the 100 foot lights planned for their neighborhood would be the tallest and brightest for miles. The neighbors asked if the fields are lit the lights be turned off by 9:30 p.m. This request has been disregarded and the Department will be leaving the lights on until 11 p.m. The Seattle Noise Ordinance goes into effect at 10 p.m. The JAFDP should be positive. The voters have given approval of more fields. Ms. Edelson asked for the voters to be given back something who also happen to be field neighbors.

Rob Anderson, Roosevelt High School neighbor, wanted to know what the costs are to the neighbors. Ballfields, particularly baseball fields have lighting that cannot be contained. That light is going to enter into neighbors' houses, disrupt their quietude; same goes for noise. The neighbors cannot tolerate noise going on until almost midnight. There is talk of extending games and light at Roosevelt High School until 11:30 p.m. The amount of traffic will be horrendous. There currently is no parking in the area as it is and there are only plans to add more parking space - nothing concrete. The neighbors need to see plans on how the traffic is going to be handled and managed. It is already too dangerous to cross the street for children or pets. Who is benefiting - mostly adults. Children are not playing at those hours. You don't need to turn the field into Astroturf and don't need lights going up 100 feet.

Bill Ivie, Magnolia neighbor, stated there have been problems with the playfield north of Magnolia Village that lights up the hillside. The lights are very old model lights so they cannot be controlled down on the field without spill over. The switch that was installed in the community center turns the lights on but cannot turn them off. The lights are on when no one is playing yet there is all the glare coming into the homes. A Parks Duty Officer has to be called to turn the lights off. Mr. Ivie thinks instead of Seattle Parks Department perhaps it should be called "Seattle Sportsfield Department.": He has nothing against sports people and likes to see kids playing on the fields but would like to see some consideration given to the neighbors and citizens of the city and not only to one special group. He would like to see some comfort level achieved.

Betty Ivie, Magnolia neighbor, strongly urges that the Department take into consideration the needs of the neighbors, not only those that live in the vicinity of the park, but blocks away. She lives approximately three blocks east and three blocks north of the playfield that is lit and she can literally need a visor when she is in her living room at night. It is incredible to her that lighting another field is being considered when the problems of the existing field are not being addressed. Should be concerned with the energy waste when the lights are on and nobody is using it. She supports lights off on Saturday and Sunday evenings and having a earlier light curfew. She would like to see some policies changed on how the fields are operated in this neighborhood. They are also going to be interested in what goes on at Smith Cove and Magnolia Elementary School.

Don Harper, Queen Anne resident, member of Queen Anne Bowl stewardship committee, stated he attended two of the three JAFDP community meetings. After reviewing the JAFDP he would urge the rejection of this version. He would like more of the community input included. He feels the JAFDP is a voice of the organized sports. Mr. Harper wanted to make sure the Park Board had a chance to read the many letters sent in regarding Queen Anne Bowl. Mr. Harper would like the lighting of the Queen Anne Bowl taken out of the JAFDP. When the artificial turf was installed in the Queen Anne Bowl the public process was so poor they made the Department come up with a whole new public involvement process. At the time of the turf installation there was no mention that lights would be installed at the Bowl. The JAFDP states that lighting is almost mandatory. In fairness to the Queen Anne Bowl neighbors no lights should be installed.

Jana Porter, Holy Names Academy Athletic Director, supports the West Seattle Stadium remaining as a multi-use facility. Holy Names has no football but she does support this cause as an athletic director. The throwing events should not be put into the infield, taking away football. From a safety standpoint it would not be good to have a discus throw, hammer throw and javelins in the infield. Keep football and track at West Seattle.

Pete Lukevich, Friends of Athletic Fields, commended the Park Board for reviewing the JAFDP. It is a document that is both necessary and welcomed. It represents a continued cooperation between the Department and Schools. It forms a vision for the use of the fields and it provides outlines for some of the field priorities. It allows for tremendous public dialog and input on an ongoing and regular basis and then each time it is reviewed. He thinks the Department is getting an unfair burden and brunt of negative energy on this whole process. It is a joint document that includes the School District. There needs to be a funding strategy included in the document. Need to ensure that it includes all fields and lighting for all fields and not arbitrarily keeping a field out because of current funding levels. Need to include the majority of opinion with respect to these fields as the city and not individual communities own them.

Mike Carney, Beacon Hill soccer representative stated there are approximately 250 children in the area that play soccer. There is a Mexican league of 100 players, Asian league of 100 players, African league of 75 players and Jefferson Recreation Board is looking for fields. Golf is not a field sport. They have been told that there is too much sport activity in the area and cannot have a sportfield. Should not chase Mexicans off the field. Signs have been posted "No Soccer playing during scheduled use" written in English and Spanish. Turf should be used appropriately. Turf is natural for soccer and football. Light the world. You need lights to do things. Don't forget the mission. Build community. Protect public lands.

Gordon Ruh, Sand Point/Magnuson Park neighbor, is concerned that in the staff memo to the Board dated January 4, 2002, there was a decision made to defer some of the important protections that the neighbors have been asking for. Staff has asked that decisions regarding specific scheduling issues at the sportsfields be deferred to a later date. Likewise, staff has recommended that standards for lighting be deferred. Mr. Ruh does not see how the Board can make a decision nor can it be passed on to the City

Council until that information is included in a joint use agreement and it has been subjected to public scrutiny. He urges before the Board passes this document on to the City Council those provisions that protect the neighbors and adjoining communities of the sportsfield complex be included.

Denise Derr, Queen Anne resident representing neighbors of Queen Anne Bowl, is upset to what she thinks is a broken promise to the community. She respects the Superintendent's difficult job. Does the public know the true cost of this plan? She asked for cost estimates and was told they were not being developed for each of the projects as they are part of the planning and design process. They would become part of the public process once funding is secured for a particular project. She shared an August 4, 2000 document showing the detailed planning level costs of the JAFDF. This is important public information that should be shared. Do we need all the synthetic fields? Denise referenced a November 1997 City Council document that states upgrading three key facilities alone would relieve 40% of the pressure on city's ballfield fields. A recent document to Parks Planner Kevin Stoops shows girls soccer use has not changed, no increase change in use for men's and women's soccer, men's and women's softball decline in use. There is an increase in girls' softball but no fields provided. These documents suggest perhaps we are building more than we really need. Is the JAFDP consistent with existing policy. The existing policy, page 15 of the Complan #8 states - provides scheduling services to ensure balanced opportunities for access to facilities by department programs non-profit leagues and drop-in users. The current plan states as part of our public involvement process the department may consider providing scheduled community use of a field. That suggests that it is not consistent with policy.

Celeste Cranston, Queen Anne resident, has serious concerns about noise, lighting, traffic, kids and neighbors. She, as a pastor, is concerned that the voices of her neighborhood are not well represented. Organized sports teams have a good voice. She is concerned that the drop-in, casual user, non-organized team user needs are not well addressed. They are legitimate users of the fields but you cannot track them very well. As a mother of two children who play sports, neither child has had a game scheduled or played at the Queen Anne Bowl. That tells her that the prioritizing of how scheduling things happen are not looking at for neighborhood kids - not even neighborhood kids that are on organized teams, much less the children who are not able to have a voice tonight. She values the department and appreciates the efforts but wants to make sure the recreational needs of the every day neighborhood taxpayer are considered first and nothing is done to undermine the quality of the neighborhood and community that is valued so much. Do not sell out the Queen Anne Bowl.

Sharon LeVine, Queen Anne resident, thinks the whole process is flawed. The neighbors were told there were no plans to light the field. The 1997 JAFDP had funding for \$1,562,000 for Queen Anne Bowl and that lighting was already signed off in that proposal several months before the neighbors' situation on Queen Anne and already been adopted by the City Council. It has been a difficult situation ever since. The neighbors feel they have not been heard. The proponents of the plan believe that all neighborhood playfields should be converted to regional sports facilities. They feel the plan is going the

wrong way. The people at the meetings have the same vision - they run the meetings, they place the meeting notices, or lack of meeting notices, they do not record the meetings, they do not provide outside facilitators or balance the needs of the neighbors. Some of the Queen Anne Bowl letters have been lost by Parks. One fourth of the comments received regarding the JAFDP have been sent in by Queen Anne Bowl residents. The neighbors are concerned about property values and children. Sharon distributed copies of the Superintendent's statement dated June 13, 1998 to the Board members regarding Queen Anne Bowl.

Phil Taylor, Roosevelt High School varsity softball coach, has been coping with limited daylight use and soaked fields since he started coach girls' softball in 1991. He would like to propose the addition of lighting and synthetic turf. Quite often the conflicts that arise due to shared use of athletic fields between the School District, Park Department and private youth and adult sports team stem from the fact that we are trying to put too many bodies on too few fields. This problem is further complicated by sunset and rain, which frequently cause the intended use of these fields to either be under-scheduled, severely shorten or canceled. He would like the Department to proceed with the proposed lighting at the high demand athletic fields and transition proposed natural turf fields to synthetic turf appropriate for the planned sports and other activities of the field. He understands many of the concerns, especially with light spilling over into adjacent homes. He strongly believes that technology exists allowing such improvements to be made while at the same time having these improvements managed with new or revised policy would help alleviate many of the opposing citizens' current concerns.

Renee Barton, Seattle Residents for Fair Field Lighting and Meadowbrook neighborhood representative, displayed what a 95' light would look like in her neighborhood. She is very concerned about the process. A year after the neighbors found out about the plan it was learned that only neighbors with children in the schools (Nathan Hale, Jane Adams) were allowed to be on the site council to plan those fields. Schools told them they do not want the lights and that Parks was going to light the fields after school hours so talk to them. Parks told them it is not our property, talk to Schools. Schools told the neighbors if they do not like the plan, file a legal appeal, which the neighbors did. About a year and a half later the neighbors finally had a City Council mandated meeting which was supposed to include neighbors that lived 1/8 of a mile from the field. Parks and Schools flooded the meeting with people outside the 1/8 mile with people who were sports coaches from all over the north end. At the last meeting of the Park Board, Renee learned that it is planned to remove what little protection for neighbors are in the JAFDP. This plan should not be passed until neighbors' concerns are written into the plan. There should be a moratorium on field development until the neighbors' needs are met in earnest. Healthy kids need healthy neighborhoods. Renee distributed a copy of her recommended changes for incorporation into the JAFDP to the Board members.

Vance Thompson, Hawthorne neighbor, first learned of the situation when he attended a lighting demonstration at Magnuson Park. He displayed a picture showing three light poles with four lights. 80 poles are planned for Magnuson Park for a total of 800 lights.

Safeco field has 535 lights. He is not against organized sports; he is for equitable distribution of use of fields and improving fields we already have that have poor lighting before we go out and build new fields and supposedly install high tech lights. He stated conventional lights are planned for Magnuson Park's baseball fields on 80-foot poles. He fully supports Renee Barton's position that the document is now severing and promising to address later after the document is approved community concerns. No one has spoken about the low-income housing people at Magnuson Park who will be looking directly into the lights. 19% of all lit fields in the city will be at Magnuson Park. He does not call that equitable and fair distribution.

Gabriel Reedy, Roosevelt neighbor, says his neighbors are committed to the lifestyle they have as an urban family. For a lot of the neighbors that means participating in organized sports, community organizations, working with the school to grow the school and facilities in an appropriate way for the School District and the neighbors. We do not seem to address the concerns neighbors have over the lights. We do not seem concerned about the traffic mitigation for people who live in the neighborhoods. We do not seem to be concerned about some of the environmental issues such as open space being covered over with synthetic turf. He urges the Board to think carefully about including the language that the Citizens for Fair Field Lighting has suggested. It is perfectly appropriate to consider the needs of the neighborhood. He also thinks it is appropriate that when the neighbors concerns are addressed that everyone come together as a community and support the needs of the School District and support the needs of our community sports organizations.

Hughie Greenan, teacher and coach at O'Dea since 1991, Assistant Athletic Director, track official, spoke in favor of the continued use of West Seattle Stadium for football. Throughout almost 80 years, O'Dea High School has had a wonderful relationship in the Seattle community. The school has benefited from its location and from its use of city and Parks Department facilities. O'Dea's football and track teams have been using West Seattle Stadium for many years. O'Dea has contributed much to the city at large and has served the community in many ways. They are good neighbors. Students perform community service and have participated in community fund raising activities. They have depended on the long association with the city and Parks Department and hope they will be able to continue the mutually beneficial relationship for many years to come.

Jack McCullough, O'Dea parent, was surprised and dismayed that there is the possibility of converting the West Seattle Stadium to exclusive use for track. He urged the Board to keep the West Seattle Stadium open to the hundreds of kids and families to be able to use it as a joint facility that includes football. The language of the levy did not say anything about exclusive use. It talked about enhancing West Seattle for joint use and expanded use of the facility. The levy voters approved opening the parks to people and he thinks a vote by the Board and Council to eliminate football would be a vote to close this park and that is not what the levy is about. He urges the Board to keep West Seattle Stadium open for football use.

Jeff Arsino, West Seattle High School teacher, coach and West Seattle resident, stated if we lose West Seattle Stadium we will find another field to play on but we will lose community support, identify within our community, fan attendance and revenue and an important connection with our history. He urged the Board to not assume that just because there are other football fields that this proposal does not do irreparable harm. He presented the Board with a letter from King County Councilman Dow Constantine, graduate of West Seattle High School class of 1980. Mr. Arsino also presented a petition signed by over 300 students urging the Parks Department to keep football at West Seattle Stadium. He is representing a community, public institution that serves 1,000 students and their families in West Seattle, he hopes his comments carry some weight. Mr. Arsino questioned the priorities and wondered why a facility needs to be dedicated to track and field. He finds it hard for his community to surrender such a significant community asset. He did not vote for nor ask people to vote for a dedicated track and field facility. The School District is spending \$20,000 to \$40,000 to install steeplechase and curbing at the Southwest Complex which are not high school events. It would seem to be cheaper than the current proposal to just improve the Southwest Complex. The current proposal amounts to spending millions of taxpayer dollars to make a facility less useful to its community. He values the partnership with Parks.

Monte Kohler, Athletic Director O'Dea High School, head football and track coach, stated two-thirds of the students and families are residents of Seattle, taxpayers, and a large number of alumni live in Seattle. O'Dea works closely with the Department in order to run a number of their programs. Last year they paid \$12,556 to Seattle for field rental. Mr. Kohler stated he has a fear of being penalized for being here tonight because the city controls the fields that they need to run their programs. West Seattle Stadium is very important to O'Dea High School and to the community. O'Dea and Seattle Prep have used West Seattle Stadium for football for over 40 years. It is part of their history and part of their tradition. O'Dea and Seattle Prep do not have an alternative-playing site. The Seattle Schools' obligation is to the public schools and not to private schools. If they are allowed to use a School District football stadium, the private schools would have no control over the game time. The new school sites have a maximum of 1,000 which O'Dea and Prep exceed each game. Memorial Stadium is the home field for Franklin, Garfield, Roosevelt, Ballard and Cleveland. In Attachment C the words were used to improve West Seattle Stadium for a variety of active uses, including track and field. This was interpret to mean the stadium would be fixed up for football, soccer and track and field. Metro League encouraged the community to support the Pro Parks Levy. He is not sure they would have done this if the wording is as it is now, for a variety of track and field uses. This is not what the voters voted. Football and track are compatible; they are opposite seasons and there is enough room for everyone.

Keith Hoeller, Seattle Residents for Fair Field Lighting, questioned why all this is happening. People want to play sports on athletic fields and have fun. Why is there all this tension; boxers in opposite corners? Sports are supposed to be fair. You folks are supposed to be referees for the city and you have done a lousy job and let people cheat. You have made the neighbors of this city angry. You are changing the character of our neighborhoods. Four regional athletic fields that were put into residential neighborhoods

were allowed to put in 100' lights and then realized it was against the law. Parks and the School Board got the law changed to allow the lights in residential neighbors. They have kids that want to sleep at night. You have more traffic, parking and noise in the neighborhoods. It is like living next to an airport by Meadowbrook. He questioned what is going to be done. If you do what has been done in the past you will ignore the neighbors and act like you work for Friends of Athletic Fields and do whatever the organized sports people desire. Mr. Hoeller stated the neighbors do not trust Ken Bounds...and his staff. You have to have a moratorium on fields and look at the issue again. Mr. Hoeller suggests the Park Board appoint a subcommittee to meet with a delegation of Renee Barton and several neighbors and hash out what needs to be done so that in residential neighborhoods, the neighbors that bare the brunt of all of this new activity, can finally be heard.

Tom Burgraff, West Seattle High School teacher, head football and track coach and also a resident of West Seattle, stated football at West Seattle Stadium enjoys large crowds, community parking and a short drive to the stadium. As track coach he is concerned about safety and he would like to see the facility upgraded but not at the expense of taking out the football field.

Andrew Taylor, Chair of the Miller Park Neighborhood Association, served on the JAFDP steering committee last summer. He distributed a copy of his comments on the draft JAFDP to the Board members. In Section VI, Trends in Athletic Field Use, he stated an earlier end-time may not result in any net loss of game time. At Miller soccer games last 90 minutes and have a 15-minute changeover between games. With the present policy there would probably be two youth and two adult games in an afternoon/evening. The proposed policy will probably allow no more games as the 2:30 time slot will be unusable for school students with a 2:15 dismissal. It also seems improbable that most working adults would be able to get to a game by 6 p.m. Hence, either a 10:15 or 11 p.m. ending allows two adult and two youth so there is no need for a later ending time. He suggested neighborhoods and teams be consulted to arrive at consensus end-time for games. Later end-times might be possible when parking/traffic/conduct problems are resolved. Mr. Taylor recommended issues be resolved and incorporated into the JAFDP before it is presented to the City Council. This will allow public to comment and Council to decide on the whole issue. He nominates Miller Playfield as a pilot site for installation of SportsTurf and new lighting. In the JAFDP Updated Attachment F regarding Lighting Performance, Mr. Taylor notes it is essential that the performance of the lights from the perspective of the neighbors, as well as from the perspective of the players, be incorporated into the "Lighting Performance." When ranking the existing fields for lighting replacement, the adverse effects of the lights on the neighborhood must be at least as important a parameter as the playability of the lit fields. Amount of light spillage, number of neighbors, proximity of neighbors, opinions of neighbors all need to be included in the equation.

Paul Fitterer, Seattle Prep President, has heard the comment that "this is not your concern because you are from a private school." In a sense they double taxed as they pay federal, state and city taxes and because of their value system they decide they want to

have the kind of education that more clearly respects those beliefs and values. There 660 students currently at Seattle Prep and they have 10,000 graduates since 1891. There are 7,000 graduates who live in the Seattle area who pay taxes. Among the graduates are federal judges, state representatives, mayors and countless other leaders in the community. The voice of Seattle Prep and those that have graduated from it must be heard and respected in any solution that involves the fate of West Seattle Stadium that is meant for public use. Seattle Prep wants West Seattle Stadium to remain as a multi-use stadium.

Mark Wheeler, graduate of Seattle Prep, was born in West Seattle. He played as an athlete at the stadium. There is a strong need for athletic facilities in Seattle but the answer is not converting West Seattle Stadium to a single-use facility. It leaves schools without a home field. Prep has been a major contributor to the West Seattle community and to the city at large. A facility could be co-sponsored to serve the athletic needs of the citizens of Seattle.

Tom Doyle, Athletic Director of Seattle Prep, stated he hopes the appearance before the Board will not be used against Prep for scheduling uses. Seattle Prep spends over \$10,000 a year for rental fees for Department fields, including the West Seattle Stadium. They would like West Seattle Stadium to remain a multi-use facility. There is a growing trend of anti-private going on in the state and there is tension in the Metro League that may lead to a separation that would leave the private schools no where to play. The WIAA will vote in the spring on a proposed amendment in Eastern Washington to place the private schools in their own classification so that they can no longer play public schools. Public discussions have been held regarding the JAFDP which included the incorrect levy language. None of the three private schools were invited to the meetings. Mr. Doyle has asked Patti Petesch for a copy of the minutes from the public meetings and to this date he has not received a reply. Safety is a major issue. Allowing field events to take place on the infield while others were present is neither reasonable nor prudent liability and safety wise. Changing the field into a single use facility would decrease playability and scheduling and violate the spirit of the JAFDP goals. Mr. Doyle distributed a copy of his detailed remarks to the Park Board members. He urges the recommendation to turn the stadium into a single-use facility be overturned.

Charles Prestrud, Ingraham High School neighbor, informed the Board that Ingraham field is one of the few safe parks or playfields in the neighborhood. Mr. Prestrud stated the Department seems to think that taking away from neighborhood use and reserving it primarily for organized leagues is somehow in the best interest of the Seattle citizens. He thinks that thinking is backwards. The vast majority of Seattle residents do not belong to organized leagues. The ordinary citizens also need safe, quite open spaces to walk and play. Mr. Prestrud has read the JAFDP and the Complan and indicated they say the right things but they do not do the right things. The Plan mentions balancing needs but there is no balance to the draft plan. It is all for the convenience of organized leagues while it sticks the neighborhoods with the noise, traffic and litter. There was a time when the Seattle Parks Department was famous for making Seattle's neighborhoods more livable,

desirable places. From reading the JAFDP it looks like the Department has given up from that worthy goal. Now the idea is to install lights and synthetic turf whether the neighbors like it or not, reduce neighborhood access and maybe mitigate the impacts just so long as it does not inconvenience any league play. How did the priorities get so turned around. Last fall Mr. Prestrud attended a public meeting on the draft agreement. The Parks Department staff did not bother writing down comments from neighborhood residents. He finds it really insulting when the Department asks people to come to a meeting, put up flip charts and have staff there and do not bother to write down their input. Perhaps he should not be surprised that the plan before the Board does not include the neighbors' input or respond to neighborhood concerns. Right now most of the Seattle residents do not have any idea of what is being done. When they find out just how far the Parks Department has strayed from its original worthy mission, they are not going to be very happy. Cooperation between Schools and Parks is a good thing. You need to rethink the JAFDP and this time really listen to the neighborhoods and really balance the competing interests of Seattle citizens and not just roll over for the organized sport community.

Jeff Kass, Friends of Queen Anne Bowl, thinks the JAFDP is inconsiderate toward neighbors. It is not acceptable and should be totally reworked. Mr. Kass read his email letter, dated October 3, 2001 regarding lights and expanded play at the Queen Anne Bowl. Up until a few years ago the Bowl was a quiet neighborhood park...the Department came upon a windfall and capriciously threw in a magnificent sports surface into this too small setting in the guise of park maintenance. It is deplorable how this "maintenance" was delivered ...and you now intend to add lights and who knows what after that. So much has been claimed "its for the kids." The proposed extension of the playing time and lights mainly will benefit adult leagues...having them going on until 11PM nightly with the associated tidal flux of cars is something he would probably wish on an enemy, not neighbors. No mention was given to the reflections of field lighting, just glare. It totally amazes him that a Parks department that has so much going for it and that has provided so much in terms of the public good is so driven to eliminate peaceful parks in favor of sportsfields. He believes that this is something that all neighborhoods in Seattle should fight for in order to save parks like this from this kind of development.

Stephanie Young, Queen Anne Bowl neighbor, stated it sounds like a promise has been broken. She suggests getting full representation for the groups that matter in each community and start over.

Darlene Hickman, Pacific NW Track & Field representative, spoke in favor of West Seattle Stadium as a single-use facility for track and field. The four new facilities built for track by the School District are multi-use. It is unsafe to practice for track and field events with other field events. There is a real need for a facility for meets with a full complement of field events. There is a need for a place to practice all events. Most tracks are running tracks and are used to train for sprints and medium to long distances. There is a need for a facility to practice field events and running events that need specialized equipment such as the steeplechase and the hurdle events. Those that need specialized equipment need to be able to do it safely. A year round venue for safe field event practices is needed. There is a need for and there should be a place for smaller schools

and colleges to host meets. The sport of track and field has participants at all ages. Our field and track athletes deserve the opportunity to do their best and to exhibit their talent when they go to championships. Darlene distributed a copy of her comments to the Park Board.

Susan Harmon, Westwood Neighborhood, West Seattle, member of SW Community Center Advisory Council, has worked hard in the city to get levies passed so fields could be improved. One of those fields is the SW Athletic Complex. She is concerned that the School District has not been responsive to the concerns of the city. The facilities are owned by the citizens of Seattle. The citizens are sometimes locked out and do not have access to the Longfellow Creek Trail at times. When the facility is rented by adult athletic teams the community wants them to keep to the agreement which concern parking. Lighting has to be looked at for individual locations, not just one size fits all. You have to consider topography, kind of lights and how they will impact the individual neighborhood. You cannot run roughshod over people and expect them to feel good about it.

Terry Holme, Seattle Sports Advisory Council, coach, soccer player, Seattle Youth Soccer Association, stated the draft document being reviewed is an improved document which is a result of all of the efforts of meetings. The Lighting Study is a separate entity and a basis which can be used to plan with much more finite ability than we have been able to do so in the past. The focus on the document needs to be increasing capacity. It is easy to get sidetracked. It is critical that we implement this plan. These fields are citywide resources. It is important that the user groups minimize impacts. He challenges the Parks Department and School District to make this Joint Use Agreement work. It is a very big challenge for the bureaucracies to work together and that is what will really make this plan the great plan that it can be.

Jay Magruder, Queen Anne Bowl neighbor, stated if the lights got in they would be right in his face when he steps out onto his front porch. He is against lighting the Bowl. He is appalled about what he is hearing tonight. He thinks the Board should listen carefully to what has been said, particularly when O'Dea and Seattle Prep said they were afraid they would be penalized. The residents of the city feel afraid to speak because you may penalize them in the future. Something is wrong with the process. You have neighbors all over the city saying the same thing, that they are not being listening to. Mr. Magruder thinks the plan and process need to be looked at and re-examine what is being done. He is pro-sports but also pro-citizen. Citizens have needs that are not necessarily sports related. He urged the Board to listen to the citizens and be equal all the way across. It sounds like if the plan goes through one group gets the lions share of the West Seattle facility.

Mark Bishop, Assistant Manager for Co Rec Soccer, informed the Board there are 448 teams, 7,000 adults in the men, women and coed soccer players, with 85% of the players Seattle based. The majority of the teams desire games played on Monday-Thursday. They are short about 3,000 games a year. Those games are going to King County and beyond and would love to bring those games back to Seattle. In 1985 there were ten lit fields in

Seattle, now there are eight. Bobby Morris was taken away and Interbay is gone. Players in the leagues represent all the neighborhoods. They want games in their neighborhoods and they are part of the voting stock as well.

Jen Sporleder, Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union and Seattle Rugby Football Club representative, softball and soccer player, favors field lighting. She has lived in Seattle for 26 years. She likes to use fields on a drop-in basis and likes the lights on. The lights help keep away the drug dealers. The Seattle Rugby Club has five new youth teams this year. The adult teams have no where to play in Seattle and now it has just been announced there are not fields available for the youth teams. There are no fields for training or play. Jen distributed references about organized sports, sports in general, and the benefits to health.

Craig Udem, resident of West Seattle, Bicycle Racing Coach, supports the full thrust of the proposal that is going to improve the parks. The bicycle racers are more casual users of the parks using the bathrooms, roadways, trails and some of the turf. The facilities need to be upgraded and parks need a shot in the arm. Sports should be looked at as a positive influence in the community. They a good outlet for our energies in the crowded city we live in.

Anna Walker, mother of two young boys Magnolia resident, stated it appears from the speakers this evening that the group has not had a chance to be adequately heard. When she and her husband first moved to Seattle from the East Coast many things amazed them - the beauty of the city, charm and the way the people were involved in major government decisions through referendum. On every tiny decision the buck is passed from the government official to the people. Where she grew up they elected people and those people made the decision...that is why New York City has mass transit. Anna stated the JAFDP has sneaked a few things by the people of Seattle under the guise of maintenance and school improvements. She thinks if there had been adequate publicity about specific aspects of the program such as bright lighting for extended hours and artificial surfaces on most of the playing surfaces the Seattle voters would not have gone for it. She requests the people be asked in a way they can understand and that the process be transparent. She would like the whole process re-examined and put before the people in a clear way.

Lois Eulberg, parent of two soccer playing kids, soccer player for 19 years, soccer referee, coach, served on the board of the Ballard Youth Soccer Association, stated there has been some discussion that the field usage has not really increased. The field use in 1975 was 62,000 hours and that went up to 112,000 hours in 1999. She is a part of the soccer community and would like to play her games in Seattle. There are thousands of youth that play soccer and they need a place to play. She fully supports the JAFDP. The proposal would provide 18-22 fields. It is her understanding that the new 100' lights are supposed to be better for the community. She is in favor of more lights and the use of synthetic turf fields.

Jack Hoyt, Seattle Pacific University Track, distributed a letter from Doris Brown Heritage, SPU Cross County Coach, Assistant Track Coach. He explained the complications involved in scheduling a major track event in Seattle. There is no one place to host a good quality meet. Safety is critical. He is excited that there is a possibility of having a single use track and field facility.

Iris Hodge, Roosevelt High School neighbor, and Heidi Wartelle, representing the NE 68th Street neighbors, urged the Board to add neighbors to its field development panel and seriously address neighbors' concerns regarding future field development. These concerns include field light trespass glare and blocked views, dramatically increased field use, hours of field use and noise levels, neighborhood safety concerns, ensuring neighbor access to playing fields, adjacent streets and parking and making sure usage rules are observed. Until the neighbors' concerns are meaningful built into the JAFDP she is calling on the board to stop all field development. The neighbors chose to be a school neighbor but did not choose to live next to an athletic facility redesigned for adult league, private premiere soccer leagues, without any concern for their homelife and neighborhood. The Board should not dismiss the fact that Roosevelt is surrounded by homes. Many of the homeowners on NE 66th have left because of the impacts from the field use. If the RHS field is redeveloped with turf and lights...it would be encouraging neighborhood flight and destabilization that will impede one of the JAFDP goals of keeping kids in school and off drugs. The thing that saddens her family and neighbors the most is the continued disinterest of officials regarding their concerns and that special interests such as adult athletic leagues and private premiere soccer leagues are co-opting the neighborhood and the RHS field under the guise of a drug free school to basically come in, play their game and go home. She has not heard one comment from the organized sports groups about their affect in the community and their concern for the neighborhood's long term health and well being.

Heidi Carpine, Magnolia resident, directed the Board's attention to one small element of the program, Smith Cove Park. She referenced page 26 of the draft document, Attachment B, Unfunded Priority Projects that Increase Field System Capacity." Smith Cove and its probable expansion has been long recognized by the Department, City Council, citizens, and public processes as indeed unique for its very rare shoreline access, scenic views of Elliott Bay, Mt. Rainier and the Olympics and its contribution as a link of the chain of parks from downtown Seattle, Myrtle Edwards Park, Smith Cove, the Magnolia Marina and the Magnolia greenbelt and bike trail. On Page 26, it mentions the Pro Parks Levy as a source of funding for land acquisition, needs additional sources of funding. But it does not mention that another has already been established, the Shoreline Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF). SPIF is the mitigation money contractually agreed to in 1991 between METRO and the City as a pre-condition for the permit to expand West Point's sewage treatment plant. Out of more than 200 submitted proposals, the Smith Cove property was ranked number 9 of 30. SPIF funds come with specific and attached conditions and expectations and these must be respected in any eventual expansion of Smith Cove Park. It is highly likely the city will consummate the acquisition of Navy land to expand Smith Cove Park. The Port of Seattle has and continues to express its willingness to engage in a land swap...to achieve a configuration desired by the city.

Thus, the footprint of the expanded parkland is adjustable including the possibility of considerably more intertidal shoreline than if the City only acquired the Navy property. Consequently the potential configuration and mix of functions are open to reassessment for the best advantage to the city. Therefore, knowing this information, the item for Smith Cove on page 26, should be altered as follows: "Actual development will be contingent upon the mix of uses determined for the park, conditions attached to funding sources, and the footprint of the expanded park."

Therese Hanson, Queen Anne resident, previously helped to secure SPIF funding for Smith Cove Park. She tries to keep up on things but was only recently made aware of the JAFDP and the inclusion of Smith Cove Park. She was shocked to read the language on page 27: "Funding for acquisition of this site is provided by the Pro Parks Levy; no funding for the development of this site is available. Acquisition may require additional fund sources. Proposed improvements include synthetic turf youth soccer field, grandstand, restroom, concession facility, maintenance/storage facility, parking, fencing, periphery landscaping, lighting, site furnishings, etc." She knows that money from SPIF will be used for this in part. SPIF did not contemplate this type of usage, particularly when they met the conditions to get the SPIF funding She asks for reconsideration in terms of what is written in the JAFDP: "Actual development will be contingent upon the mix of uses determined for the park, conditions attached to funding sources, and the footprint of the expanded park."

Hyun Lee, bicycle racer, supports moving forward with the JAFDP. Home growing athletic talent so that they can excel in the world is important. The parks do need some work. Fields do need lights. He thinks development of a broader spectrum of parks around the town will help spread out congestion. He urges the Council to move forward with a good, solid public involvement process in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act. Public involvement is critical.

Andrea Stam, speaking on behalf of Niall King, Pacific NW Rugby, supports the JADFP and is strongly for field lighting. There is a lack of fields for sports and none for rugby players. The rugby players have used Ingraham field in the past and have picked up trash that did not belong to their players. They are thoughtful people, very considerate to the neighborhood folk.

Dale Holpain, Magnolia resident, supports the lights at Queen Anne and supports the multi-use at West Seattle. We need more fields but cannot afford new fields. We need to use the fields we have and we need to get the hours there, The fields need synthetic surfaces in order to get those hours and we need the lights to extend the hours. It would be nice if we could just go out and buy fields away from everybody that did not affect everybody. The facility that was improved a couple of years ago in Magnolia is already having problems because it is turf. He feels for the people that do not want to have lights by their homes. He pays \$27,000 a year in property taxes and does not like the airplanes flying over his house but still lives in Seattle and will for the rest of his life because he thinks it is the best place to live.

Jeffrey Wasson, shop steward for the Seattle Schools gardeners. They are the folks that take care of the fields. The gardeners would be more than happy to meet with members of the community and help solve any problems as far as access and listen to their concerns. Roosevelt Field is often so wet it goes anaerobic. The drainage is years old and simply does not function well as a field anymore. In his opinion the School District has invested a lot of time and training to try to keep fields functioning and open.

Teresa McIntyre. Coaches soccer and soccer player, referenced the health problems that occur from the dusty fields that are not watered down. She does not understand people who don't think children should be playing sports. Kids on sports teams is a positive for the community. She does not like to play at 10:30 p.m. If there were more fields times could be spread out. She would like to play in her own neighborhood if she could but she does not have a facility. There are more people now that like to play sports and they are not all bad, noisy or drunks.

Benedict Dugger, Phoenix Soccer, stated he has heard a lot of rhetoric this evening but also some concerns. This proposal is the first time in the last 20 years that there is some serious thought to upgrading the athletic fields and to come out of the dark ages. The city deserves good facilities. He represents 10,953 youth soccer players when talking about this proposal. He supports the JAFDP and urges everyone to keep working together as a city between the neighbors abutting the facilities and the users.

Vic Barry, Magnolia Community Club Board member, chair of the Magnolia-Queen Anne District Council, parent of 8-year old soccer player, has spoken to many Magnolia and Queen Anne homeowners who feel the pendulum has swung too far towards the sports segment of our society. He thinks you need to pay close attention to what the residents are asking - they are asking for fairness in looking at this proposal. You need to have balance and that is what the neighbors are asking for. You have a hearing for one part of the city and all the sports people from all parts of the city attend so the neighbors are outnumbered. Citizens far outnumber the sports people. The residents are not a transient population as the sports population. He urged the Board to look at the political realities. If you light the fields every night and they shine into people's windows you are going to "wake a sleeping giant" because the residents will stand up and be heard. Think about fairness and balance.

Chair Bruce Bentley informed the audience that the Board will discuss this issue and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its February 14th meeting. He reminded people that this is a proposal only. This Board provides recommendations to the Superintendent, City Council and the Mayor's Office. It is a volunteer Board. He appreciates the passion and concern express tonight but concerned about the below the belt personal attacks. He suggests that if the audience wants to have their voices heard in a fair manner that speakers keep to the facts and understand that this is a process we are going through. This is the strongest Board a chair could ask for and he has never had to apologize for Department staff nor for Superintendent Ken Bounds. They are professional, do a tremendous job and listen to people. He asked the audience to respect others.

Consent Items: The Board approved the minutes of January 10, 2002 and acknowledgment of correspondence.

Park Board Business:

Superintendent's Report - will be given at the Retreat.

Items of Interest to the Board: none

New Business/Old Business:

Future Agenda/Park Board Retreat: Draft agendas were distributed to the Board members..

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair