

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2004

Present: Bruce Bentley, Chair
James Fearn
Joanna Grist
Terry Holme
Sarah Neilson
Kate Pflaumer

Staff: Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly for Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. **Terry Holme moved the approval of the Consent Items including the May 27 agenda, the May 13 meeting minutes and acknowledgement of correspondence. James Fearn seconded the motion.** Terry Holme noted amendments to Page 11 of the minutes: add to the 23rd line “Michael Shiosaki stated the costs are \$215,000 *over the projected budget*. Add to second paragraph, 2nd line “The existing structure is 1” to 4” concrete. **The Consent Items were approved as corrected.**

Superintendent’s Report

Ballard Civic Center Park: Superintendent Ken Bounds stated he read the May 13 meeting minutes, listened to the tapes, and made his decision on a new skatebowl at Ballard Civic Center Park on Friday, May 21. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for its diligence and deliberations on the issue. A Project Advisory Team will be established to help with the detailed designs and move forward in a collaborative way.

City Council:

- The Department briefed the City Council Finance Committee on the golf management and operations proposal and received concurrence by the Committee Chair, Councilmember Richard McIver, to move forward. The Finance Committee has scheduled the Golf Management and Operations Statement of Legislative Intent on its June 2 agenda. The current management contract expires on December 31, 2004. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for experienced operators for the long-term management of the Seattle municipal golf courses was advertised and out of ten interested parties, four responses were judged to fully meet the requirements of the RFQ. The department is moving forward in the development of the Request For Proposals (RFP) for the four pre-qualified firms. The RFP process should be completed by September.
- The City Council took preliminary action on the West Point mitigation. The chapel has been set aside which will now go through the Landmarks process before the City Council makes its decision.
- Preliminary votes on the Sand Point Magnuson Park plan were made by the Parks Committee reducing the total number of fields from 11 to 9 and reducing the total of lit fields from 11 to 7. The Council Committee meets next week and will continue to deliberate and hopefully the plan will go before the full Council on June 7.

Geese: The Department has been working with Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and the Humane Society USA and has placed the first application of Flight Control, the grass treatment that repels Canada geese, to the main lawn area of South Lake Union Park. The geese have been staying off the grass so far.

Pools: Colman Pool at Lincoln Park will open Saturday, May 29, for three weeks of weekend operation before going to seven-day operation beginning June 19. Mounser pool began its seventh year of operation last weekend.

Uptown Park: On June 18, the community will celebrate the acquisition of the new park property in Uptown. It is within walking distance of more than 850 new condominiums and apartments built in Uptown in the past decade.

Thornton Creek: We have added to Thornton Creek Park #2 a .53-acre parcel coveted for riparian protection, which will permanently protect 60 more feet of creek frontage.

Golden Gardens/Railroad Tracks: The City offered \$15,000 to Burlington Northern as a contribution for fencing. The Railroad declined the offer. The Department is taking some steps to block the social paths and direct people to the designated path through the tunnel. The Railroad is studying which strategies to employ.

Lake Union Cleanup: The second annual cleanup of Lake Union was a great success with 100 “water” volunteers collecting garbage via kayak and other craft. Hundreds more worked on shore removing non-native plants, adding mulch, and cleaning pathways.

Teens: On May 17, teens shared their trip to the National Youth-At-Risk Conference in Savannah, Georgia, with the City Council. They provided a power point presentation on their experiences as conference presenters, and described their feelings after receiving standing ovations from conference participants. They have been participating in the Prudential Youth Leadership Institute program and the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center’s Summer Musical Program.

The Superintendent distributed copies of the Department’s Annual Report and the Pro Parks Levy Report on Program Activities to the Commissioners.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience – None

Seattle Park Foundation 3100 South Bradford Street Project Briefing

The Park Board is being asked to make a recommendation to the Superintendent to accept the preferred alternative and direct the project team to proceed with design development based on this plan. Kari Stiles, Seattle Parks Foundation Project Manager, presented the Board briefing.

Written Briefing

The development of a neighborhood park at 3100 S. Bradford Street will restore a small piece of Pacific Northwest forest and provide much needed open space and a community-gathering place in Rainier Valley. The forested hilltop site is located in the North Rainier Hub Urban Village in a single-family neighborhood lacking in green space. The preferred plan for the park takes advantage of rare pocket views to downtown Seattle and the Cascades and highlights native vegetation: The plan includes a small lawn, gathering area and seating area at the highest elevation on the site and proposes a simple trail system and restored Pacific Northwest Forest throughout the remainder of the site.

Project Background

In October 2003 Diane and Monte Powell donated 4 parcels of undeveloped land in North Rainier Valley to the Seattle Parks Foundation in order to enable the development of a small neighborhood park in North Rainier Valley. In January 2004 the Seattle Parks Foundation donated the property to the City of Seattle. Although the City now owns the property, the Seattle Parks Foundation is managing the design, development and construction of the park and is raising the financial support for the entire project as well as maintenance of the site for the first three years following completion of the park. In 2008 maintenance of the property will be turned over to Seattle Parks and Recreation.

The Bradford Neighborhood: The half-acre site is located in North Rainier Valley just south of the Martin Luther King Way and Rainier Avenue intersection, one block uphill and west of Rainier Avenue. The property sits in the heart of a small, single-family neighborhood but was zoned for multi-family development due to its proximity to Rainier Avenue. Residents of this neighborhood have historically had limited access to Parks properties due to an absence of nearby parks or open spaces and the fact that the neighborhood is bordered by two busy streets, MLK Way and Rainier Ave, that prevent children and families from walking or biking to available park space. With the addition of the Bradford property and the York Substation property, a ProParks acquisition and development project located two blocks from Bradford, this neighborhood will have two new community open spaces within walking distance.

Community support for Bradford: One condition of the Powell's' donation of the Bradford property to the Seattle Parks Foundation was the demonstration of community support for a neighborhood park. Before accepting the donation, the Seattle Parks Foundation organized two neighborhood meetings to assess the level of community support for the project. Over 35 neighbors turned out for these gatherings and at the end of two meetings and 4 hours of discussion they voted unanimously to accept the donation and proceed with the development of the park. The neighborhood has since formed a very strong community support group, the Friends of Goat Hill, and is actively working with the Seattle Parks Foundation on every aspect of park development including park design, fundraising, community outreach and invasive plant removal.

Bradford site conditions: The property is almost half an acre in size and consists of a flat hilltop area and steep slopes dropping to the north and east. It is bordered to the north, east and south by street rights-of way. It has never been developed and currently supports a typical Pacific Northwest second-growth forest: Deciduous trees including Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder and Bitter Cherry dominate the canopy and the understory, although overrun by invasive species, contains healthy populations of many natives, including Indian Plum, Oregon Grape, Fringecup and Sword Fern.

Conceptual Design

The preferred plan was developed to take full advantage of the property's natural features as well as provide the community with a peaceful gathering place. In the plan, the site is divided into two zones: An upper lawn and seating area takes advantage of the views to downtown Seattle and the Cascades and the remainder of the site proposes a simple trail system and restoration of the native forest.

Terrace: The southwest corner of the Bradford site is level and provides wonderful views of downtown Seattle to the north and the Cascades to the east. The Terrace is the primary entrance to the park and lies along a well-traveled footpath leading down the hill to shopping areas along Rainier Avenue. The plan for this area includes the development of a small lawn area, installation of a bench, a picnic table and seating boulders, and installation of native and ornamental understory plant species that will define and enhance the lawn area. The intent of the Terrace is to construct a peaceful park space that will not only encourage visitors to stop, relax and enjoy the views but also provide a much-needed community gathering space.

Forest: The majority of the site lies to the north and east of the Terrace. It drops steeply to the northeast but is traversed by natural terraces at multiple elevations. The preferred plan proposes the restoration of Pacific Northwest forest throughout the entire northeast two-thirds of the site. However, it also takes advantage of the natural terraces traversing the slopes to develop a small trail system across the site. Two trails will leave the adjacent staircase to the south at different elevations and meet in the middle of the property to climb the slope via a short staircase leading to the Terrace. In addition to providing access to the forest area, the trail system will also serve as a gentle alternative to the steep staircase along the South Bradford Street right-of-way.

Public Process

Although Seattle Parks Foundation is managing the Bradford project, the project is located on property recently transferred to the City of Seattle. Therefore, the Seattle Parks Foundation is making every effort to adhere to the design, development and public involvement policies of Seattle Parks and Recreation.

The community surrounding the Bradford property has been involved in the design and development process since the project's inception. In addition to the two community meetings held before the property was donated to the Seattle

Parks Foundation, the community group has been meeting at least monthly, and frequently twice per month, to plan and/or work in the park.

In addition, as required by Seattle Parks and Recreation's Public Involvement Policy, two public design meetings were widely advertised and held in December 2003 and January 2004. The December design meeting was held jointly with Seattle Parks and Recreation's first York Substation design meeting. The second public design meeting in January focused on the Bradford project only.

Permitting

Permitting activities are in progress and expected to be complete by June 1, 2004.

- 1) The Department of Planning and Design has reviewed the conceptual plan and determined that a building permit is not required.
- 2) A permit establishing the use of the property as a park will be acquired on May 21, 2004.
- 3) Because the site includes significant area identified as Environmentally Critical Area – Steep Slope, a SEPA checklist was completed and submitted to Parks. The checklist has been reviewed and due to the lack of any significant construction, grading or tree removal it has been determined that a SEPA review is not required. We expect the checklist to be approved and published by June 1, 2004.
- 4) The preferred plan includes the enhancement of the three street rights-of-way bordering the park property to the north, east and south. Permits to do this work have been acquired from Seattle Department of Transportation.

Project Schedule

The project is divided into three phases:

Phase I: Construction of the Terrace and enhancement of street right-of-way and stairs to south.

Completion: Fall 2004

Phase II: Construction of Trails and restoration of Forest area adjacent to Terrace and Trails.

Completion: December 2004

Phase III: Restoration of Forest around north and east perimeter of property and adjacent street rights-of-way. *Completion: December 2005*

Phase I will go out to bid in June with construction beginning in September and completed in October. Phase II will be carried out primarily by volunteers throughout Summer and Fall 2004. Phase III will be carried out primarily by volunteers throughout 2005.

Project Budget

The Seattle Parks Foundation is working with the Friends of Goat Hill to raise all of the funding to support the design and development of the park as well as the first three years of maintenance.

Park design and development: \$180,000. Park maintenance, 2005-2008: \$60,000 (at \$20,000/year)

Additional Elements

The Friends of Goat Hill and the Seattle Parks Foundation are very interested in the future incorporation of art elements and demonstration gardens in the Bradford park landscape. Once the park is established and as time allows, we will explore opportunities to include art elements that highlight the cultural and natural history of the site as well as native plant gardens that demonstrate the value, beauty and ease of landscaping with native plants.

Donald Harris, Manager of the Department's Property & Acquisition Services, added if the Department had received this piece of land it would not have had the resources to do what the Park Foundation is doing as far as mobilizing the community and raising money to support construction of the park.

Board Discussion

Sarah Neilson inquired if the area was ADA accessible. There is a concrete stairway that goes down to a half a block from Rainier Avenue but the main park entrance and lawn area is flat and accessible. The Parks Foundation is working with Kate Day, Arborist, to develop the planting and vegetation management plan. The park views will be preserved. The project is currently making its way through Seattle Parks and Recreation's Park Naming process.

Names may be submitted until June 1 and it is hoped that the results of this public naming process will be announced at the June 25th Groundbreaking Celebration. The community is organizing a barbecue and music for its first neighborhood party. The Superintendent stated this has been a great project that the Foundation has taken on and one of the great benefits is the commitment for the first three years of maintenance and establishment.

Terry Holme stated, as a larger subject, the Board has discussed in the past the view corridor issue and he would like to receive a copy of the policy. The Superintendent stated there is the City-designated viewpoints/view corridors code and a listing will be sent to Terry. Terry would also like to know the process to create a new public viewpoint.

Sarah Neilson moved the Board of Park Commissioners recommend to the Superintendent to accept the preferred alternative and direct the project team to proceed with design development. James Fearn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Southwest Community Center/School District Land Swap

JoAnn Cowan, Parks Real Estate Management Strategic Advisor, presented an informational briefing on a proposed land exchange between Parks and the Seattle School District to accommodate expansion of the Southwest Community Center. Donald Harris, Manager of Parks Real Estate Management, distributed a copy of the Aki Kurose School Building site plan and the Southwest Community Center.

Written Briefing

Background information:

The Southwest Community Center, located at the corner of 30th Ave SW and SW Thistle Street, is the location of a Parks project scheduled to begin construction in July of this year. The addition project adds a full service gymnasium, fire sprinkler system, family changing room, Teen Life Center, and computer room to the existing facility. Funding comes from the 1999 Community Center Levy, 2000 Pro Parks Levy and Cumulative Reserve. The entire project is budgeted at \$3.7M.

To add the gymnasium, teen center, and lobby space (10,000 sf) to the existing facility the Parks ownership of land must be increased at this location. The Seattle School District, which is the adjoining landowner, has offered to supply to Parks additional land for ownership at the Southwest Community Center, an easement providing fire protection around the expanded Center, and parking leases for parking to serve the facility. This action would require no cash expenditure from Parks.

In return the District has proposed that land of equal value, which is located adjacent to the Brighton Playfield at the corner of South Juneau Street and 39th Ave South and owned by Parks, be deeded to the School District. A portion of the Aki Kurose School building currently occupies the property under a long-term lease. The lease was negotiated between Parks and Schools in 1950 for \$1. Because the land is not available to be used as public parkland, and will not be available in the future, Parks is requesting that the property transaction, if authorized by City Council, be determined by them exempt from the requirements of Ordinance 118477, referred to as Initiative 42. An independent, certified appraiser has developed the property values.

Summary:

Legislation proposing the authorization of exchange of land at the Southwest Community Center for land under the Aki Kurose School has been through Departmental review by Parks, Law, Finance and the Executive Administration and has been transmitted to the City Council. If approved by the City Council and the School Board, the property transaction will take place in July of this year. When this action is taken, construction of the project is anticipated to begin in late July 2004. The Community Center and Pool will be closed until March 2005. Based on the timeline above, the project is on schedule and on budget.

Alternatives:

Should both the City Council and the School Board not authorize the property exchange, the property could be purchased from the District at a value of \$154,300. Without this additional land the gymnasium cannot be built.

Board Discussion

James Fearn asked if the properties were of equal size or value. JoAnn stated the properties are of equal value and have been independently appraised. Terry Holme asked about the parking lots and if the traffic pattern was going to be redesigned. Donald Harris stated the parking lots would be shared by the School District and the Parks Department. The school will use Parks property when there is something going on at the stadium and the Department will use the school parking lot when something is going on at the gymnasium. Terry noted the traffic pattern is random now and it is not obvious which building you are going to and where you should park. Terry inquired if the temporary skateboard facility was still in place and Bruce replied it was taken out approximately eight months ago. Ken Bounds noted because the Department is adding a teen center, gymnasium, and computer room it has triggered some code requirements for the rest of the building. Bruce Bentley noted the project also includes a new fire sprinkler system, elevator, ADA family changing room, and increased childcare and summer camp programs.

Terry Holme moved the Board accept the staff's proposed land exchange between Parks and the School District to accommodate expansion of the community center. James Fearn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

North Downtown Park Plan Briefing

The Superintendent stated several months ago a decision was made to aggressively look at the North Downtown area and identify the parks and recreation needs. This was done primarily because of the activity going on in the South Lake Union and North Downtown areas. The Denny Playfield is owned by Vulcan and will be developed soon. There is a tremendous need for park and recreation space. The project has been fast going and a lot of good work has been done in the last few months.

Kevin Stoops, Major Projects & Planning Manager, and Susanne Friedman, Pro Parks Development Planner, presented the proposed North Downtown Park Plan for open space in the 20-acre Denny Triangle and South Lake Union area, based on growth projections through 2025. The draft plan identifies park and recreational facility goals and priorities for each subarea, and includes a set of priorities for land acquisition, guidelines for facility development, and an implementation strategy.

Written Briefing

Executive Summary

The City's vision for Seattle's North Downtown calls for the area's transformation into a high intensity district including one of the nation's leading biotech research centers, office complexes, diverse urban neighborhoods and supporting commercial activities. With Lake Union on the north and the Westlake Center/Downtown Core on the south, the district will provide excellent civic amenities and a lively setting for urban life. Parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities will be a fundamental part of this vision, and the City must plan a comprehensive and strategic approach to providing these facilities if the vision is to be fully realized.

The North Downtown area currently includes 20.8 acres of open space in three public parks – all of which are north of Denny Way. Despite these substantial resources, the North Downtown area will need approximately 8 additional acres of open space to meet Parks & Recreation's Plan 2000 (hereafter called Park Plan 2000) goals per projected population and employment figures for 2025. Denny Triangle maintains a current open space deficit of 0.9 acres which is expected to grow to 10.2 acres by 2025. More importantly, new residents and workers will need a wider variety of park and recreational facilities in the future. After the privately owned Denny Playfield is converted to private development; the planning area will no longer include an active playfield.

Based on Park Plan 2000 goals, participant input, and park and recreational facility research, this plan identifies park and recreational facility goals and priorities for each of the sub areas within the North Downtown area. These needs are translated into a set of priorities for land acquisition, guidelines for facility development, and an integrated implementation strategy.

Implementation Strategy

Achieving the City's park, open space, and recreation facility goals will not be easy. High land prices and development activity complicate site acquisition, and Parks & Recreation has very limited funds for construction. Therefore, the City must:

- Identify specific priorities for open space and recreational facilities within the subareas of North Downtown as a guide for private and public development.
- Optimize use of current park resources.
- Take advantage of acquisition opportunities as they arise and be creative in combining different park activities on a single site.
- Effectively integrate open space into other public and private developments and combine assets derived from regulatory and bonus programs.
- Improve streets and trails to link parks and to provide open space in their own right.
- Work with private property owners to achieve both public open space and private development goals.

In keeping with these directions, the plan recommends an implementation strategy integrating the following activities:

- A. Prioritizing Park and Recreation Facility Needs
- B. Acquisition and Development Strategies
- C. Development Regulation and Incentive Programs
- D. City Wide Coordination for Open Space Achievement

Below are summarized the most important recommendations for each activity.

A. Prioritizing Park and Recreational Facility Needs

Establish priorities and comprehensive guidelines for the location and design of parks and for open spaces achieved through regulatory and incentive programs. The plan contains model guidelines that can be incorporated into acquisition efforts, director's rules and staff procedures in administering the various programs. The prioritization will help Parks & Recreation staff evaluate prospective sites for acquisition and allocate funds for specific park development. It will also guide City staff in directing developers to provide open space as part of City regulatory or development bonus requirements.

Goals and Priorities for Each of the Subareas.

Cascade: Top Priority goal: 1 Off-Leash Area

Priority goal: 1 Sports Court

Other Desirable Feature: Urban Plaza

E. Denny Triangle:

Top Priority Goals:

1 Sports Court

1 Off-Leash Area

1 Children's Play Area

1 Neighborhood Park

Urban Plazas

Other Priority Goals: Top priority location for community center

1 community garden

W. Denny Triangle

Top Priority Goals:

2 Children's Play Areas

1 Sports Court

1 Neighborhood Park

1 Community Garden

Urban Plazas

W. South Lake Union

Top Priority Goals:

- 1 Sports Court
- 1 Off-Leash Area
- 1 Children's Play Area
- 1 Neighborhood Park*
- 1 Community Garden
- (*upgrade Denny Park)

Westlake/Shorefront

Top Priority Goal: Urban Plazas

B. Acquisition and Development

- **Establish a dedicated fund for substantial park acquisition and development to which funds from incentive programs, grants, gifts, and other sources can be added.** A dedicated account would be invaluable in taking advantage of acquisition opportunities that arise.
- **Continue to seek opportunities to acquire and develop high priority facilities, especially in East Denny Triangle.**
- **Explore opportunities to incorporate park elements into other civic properties and projects,** including the proposed Denny Triangle Substation, Seattle Department of Transportation's Broad Street maintenance site, Westlake Avenue/streetcar improvements and King County's Convention Place redevelopment.
- **Increase Denny Park's recreational activities** with new facilities, such as a plaza and/or children's' playground, and remodel the current building into community center space. Enhance its open space qualities with appropriate landscaping and amenities.
- **Pursue opportunities to acquire a large active own space.**

C. Development Regulation and Incentive Programs

- **Coordinate the various regulatory and incentive programs to achieve open space objectives,** including the Code open space requirements, County Transfer of Development Credits (TDC), City Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), fee-in-lieu, street and alley vacation, and development bonus programs. This may be done as part of the Center City Project.
- **Engage developers to meet both City and private open space objectives.** Adjust regulatory and incentive programs to encourage coordinated open space development and coordinated public/private improvements for mutual benefit.
- **Adjust individual regulatory and incentive programs to support the above efforts.** The plan includes a number of recommendations for specific programs.

D. Interdepartmental Activities That Will Enhance Parks and Open Space

- **Add open space improvements at key transit (bus, streetcar, and monorail) stops.**
- **Define and implement design concepts for Green Streets in North Downtown.** The Green Street program, which envisions designated streets to act as linear open spaces that focus neighborhood activity and identity, is an important part of North Downtown's redevelopment. However, the program has not been actively pursued and there is not a common understanding of either the desired physical characteristics of the individual streets or the implementation tools necessary to construct improvements. Concept plans for individual streets would identify what improvements should be made in conjunction with private development and provide a starting point for comprehensive implementation.
- **Ensure safe pedestrian and bicycle connections from South Lake Union Park to the Dexter Avenue N bicycle lanes.** As the City upgrades the area's streets, continue to ensure that safe, attractive pedestrian and bicycle connections are made.
- **Implement key bicycle and pedestrian trail improvements,** such as the Bay to Lake Trail and the Aurora overpass to the Seattle Center.
- **Initiate cooperative funding of key street improvements.** Since streetscapes will be critically important to enhance new development, the City should explore ways for cooperative funding such as a Local Improvement

District (LID). By contributing to an LID, a developer could be assured that the utilities and street improvements will be adequate to support new activities. Such cooperative projects are often a less expensive way to upgrade a street than through piecemeal construction on isolated segments.

- **Prepare and implement an urban design plan for the Denny/Westlake area that integrates streets, plazas, Denny Park, Cornish Campus, the streetcar and other redevelopment projects.** The Denny/Westlake “Node” lies at the heart of the area and, for a number of reasons, is pivotal to unifying and providing an identity for Seattle’s North Downtown. The plan includes an urban design concept that identifies opportunities for improving connections, creating useful open spaces, reconfiguring underutilized streets, improving streetscapes and enhancing redevelopment potential. This concept will greatly enhance Denny Park improvements and should be refined and incorporated into relevant City efforts.

Summary

This Park and Recreation Plan for North Downtown Seattle, as summarized by the recommendations above is not a traditional parks and open space plan with an extensive list of specific projects tied to an overarching spatial concept. Rather, it is an integrated system of efforts to achieve identified goals for the area. Although this plan defines the open space and recreation objectives for the area and recommends methods to achieve those objectives, it does not always identify the specific locations and design features of individual facilities.

This approach reflects the modest resources currently available for park development and the challenges of acquiring land in a rapidly developing area. Because of these limitations, many of the recommendations include measures to better utilize existing assets, add to current resources, identify highest priorities, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they arise.

More importantly, the plan responds to the fact that the City is undertaking a broad spectrum of regulatory, programmatic, and public improvement efforts that will transform the North Downtown. Therefore, the plan focuses on measures to support and “leverage” those broader activities. Because these City activities, such as the Westlake reconstruction, the proposed streetcar, County/City Transfer of Development Credits program, Seattle Department of Transportation planning, and the Green Streets program, is still in a state of flux, park and open space opportunities are not completely defined at present. The success of North Downtown improvement efforts will depend, in large measure, on Parks & Recreation continuing to pursue this plan’s recommendations in conjunction with other inter-departmental efforts.

Additionally, since the area’s ultimate character will depend on the actions of large property owners, the plan includes measures to facilitate coordinated public/private efforts to satisfy open space and recreational needs. The plan also recognizes that the parks and recreation needs of the North Downtown community will change over time. Given the dynamic nature of the City’s vision, and the extent of projected redevelopment, any plans for the area must remain flexible. Parks & Recreation should periodically monitor conditions in the North Downtown, update this plan and redirect efforts as appropriate.

Great cities (and great communities within great cities) are achieved by aggressively pursuing a compelling vision through a broad array of coordinated actions over time. Seattle has a compelling vision for its North Downtown based on the economic strength of the emerging biotech industry and the opportunity to build a dynamic and diverse community in a high-amenity setting. This plan proposes a number of actions that will, in combination with other public and private efforts, achieve that vision.

Verbal Briefing

Kevin Stoops stated Denny Park is in the middle of the study area that basically runs from the edge of the retail core of the Westlake area to South Lake Union and from I-5 west over to Aurora. Historically this neighborhood study area has been commercial with a number of activities that supported the retail core or smaller commercial development. The zoning has allowed higher development but the market has not been there to spur that development until recently. In recent years that has been a lot of land assembly by a handful of property owners such as Vulcan, Clise Corporation, The Seattle Times, Pemco Insurance, and other real estate entities. There has been a market demand that has just started to occur. The city’s growing biotech industry is finding a home near South Lake Union. People are starting to look increasingly at downtown housing. The three current parks (Cascade, Denny Park, and South Lake Union) total

approximately 20 acres and are sometimes hard to get to because of the arterials. Based on the zoning capacity of the area, the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan 2000 indicates we will need as much as 28 acres by 2025 to meet the residential and new workforce needs of this area.

The Department has been working several months on the plans. The architectural and urban design firm of Makers was retained and they have worked hard to assemble information on land ownership, zoning patterns, and development trends in the area. Maps were displayed. Kevin pointed out the biotech focus in South Lake Union, future pedestrian corridor and streetcar route on what is now Westlake Avenue, mixed development in the Denny Triangle, emerging campus of the Cornish School, transportation connectors, and greenstreets.

The plan has several key elements: there is a combination of land acquisition; guidelines for future development of parks in the area, especially looking at the potential of public and private partnerships to create open space; looking for land use controls and incentives which will help develop open spaces in this area; and capitalizing on the large amount of street right of way in this area to create open space. A deficit will exist in the next twenty years of eight acres. North of Denny Way there is enough open space but not south of Denny. Makers has tried to identify the potential for open space and also focus on priorities. They have developed initial guidelines and recommendations for development regulation and incentive programs. The City has a number of potential tools to use, but one of the key recommendations is the area be tied together with a more coherent strategy on the park study. Just outside the immediate study area are other park opportunities. There have been two workshops that have involved community members, City staff, and some of the key landowners. It is hoped that a two-acre play area site in the area will be acquired to replace the loss of the Denny Playfield.

Kevin showed the route of the future streetcar, which will connect Westlake Center to South Lake Union on the display board. The notion of major plaza areas has been presented which would accommodate streetcar stops and wider sidewalks. Creating neighborhood Parks in the Denny Triangle area has been reviewed. Convention Place, which is owned by King County as part of the downtown transit tunnel, will be subject to redevelopment and there may be potential there for partnering for open space. Seattle City Light is looking at creating substations both north and south of Denny and there may be the potential of situating a park on the margins or on top of such development. The Neighborhood Plans call for green streets and may involve a bridge connecting to Seattle Center. One of the recommendations of the consultant is to define what green streets are, what they will be, and work to make these happen in the study area. Linkages are important. Creating typical parklands in this neighborhood will not be the same as parks in the past. The notion of having green linkages that will allow people to walk for exercise or maybe connecting people from residential areas to a redeveloped Denny Park are important. Small open spaces, whether public or private, throughout the study area is being considered.

Susanne Friedman stated the type of facilities that would make the community thrive were reviewed and are incorporated in the plan, such as the need for a sports court, children's area, or small dogs off leash area. Regulatory and incentive programs are being looked at to meet both city and private open space objectives. The incentives include transfer of development credits, transfer of development rights, fee-in-lieu, street and alley vacation, and development bonus programs. From a financial perspective, it is not feasible for the Department to acquire eight acres of open space in this neighborhood and creative ways must be used to get this accomplished. The plans have been reviewed at working sessions, by the Mayor's Growth Management group, and by other City staff. The Planning Commission will review the plans in the near future. In approximately one month there will be a major rollout of this plan and some of the other public proposals in the South lake Union area.

Board Discussion

Sarah Neilson asked about the status of the streetcar concept. Susanne related that a consultant was hired who has developed several alternatives. In addition, the City has been working on a Local Improvement District that would provide private funds for the project. The streetcar, part of the Mayor's South Lake Union Action Agenda, would provide local transit service and connect to the regional transit system. The Parks Department has recommended that open space be acquired in conjunction with transit stops, whether the system be street car, bus, or monorail. Susanne stated there is also talk about the streetcar continuing on and partnering with the University of Washington.

James Fearn inquired about Paul Allen agreeing to donate all the land to the Seattle Commons in the past and wondered if that idea died along with the vote or is there any possibility of a land donation occurring. The area would benefit from a substantial open space. Susanne noted Vulcan, Touchstone, Clise, and other major landowners have been working with the Department and she thinks they want to see what the City is willing to offer them. They want to know what the City needs and wants. The Department is asking for two acres for replacement of the Denny Playfield and also is asking for smaller parcels.

Terry Holme asked what the Department thinks of the current condition of the Dexter Administration Building (Parks Department Headquarters located at 100 Dexter Ave N in Denny Park) and noted one of the proposals is to redevelop the building and/or immediate area around this building. The Superintendent stated the Department has not done that kind of analysis. Denny Park should perhaps be something different than it is now. Whether the building becomes a community facility or gets demolished, the Department has office space needs.

Terry asked about the Mercer Street area. Kevin Stoops stated the Mercer study includes three alternatives: leave it as is, improve Mercer and Valley, and the preferred alternative — “Big Mercer-Little Valley.” Mercer Street would be widened and become two-way which would improve westbound connections and access for autos, trucks, and transit. A widened Mercer underpass and Thomas St. overpass would provide connections to Seattle Center and Queen Anne. Valley Street would be narrowed which would tie South Lake Union to the neighborhood.

Terry stated that, with all the Department’s programmatic items, to see the off-leash area as a priority in all five areas is overemphasizing those needs. Kevin Stoops stated there are more dogs per household in the downtown area. In the workshops that were held, participants considered small off-leash areas in conjunction with other activities on site such as a play area. Susanne stated the dog off-leash areas were modeled after the Denny Regrade area, which is very small at less than 10,000 square feet. Terry stated that he believes the Department needs to back off the dogs off leash area priorities. Kevin stated the Department would probably not jump into building dog off-leash areas. A new dog off leash area is being planned under I-5 just outside the planning area. The emphasis is on linkages and creating dog off leash areas is not the first priority.

Joanna Grist asked if there are plans for an active field space. Kevin Stoops replied the field space would be provided in the two-acre site currently being sought.

Sarah Neilson requested a skateboarding facility be included in the area. Kate Pflaumer stated the Board has heard a need for more skateboard facilities and agreed one should be included in this area.

Kate Pflaumer inquired about the “green street” definition. A “Green Street” is a right of way designed to give pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit patrons’ preference over passenger vehicles for movement in designated streets. They serve as gathering places or as corridors connecting activity areas and open spaces in an attractive urban setting. Green Streets are intended to provide pedestrian space and open space in high-density areas through a variety of treatments. These include: sidewalk widening, landscaping, traffic revisions, and special development features. Susanne noted that Parks staff members are also working with Seattle Transportation regarding seasonal and/or evening closure of some streets in the area.

The Cascade Playground groundbreaking event is scheduled for June 9. The playground is located on the block bounded by Thomas, Harrison, Minor, and Pontius Streets. Pro Parks funded \$515,000 for the project and the development community provided \$600,000. The private contributions will allow for wall removal and to connect the street and the park, new play areas, regrading, a central plaza, parking area renovation, and improved irrigation for the playfield.

The Board expressed appreciation to the staff for the briefing of the draft North Downtown Park Plan.

Golf Environmental Issues

Barb DeCaro, Environmental Analyst, and Andy Soden, Golf Programs Manager, presented:

Written Briefing

History and Review

The City of Seattle's Environmental Management Program was initially developed in 1999 to promote and document environmental stewardship in all city operations. The Pesticide Use Reduction Strategy is an outgrowth of policy and guidelines developed under that program.

The Turf and Landscape Grounds Management Policy promotes design, construction and maintenance of city landscapes that protect and enhance the region's natural resources and public health.

The Landscape and Grounds Management Guidelines were developed to implement that policy and promote Best Management Practices (BMP's) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Seattle Parks and Recreation has incorporated the goals of the city's overall Pesticide Use Reduction Strategy to reduce pesticide use and dependencies on the use of Tier 1 pesticides on golf courses. In 2003, the goal of reducing pesticide use on golf courses was 20% of the 1995-1999 baseline use established averages. A goal of 30% pesticide use reduction is targeted for 2008.

Pesticide use reductions recorded in golf for the 2000 and 2001 calendar years were at 18%. 2002 recorded a 6% reduction from the 1995-1999 baselines. It must be understood that every effort is being made by staff to reduce pesticide use, but individual years bring unusual circumstances that may impact the reduction goal. Weather, high golf course use and associated conditions can jeopardize the best of planning. A single, additional application of a fungicide annually at any of the golf courses can raise the total active ingredient used by as much as 2-3 %, depending on the type and application rate used.

Although it looked like we were going to meet our 20% reduction goal in November, December proved very difficult to manage disease presence on greens at the golf courses within the acceptable tolerance levels that we follow in our BMP's and IPM plan. The total amount of reduction came in at 7% for 2003.

Current Golf Course Pesticide Use Reduction Strategy

The Turf and Landscape Grounds Management Policy is currently being applied to golf courses to maintain, protect and enhance their place in the urban landscape, their importance in sustaining urban wildlife habitat, and their contribution to Seattle Parks and Recreation to provide safe and pleasant places to enjoy recreational opportunity in the city.

The City of Seattle's golf courses provide over 400 acres of parkland and wildlife habitat to the urban landscape. The care and stewardship of these properties is entrusted to a highly trained and motivated staff of city employees at each golf facility. Supported by the thousands of golfers who visit the courses annually, Seattle Parks and Recreation has developed the Environmental Stewardship Program, produced in 2002 exclusively for the city's golf facilities, to oversee and insure the proper and environmentally sensitive care of their golf courses and grounds.

The Landscape and Grounds Management Guidelines are supported at each course by the BMP's and IPM to define and support the care and management of the turf areas, tree-lined fairways, shrub beds, floral displays and undisturbed natural areas that make up the golf course landscapes. The overall health of the turf, trees, and natural areas is integral to the variety of vegetation to withstand the stresses associated with high use, weather extremes and pests within the golf environment. These management guidelines are detailed in the Environmental Stewardship Program. Until edited or altered, these guidelines, BMPs and IPM will continue to direct the management philosophy and maintenance procedures of the golf courses.

It should be noted that although golf has yet to meet the established goal of 30% for citywide pesticide reduction, we are making progress. The playing conditions that golfers expect to find at golf courses today are

more advanced than in the past. In order for the golf facilities in Seattle to remain competitive, an awareness and effort to sustain those conditions has to be recognized. Until we, and industry, come up with a successful strategy to maintain the golf courses without the assistance of pesticide applications, golf will be challenged to meeting the 30% reduction goal. Our current goal is to achieve a 20% reduction in 2004, and a 30% reduction by 2007.

Recommendations

A review of the guidelines, BMPs and IPM indicate a well thought out and documented development of plan, policy and procedure to golf course maintenance operations as they relate to pesticide use and the reduction strategy. A continuing effort to maximize the efforts of pesticide reduction and environmental responsibility should include:

- Review pesticide application records from 1995-present, to verify the accuracy of the program that established the baseline averages and records current pesticide applications. Some anomalies appear within the current records.
- Review the current Golf Course Maintenance Standards for each golf facility, that emphasize the critical role golf course maintenance practices play in pesticide reduction, and their impact on turf, trees and other landscape features. The overall health of the vegetative cover has a significant effect on the ability of our golf course staff to reduce pesticide usage as the last line of defense against turf grass and vegetation asset loss due to pest infestation.
- Develop new fertilizer, irrigation and tree management philosophies within the Standards that can aid pesticide use reduction within IPM. Emphasize the relationship between these philosophies and the BMP's.
- Start a community outreach program within our local and golf communities that supports the pesticide reduction effort.
- Enroll the golf courses in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program to facilitate the important role golf courses play in the urban landscape, and to tell our story of the concerted and organized effort to reduce pesticide dependency on the golf courses.
- The BMPs covering pesticide use management and the implementation of IPM components need review and revision. Adjustments need to be made to IPM tolerances to accommodate realistically reaching the goals outlined for golf courses.
- Meet with peers in the golf industry to discuss and implement water quality testing, new chemistry and additional strategies that will reduce dependency on pesticides.

Staff had been instructed in 2003 to recommend additional pesticide use reduction strategies or practices. Some of those that will be implemented in 2004 will be a reduction of use in treated areas, experimentation with lower rates when specific products are applied, the curative or preventative application of certain products with lower amounts of active ingredients than currently used products, and raising pest tolerances where appropriate.

In addition to the above instructions, each golf course maintenance supervisor has a pesticide budget to follow in 2004. Staff has been asked to continue to review all applications planned with the Golf Director, as well as products recommended for use in eradicating pest populations on the golf courses.

Pesticide Reduction Program Quarterly Report – 1st Quarter 2004

1st quarter 2004 pesticide use

	Baseline (annual)	Baseline (current qtr)	Target use -30% (current qtr)	Target use -20% (current qtr)	1st qtr actual use	% reduced to date
Parks (all)	1398.68	349.67	244.77	na	202.7	-42%
Parks (non-golf)	303.58	75.9	53.13	na	25.22	-68%
Golf	1095.1	273.78	191.65	219.05	177.48	-35%

Program achievements

Parks landscapes

Pesticide use in parks landscapes was minimal over the first quarter 2004. Herbicides account for almost 95% of all pesticide use in park landscapes. In the winter months, weed growth is minimal and the need for control is less. We expect application frequency and active ingredient applied to rise sharply in spring and summer months, in the 2nd and 3rd quarters, respectively, as weed competition and pressure increases in park landscapes.

Conservatory, greenhouse and nursery program

Our greenhouses have particular challenges with reducing the use of pesticides. Our plant collection includes rare plants and in the artificial environment under glass, pest populations can build rapidly, necessitating a quick response for control. Integrated pest management suppression strategies have been developed that utilizes manual controls and soft products first, with most toxic products (Tier 1) used last if populations do not respond to initial suppression strategies.

Volunteer Park Conservatory Support Greenhouses has been researching and trialing some alternative controls for mealy bug on the orchid collection. The product is Botanigard, a naturally that controls insects by penetrating the insect body and causing



In addition to this product, many products have been trialed and the integrated pest management nursery, we add corn gluten, a natural byproduct of feed corn processing, to soils before potting plants. This weed growth in nursery pots and benefit of being an organic Native plants are responding

this program by showing increased growth and better color. Our healthier and more likely to establish well in park landscapes.

Golf:

Pesticide use in golf for the first quarter was reduced 35% from average, with disease pressure slightly higher than normal on putting turf. Fungicide use makes up almost 80% of the total pesticide use in golf.

As part of the pesticide use reduction strategy recommended in 2003, golf is no longer treating tees and approaches with fungicides to control turfgrass diseases. This practice has been in effect at all four city courses since the first of the year. Customer comments/complaints have been minimal. This cutback should achieve the golf pesticide use reduction goal of 20% for 2004.

It should be noted that further reductions in pesticide use in golf might seriously impact the presentation of our courses and putting surfaces. We are only treating major infestations of weeds, insects and diseases on the courses. We are spot treating only for weeds and insects, and have implemented occasional spot treatment of specific diseases on putting turf.

Golf is continuing testing Thornton and Longfellow Creeks for pesticide or fertilizer residue presence. In the spring and fall of 2003, both creeks were tested for the presence of any chemical products applied to the golf courses during the previous 6 months. No residues have been detected to date attributable to golf course maintenance activities.



actively and scale insects occurring fungus desiccation.



other alternative incorporated into program. In our product inhibits has the added fertilizer source. particularly well to plant products are

our baseline

Table showing the City/Parks/Golf/LBS of Active Ingredient Pesticide Applied

	Baseline 95-99	2000	Reduction	2001	Reduction	2002	Reduction	2003	Reduction
City	1975.75	1456.74	-26%	1507.26	-24%	1649.75	-17%	TBD	TBD
Parks including Golf	1398.68	1087.82	-22%	1066.30	-24%	1183.37	-15%	1175.10	-16%
Parks excluding Golf	303.58	191.46	-37%	172.01	-43%	157.39	-48%	155.63	-49%
Golf	1095.10	896.36	-18%	894.29	-18%	1025.98	-6%	1019.47	-7%

Verbal Briefing

Barb DeCaro reviewed the background and how the Department has been looking at pesticide use for the last five years and discussed the issues. In 1999 the Parks Department and the City as a whole began addressing environmental performance. The Office of Sustainability and Environment targeted certain kinds of operation programs that had environmental impacts. Pesticide use in the city was one of the things chosen. Parks is the largest city landowner and has the largest pesticide use. A database was created to track the use of Department pesticide use and a pesticide reduction program was also introduced. As part of the Pesticide Reduction Program, the Department wanted to address the places where it could not as readily reduce the use, which includes the golf courses. Parks does not use a lot of different kinds of pesticides. Herbicides are used in landscape areas. The highest toxic pesticides were used in greenhouses where insecticides and fungicides are used and this was targeted for reduction efforts. Golf courses have the highest pesticide use; however, this is a very targeted use. Fungicides are primarily used on the artificial environment of the greens. Barb reviewed the charts included in the above written briefing. A 20% reduction in the use of pesticides in the golf program has been targeted. The Department is now monitoring the pesticide reduction program quarterly.

Andy Soden stated Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management programs are in place on the golf courses. Staff members are trying everything they can to sustain the turf grass covers at the golf courses without using pesticides. The Department is working hard to maintain the turfs that grow naturally in Western Washington, primarily Annual Bluegrass. The grass has problems during the cold periods of the year and also in the hot summer where drought stress occurs. Andy referred the Board to the Pesticide Use Reduction Strategy document. The Department is trying to manage water use, fertilizer, mowing techniques, grass height, and to minimize the use of pesticides.

Fungicides protect against disease infestation on the putting surface and make up almost 80% of the total pesticide use in golf. There are approximately 2.5 acres of putting surface at each of the three 18-hole golf course, plus a couple of more acres at the 9-hole facility. The Department is no longer treating tees and approaches with fungicides to control turf grass diseases. This cutback should achieve the golf pesticide use reduction goal of 20% for 2004. Further reductions in pesticide use in golf may seriously impact the presentation of the courses and putting surfaces. Only major infestations of weeds, insects, and diseases on the courses are being treated. Spot treatment is being used for weeds and insects and occasional spot treatment of specific diseases on the putting turf. The use is measured by pounds of active ingredient. Some of the new technologies are low in pounds of active ingredient. The Integrated Pest Management program requires waiting for the disease to appear before treatment. Most of the new fungicides are systemic in nature and staff would have to treat the putting surface before the disease shows up to keep the possibility of severe damage low.

Andy introduced members in the audience present to help answer the Board’s questions regarding pesticide use: Paul Backman, Executive Director of the Northwest Turfgrass Association and Western Washington Golf Course Superintendent’s Association; Heather Hanson, Washington Friends of Farms and Forests; Nick Borer, Jefferson Park Golf Course Superintendent; Bob Woodard, golfer representative; and Steve Hall, former General Manager of the Broadmoor Golf Club and current golf industry consultant.

Board Discussion

Kate Pflaumer stated she does not know how to respond to the reduction in pounds use. A pound is a way to quantify, but she does not know what that really means. As an example, she stated that in a greenhouse environment, most of the water stays inside; however, if some does get out it goes into the sewer system and is treated. When pesticides are applied to the grass at a golf course it goes into the water table or waterways. She is concerned how much is coming into the storm water and what are the differentiations. Kate would also like fertilizer information. Andy stated the golf turf is a great biofilter and before the products reach the aquifer, or state of runoff, they are usually biodegrade. Andy also stated that fungicides are not being used on the fairways, as the fairways are not under as much stress as the greens. Putting turfs are cut at approximately 1/8 of an inch and fairways 1/2- 6/10 of an inch.

Barb DeCaro stated that, when pesticides are considered for use, one consideration is “what is its mode of action?” Different pesticides do different things — some corrode plant tissue and some go into a plant and act as an artificial hormone substitute, stopping a process. When a fungicide is applied to a plant that has a disease, part of what happens is the actual chemical reaction between the disease and the pesticide. The main issues seem to be runoff, whether pesticides are being over applied, and determining the impacts to the substrate underneath. The Department normally does not apply pesticides before a rain. Applications rates are important and how much should be used for square footage. If the infestations are smaller they sometimes can be tolerated. The decision-making processes are occurring all the time. Alternatives are being looked at throughout the Department, including more mulching and covering up bare soils, more dense plantings, and tolerating some weeds in some areas. In some cases it is not all about eradication but suppression, aesthetic needs, or a plant asset health issue. The courses are monitored almost daily. The Department has done some projects that address soil health. Losing the turf would be costly to repair and playing ability would be lost. The Department is trying to balance the various needs and is looking for products that contain less active ingredients as measured in pounds.

The Superintendent stated the Department is very concerned about pesticide use when and if it leaves the golf courses and started testing Thornton Creek and Longfellow Creek to see if any of the chemicals were going into the water. Andy added that the water, both as it comes into and exits a golf course, is tested for pesticides and fertilizers. The first test in 2003 indicated no residue detection in the waters. The water quality of the creeks that pass through the golf courses actually improves from the entry to the exit point. The recent spring test found a detectable level of a pesticide in the tributary at West Seattle of 1/10 of 1 part per billion. There is a 4” round drain line that goes from the 9th green to the tributary and there is also a 20-inch storm drain that comes from the above community. The detected product is sold commercially and over the counter and the Department is going to try to find out where the product came from and take some active steps. That is one product out of six that was applied the previous six months. The Department does not believe it is contributing to the pollution of the creeks. Another study was done last fall by NOAA Fisheries and SPU on salmon fry. The data is just coming in and is showing no conclusive evidence that any pesticide or nutrient loads in the creeks is impacting the salmon.

Joanna Grist asked if the water is tested for herbicides, such as Roundup. Andy stated the water is tested for all the products the golf courses uses. There are a lot of pesticides coming down the creeks that are not from the golf courses. There is also a lot of copper from brake linings in the water. Joanna suggested educating the golf community about the impacts, such as the greens not always looking as good as they would like. The Superintendent stated it is one thing to say “stop using pesticides because they are bad” and another thing to figure out the impact of pesticide use in a particular environment and how to manage the impacts. That is what the Department is trying to do by testing the waters.

Joanna inquired about fungicides — how they work, the actual ingredients, and what is in the residue. Barb DeCaro related the Department is trying to document that information for all the products. Paul Backman stated two fungicides are used for golf greens, systemic and contact. It is important to remember that weather must also be considered in the statistics. If there is a wet year there will be more disease. The contact products will stop a disease in the short term on the surface. Systemic fungicides are absorbed by the plant, and then translocated throughout its tissues. Barb DeCaro stated there are different products with different active ingredients. One of the ways fungicides work is to prevent spores from germinating. There are a lot of plant parts that get addressed by different fungicides. Andy related the challenge is that the fungus is always present and is just waiting for the right conditions to thrive on

the host, in this case the Annual Bluegrass. Barb emphasized the Department does not spray every time it sees disease. Sometimes the fungal infestations manifest and outgrow it but at certain times of the year that is not as likely to happen. Parks also has sand- and soil-based greens that react differently. Joanna thinks it is good that monitoring is being done but encourages more information be found about how the fungicides work and what the residue is and if it is damaging. Depending upon how the products are made, just the actual production could be damaging to the environment even it is completely processed through the grass and does not runoff into the water system.

Sarah Neilson asked for definition of fungal infestation. Andy Soden explained mycelium looks like a small brownish patch in a closely mowed turf, with almost a reddish tinge to the ring as it continues to work out through the host. It primarily takes out all the leaf structure of the turf.

Andy informed the Board the City's courses will become members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which is a program for golf courses to become certified in six different categories. This program makes people aware that the golf courses are a part of the urban wildlife corridor in the city. The courses represent over 400 acres of habitat in the city and Andy would like to see the golf game and habitats co-exist. Joanna thinks this could be part of the public education program she proposed.

Herbye White, Recreation Support Director, stated it is important to note that the golf course superintendents want to conquer any pesticide use problems.

Terry Holme questioned the pound measure justification as opposed to actual toxicity, and suggested the pound issue be placed in each Tier category to better quantify and qualify usage. Barb DeCaro stated the pounds are purely used as a performance measurement. Worker safety issues are also a consideration when selecting any product. The workers must be licensed by the Washington Department of Agriculture to apply pesticides on public lands and are also required to have continuing education. The Department holds a seminar annually for all City public pesticide applicators to teach them about Integrated Pest Management.

Terry asked if there is such a thing as a synthetic green golf course. Herbye White stated there is a 100% synthetic golf course opening soon in Colorado. A citizen in the audience stated grass is better for the environment than carpet as it helps to protect waterways and it should be used instead of gravel at the street ends. Putting carpet in place of grass on the greens is not the answer. The carpet does not drain better than grass. Terry noted that the discussion is about 400 acres of grass — just 10 acres of that 400 is greens.

Terry is encouraged about the concept of a pilot on an alternative green. Herbye White stated golfers would prefer turf to an artificial surface. Seattle is on the cutting edge, way ahead of other cities, in terms of environmental concerns and its pesticide reduction program. Steve Hall stated people are worried about the runoff into the water but questioned if there is no creek or waterway nearby, how the runoff gets into the water system. A great deal of the fungicide remains on the greens. He is a golfer and does not want to hurt the environment; however, he has not heard anything this evening to convince him that the golf courses are hurting the environment. Kate Pflaumer noted that just because there are not daylighted creeks next to the golf courses that water is not going into Puget Sound. She has heard many sides, in different context, grass vs. multi-story vs. original forest. She agrees we need green space and golf is important.

Bruce Bentley is concerned about any surface water runoff into the creeks. He has done a lot of work along Longfellow Creek, has spent money to have kids restore the creek, and has worked in the environmental industry for 30 years. Paul Backman stated golf offers many positives to the environment. Bruce praised the staff for their work and has concerns about private golf courses and how they can be challenged to step up to the environmental initiative. Andy noted most of the courses are involved in the environmental concerns. The water coming off the golf courses is of better quality than the water coming onto the golf courses. The Superintendent noted the Department's commitment to have professional staff as Barb and other professional staff in SPU to be on the cutting edge, to minimize the use of pesticides as much as possible relative to the quality golf product we are trying to deliver and to keep trying new technology. Andy and the crews on the golf courses are very committed to keeping the 400 acres of golf courses pollution free.

Joanna Grist stated there is no doubt the land is fantastic habitat and is much better at cleaning the water than streets; however, she does want to point out that compared to a native landscape, turf is approximately 89% impervious. She would like more follow-up information about how the fungicides work, what if any runoffs is used in the process, and also more information on the Roundup product. She thinks the Department is doing a good job.

Parks staff agreed to keep the Board updated on pest management issues.

Park Board Business

Terry Holme was asked to clarify his motion regarding the Ballard Civic Center Park skatebowl following the last meeting. He asked the Chair to take the actual procedural step to ask the person that is taking the minutes to read the motion back on critical issues before it is voted on as it would be easier to extemporaneously get it right on the making of the motion than to re-phrase what he said an hour later.

Sarah Neilson asked if the seventh^h Board member has been selected. She noted there were a lot of questions from the Ballard community on how Ballard was represented on the Board and Joanna Grist is the only Commissioner that lives north of the Canal. The Superintendent related interviews are being held and more will be scheduled.

Old/New Business – None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Bruce Bentley, Chair