

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2005

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present: Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Joanna Grist, Acting Chair
Debbie Jackson

Excused:

Terry Holme
Kate Pflaumer
Amit Ranade

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commission Chair Kate Pflaumer was out of town. Acting Chair Joanna Grist called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. **Commissioner Jackson moved approval of the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, the September 22 minutes, and the October 13 agenda. Commissioner Belbeck seconded. The vote was taken and motion passed.**

Superintendent's Report

Ken Bounds, Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, reported on the following:

West Point Light House Transfer Celebration: On October 12, Mayor Greg Nickels and Superintendent Bounds joined community members, federal, State, tribal, and local officials to celebrate the City's acquisition of the West Point Lighthouse in Discovery Park. <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/DiscoveryPark/lighthouse.htm>

City Hall Park: Commissioner Ranade serves on the Project Advisory Team (PAT) for this park and the PAT has produced a recommended vision for City Hall Park.

South Lake Union Park and Concerts: Parks has been working with One Reel on a plan to relocate the summer concerts to Gas Works Park. City Council passed a resolution that directs the Superintendent to work with One Reel to find a new location and to work with the community to mitigate impacts of traffic, noise, etc. The Board will be kept updated on this.

Canada Geese: Parks staff met with representatives from PAWS today to review the volunteer management efforts over the past year. This joint effort has been very successful.

Meeting with "Friends of" Volunteers: On October 5, leaders of park volunteer groups met with Department staff to discuss Parks' organizational structure, mutual roles, and responsibilities in supporting volunteerism.

Discovery Park Calendars Available: Discovery Park celebrated its first annual calendar photo contest. Calendars containing photos from 13 local artists are now on sale at the Discovery Park Visitor Center for \$12. To view the calendar, go to <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/DiscoveryPark/art.htm>

Langston Hughes Presents "Death of a Salesman": Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center opened its 2005-2006 season with an ambitious theatrical production of Arthur Miller's acclaimed play "Death of a Salesman". Staged with an African American cast, the show opened October 13 and will run through November 6. For details, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/Langston/activity.htm>

Week Without Violence: "Week Without Violence" will begin Friday, October 14, at Seattle Center House with a series of workshops for teens on the theme of "Peace and Empowerment Through the Arts." There will be a short ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Community centers are planning positive community-building activities for the week of October 16-22.

The World of Martial Arts: The International District/Chinatown Community Center will host another exhibition of various martial arts on October 15.

Commissioner Collins asked about beach fires at Golden Gardens during its one-year probation, as recommended by the Commissioners at their November 18, 2004, meeting. The Superintendent answered that illegal beach fires have been drastically reduced. [The Board has scheduled a public hearing on this topic for its January 12, 2006, meeting.]

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. Three people signed up to testify; a brief summary of his testimony follows.

Jeanne Bremer: Ms. Bremer distributed and read a letter to the Board listing concerns with dogs off leash and dog owners ignoring the scoop laws at Discovery Park and Magnolia Park. Each time she and her family visit these parks, there are dogs illegally unleashed. When she has asked the owners to obey the laws, responses have included expletives, "this is really an off-leash park and it's an unspoken rule in Magnolia", "why don't you put your children on a leash?", and no response. She has been dog bitten before and wants to prevent her 1- and 3-year-old children from being frightened by approaching and unleashed dogs. She asked the Board to have a public discussion and propose: 1) posting more signage; and 2) ways in which the leash and scoop ordinances can be better enforced by Animal Control and Park employees. She offered to make a monetary contribution to more signage.

Larry Sinnott: Mr. Sinnott displayed a large map of the newest alternative for the Washington State Department of Transportation's SR520 project. He presented the Board and Superintendent a copy of a letter from Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks requesting the Board to schedule a public hearing on the traffic impacts of this alternative to the Washington Park Arboretum before the SR520 Executive Committee selects its preferred alternative in early 2006. The Park Board has previously heard presentations on the 4- and 6-lane alternatives. This New Montlake Alternative is a late developing plan promoted by a group of Montlake residents. Analysis of this new alternative is not yet completed, and comparisons to the previous 4- and 6-lane alternatives are not viable. He urged that not only WSDOT be invited to this hearing, but also Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff.

After a brief discussion under New Business, the Board agreed to schedule a public hearing on this subject.

Andrew Taylor: Mr. Taylor is Chair of the Miller Community Center Advisory Council. The Community Center and adjoining playfield is heavily used and in need of some upgrades. The Advisory Council understands that some of the funds available in the 2006 budget are from Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and can only be spent on capital projects. They are requesting that a portion of these funds be used for two capital projects: a new multi-purpose room at the northeast corner of the Community Center; and a new playfield surface with a synthetic surface similar to that recently installed at Bobby Morris Playfield. The playfield currently has a very old dirt surface which gets dried out in summer, although Parks staff members work hard to keep it from drying out. He showed a photo of his car after it was parked near the field for four days and it was covered with dust. The players, many of them youth, and the neighbors must breathe the dust that comes off this field. It would be wonderful to start these projects in 2006, when Miller Playfield will celebrate its 100th-year anniversary.

Oral Communications concluded.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Magnolia Elementary Playfield

Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Levy Manager, presented a briefing on the Magnolia Elementary Playfield Improvements, immediately followed by a public hearing. The Board received a written and verbal briefing; both are included in these minutes. The Board plans to discuss the proposal at its October 27 meeting and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

A public hearing and Parks staff briefing on Magnolia Elementary Playfield Improvements will be held on October 13. On October 27, Park staff will return for a Park Board recommendation to the Park Superintendent on the uses defined for Magnolia Elementary Playfield in the schematic design.

Project Description and Background

The Pro Parks Levy provides \$1.4 million to plan, design and construct improvements to a 2.4-acre site that had been leased to Seattle Public Schools. The purpose of project is to reclaim a derelict asphalt school yard as a vibrant view park. As a new neighborhood park, the main elements of Magnolia Elementary Playfield will be a one-acre grass athletic field for youth sports without field lights, an open air pavilion, and a playground. The park is on the east slope of the Magnolia neighborhood at 2601 West Smith Street.

The specific Levy language for Magnolia Elementary Playfield Improvements is to: *“Develop site east of the school into a park. Consider development of a playfield, gathering area, and other park amenities as part of park development”*

The Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program (JAFDP) also identified this project as an area to consider for athletic field development: *“The Pro Parks Levy provides funding for consideration of a playfield, gathering area, etc. Proposed JAFDP improvements include synthetic turf youth field, mod soccer and t-ball facilities, landscaped areas, irrigation, focal point, parking, fencing, basketball court, jogging / bicycle path.”*

Design

Magnolia Elementary Playfield offers breathtaking views of Mt. Rainier, downtown Seattle, Interbay and the Cascades and has long been a popular neighborhood site for viewing fireworks. Site Workshop, the project’s landscape architectural consultants, has worked with Parks and the community on a design defined by a large oval grass field, suitable for both informal community activities and scheduled t-ball and youth soccer. The design capitalizes on the scenery with several view areas, picnic areas and a view pavilion that can be reserved for community events, and sloped lawns. The following is a detailed description of the major park elements:

1. Open Green and Sports Fields. The large oval grass field is configured so that it can accommodate one U-11 soccer field (a 35 x 50 yard field with 5 yard buffer zones for players under 11 years old), two mod soccer fields (20 x 30 yards), or a t-ball field. The field will also be able to be reserved for practices or used for informal play. No field lights or synthetic surfaces will be added.
2. View Promenade. The open green is circled by an eight-foot asphalt path that can be used for walking as well as Park vehicle access. Any trees added to the site will be of a small type species so as not to block views from the neighborhood to Mount Rainier, the Cascade Mountains, and the surrounding urban territory.
3. Access Ramps and Stairs. Because the property is on a steep hillside, access to the park has been carefully designed. Site grading was planned to balance cut and fill and allow for new access points, as well as retaining existing access stairs and ramps.
4. Pavilion. A 1000 s.f. steel and concrete structure covers four picnic tables and a barbecue and can accommodate small community events or provide sun/shade shelter while the playfield is in use.
5. Vehicular Drop-off and ADA Parking. A driveway/turnaround provides ADA park access and a drop-off area for park users. The paths within the park are universally accessible. The concrete loop driveway includes two ADA parking spots.

6. Hard Courts. Two basketball hoops are located at the southwest corner of the park to reduce noise impacts of this activity to a majority of the neighbors
7. Play Area. Area for swings and a play structure are identified.
8. Embankments. Steep slopes on the park's east boundary (26th Ave W) will be regarded and vegetated to control erosion. The geotechnical report recommends decreasing the slope steepness to reduce the risk of failure during a large seismic event. Reducing the 1:1 slope to a 2:1 slope also dramatically improves the view. Seattle Public Schools owns, and Parks will maintain, most of the embankment to the west. Four trees on School property identified by the Parks forester as invasive will be removed by Schools.
9. View Lawn. Gently sloped lawns face the dramatic city and Mt. Rainier views to the southeast and provide an area separate from the main open green area that frames the view for photographers.
10. Port-o-let. The facility is located beside the vehicular drop-off area for easy maintenance.
11. Picnic areas. Two clusters of four picnic tables and barbecues are located beside the view lawns and play areas. Another picnic area is clustered under the pavilion. Other park furnishings such as benches and bicycle racks are also planned.

Public Involvement Process

Three community-wide meetings were held to develop the schematic plan for Magnolia Elementary Playfield Improvements. All of the meetings were advertised through press releases, on the project web site, through postings around the site, and through mailings that reached several thousand Magnolia residents and interested organizations and individuals. Meetings were well-attended: about 50 people attended the April 28 kick-off meeting to brainstorm ideas for park development, more than 70 attended the June 15 meeting (which was held on-site) to comment on three park concept plans, and another 40 community members attended the third and final meeting on September 22 to comment on the schematic plan.

Issues

Sports fields. The major issue at all public meetings was how balance opportunities for scheduled athletic fields with other community interests that were more passive including view areas and a playground. Because the Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program (JAFDP) encourages development of this site, issues of synthetic turf, field lights, and accommodating multiple fields were discussed at each community meeting. Parks had made a decision before the start of the planning process to not put field lights at this site. According to the JAFDP, synthetic turf is recommended only when field lights are part of the design. While some of the public advocated for synthetic turf at public meetings, most were strongly opposed to synthetic turf in this location. As in many Seattle communities, youth soccer clubs lack sufficient field capacity for youth games and practices. The schematic design is the result of a solution that meets with the approval of the both Magnolia Youth Soccer Association and other community members who are more interested in passive park uses. The grass, unlit field is large enough to accommodate U-11 – under age 11 – games on a 30 x 55 yard field with a 5 yard buffer on all sides. The field can also be used in a variety of configurations for younger players and for practices.

Parking. Parking was discussed at each meeting – in part because this site is heavily used on July 4th and neighborhood parking is overwhelmed on that day. While only two ADA parking spots are provided on Park property, parking counts by the landscape architectural consultant estimate approximately 244 existing on-street parking spaces within a one block radius of the site, including 48 parking spaces directly abutting the park property. Of these 244 on-street parking spaces, approximately 47% or 114 parking spaces are estimated as usually available. Parking will continue to be a neighborhood issue on July 4th.

Pavilion. In the final community meeting, community members raised objections to the pavilion for three reasons: concern that it would block views, concern that it would generate much more park use, and finally, a preference that limited Pro Parks Levy money be allocated to a playground rather than a pavilion. Parks proposed the pavilion as the “gathering area” directed by Pro Parks Levy language. The 1000 s.f. pavilion will be constructed so that it does not impact neighborhood views. The small pavilion would be used daily in the sun and in light rain by parents watching children on the playground and on the t-ball/soccer field. The pavilion could also be reserved for celebrations and special events. The pavilion will, in the words of the project landscape architect, “make a more complete neighborhood

park." Citywide, Parks has a strong and unmatched demand for more picnic shelters. They generate revenue, but that is because people want to use them. There are insufficient funds to both build a pavilion and to purchase play equipment. Parks has asked the Friends of the Park group to raise some money for their playground because playgrounds are not specified by the Pro Parks Levy and because this area has a playground within walking distance.

Other issues. During meetings the community also raised issues about off-leash dogs, skateboarding, playgrounds and School use of the property. Parks staff met with School staff, a Community Police Officer for a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) review, and community groups representing local athletic fields, off-leash, playgrounds, and skateboarding to resolve many issues. Schools and Police support the schematic design, playground advocates may raise money for playground equipment, off-leash advocates are seeking other Magnolia sites for development, and some elements of the new park, including some walls and furnishings, will be reinforced to accommodate skateboarding.

Project Schedule

Construction documents will be completed February 2006. Park construction will begin in March and be completed by the end of the 2006.

Project Budget

Project funding for planning, design and construction, is \$1,397,497 from the Pro Parks Levy. Friends of Magnolia Elementary Park community group may raise additional funds for the park.

Staff Recommendation

Parks staff recommends the Board of Park Commissioners approve the uses defined in the schematic design. Parks staff will return on October 27 for a Park Board recommendation to the Superintendent.

Additional Information

Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Development Manager, 615-0823; or michael.shiosaki@seattle.gov Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, 684-7033; or cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/magnolia.htm>

Verbal Briefing

Mr. Shiosaki introduced Mark Brands and Jim Keller from Sitework Workshop, the landscape architecture firm for this project. He gave a PowerPoint presentation with photos of the park and its view, aerial illustrative drawings, and conceptual drawings. He also reviewed information from the written briefing.

Commissioner Collins commented that the Board frequently hears testimony where trees planted long ago are now so tall they obscure several of Seattle Parks' viewpoints. He recommended careful selection of new trees to avoid this problem. Mr. Brands answered that large shrubs and small trees were deliberately selected to avoid this. At least part of the plantings will be native species.

Commissioner Belbeck asked what invasive trees are to be removed. Mr. Brand answered that there are three hazardous cottonwoods slated for removal. Seattle Parks Urban Forester, Mark Mead, has evaluated the trees and there is now an agreement with Seattle School District for removal. Commissioner Belbeck asked if the park will have standard park operating hours (4 a.m. to 11:30 pm). The Superintendent answered yes, that the normal procedure is to start a park at normal hours and then revisit that determination, if required.

Commissioner Jackson asked for clarification on neighborhood concerns that the pavilion would generate much more park usage. She asked if this increase is expected to come from neighborhood park users or citywide park users and is that considered a negative aspect of the project. Mr. Shiosaki answered that the pavilion would attract more citywide users who would use it for picnics, which could be considered a negative aspect by some neighborhood residents.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing began. The Chair reminded the audience that each person has up to three minutes to speak and will be timed. A total of seven citizens testified; a very brief summary of their comments follows.

Don Harper: He attended the first two public meetings — and a portion of the third, on this project and believes it is a great design. He advocates for a grass field and also for Parks to open up the field schedule to allow for some drop-in time for casual game play. He appreciates that skateboard elements are included in the design and believes that parks are a safe place for these. He was disappointed that no off-leash area was included. He doesn't own a dog; however, he believes that more off-leash areas are needed. He is a proponent of building proper sites in parks for both skateboarders and for dog owners for their pets.

Sandra Macpherson: She lives across the street from the park. Although she found the public process challenging, she believes the Superintendent listened and tried to accommodate as many elements as possible. Her concern is the inclusion of a pavilion, rather than using these funds to install playground equipment. The land for this park was donated in 1929 by a teacher and many in the neighborhood prefer playground equipment over the pavilion. Installing a neighborhood play area rather than a pavilion to draw people from all over the city would reduce traffic congestion for the neighbors. Please listen to this concern.

Audrey Schultz: She lives across from the park and has two sons. She stated that she was impressed with Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks' project manager, and believes the neighbors are being heard. She is a member of Friends of Magnolia Park and wants to stay involved and help secure the playground equipment. She is excited about the possibility of the playground and skateboard-friendly elements. She plans to walk her dog in the new park and is happy to be connected to her immediate community via this new park.

Maureen Mastrobattista: She lives in Magnolia and stated that a playground is more important to her than a pavilion. There is little nearby parking to accommodate people who drive to the neighborhood to use the pavilion. She helped get playground equipment at Magnolia Community Center and it is now a heavily used site. Magnolia has a population of 22,000 and additional playgrounds are critical.

Diane Taylor: She asked that the funding the playground equipment be a higher priority than funding the pavilion.

Mr. Shiosaki commented that tonight's public hearing is for the schematic for the park. The final design is not yet clear. The Superintendent stated that the Board is being asked to review and approve the plan, with design elements to be determined later. Ms. Taylor stated that she is a member of Friends of Magnolia Parks and they are working hard for the playground equipment.

Doug Underwood: He has lived nearby for 20 years and believes the design is fabulous. He is very pleased to share the view with park visitors and believes that neighbors will have to make sacrifices to transfer this park. The park will have a sweeping view and locating the pavilion at the forefront of this view would be unfortunate. The pavilion wasn't requested by the community, but rather by Seattle Parks' staff. There is \$90,000 in the budget for the pavilion, but no funds for playground equipment. He is hopeful that the pavilion will be removed from the plan; if it is left in, please move it to a less visible area.

Sue Allen: She lives at 28th and Boston and has begun raising funds for playground equipment. She believes that the playground equipment will attract many more users to the park the pavilion will. Please give the community what they asked for (playground equipment) and not what Parks wants (pavilion). She commented that it is confusing to work with Parks, as mixed info comes from staff.

The Public Hearing concluded.

Board Discussion

The Superintendent reminded the audience that the Board plans to discuss and make a recommendation on this project at its October 27 meeting. Written testimony will be accepted through close of business on October 26.

Commissioners Jackson and Ranade requested that Parks staff clarify the primary issue — whether it is blocking views or creating more uses of the park, or that neighbors prefer playground equipment over the pavilion. Mr. Shiosaki stated that what is presented tonight is a schematic and staff cannot guarantee that all the requested elements can be funded. He will send the Commissioners additional information on the issues.

The Board thanked Mr. Shiosaki for the presentation.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Madrona Park Creek Daylighting

Cheryl Eastberg, Seattle Parks' project manager, briefed the Commissioners on the Department's Madrona Park Creek Daylighting project. The Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. The Commissioners plan to discuss and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Seattle Parks at the October 27 meeting. Written testimony will be accepted through close of business on Wednesday, October 26. [For more information on Madrona Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/madrona.htm>]

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

Staff is requesting that the Board make a recommendation to the Superintendent as to whether or not this project should move forward. This project proposes a change in use from lawn along the lake to a natural area with a creek reconnected to the shoreline. Under the Parks Public Involvement Policy, the Board reviews and makes a recommendation on a project that results in a change of use.

Project Description and Background

Madrona Park is located just south of the Madrona bus turnaround on Lake Washington Boulevard, and the project area is north of the Madrona Dance Studio/Bathhouse, swimming beach, picnic area, and food concession.

Madrona Park Creek exists as two short lengths of open creek channel within Madrona Park Ravine and Woods. Historically, this ground-water fed creek ran uninterrupted from its headwaters in the ravine to the natural shoreline of Lake Washington. Today, both remnant channels are diverted into the city storm drain system. One channel was restored into a waterfall visible from the boulevard. The other is the subject of this project. Madrona Park Creek Daylighting & Restoration will address riparian and lake shore habitat improvements for Lake Washington, including potential Chinook salmon habitat (rearing, feeding, refuge) and associated monitoring of the site improvement.

This project takes one of the channels and recreates a natural creek bed with native plantings through the ravine and down to the Lake Washington shoreline. The ravine is currently vegetated, but has invasives and some sections of the creek are in a pipe. The shoreline section of the project is currently lawn and a deteriorated concrete bulkhead covered with Himalayan blackberry and an occasional willow and cottonwood tree.

This restoration project will address approximately 1266 lineal feet of Madrona Park Creek from its headwaters in Madrona Park Ravine to Lake Washington, and approximately 400 lineal feet along the Lake Washington shoreline. The size of the overall project is approximately 2¾ acres. The intent is to construct both phases (the ravine and the shoreline) of the project in summer 2006, with native planting completed in spring 2007. The project phases are described below.

Madrona Ravine & Woods (Phase 1): Restore and daylight approximately 941 lineal feet of creek channel upstream of Lake Washington Boulevard; install a new creek culvert (approx. 103 l.f.) under 38th Avenue; provide 2 new pedestrian bridges and 1 overlook deck, with related trail improvements; clear invasive plants and revegetate approximately 1.86 acres of the existing park with native plants.

Madrona Shoreline (Phase 2): Daylight approximately 325 lineal feet of new creek channel from Lake Washington Boulevard to the shoreline and vegetate with native plants; create new shoreline habitat including a freshwater wetland (approx. 4800 s.f.); install a new fish passable creek culvert under Lake Washington Boulevard and the pedestrian path; provide approximately 420 lineal feet of improved pedestrian access gravel trail along the shoreline and through the project with one new bridge over the creek; and re-vegetate approximately 0.76 acre of existing lawn with native plants, including emergent wetland species.

Public Involvement

Since 1998 the Friends of Madrona Woods has been developing a vision and conducting public involvement for the daylighting of this creek from the ravine down to the lake. In 1998-99 a Madrona Woods Master Action Plan was developed and included 3 public meetings. This plan included the creek daylighting. In 2001-02 work focused on trail improvements. From 2002 through 2004 the Friends obtained Neighborhood Matching Fund and Starflower grants to develop the conceptual design. During this time there were two public meetings (including one advertised and managed by Parks), several educational walks, site meetings including two with Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks and city staff, 10 articles on project progress in the Madrona News, and two Public House Parties.

In early September 2005, Parks posted two public notice signs in the project areas, posted the project on the web and mailed out over 1000 flyers, including to addresses within 300' of the park. The flyer explained the project and advertised the October 13 Park Board public hearing.

Issues

As of September 30, there have not been any strong concerns voiced by the public about this project. The single issue that has been raised is the change from lawn to natural area for a section of lawn at the base of Madrona Park, between Lake Washington Boulevard and the Lake Washington shoreline. A letter from the Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks stated that they are “a little concerned about the magnitude of the work being proposed for the large grass area at the northern end of Madrona Park on the Lake Washington side of Lake Washington Boulevard. We think that the proposed introduction of the “daylighted” creek, the extent of the grading and the contouring shown as well as the breadth of native plant materials installation suggested by the drawings seems excessive in this portion of this park that has been occupied by a large lawn area and used for a great many years by large numbers of people, needs more careful thought”.

This sloping area of lawn is proposed to be changed to an open small creek channel with natural vegetation, a crushed rock path and a bridge over the new creek. This will change the use of the area. The area is now used passively for activities such as walking on the path through the area, sitting with a view of the lake and for dog walking and swimming. The change would provide less lawn area to sit on and loss of access to the water if the native plantings and new cove are respected. Also, this area is along the Olmsted boulevard, and the views will change from lawn to native plants, as was noted in the Olmsted letter.

Another issue is the future cost for maintaining the natural area. Parks internal review of the project concluded that maintenance costs for the natural area will be higher than the current lawn maintenance. The project will provide shoreline habitat improvement, but this comes at a cost.

Budget

All of the funding for design and construction of this project is proposed to come from sources other than Park funds. Friends of Madrona Woods obtained a Department of Neighborhoods Small and Simple Matching Fund grant and a Starflower grant for conceptual design and a site survey. A King County Waterworks grant (\$60,000) funded some of the design work, along with a local match of cash, professional services, and volunteer work. The Friends of Madrona Woods are applying for a Seattle Public Utilities Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant in the amount of \$201,000 and grant awards will be made before the end of 2005. The construction costs are estimated at \$523,000.

Schedule

October - November 2005:	Public Process by Seattle Parks
October 2005 – April 2006:	Final Construction Documents and Permitting

February – May 2006:	Bidding to (3) General Contractors minimum
June – September 2006:	Excavation and construction of creek channel installation of creek culvert under 38 th , stream enhancements, bridges, overlook and related trail improvements in Madrona Park Ravine & Woods (Phase 1).
July 16, 2006 – April 30, 2007	Excavation and construction of creek channel and shoreline habitat, installation of creek culvert under Lake Washington Boulevard, manual irrigation system, bridge and related trail construction along Lake Washington (Phase 2).
July – September 2006:	Small woody debris stream enhancement (Phase 1).
November 2006 - March 2007:	Native planting (Phase 1 & 2), by volunteers.
May 2007 – June 2010:	Minimum 3-year post-construction monitoring and maintenance by community volunteers and local school children.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the project move forward.

Additional Information

Cheryl Eastberg, Parks Project Manager, cheryl.eastberg@seattle.gov, 206-386-4381

Verbal Briefing

Ms. Eastberg reviewed the information in the written briefing paper, displayed large maps, and pointed out the areas of the project. Peggy Gaynor is the landscape architect for this project.

Board Questions & Answers

Commissioner Belbeck asked for the location of the existing waterfall and Ms. Eastberg pointed it out on the map. Commissioner Collins asked for the size of the lawn area that will be re-vegetated and Ms. Eastberg answered that it is approximately ¾ acre. She visited the site on weekends and noted low usage of the area, with 8-10 people over a period of time. She also interviewed Parks staff members who maintain this park and it is their observation that the area is used primarily as a pass-through to other areas of the park.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing began. The Chair reminded the audience that each person has up to three minutes to speak and will be timed. A total of seven citizens testified; a very brief summary of their comments follows.

Deidre McCrary: She stated that King County Councilmember Larry Phillips was in the audience earlier and planned to testify in support of this project; however, he had to leave for another meeting. He will send a letter of support.

She described how children’s science classes held at the park will bring 100+ neighborhood children from three schools to the park this year. She is very supportive of this project.

Michael Popelka: He works at nearby St. Therese’s and teaches 6th grade science. He takes students to this park every other week to pull invasives. They are now working at the area where the creek will run through. Having this type of opportunity lets the kids see the positive impact they can make on the environment.

Kathi Petrotta: She is also a science teacher, has lived near the park for 16 years, and supports the proposal. Friends of Madrona Woods are doing great work and she has the utmost faith in this project. She agreed that the area of lawn to be removed is primarily a pass-through area. The park provides an outdoor classroom for students and it provides a resting place for native animals.

Larry Jackson: He thanked the Board and the Friends of Madrona Woods. He lives nearest to the park and sees the grassy area from his home. He agrees that it is used primarily as a pass-through. He does not mind the construction impacts of this project and is very excited about the educational opportunities for kids.

Ned Gialbran: He previously lived near the park and could hear the creek water running under the street. He is a landscape architect who helped with the daylighting of Ravenna Creek in Northeast Seattle. This project is a great idea and he supports it.

Paul Beveride: His law firm donated \$60,000 of services, pro bono, to the Friends of Madrona Woods for this project. He thanked Cheryl Eastberg for her guidance on the permit process. He is also a nearby resident of Madrona Park. The creek will have exceptional quality of water compared to other urban creeks. He spoke with Parks maintenance staff about the lawn area to be removed and staff remarked that the area is steep and difficult to mow. He has observed that picnickers and sunbathers use other parts of the park.

John Buche: He has lived at the edge of the park for 41 years. The lawn is used by walkers and joggers along the edge of the lawn area. Sunbathers use an area further away and not the area of lawn slated for removal. This is a unique opportunity. He supports the project.

The public hearing ended. The Commissioners plan to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at the October 27 meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Eastberg for the briefing.

Board of Park Commissioners' Business

- None

New/Old Business

SR520 Public Hearing: Commissioner Collins is a member of the Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee and stated that this project needs a well-publicized public hearing by the Park Board, as it has the potential to have an enormously negative impact on the Arboretum. It was agreed to schedule the hearing.

Dogs Off-Leash: Commissioner Jackson lives near Genesee Park and Playfield and strongly agreed with Ms. Brenner's testimony regarding dogs illegally off-leash in parks. The Superintendent stated that Animal Control is very short staffed and off-leash dogs are a low priority for Seattle Police Department. One effective deterrent has been used at Lincoln and Seward Parks, with Animal Control officers riding in Parks vehicles to patrol the park. Violators do not see the Animal Control officer coming in their marked vehicles and this has made the ticketing more effective. There was a brief discussion on authorizing additional City staff/volunteers to write tickets to owners of off-leash dogs. The Superintendent commented that union guidelines determine bodies of work. Continuing to educate the public is another tool. Commissioners Jackson and Ranade volunteered to draft a letter to the Animal Control Division and its representative union with the request to authorize additional off-leash ticket issuers.

Miller Community Center: Commissioner Grist referred to testimony heard from Andrew Taylor. The Superintendent commented that replacing sand fields with synthetic does not add capacity to a field. There was a brief discussion on future fields slated for improvements.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____