

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2005

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present: Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Terry Holme
Kate Pflaumer, Chair

Excused: Joanna Grist
Debbie Jackson
Amit Ranade

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commission Chair Kate Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. **Commissioner Collins moved approval of the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, the October 13 minutes, and the October 27 agenda. Commissioner Belbeck seconded. The vote was taken and motion passed, with Commissioner Holme abstaining.**

Commissioner Collins commented on the attractive and helpful Olmsted booklet he recently received from Parks staff and requested that at least one copy be distributed to all Commissioners.

Superintendent's Report

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

Limit Set on Consumption of One Green Lake Fish Species: Following further testing in 2005 which showed elevated PCBs and mercury levels in Green Lake carp, Washington Department of Health will work with Public Health Seattle King County to issue an advisory on consumption of this fish. The advisory will warn against eating more than one carp from the lake per month. Signs will be posted and an outreach effort made to inform non-English speaking communities. No advisory is needed on the consumption of other fish species in the lake.

Duwamish Story Pole (aka Admiral Way Totem Pole): Seattle Parks project manager Virginia Hassinger was previously told it could be difficult to acquire suitable old growth cedar for a totem pole for this project. However, this spring the Department of Natural Resources seized an old growth cedar cut down by poachers in a spotted owl recovery zone in the Olympic Peninsula. Parks purchased the pole for artist Michael Halady for the Duwamish Story Pole. The project schedule will be adjusted to give the artist adequate time to complete the carving by April 2006.

Community Learning Centers (CLC): Students in the community centers' math and reading tutoring classes continue to make progress, with over 900 students taking advantage of the programming.

Six Seattle Parks' Ballfields Recommended for Youth Sports Facilities Grants: This week, King County notified Parks that six of the seven projects submitted for the County's Youth Sports Facilities Grants are being recommended for a grant. The projects are: Ravenna Park Playground (\$45,000), Dahl Playfield (\$50,000), Big Howe Playfield (\$49,094), Rainier Playfield (\$37,585), Colman Playground (\$47,422) and Bayview-Kinnear Playground (\$29,000). Actual funding is dependant upon approval by the King County Council in early December.

National Parks and Recreation Association Conference Held: Several Parks staff recently returned from the National Parks and Recreation conference in San Antonio, Texas. While there, the Superintendent attended a full-day summit conference with representatives of 25 other large cities. The conference was very successful and Seattle Parks is excited to host it in Seattle in 2006.

Freeway Park Renovation: 12 trees designated for removal were posted with signs on October 18, clearly stating that they would be removed "on or shortly after November 1." Since the signs were put up, there have been some calls, the majority of which have been fielded by Seattle Parks Senior Urban Forester, Mark Mead. Most callers are satisfied with the explanation and reasoning for the tree removal that will begin in mid November.

Council Budget: The Superintendent gave a brief update on Parks issues before the City Council at its budget discussions. One issue the Council is reviewing is the Loyal Heights Playfield Pro Parks Levy project, which the Board recently recommended approval of to the Superintendent.

Upcoming Events

I-5 Colonnade Scheduled for Dedication: Parks will join the Eastlake and Capitol Hill communities, dog off-leash enthusiasts, and mountain and street bicycle enthusiasts to dedicate improvements to the I-5 Colonnade on Saturday, December 3, at noon. This \$1.8 million Pro Parks Levy project is on time and within budget. The new 7.5-acre park will add pedestrian connections between the Eastlake and Capitol Hill neighborhoods, bicycle commuter connections, a mountain bike course, a dog off-leash area, and public art. (For more information, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/projects/i-5openspace.htm>)

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. No one signed up to testify.

Update Briefing: Olympic Sculpture Park

Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, presented an update briefing on the Olympic Sculpture Park. She introduced Maria Barrientos, a consultant working with SAM on the project, and Laura Ballock, the Capital Projects Associate for SAM. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. The latest information on this project can be viewed at http://iamsamcampaign.org/index.php?p=Construction_Update&s=139

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This presentation is a briefing with no action requested from the Board. All of the agreements are at the City Council.

Introduction

These agreements will authorize Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation and the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) to enter into a Construction and Finance Agreement that will give SAM the authority to make improvements on the public property on the Alaskan Way Boulevard and certain areas within Myrtle Edwards Park. These improvements will provide an outdoor sculpture park that is free and open to the public. In addition, the legislation authorizes Parks to enter into an Operations and Maintenance Agreement that delineates Parks and SAM roles in operating and maintaining the public property on the Alaskan Way Boulevard and certain areas within Myrtle Edwards Park that will be improved as part of the Olympic Sculpture Park (OSP) project.

In December of 1999, SAM acquired two upland parcels and one tideland parcel in Belltown from Unocal. The City of Seattle purchased the 10 Broad Street property in 2001 and Ordinance 12035 authorized the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to negotiate the transfer of the 10 Broad Street property to the Museum Development Authority for inclusion in the development for the OSP. A letter from SAM accompanied the Ordinance in which SAM committed to contribute \$2 million in privately raised funds towards public improvements on the Alaskan Way Boulevard.

Parks and SAM entered into a Design Agreement in June of 2000, which began a cooperative design effort resulting in the final design concept for the OSP, including what is now referred to as the Alaskan Way Boulevard and improvements to Myrtle Edwards Park. An underlying agreement has always existed which states the OSP will be free of charge and open to the public, and will create a seamless connection from Belltown to Myrtle Edwards Park.

On November 7, 2000, City voters approved the Neighborhood Parks, Green Spaces, Trails, and Zoo Levy (2000 Pro Parks Levy). One of the provisions of the 2000 Pro Parks Levy was funding for a waterfront connection from Myrtle Edwards Park to the Belltown Area. The design of the OSP incorporates an elevated pedestrian walkway allowing for pedestrian connections from Broad Street to Myrtle Edwards Park, as well as providing an at grade connection for pedestrian and non-motorized vehicles over the Alaskan Way Boulevard.

The City adopted Ordinance 121721 on February 2, 2005, designating Alaskan Way to be Alaskan Way Boulevard (a park boulevard) north of Broad Street and south of Bay Street, transferring jurisdiction for the designated area for Seattle Department of Transportation to Parks.

Unocal is just finishing up an environmental clean-up on the Alaskan Way Boulevard and the Seattle Art Museum will start construction in the area as soon as the agreements have been adopted by the City Council. The trolley barn will be removed from the site right after Thanksgiving.

Summary of Olympic Sculpture Park Agreements

The following is a brief synopsis of the major issues contained with the Olympic Sculpture Park Skybridge Ordinance and the Olympic Sculpture Park Agreements Ordinance (Construction & Finance Agreement, and the Operations & Maintenance Agreement). The ordinances pertain to the Seattle Art Museum and the City of Seattle.

SKYBRIDGE ORDINANCE:

Currently in negotiations.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:

1. The initial agreement term is for a period of (10) years, renewable for up to (2) 20 year periods.
2. SAM will operate the OSP consistent with park and open space purposes in a clean, safe and inviting condition for the public.
3. Generally, the OSP will be open from dawn to dusk on a daily basis. The Boulevard, which provides access from Alaskan Way to Myrtle Edwards Park, although a part of the OSP, will maintain the same hours as Myrtle Edwards Park. SAM is given permission to close the Alaskan Way skybridge to coincide with the general operating hours of the OSP.
4. Local government will have 24 hour emergency access to all portions of the park.
5. SAM shall adopt, subject to review by Parks, reasonable rules and regulations governing conduct within the Boulevard. The rules governing public conduct on the Boulevard shall be the same as those applicable to any other City park as defined within Chapter 18.12, The Park Code, and Seattle Municipal Code.
6. SAM will keep all funds derived from concessions within the OSP.

Seawall buttress

7. SAM will provide the City with a (3) three year guarantee on installation of the Seawall Buttress, which is part of the shoreline work to be conducted along Elliot Bay. After a period of 3 years, Seattle Parks and Recreation will be responsible for maintenance of the Seawall Buttress.

Embayment

8. During the plant establishment period, but no longer than 3 years after plant installation, SAM shall be responsible for routine maintenance of the upland vegetation and intertidal plantings related to the Embayment located in Myrtle Edwards Park. After the 3 year period, Parks shall maintain and replace such plantings. All other maintenance within the confines of Myrtle Edwards Park is the responsibility of the City, including but not limited to beach replenishment as needed.

Alaskan Way Boulevard

9. The City will require event sponsors utilizing Myrtle Edwards Park to adequately protect sensitive vegetation, artwork and other improvements in the Boulevard, Skybridges and Embayment Areas.
10. SAM shall perform all grounds custodial work throughout the Boulevard, including but not limited to litter pick-up, garbage collection and disposal, cleaning of hard surfaces, sweeping of trails, keeping drainage structures clean and free of debris and disposing of materials collected in such activities; and performing all trail and sidewalk maintenance.
11. SAM shall maintain all turf within the Boulevard including but not limited to grass mowing, lawn irrigating, trimming, edging, and fertilizing and other turf cultural practices.
12. SAM will maintain all planting beds and trees within the Boulevard, to a standard consistent with the Parks publication "Landscape, Horticulture and Urban Forestry Best Management Practices" published in Sept. 2004 and periodically revised and updated.
13. SAM is responsible for all utility services and utility costs associated with maintaining the Boulevard.
14. SAM shall perform all normal maintenance of the irrigation system within the Boulevard, such as winter shut down, replacement of heads and risers and all other general maintenance and repairs necessary to keep the system in good order.
15. SAM is responsible for all graffiti removal within the Boulevard and should have it removed within 24 hours to the extent reasonably possible.

CONSTRUCTION & FINANCE AGREEMENT:

1. The term of the agreement shall be (5) five years and shall terminate upon completion of the construction activities called for under its terms.
2. The City will make one lump payment of \$2.1 million upon completion of construction of the Alaskan Way Skybridge. The funds were appropriated in 2004 under project #K733135 (Pro-Parks Levy Funds & REET 1).
3. SAM will not commence construction within Alaskan Way, or on the Alaskan Way Skybridge, until a written Notice to Proceed has been issued by the Department of Parks & Recreation.
4. SAM will ensure safe and continuous public access in an around the construction to and from Myrtle Edwards Park during construction; this access will be subject to temporary closures, but only after coordination with Parks.
5. During construction, SAM shall also ensure safe public access over the Boulevard to "Special Events," including but not limited to the Fourth of July celebration.
6. SAM will provide project signage and public notice along all trails at least one month prior to the start of any construction activity.
7. The City must approve any artwork placement by SAM on the Boulevard, the Elliott Avenue Skybridge the Alaskan Way Skybridge, the Embayment, or Seawall buttress.

Additional Information

Paula Hoff, Strategic Advisor, 206-615-0368, Paula.Hoff@seattle.gov

Verbal Briefing/Board Questions & Answers

Ms. Hoff and Ms. Barrientos displayed a large rendition of the park, pointed out various elements, and described the construction schedule.

Commissioner Pflaumer asked if SAM is providing parking spaces in the waterfront area and Ms. Barrientos answered no. Commissioner Pflaumer asked if any Native American art is included in the park and Ms. Barrientos answered no, at least not in the beginning.

Commissioner Holme asked about security and hours of operation. Ms. Barrientos answered that the objective is to protect the park without fencing it in. Cameras, 24-hour guards, and infrared lighting will be used to help with this. Commissioner Holme asked if SAM has planned anything for the sandy beach area north of the seawall and Ms. Barrientos answered yes and pointed out the area on the large drawing. Commissioner Holme extended kudos to SAM for including this area in the park development. Ms. Barrientos stated that Seattle Parks has been extremely cooperative and supportive on this project and SAM has had a great partnership with Parks. Commissioner Holme asked about the target date for opening the park and Ms. Ballock answered in late summer/early fall of 2006.

Ms. Barrientos invited the Commissioners to tour the site and see the progress that has been made on this project. The Commissioners agreed to do so and thanked Ms. Hoff, Ms. Barrientos, and Ms. Ballock for the update on this project.

Discussion/Recommendation: Magnolia Playfield

At its October 13 meeting, the Board heard a briefing from Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks' Pro Parks Levy manger, on the Magnolia Elementary Playfield Project (<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2005/10-13-05.pdf>) The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. Tonight the Board is asked to discuss the project and make a recommendation to the Superintendent. Mr. Shiosaki introduced Mark Brands of Sitework, the landscape architect firm for the project.

Commissioner Collins asked if the project has funding for both the proposed pavilion and a play area. Mr. Shiosaki answered that both are currently in the schematic; as the project moves forward, it will become clearer whether there is adequate budget for both. Commissioner Collins stated that his preference is for the playground to be funded first, then to fund the pavilion if there are adequate funds to do so. The Superintendent commented that during the schematic design, staff are seeking advice from the Board on whether the right elements are included in the plan. Commissioner Collins commented that he thinks the pavilion is an important feature; however, the playground is more important. The neighborhood is already raising funds for the playground. Mr. Shiosaki stated that since the public hearing, Parks staff have responded to community concerns and re-prioritized the playground ahead of the pavilion.

Commissioner Belbeck commented that the playground is a funding priority for her, too.

Commissioner Holme stated that he is less of a proponent for funding the pavilion. It would not be used as much as a playground and carries its own set of adverse problems. He would like to see more statistical information on the need for this pavilion, such as current picnic shelter rental rates and the demand for additional shelters. He also commented that the soccer field was represented as being adequate for U-11; however, this would be the very smallest size field where U-11 could be played. He recommended that the Department not promote this field as U-11.

Commissioner Holme moved to approve the staff recommendation on this project, with the playground receiving higher funding priority than the pavilion. Commissioner Collins seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Shiosaki and Mr. Brands for the presentation.

Discussion/Recommendation: Madrona Park Creek Daylighting

At its October 13 meeting, the Board heard a briefing from Cheryl Eastberg, Seattle Parks' project manager, on the Madrona Park Creek Daylighting project. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. Tonight the Board is asked to discuss the project and make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2005/10-13-05.pdf>

There was a brief discussion on a letter received earlier today from Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FOSOP) stating its concerns about the new plantings eventually impacting the view from this Olmsted Park area. The Superintendent asked Ms. Eastberg if FOSOP had had an opportunity to weigh in on this project and she answered that they did have an opportunity earlier in the project. Earlier today, she discussed FOSOP's concerns with Parks' horticulture staff and they agreed to meet FOSOP "in the middle" on this project. Another concern of FOSOP was the height of handrails and the elevations will be 30" at the lowest and 42" at the highest.

Commissioner Collins stated that this is a rare opportunity to daylight a creek and he believes it will be an award-winning project. Only one objection was received by the Board on removing the grass area and he urged Parks staff to work closely with FOSOP to address its concerns as the project goes forward. The Superintendent agreed that staff will work further on the landscaping to be sensitive to the Olmsted design.

Commissioner Belbeck moved to recommend approval of and moving forward with the Madrona Creek Daylighting project. Commissioner Collins seconded.

Commissioner Holme commented that he is sympathetic with FOSOP's concerns, as he lives near Mt. Baker Park. The plantings in a newer project there are growing like crazy and causing both a physical and visual barrier to the water. It would be regrettable if the Madrona Park Creek project is planted as densely as the one at Mt. Baker. **Commissioner Holme made a friendly amendment, which was accepted by Commissioner Belbeck, to make sure the designers are diligent in preserving as best they can the Olmsted Viewpoint.**

Discussion: Commissioner Pflaumer commented that salmon reclamation areas depend on certain levels of foliage density — if the density is not there, the reclamation will not be successful. It is a tradeoff between maintaining the view and restoring salmon habitat. Commissioner Holme asked if the fence will be a temporary installation to protect the new plantings or a permanent element of the project. Ms. Eastberg stated that it will be a permanent element and will help keep dogs out of the area, help avoid erosion into the creek, and help get the new plantings established.

The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Eastberg and also thanked all the volunteers who are working on this project.

Briefing: First Hill and University District Park Plans

Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property Management & Acquisition Services Manager, and Bill Blair, Pro Parks Levy Planning and Development Specialist, presented a briefing on the First Hill and University District park plans. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing; both are included in these minutes. No action is requested from the Board at this time.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

The purposes of the briefing on the two park plans are to inform the Board of Park Commissioners about the plans and receive any suggestions or other feedback Commissioners may offer.

Following Board review, the plans will be revised for approval by the Superintendent and for subsequent use including: site acquisition guidance; planning and design of future park improvements; expenditure of impact fees on new development and payments in lieu of open space and other onsite amenities in residential and mixed-use buildings;

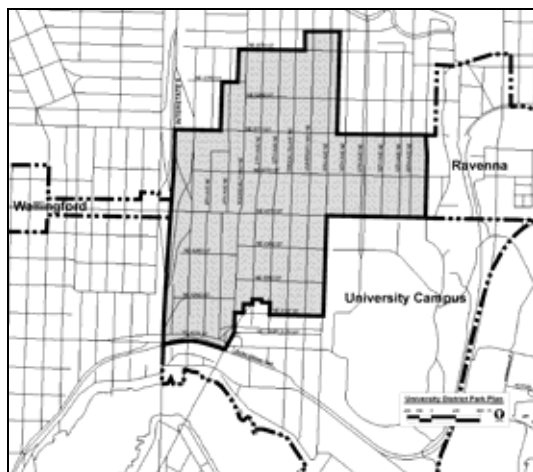
design review of projects proposed by other public agencies and by private parties; Parks partnerships with private developers for joint-use projects including public open spaces; and preparation of future funding initiatives.

Project Description and Background

The City of Seattle has designated First Hill and the University District as Urban Centers, with the intent of accommodating redevelopment for high-density residential use and job creation. Redevelopment will also increase demand for parks and recreation facilities.



First Hill Urban Center



University District Urban Center

The two plans are intended to 1) help guide ongoing Pro Parks Levy acquisition efforts in these two neighborhoods and 2) propose a strategy for each neighborhood to acquire and develop a system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space linkages that will meet the needs of current and future residents and workers over the next 20 years.

Funding to help implement these park plans may be provided by changes that are currently being considered for the City's comprehensive plan and zoning code, which include impact fees on new development and payments in lieu of open space and other onsite amenities in residential and mixed-use buildings. Please note that funding from these sources must be matched by funding from public sources before it can be expended.

Public Involvement Process

Parks retained MAKERS Architecture and Urban Design to prepare both plans, using the North Downtown Park Plan as the model. A Technical Oversight Committee (TOC, comprising staff from Parks, the Department of Neighborhoods (DON), the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)) provided technical review assistance, information on related analyses, and a sounding board for the development and direction of the plans.

Each park plan builds upon earlier neighborhood plans adopted in 1998, which included recommendations related to parks, recreation, and open spaces. Within each community, two working sessions were held with key stakeholders, community groups, and City department representatives to review the analyses and recommendations. The first work sessions, in November 2004, explored stakeholders' general park and open space objectives and priorities for types of new or improved facilities. The second sessions, conducted in January 2005, presented the draft concept plans and focused on specific opportunities. The resulting reports have been presented at community meetings in September and October 2005.

The work sessions and public meetings were publicized by more than 5,000 flyers mailed to residents within each urban center, supplemented by articles in local newspapers and personal phone calls, additional mailings, and e-mail messages to representatives of key residential organizations, business groups, and major institutions. Materials were also posted on the Parks website (see references at the end of this paper). Approximately two dozen members of the public participated in each of the first work sessions; attendance was somewhat lighter at the second work sessions, but was back up to about two dozen at the public meetings.

Issues and Outcomes – First Hill Urban Center

1. Acquisition of a new park site with funds from the Pro Parks Levy:
 - there is community consensus on priority for a site within the “West Slope” sector bounded by I-5 and Boren Avenue and by Madison and James Streets
 - within this subarea, there is strong preference for the Philippine Consulate site at SE corner of Cherry Street & Terry Avenue (named in the Levy) and the adjoining L-shaped parcel owned by the Catholic Archdiocese, although these sites may prove unattainable
 - the community is reluctant to embrace alternative sites, including: the site of the existing Archdiocese Chancery building on the NW corner of Marion Street and Terry Avenue; two lots on the NE corner of 8th Avenue and Columbia Street; and a possible joint project with Harborview Medical Center (Harborview) at Terrace Street and 9th Avenue
2. There is community consensus on the need for funding to improve existing parks, including:
 - seek funding to complete proposed Freeway Park improvements beyond the initial phase of work currently underway
 - seek funding to improve First Hill Park to increase legitimate uses and security, and to deter illegal activities
 - seek additional development funds for the property secured with Pro Parks Levy funding
 - use impact fees on new development and payments in lieu of open space and other onsite amenities in private buildings to help pay for the foregoing improvements and additional park acquisitions
3. There is community consensus on needed future park system acquisitions and improvements:

- small neighborhood parks or other open spaces serving residential sectors north of Madison and south of Alder (including the Yesler Terrace redevelopment)
 - planning and design of street improvements to provide a network of safe, attractive pedestrian connections to neighborhood open spaces, services, and amenities
 - integration of open space into SHA master planning for the Yesler Terrace redevelopment, including the retention or replacement of Yesler Playfield
 - marketing efforts, streetscape improvements, and wayfinding elements to foster public recognition that the Yesler Community Center serves the entire First Hill community
 - provision of accessible open space and improved pedestrian connections as part of master plans for the Harborview, Virginia Mason and Swedish hospital campuses
4. Provision of design guidelines to help Parks review and improve the safety, function, and appearance of public parks and quasi-public private open spaces

Issues and Outcomes – University District Urban Center

1. There is community consensus on the acquisition of one of the following new park sites with current Pro Parks Opportunity Fund and King County CFT monies, in priority order:
 - a portion of the University District Parking Association (UDPA) lots between NE 45th Street, 12th Avenue NE, NE 47th Street, and 11th Avenue NE for joint-use development of a public park in partnership with private redevelopment
 - the “South Lot” of the University Heights Center for the Community
 - the expansion of Christie Park (9th Avenue NE and NE 43rd Street) by the addition of underdeveloped residential properties to the south
 - the Northwest Corner of NE 43rd Street and Brooklyn Avenue NE
2. There is also community consensus on future park system acquisitions and improvements:
 - following completion of the Pro Parks Levy acquisition (above), seek funding to acquire another high-priority park site in a sub-area of the District that remains underserved
 - seek additional development funding for the Pro Parks Levy acquisition site
 - use impact fees on new development and payments in lieu of open space and other onsite amenities in private buildings to help pay for the foregoing improvements and additional park acquisitions
 - Parks participation in planning and design of street improvements to provide a network of safe, attractive pedestrian connections to neighborhood open spaces, services, and amenities, with a primary focus on Brooklyn Avenue NE
3. Provision of design guidelines to help Parks review and improve safety, function, and appearance of public parks and quasi-public private open spaces

Budget

The costs of specific park acquisitions and improvement are not identified in the plans. Instead, the plans focus on identifying the highest-priority park and recreation facility needs in each of the two communities. These projects may be funded partly from park impact fees and/or fees in lieu of project amenity requirements, and partly from public funding sources such as the Pro Parks Levy, Neighborhood Matching Fund and King County CFT awards, and future measures.

Schedule

The park plans will be completed on receipt of comments from the Board of Park Commissioners and direction from the Superintendent.

Additional Information

First Hill Park Plan: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/projects/1stHillPlan.pdf
 University District Park Plan: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/projects/UDistrictPlan.pdf
 North Downtown Park Plan: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/Publications/NDPP.htm

Proposed impact fees on new development: www.seattle.gov/news/detail.asp?ID=5391&dept=40
Donald M. Harris, donald.harris@seattle.gov 684-8018
Bill Blair, bill.blair@seattle.gov 684-7786

Verbal Briefing

Commissioner Pflaumer thanked Parks staff Mr. Harris and Mr. Blair for providing the Executive summaries on these two acquisition areas. Staff displayed large drawings of both the University District and First Hill areas and reviewed the information in the written briefing and also gave a great deal of information on methodology and strategies used in the efforts to secure new park land in both these areas.

Questions and Answers

Following, and during, the verbal briefing the Commissioners asked a number of questions and made several comments about each area. A very brief summary is included.

University District: Commissioner Collins stated that an exciting aspect of the University District plan is the effort at the existing Farmer's Market and School District property. Commissioner Holme asked about the relocation plans for Safeco Insurance headquarters to the University District and there was a lengthy discussion on this topic. Commissioner Collins commented on the impact fees and urged Parks to continue to explore 2-3 of these best opportunities.

First Hill: Commissioner Pflaumer asked if there are any likely prospects for new park land in the North of Madison (NOMAD) area and Mr. Blair answered there is lots of recent interest in increasing the use of Freeway Park. One concern of residents is that a new park could attract additional meth users to the area. Commissioner Collins asked if staff think the likelihood of obtaining new park property is higher for the University District than First Hill.

Mr. Blair answered that the challenge in both areas for Parks is acquiring any of the properties that have been located. Parks is constrained by the "fair market value" and most of the properties in the two areas are not selling for that. Parks has some funds to buy property, but this generally will only pay for small parcels of land. There was a short discussion on impact fees. Commissioner Belbeck complimented the on-line plans for both the University District and First Hill, located at:

First Hill Park Plan: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/1stHillPlan.pdf

University District Park Plan: www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/UDistrictPlan.pdf

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Harris and Mr. Blair for the briefing.

Board of Park Commissioners' Business

- None

New/Old Business

Joint Meeting with Seattle Design Commission: Commissioners Pflaumer and Collins, as well as Parks staff Sandy Brooks and Susan Golub, recently met with two Seattle Design Commissioners, one of their staff, and the Director of the City's Historic Preservation Office. The Commissioners felt the meeting was time well spent. All three groups agreed to share agendas and minutes. Commissioner Collins found it interesting that few members of the general public attend the other two agencies' meetings. He complimented both the brochures distributed by Design Commission staff and its web site. (It was duly noted that the Design Commission has two full-time designated staff, while the Park Board has one designated half-time staff and a portion of another staff person's time.)

Illegal Tree Cutting at Colman Park: Commissioner Collins commented about a television news article he saw the night before that stated that Judge Farris has only paid \$200,000 of the \$500,000 settlement he owes Seattle Parks for illegally cutting trees in Colman Park several years ago. The Superintendent stated

that the City can put a lien on the Judge's property and charge 12% interest for the unpaid balance. For more information on the tree cutting, please see

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/communitynotices/current/view/View_32_02-05-2003.htm

Alternative Fueled Vehicle Rally: Commissioner Collins attended the rally held last Saturday at Green Lake Park; he reported a high turnout of attendees.

Park Board Annual Retreat: Commissioners were reminded that the retreat is scheduled for February 2.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____