



## Department of Parks and Recreation

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

Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2007

### *Board of Park Commissioners:*

Present:

Terry Holme  
Jackie Ramels  
Amit Ranade

### *Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:*

B.J. Brooks, Interim Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

**Commissioner Ranade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Ramels moved, and Commissioner Holme seconded, approval of the agenda as amended, Acknowledgment of Correspondence as presented, and minutes as amended. The vote was taken and motion passed.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Brooks reported on the following items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, please visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Loyal Heights Playfield Trees: Superintendent Brooks referred to the results of the City Council requested audit of Parks' public involvement process. Just today, the results were released on Phase II, which focused on the Loyal Heights Playfield project. It is good news that Parks will replace several trees planted at Loyal Heights Playfield after neighbors notified Parks that the red oaks will obstruct neighbors' views of the Olympics as the trees mature. Parks did not know the homes had Olympic views, as the homes were not listed with the tax assessor's office as view homes. The trees planted at Loyal Heights will be planted elsewhere in the Parks system, and new, smaller trees will be planted at Loyal Heights Playfield at a cost of \$6-7,000. For more information on the Loyal Heights project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/loyalheightsplayfield.htm>.

Commissioner Holme commented that the Park Board did a lot of work on the Loyal Heights project. It was his understanding that the Department would work closely with the community on the remainder of this project. He asked that staff look at the tree planting process to determine how this happened. Superintendent Brooks answered

that the City's arborist and Seattle Parks' urban forester worked together on the tree planting design and the design had been available to the community for review. The community's concerns were only raised recently.

Phase II Audit Results: The City Auditor released Phase II of the Parks Public Involvement Audit earlier today. Phase II is a case study of the Loyal Heights Playfield renovation project. The Auditor is scheduled to present her findings to the City Council's Parks, Education, Libraries and Labor (PELL) committee on Wednesday, April 18. *Seattle Times* reporter Bob Young is working on a story about it. For more information on the audit, see <http://www.seattle.gov/audit/docs/ParksPhase2041207.pdf>.

Staff will also send the audit results to the Board. Commissioner Holme asked that the Board be briefed on the audit results. [The briefing is scheduled for June 14, 2007.]

Community Meeting on Expansion of Hing Hay Park: This week Parks met with 40 attendees to reach consensus on the preferred alternative for new park space in the International District to purchase the property adjoining Hing Hay Park. This is acceptable to the community provided the City ensures the International District Post Office, which currently leases the expansion site, remains conveniently located in the neighborhood. The acquisition legislation has been routed to the Mayor's office. For more on Hing Hay Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/hinghaypark.htm>.

Michael Shiosaki to Leave Parks: Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Levy development manager, has accepted a position as Deputy Director of Parks at the City of Sammamish. His last day with Seattle Park will be April 20. Colleen Browne will take over Michael's duties.

Magnuson Park Leases: Parks received a list of 37 questions from City Council Central Staff regarding the leases for Building 11 and Building 27 and plans to submit the information to Central Staff by April 18. Parks also anticipates sending a legislative packet on the leases by April 23. For more on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/default.htm>.

Commissioner Holme asked if City Council has made a decision on Hanger 27 and Superintendent Brooks answered that the Council is still deliberating on this. After the Board of Park Commissioners public hearing and recommendation on the use of this building, the Request for Proposals was sent out and several proposals were received from Magnuson folks. Parks is negotiating with Arena Sports representatives, as they have \$4 million to invest in the building. Commissioner Holme asked if the work will require permits from the Army Corp of Engineers. Superintendent Brooks answered that the permits have not yet been required.

Marra-Desimone Park: Parks met with Marra Farm Coalition representatives and other community members last week to discuss the Coalition's concerns about the width of the main path through the Marra-Desimone Park. The long range plan for the park, approved by the Park Board in November 2006, proposed a 14-foot wide path, comprised of an 8-foot-wide ADA path for pedestrians and occasional maintenance use, bordered by 3-foot planting strips on both sides. Parks agreed to reduce the total path width to 8 feet if the Coalition understood that no maintenance requiring vehicle access would occur in that area. Parks and the Coalition also agreed that "Marra Farm" would be added to the Park "rainbow sign." The Park Board will be briefed on this at its May 10 meeting. For more information on Marra-Desimone Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/Marra-Desimone.htm>.

Wallingford Playfield: The Seattle School District is planning a major remodel of Hamilton Middle School. Certain elements of the project propose to utilize park property including a new gymnasium and parking structure that would require the boundary between the playfield and the school be moved approximately 38 feet to the north. This adjustment would entail partial or possibly complete removal of a community-constructed garden. Another element of the District's project would entail installing 132 geothermal wells under our playfield. These wells would result in significant reduction of electricity and fuel use at the school, but the installation would disrupt park use of the play field for approximately one year. Parks is now beginning its own public process to discuss the implications of the

proposed improvements for the park. This process will include circulating questionnaires through the web and by mailings to neighbors. These questionnaires will be followed by a public hearing before the Board of Parks Commissioners at its May 24 meeting and a subsequent recommendation to the Superintendent at its June 14 meeting. For more information on Wallingford Playfield and the survey, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/wallingf.htm>.

Belo Foundation Grant Proposal: Parks staff met this week with Ray Heacox, General Manager of KING Broadcasting, to discuss a grant proposal for the Denny Park development. Parks submitted a proposal to the Belo Foundation requesting \$50,000 for the Downtown Renaissance project. Belo Corporation, owner of KING Broadcasting, expressed interest in the Denny Park piece of our proposal due to the park's proximity to KING.

Status of Interagency Committee (IAC) Grant Applications: The State House and Senate have both recommended a two-year capital budget of \$100 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). If the Governor signs this budget, Parks will receive \$1.5 million in funding for four projects that Parks submitted IAC grant applications for in 2006. Those projects are:

- Discovery Park/Capehart Property Acquisition - \$500,000
- Ercolini Property Development - \$200,000
- Lake Union Park Development - \$500,000
- Longfellow Creek Greenspace Acquisition - \$300,000

The Governor originally recommended an allocation of \$70 million for WWRP, but said that she would be supportive of an allocation larger than her recommendation.

Pyramid Project Award: Our Information Technology staff were very excited to have won the Mayor's 2006 Information Technology Excellence in Project Management Award for the Pyramid Project. Our project ran with few problems, came in under budget, and rolled out on time! Pyramid launched the use of a new integrated registration, reservation, and point-of-sale system to 56 Parks and Recreation facilities. It improved fiscal accountability, efficiencies for staff, and customer service. Staff can now search all of our available classes and programs, and check availability for rentals, reducing the risk of booking errors. Customers can now register at any facility across the department or by themselves online at home on SPARC (Seattle Parks & Recreation Connection)! For more information on SPARC, see <http://class.seattle.gov/parks/Start/Start.asp?SCheck=180672975&SDT=39205.6357638889>.

Woodland Park Zoomazium Wins Gold Building Award: The Zoomazium building at Woodland Park Zoo recently won the first gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) award for any building in a zoo in the country. For more information on Zoomazium, see <http://www.zoo.org/zoomazium/discover.html>. For more information on the LEED award, see <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the process has begun to permanently fill the Superintendent's position. Interim Superintendent Brooks answered that a national search team has been formed and has hired a consultant to assist with the process.

### **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. Four people signed up to testify; a brief summary of their testimony is included.

Gary Gaffner: He spends lots of time in Discovery Park and referred to tonight's briefing on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Many people have worked in Discovery Park for years and years. He is in favor of the recommendation in the briefing paper and would like to help gather support for it.

Heidi Carpine: She has lived in the Magnolia neighborhood, near Discovery Park, for 43 years. She represents the 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue residential neighborhood and the Discovery Park Advisory Council. She described the layout of Discovery Park and where the army base is located. She and others have been working to develop an agreement for the best wildlife routes through the park and would like a wider route. There are 59 nests in the heron rookery, which has increased by 22 nests in the last six years.

Donna Kostka: She is co-founder of the group to protect the herons at Discovery Park and has worked on this for the past six years. She distributed a color map showing the location of the rookery. The BRAC process affects three parks: the Kiwanis Ravine, Discovery Park, and Commodore Park. She described the animals travel routes and habitat areas that need to be saved during this process. Neighbors want to preserve the peace and quiet of the park. One plan calls for 110 units of new housing. If the number goes over this, please do an Environmental Impact Statement. This is not Central Park and she requests that no high rise housing be allowed.

Phil Vogelsand: He stated that the Army Reserve area is quartered in the northeast corner of Fort Lawton in Discovery Park. This is both a challenge and opportunity. He wants to incorporate the army's holdings into Seattle Parks and bridge the wildlife between Kiwanis Ravine, Salmon Bay, and other areas. There is great potential here, but the difficulty is with what the Army is proposing and demanding.

## **Briefing: Downtown Parks Supplemental Use Guidelines**

Kevin Bergsrud, Seattle Parks planning and development specialist, and Victoria Schoenberg, Seattle Parks' strategic adviser, presented a briefing on the Downtown Parks Supplemental Use Guidelines. Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing.

### ***Written Briefing***

#### **Requested Board Action**

Parks staff is briefing the Board of Park Commissioners regarding use management guidelines for ten downtown parks. Staff will be taking the use guidelines to the community for review, and then will return to the Board for a public hearing and recommendation on the guidelines.

#### **Project Description and Background**

Use guidelines were developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s for Seattle parks. These were intended to supplement the Park Code (Seattle Municipal Code –SMC Title 18) and establish use management practices for minimizing adverse impacts of activities on park grounds, facilities, and the surrounding environment. Supplemental use guidelines were developed for four downtown parks (Freeway, Occidental, Victor Steinbrueck, and Waterfront).

As a part of the Mayor's initiative to revitalize downtown parks, the Center City Parks Task Force was convened and met throughout 2005 to develop strategies for downtown parks. One of the goals of the Task Force was to make recommendations for streamlining rules that hindered increased activities being scheduled in downtown parks. The proposed guidelines implement the streamlining recommendation of the Task Force by replacing the four existing guidelines with one overall set of guidelines. In addition, the proposal calls for applying the revised guidelines to six additional parks (City Hall, Hing Hay, Myrtle Edwards, Pier 62/63, South Lake Union, and Westlake) identified as "Destination Parks" by the Task Force.

#### **Public Involvement Process**

The Center City Parks Task Force met a dozen times throughout 2005. After the Task Force's report was finalized, an open house and two public meetings were held in January 2006. Since then Parks has maintained a webpage outlining the work of the Task Force: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/downtown.asp>. Citizens could submit public comments at the Task Force meetings or via mail and e-mail until February 2006. These comments were then incorporated into the Task Force report. None of the submitted comments raised specific issues about use guidelines.

Following the April 12 briefing to the Board, Parks will hold a public meeting to take comments on the proposed revisions. A date for this meeting has not yet been determined.

**Issues**

Staff will report to the Board about issues raised at the time of the Board public hearing.

**Budget**

There are no direct costs for implementing the proposed revisions.

**Schedule**

After the Park Board's recommendation and the Superintendent's approval, Parks staff will follow the use guidelines when making management decisions for downtown parks.

**Staff Recommendation**

None at this time.

**Additional Information**

Victoria Schoenburg, Manager, Center City Parks  
Enterprise Division  
Seattle Parks and Recreation  
100 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Phone: 206-684-7031

Kevin Bergsrud, Planning and Development Specialist  
Enterprise Division  
Seattle Parks and Recreation  
100 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Phone: 206-684-5831



### Verbal Briefing

Mr. Bergsrud reviewed the information in the written briefing, which also contained a very detailed, preliminary matrix. He described the history of Seattle Parks' supplemental use guidelines. The Center City task force was created in 2005 to make recommendations for improving Seattle's downtown parks. One of their recommendations was to streamline the use process to better activate the parks. Parks staff will work with the public as the guidelines are refined. The Landmark Preservations Board also has guidelines for use of some of the downtown parks and will continue to administer these.

At the Downtown Park community meetings, few comments were made to staff. The Department has maintained and updated a website since these meetings. Mr. Bergsrud and Ms. Schoenberg are in the process of setting up public

meetings in 2007 to discuss the use guidelines. They will come back to the Park Board with an update briefing after these public meetings.

### *Board Questions & Answers*

Mr. Bergsrud clarified the proposal for the Commissioners. There are 10 downtown parks; four of these (Freeway, Occidental, Victor Steinbrueck, and Waterfront Parks) all have supplemental use guidelines. Six do not (City Hall, Hing Hay, Myrtle Edwards, Pier 62/63, South Lake Union, and Westlake.) Seattle Parks proposes rewriting the use guidelines for these 10 parks so that all have the same guidelines. There are 11 parks in Seattle that have supplemental use guidelines. The remaining seven are not affected by this proposal. Uses and scheduling of the parks will be streamlined when all have the same use guidelines. Commissioner Ramels commented that she is most interested in the public feedback and the guidelines appear fine to her.

Commissioner Holme asked if any of the four parks have “Friends of” groups. Mr. Bergsrud answered that Occidental and Freeway have a “Friends of.” Hing Hay has experienced an on again/off again “Friends of” group. Victor Steinbrueck Park currently doesn’t have one. Commissioner Holme asked that staff work with the “Friends of” groups to make sure the proposal is balanced. Parks is responding to the pendulum swinging in one direction; ensure that the pendulum is in the middle. Mr. Bergsrud commented that Commissioner Holmes’ point is well taken and staff will try to incorporate his suggestion.

Interim Superintendent Brooks stated that this is one piece of the Renaissance Plan for the downtown parks and more public comment is being solicited. She wants the Board of Park Commissioners to get as much information on this as possible. This change in the use guidelines will help tailor the parks’ uses.

Commissioner Holme asked if the purpose is to avoid having supplemental use guidelines for a single downtown park. The Interim Superintendent agreed; some of the current rules and regulations don’t allow activation of the parks and makes it difficult to work closely with community groups. Seattle Parks want to create a full master use and activity calendar for all ten parks.

Someone in the audience asked if they could speak and the Chair agreed. The speaker had read that nighttime concerts will be allowed in the parks. Mr. Bergsrud answered that in the revised use guidelines, Parks staff will review concert requests and determine if a concert is appropriate in that park and whether the concert hours are appropriate. Parks is looking for ways to activate the parks. The layers of regulations and guidelines for these parks are restricting and limiting. The goal is to have a one-stop shopping. Chicago is another city that consolidated its park use guidelines to make it easier for concessionaires to schedule events in parks.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the change in the use guidelines would affect the park closure hours. Ms. Schoenberg answered no. If a request comes from the community to change park hours, this must be brought back to the Board of Park Commissioners.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Bergsrud and Ms. Schoenberg for the briefing. They will give an update briefing to the Board at the end of this year.

### **Briefing: Fort Lawton Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**

Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks’ strategic advisor, presented the bi-yearly briefing on the Fort Lawton Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

No action at this time. This will only be a status report on the potential to add portions of the Fort Lawton Army Reserve Facilities to Discovery Park.

#### **Project Description and Background**

**Fort Lawton and Discovery Park:** Fort Lawton was established as an Army installation in the late 1890's on Magnolia Bluff in Seattle. Originally, the fort was a military reservation of over 700 acres. In the late 1960's, much of the perimeter of the base became surplus to the needs of the United States Army. This surplus property was transferred by the federal government to the City of Seattle at no cost under the "Legacy of Parks" program to create Discovery Park in 1972. Several other parcels, including the Fort Lawton Uplands that included portions of the Fort Lawton Historic District that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, were subsequently added to the park over the next decade. The park now is approximately 530 acres in size. Remaining federal ownerships from the old military reservation, which have been in use for Army Reserve facilities and Navy family housing, have retained the name "Fort Lawton."

**500 Area Acquisition:** Several years ago, the former Fort Lawton "500 Area" Army Reserve facilities in the middle of Discovery Park were declared surplus to military needs. Special legislation by Congress arranged for a transfer of this 10 acre parcel from the federal government to the City as an addition to Discovery Park. The legislation also provided for the removal of the barracks and other features as well as landscaping to restore the site. The City has constructive use of the property and is waiting for the deed for such to be transferred from the federal government to officially take ownership. The Washington Avenue roadway will also be included in this transfer.

**Navy Housing Privatization and the Capehart Acquisition:** In 2004, the United States Navy began a housing privatization process that will provide for improvements to Navy family housing at several bases in the Puget Sound area. Included in the privatization is disposal of the housing at Fort Lawton (which the Navy acquired from the Army when it became surplus to their needs in 1980). The Navy and their development partner (American Eagle) will sell historic housing on Washington Avenue and Montana Circle to private parties in the near future. The City, however, will purchase the "Capehart" housing as an addition to the park. This housing parcel is 23 acres and contains 66 housing units that will be removed to create natural open space in Discovery Park. The City will commit over 11 million dollars in local and grant monies to effect this purchase in 2007 and 2008. Additional money will be necessary to remove roadways and utilities and create the appropriate habitat on the site.

**Fort Lawton Army Reserve Facility Closure:** The federal government's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process includes Fort Lawton and this will mean that the remaining military uses at Fort Lawton will soon end. The Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center, Leisy Center, Harvey Hall and other ancillary facilities used by reserve units in the northeast corner of the old military reservation will be closed and those functions transferred elsewhere. These facilities total over 45 acres, including the Fort Lawton cemetery, which is expected to be retained by the federal government in some form. The Veteran's Administration has applied for acquisition of the new Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center building and surrounding site. As such, approximately 30 acres are surplus to the needs of the federal government and will be made available for transfer or sale.

The City of Seattle is working to develop a Fort Lawton Reuse Plan as the Local Reuse Authority to address the future uses of the remaining property. At discounts up to 100%, the federal government will make property available to state and local government, non profits and tax exempt institutions for certain public uses and for to homeless housing providers. Any remaining property is sold by the Department of Defense at fair market value.

To date the City has solicited interest from homeless housing providers and other public uses. Two major development proposals have been received, one from the Seattle Housing Authority, and the other from the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) and the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF). Both proposals envision reuse of the site with a mix of homeless, subsidized, and market rate housing. Both envision setting aside perimeter areas for open space.

**Application for Surplus Reserve Property:** As indicated above, certain public uses, including parks and recreation, can receive surplus federal property at no cost. Seattle Parks and Recreation has indicated interest in portions of the Fort Lawton Army Reserve property to the National Park Service, who would certify the public use and public benefit discount. Parks application is specific to the wooded Texas Way parcel that lies to the east of the Fort Lawton cemetery and to the wooded slope across the northern margin of the property. Both of these areas act as



extensions of the wildlife habitat and open space of Discovery Park and complement the nearby Kiwanis Ravine. A robust great blue heron colony exists in Kiwanis Ravine. Further, both of these areas are mapped by the Seattle Department of Planning and Development as wildlife corridors and contain steep slopes-both of which would make development problematic.

### **Public Involvement Process**

The City, through the Department of Neighborhoods, the Office of Housing, the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and others, have held a series of public meetings on the reuse of the Fort Lawton facilities. These have included the following: an on-site workshop last September for homeless housing providers and other interested parties, and a community meeting last October 17 for the general public; an open house at Seattle Center last December 13; and more recently, community meetings on February 13 and February 14 to review possible site uses. The meetings were all well attended. Questions have been raised in all meetings about density of housing on the site, traffic issues associated with new housing development and other matters. Public comment on the proposed park acquisition noted above has been very favorable. Some members of the public have expressed a wish that all of the site be added to Discovery Park.

### **Issues**

Most of the issues relating to Fort Lawton reuse have to do with the amount and density of housing that may be proposed and the amount of homeless housing vis a vis other housing uses, rather than parks and recreation issues.

### **Budget**

As indicated above, acquisition of the Fort Lawton properties through a public benefit discount will avoid the need to purchase the property. Some acquisition related expenses, such as survey and other costs related to real estate transaction, will be involved.

### **Schedule**

The City of Seattle is committed to completion of the Local Reuse Plan in 2007. The U.S. Army will ultimately make decisions on property disposal and vacate Fort Lawton sometime in 2009. Any acquisition of the property for park purposes would occur in 2009. Conveyance of the other property to other entities would occur on a similar schedule and development would then follow sometime in 2009 and 2010 or beyond.

### **Staff Recommendation (if applicable)**

Not applicable.

### **Additional Information**

The Department of Neighborhoods has a web site on Fort Lawton:  
[www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/fortlawton/fortlawton.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/fortlawton/fortlawton.htm).

For more information, contact Kevin Stoops at 206 684-7053 or via e-mail at [kevin.stoops@seattle.gov](mailto:kevin.stoops@seattle.gov).

### ***Verbal Briefing***

Mr. Stoops reviewed the history of Discovery Park, which now totals 535 acres. He displayed a large map and pointed out the parks and the federal parcels referred to in tonight's briefing. He pointed out the 500 area, the historic housing that is to be sold, and the various buildings in the army reserve center.

With the base realignment and closure, there are 45 acres of land affected. Of these, 8 acres is a cemetery and 8 acres contains the Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center, claimed by the Veteran's Administration. That leaves a 30-acre parcel for sale.

The Army policy is to come to the City and the City prepare a re-use plan and be the local authority. The re-use plan must address the homeless population. Mr. Stoops noted that Seattle Mayor Nickels and King County Executive Sims have pledged to end homelessness in the Seattle area in the next 10 years. The City will handle the screening of

the proposals and has held a workshop and public meetings. Two major proposals have come forth, as referenced above in the written briefing.

Seattle Parks' application for the surplus property is specific to the wooded Texas Way parcel that lies to the east of the Fort Lawton cemetery and to the wooded slope across the northern margin of the property. Mr. Stoops pointed out these areas on the map. Both of these areas act as extensions of the wildlife habitat and open space of Discovery Park and complement the nearby Kiwanis Ravine. Parks staff are drafting the application.

The neighborhood issues and concerns are: traffic, parking, density, and the homeless. There is also some confusion in the neighborhood on how the government surpluses its property, as the process has changed since the federal government gave Discovery Park to the city.

The City is ready with its Reuse Plan and hopes to submit the plan to City Council by mid-2007 and then move it forward to the Army. The Army must be out of the area by 2009.

### *Board Questions & Answers*

Commissioners asked several questions about the property and asked Mr. Stoops to point out the BRAC areas, which he did.

Commissioner Ranade asked if wildlife would be affected if the new units of housing are added. Mr. Stoops answered that the wildlife in the parks are urban wildlife and used to people, but will experience change from the housing. The demolition and re-building of houses and additional people do impact birds and other wildlife.

Commissioners asked several questions about the City's team that is working on this. Mr. Stoops answered that the effort is led by the City's Office of Housing, the Department of Neighborhoods, and the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Each has assigned a lead staff person. Commissioner Holme is very interested in the City's organization on this. The City needs a strong consensus on what it is asking the Army for. He asked if Seattle Park's positions are well defined in the City's proposal. Mr. Stoops answered yes, but the City's needs are broader than those of Parks alone. He does not yet know what recommendation the City will make.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Stoops for the briefing. He will give an update briefing after the proposal has gone forth to the Army. Ms. Carpine invited the Commissioners and staff to tour the heron rookery during April or May when the herons will be nesting.

### **New/Old Business**

**Wallingford Playground/Hamilton School:** Commissioners asked for a briefing on this subject. [A briefing and public hearing is scheduled for the May 24 meeting, followed by a discussion and recommendation at the June 14 meeting.] For more information on Wallingford Playground, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/wallingf.htm>.

**Woodland Park Zoo Garage:** Commissioner Holme asked if the construction budget for the garage is much higher than expected and if it is much higher, does the Board of Park Commissioners revisit this issue. Interim Superintendent Brooks answered that the garage decision is now with the City Council. She will keep the Park Board informed on this project. For more information on Woodland Park, see <http://www.zoo.org/>.

**Dexter Pit Project:** Commissioner Holme noted that there is community concern on the Dexter Pit Pro Parks Levy project that it is being managed by an artist, and not by Parks staff. Interim Superintendent Brooks discussed this concern with Project Design and Development Director Erin Devoto and the project manager. They will make it clear that Parks is managing this project. A community meeting will be held in the near future and the community will also be assured of this. She noted that the artist is a non-local person. For more information on the Dexter Pit Project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/dexterpit.htm>.

**Blanche Lavizzo Park:** The Commissioners recently held a public hearing to change the hours of operation at this park. During that process, they asked for additional information on past uses of the amphitheater. The Coordinator

will contact the appropriate staff for this information. For more information on Blanche Lavizzo Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/DrBlancheLavizzo.htm>.

Correspondence to Park Board: Commissioner Ramels spoke at the West Seattle Kiwanis Club a few months ago and received a letter voicing the Kiwanis' concerns with property at 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southwest (Ercolini acquisition) that is being developed into a park. Seattle Parks' Communication Manager, Dewey Potter, will respond to the letter and send a copy to the Park Board. For more information on the acquisition and plans for the park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/ercolini.htm>

Commissioner Ramels also received a copy of a letter from the Alki Community Center Advisory Council, written to Interim Superintendent Brooks, requesting that Alki Community Center be renovated. The letter will be added to the Board's files. For more information on Alki Community Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/alkicc.htm>.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amit Ranade, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_