



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2009
Meeting Held at 100 Dexter Avenue North

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Neal Adams, Vice-chair
John Barber
Terry Holme
Donna Kostka
Jackie Ramels, Chair

Excused:

Amit Ranade

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Commissioner Holme moved, and Commissioner Kostka seconded, approval of the agenda, the February 12 minutes, and the record of correspondence. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent was out of town and Deputy Superintendent Williams reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Parks Reduces Fuel Use: Parks reduced its fuel use by 5% in 2008, compared to 2007, which saved 14,477 gallons of fuel and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 126 tons. For 2009, the goal is a 10% reduction compared to 2007.

Golf Revenues Ahead of Predictions: Municipal golf revenues for 2008 finished the year more than \$750,000 ahead of budget. Total gross golf revenues for the four City of Seattle golf courses finished the fiscal year in excess of \$9.75 million.

State Department of Ecology Awards Grant: Seattle Parks and Recreation has received \$46,000 from the State Department of Ecology to control garden loosestrife in the shoreline areas and wetlands in Lake Washington and the Lake Washington Ship Canal area. The grant will be used for a three-year program of control strategies and public education about garden loosestrife, a noxious weed inhabiting shorelines of Matthews Beach, Magnuson Park, parts of Lake Washington Boulevard, and Montlake Park. It is also in the Arboretum and University of Washington (UW) campus shorelines, and Parks staff will work with the UW on joint public outreach as part of this effort. For more information on loosestrife, see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/PurpleLoosestrife.html>.

Seward Park Encroachments Update: There are 15 private properties adjacent to Seward Park and 12 of those have had some degree of encroachments onto public park land. Eleven of the homeowners have been cooperative in establishing a schedule to remove the encroachments. The remaining homeowner built a publicly-recognized garden on the park land and has now engendered significant support for the garden's retention. Department property management staff advised the homeowner that the garden can remain, but they must move the fencing, shed, and compost bins from park property onto their personal property and the garden must be accessible to the public.

Commissioner Ramels recommended that the Seattle Department of Transportation also take a "no encroachment" approach to the city property it owns and manages.

Magnuson Park Lease Updates: All leases have been signed. Deputy Superintendent Williams noted that the Mountaineers facility is open for business and have a beautiful facility. An agreement with Sail Sand Point to continue on a month-to-month agreement has been finalized. For more information on Magnuson Park projects, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/projects.htm>

Update on Magnuson Parking and Children's Hospital: Seattle Parks recently changed its parking agreement with Children's Hospital. Seattle Parks and Children's had an agreement that the hospital would rent 375 parking spaces at Magnuson Park for employee parking at a cost of \$21,000 per year, or \$5.70 per spot per month. Parks learned that Children's was charging their staff \$50 per month for each parking space, for a total of \$173,000 annually. Under the new agreement, Children's will pay Parks \$173,000 annually and continue to provide all maintenance and landscaping at the parking area.

Staff to Attend California Parks and Recreation Society (CPARS) Conference: Several Parks staff will attend the California Parks and Recreation Society meeting in California next week. Staff will report on the conference to the Park Board. For more information on CPARS, see <http://www.cprs.org/>.

All Staff Retreat Scheduled for April 1: The Park Board is invited to attend the Department's Second Annual All-Staff Retreat. The event is scheduled at Seattle Center, from 8:00 am-4:00 pm, with 800-1,000 employees attending. Deputy Superintendent Williams reviewed the agenda, which includes Kasey Golden as keynote speaker, and Mayor Nickels, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, and Budget Director Dwight Dively from the City. Additional information will be sent to the Commissioners. Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on whether community centers will be open, Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that they will be open and operated by skeleton crews from the Department and Associated Recreation Council staff.

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 two minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 10 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. Two people testified. A brief summary of their testimony follows:

Bob Ogongy: Mr. Ogongy commented on a number of topics: he has observed 100-175 people at a time using Cal Anderson and Bobby Morris; he asked whether the park floodlights are only turned on when games are in process (as they should be); he requested that children be allowed to skate in the park during winter; suggested that GPS systems be installed in Park Department vehicles to monitor that staff do not drive far from the work site during breaks and thus waste gasoline; he recommends zero tolerance on any park encroachments; he favors the water taxi proposal; favors increased public transportation to Magnuson Park when concerts are scheduled; and does not favor park operating hours based on the sunrise and sunset as he believes that a set time to open and close the parks will work best.

Dr. Kris Kelley: Ms. Kelly is retired and loves playing golf, and the lower costs at Seattle's municipal courses allows her to continue playing. She thanked the City and Premier Golf for managing the four courses and stated that golf requires good equipment and good places to play. She has attended the last several Park Board meetings to follow the Golf Master Plan process.

Public Hearing: Summer Streets Program

Karen Tsao, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, briefed the Board at its February 12 meeting on the Summer Streets (formerly "A Walk in the Park" proposal.) For a copy of those minutes, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/02-12-09.pdf>. The Board scheduled a public hearing for tonight and plans to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at the March 12 and 26 meetings.

Deputy Superintendent Williams conveyed the Superintendent's regrets at not being present for this public hearing and briefly discussed the philosophy of park street closures. The closure is driven by several factors –

- minimize/reduce vehicles in our parks – we live in an auto-centric world and use large areas of our parks for non-recreation use
- this change is not in the Master Plan; rather, it is a values-based decision
- it is part of the Department's decision-making process in considering what it wants to accomplish in the next 100 years

Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that access to the Arboretum would be provided by alternate means if the road is permanently closed.

Ms. Tsao gave a brief summary of the proposal. Commissioners had asked for additional information on Arboretum Drive parking, as the Japanese Garden Advisory Council had written that closing Arboretum Drive would affect its parking options in peak viewing times. Ms. Tsao stated that there are 89 parking spaces along Arboretum Drive. Commissioner Adams asked if the Arboretum's Master Plan called for reduced parking along Arboretum Drive. Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property Manager and representative to the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, answered that the Master Plan contemplated removing the parking.

Commissioner Ramels asked where the Japanese Garden parking lot is located and Ms. Tsao pointed it out on a map of the Arboretum (it is south of the Japanese Garden entry and on the south side of

Lake Washington Boulevard.) There is also a small lot on the east side of the Garden and visitors use the Arboretum Drive parking spaces for overflow parking. Commissioner Holme noted that the Japanese Garden also shares its primary parking lot with the Department's Washington Park athletic fields. Commissioner Barber asked if the parking lot will be revised and Mr. Harris answered not in the near future.

Commissioner Ramels previously understood Ms. Tsao to say that she was working on alternate transportation to bring people into the Arboretum if the road is permanently closed. Ms. Tsao responded that a shuttle has been proposed, but no one has stepped forward to run it or provide the funds to do so.

Commissioner Kostka commented that the program is being called Summer Streets, and the perception is that the closures are on a regular, temporary summer closure schedule. However, this is a permanent closure and she asked why the two are being combined. She doesn't believe the public is generally aware that a permanent closure is included in Summer Streets. Commissioner Barber asked if the Arboretum Master Plan calls for closing Arboretum Drive. Ms. Tsao read portions of the Master Plan. While its intent was to improve the pedestrian experience and a goal was to remove trucks and use a shuttle in the Arboretum, the final intent is not really clear.

Ms. Tsao stated that removing cars from the Arboretum improves the overall experience for everyone and fewer vehicles creates a better atmosphere for the Arboretum's plants and creek. The question is how many people require special access to the Arboretum and how the access be provided.

Public Hearing

The Chair stated that each person testifying on this topic has up to two minutes to speak and will be timed. Testimony may also be submitted in writing; the deadline for written testimony is March 10. [However, the Board later extended the deadline for the Arboretum Drive permanent closure to March 24.]

Robert Trombley: Mr. Trombley stated that he is a member of the Washington State Bicycle Association and applauds the weekly May-September closures. He recommends safety and information classes on bike commuting. He referred to the Volunteer Park Loop closure and requested that the closure be done by a swing gate system, rather than bollards. Bollards require holes in the pavement, which is a safety hazard to bicyclists – the swing gate system allows for smooth pavement.

Bob Ogongy: Mr. Ogongy favors reducing autos in parks. He stated that the Volunteer Park Loop area is used for illicit behavior and reducing cars driving into the loop may help deter this activity. He also believes that reducing the number of cars in the Arboretum will have a positive impact on pedestrian visitors to the park.

Louisa Malatos: Ms. Malatos has lived on Capitol Hill for 15 years and supports closing the loop. The neighbors she has talked to about this proposal are enthusiastic and supportive. Closing the loop to vehicles helps build community with people using the area for biking and roller blading. It gives kids a safe place to bike and learn to ride in the dense neighborhood. She stated that her young daughter loves having the space accessible and her daughter enthusiastically agreed. However, Ms. Malatos finds the closure dates confusing, and believes there is strong support to close the Loop permanently. She thanked the Board and Department for all their hard work.

Paige Miller: Ms. Miller is Executive Director of Arboretum Foundation and is testifying on behalf of the Arboretum Foundation Board regarding the permanent closure of Arboretum Drive. She read the letter sent by the Foundation Board to the Park Board. The Foundation Board is asking Seattle Parks

to delay a decision on the Arboretum Drive closure until the Arboretum Foundation has reviewed the plan details. The Foundation had a lively discussion on the proposal at its most recent Board meeting, with some members in support of the closure and others quite concerned. There are many issues to be discussed and many questions. The Foundation Board adopted a resolution which was forwarded to the Park Board and is requesting that the Master Plan be revisited before this decision is made. Representatives of the Foundation Board will meet with Superintendent Gallagher on March 12 to discuss the proposal.

Ms. Miller added that Graham Visitors Center has 59 parking spaces and Arboretum Drive has 89 additional spaces. The new Pacific Connections garden is attracting a new audience. It creates problems when visitors cannot drive to see it; loss of the 89 parking sites would be another problem.

Commissioner Holme asked how the Arboretum Foundation is communicating the proposal to their membership. Ms. Miller responded that the proposal has so far been discussed with the Foundation's Board, and the Board is not trying to "rabble rouse." After the discussion, five Board members were in support of no closure and five would support a south end closure to keep trucks from driving through the Arboretum.

Jack Collins: Mr. Collins is a former Board of Park Commissioner and now a mayoral appointee to the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC.) Mr. Collins read his written testimony and stated that the ABGC will discuss the proposal to permanently close Arboretum Drive at its March 11 meeting. ABGC will communicate its vote to the Board of Park Commissioners before the Park Board votes on this proposal. Mr. Collins also explained the relationship of the ABGC, City, University of Washington, and the Arboretum Foundation. The City owns and maintains the Arboretum, the University of Washington owns the plant collections, and the Arboretum Foundation raises funds for the Arboretum. [The ABGC's mission statement reads that it "advises the University of Washington, City of Seattle, and the Arboretum Foundation on the management and stewardship of the Washington Park Arboretum for the benefit of current and future generations."]

Kjris Lund: Ms. Lund is also a mayoral appointee to the ABGC and lives across from the Arboretum. She wholeheartedly supports the proposal to close Arboretum Drive and suggested that the pavement be torn out and impervious materials be installed. Arboretum Drive has been closed for construction the past 18 months and it has been delightful. Access to the Arboretum is important; however, the question is: what is the best means of access? Lake Washington Boulevard and SR520 are both busy and noisy streets and she would like to add some peaceful areas to the neighborhood.

The public hearing concluded.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Adams stated that he is very supportive of where the Superintendent wants to go with this proposal; however, he is not persuaded to close the road without accommodating access to those who cannot walk through the Arboretum. He asked if the Superintendent is committed to this closure. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the Department typically determines a direction to move towards and then works with the affected stakeholders. There is still work to be done with the stakeholders on this proposal and the Superintendent will meet with Arboretum Foundation Board members on March 12 to continue discussing the proposal.

Commissioner Barber stated that access to the Arboretum for all is a major concern to him and asked if there are other ways to slow traffic on the road, such as roughing the road surface. Ms. Tsao has discussed this with Seattle Department of Transportation. Speed limits are not always observed. The pavement could be removed and replaced with gravel, however, gravel compacts and is not

impervious. Deputy Superintendent Williams added that the current economy is not robust and the Department does not have the resources to “rough surface” the road. Closing it is a low-cost way to reduce traffic and noise.

Commissioner Holme suggested that major traffic calming dividers would help. He thinks the concept of closing Arboretum Drive to vehicles is fantastic; however, access to the Arboretum is a sticking point for him. He is concerned with taking away 89 parking spaces without first completing a parking study. Ms. Tsao responded that the parking will remain and the Superintendent is committed to access to special events in the Arboretum. Large events must apply for and be issued a permit, and must have a traffic management plan. Commissioner Holme agreed that this is a good theory; however, he would like to see the traffic data. He added that visitors to the Arboretum at Mother’s Day weekend and for the fall leaf viewing do not visit as part of a large event and thus would not have a permit or traffic management plan. He asked for a staff briefing on the Arboretum Master Plan and is uncomfortable that the Master Plan was “shot over” in this process. He doesn’t believe there has been enough public involvement in this proposal and asked that staff do more outreach before the Board makes a recommendation.

Commissioner Kostka added that she feels pressed to make a decision on Arboretum Drive at the March 12 meeting and asked that the Board’s discussion and recommendation be extended.

Commissioner Holme moved that the Board delay its discussion and recommendation on the permanent closure of Arboretum Drive component of the proposal until the March 26 meeting and extend the date that testimony will be accepted on Arboretum Drive from March 10 to March 24. Commissioner Barber seconded.

Commissioner Adams voiced some concern with pushing out the deadline. Commissioner Holme responded that the Arboretum Drive component of Summer Streets is more complicated than the other components. Delaying a recommendation allows additional time for the Board to receive testimony from the public. He recommended that ABGC and Arboretum Foundation staff assist with the final briefing on this topic. **The vote was taken and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Commissioners thanked Ms. Tsao for the update. The Board will discuss all components of Summer Streets at the March 12 meeting and make a recommendation to the Superintendent, except for the proposal to permanently close Arboretum Drive. This will be discussed and voted on at the March 26 meeting.

Briefing: Elliott Bay Water Taxi

Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, presented a briefing on the proposal for a year-round Elliott Bay Water Taxi. Prior to the meeting Commissioners received a written briefing paper on the proposal, which is included below. The briefing was also posted to the Board’s web page one week prior to tonight’s meeting. The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal at the March 12 meeting, followed by a discussion and recommendation to the Superintendent at the March 26 meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

Staff is requesting a recommendation to approve a change of use at Seacrest Park, allowing the Elliott Bay Water Taxi, which operates from the Seacrest dock, to provide year-round service. It currently operates April through October. There will be a public hearing at the March 12, 2009 Park Board meeting with a discussion and recommendation to follow on March 26. This is considered a change of use for Seacrest Park; and the Parks Public Involvement Policy calls for the Board of Park Commissioners to review and make a recommendation on this issue.

Staff Recommendation

Staff is asking for a recommendation of approval for the change of use from a temporary seasonal operation of the Elliott Bay Water Taxi at Seacrest Park to a temporary year-round operation beginning in 2010. This service will run until a permanent site can be secured.

Project or Policy Description and Background

The King County Ferry District was formed by the King County Council in April 2007 to continue operation of the Vashon passenger ferry, take over the Elliott Bay Water Taxi service from Metro, and establish up to five demonstration passenger ferry routes elsewhere in King County

In 2008 the Ferry District took over operation of the water taxi. A record 182,000 riders used the water taxi, a 13 percent increase in ridership over the previous year. Since 2005, water taxi use has increased 70 percent. The first big change proposed by the Ferry District is to extend the water taxi to year-round operation in 2010. The Ferry District's proposal includes replacement of the existing floating dock with a new one with a slightly different configuration. The new floating dock enables year-round operation.

Parks and Recreation has been allowing temporary seasonal Elliott Bay Water Taxi service for 11 years. As a public agency, the King County Ferry District (and previously King County Metro when it operated the water taxi) provides a creative public benefit for Puget Sound residents by offering an alternative public transportation option. Until a permanent location is identified in West Seattle for the water taxi, Seacrest is the only viable spot to accommodate this service.

In addition to facilitating year-round ferry service, the new dock replacement at Seacrest will enhance recreational use of the Seacrest facility in the following ways:

- A wider, longer gangway improves two-way access, particularly for people with disabilities;
- New concrete floats provide stability and should reduce the potential for slips and falls;
- A change in orientation of water taxi docking moves the water taxi further from the scuba dive area; and
- The improved float provides easier access for kayakers and other small boats and reduces shadowing of the near-shore area.

This project fits into the Parks and Recreation Strategic Action Plan by fostering effective partnerships: Goal 1 E calls for developing and maintaining partnerships to enhance Seattle's parks and open spaces. Partnership with the Ferry District provides a popular public transportation alternative, while providing a much needed dock replacement and an improved facility for recreational activities.

Public Involvement Process

Seattle Parks and Recreation, the King County Ferry District and the King County Marine Division held an open house on January 15, 2009 in West Seattle to gather public input on plans for year-round water taxi service, including replacement of the dock at Seacrest Park. The meeting was advertised in all of the local papers, on our website, on the Ferry District's website, on the West Seattle Blog, through notice posted at the Alki Community Center and at Seacrest. In addition, targeted e-mails and mailings went to known affected user groups (scuba divers, Tengu fishing club, other fishing activists as well as other identified recreational users), West Seattle residents involved in previous park projects and neighbors within a mile-plus radius of the site. Over 80 citizens attended the open house at the Alki Community Center and the comments were overwhelmingly supportive of the proposal. The next step in the public process is the Park Board public hearing on March 12.

Issues

Parking – Parking is a concern for some residents along Alki. There were requests for:

- Stronger enforcement of parking hours at Seacrest Park and along Alki;
- An area for divers to drop off their equipment so they don't have to take up parking spaces;
- The addition of angled street parking;
- Increased shuttle service; and
- Improved parking options.

Since the winter months tend to be much quieter at Seacrest Park and Alki in general, we aren't expecting any substantial increase in parking issues because of the addition of year-round service.

Transportation use of a Park site - There have been questions raised as to whether operating a water taxi service from a park is a recreational use. Staff feels strongly that enhancing public transportation options is part of our mission of environmental stewardship, and that the positive benefits of operating the water taxi at Seacrest outweigh the concerns. The planned improvements do not preclude or displace any of the activities currently at the park. In fact, we expect these improvements will enhance access for all park users.

Diver Safety - Some divers would like to see mitigation at the park for increasing water taxi service at the site. They have always had safety concerns about the shared use at this site, but we are anticipating that the improved dock configuration will be much safer for the divers as it moves the water taxi boat further from the diving area. A group of divers is going to work with King County Councilmember Dow Constantine on assistance in providing some amenities for divers at the site. In the past few years, a diver shower and safety buoys have been added as mitigation at Seacrest.

Recreation Conservation Office Concerns (RCO) – The RCO, which allocated some grant funding to the Seacrest project over 20 years ago, raised concerns about the plan to use Seacrest for year-round operation, as they felt it constituted a commercial use. The King County Ferry District is a public agency providing a transportation option that encourages people to use public transportation instead of single-occupancy vehicles and helps further our mission to preserve our environment.

Environmental Sustainability

Part of Seattle Parks and Recreation's mission is environmental stewardship. Providing a facility for operating the water taxi encourages people to use public transportation instead of single-occupancy vehicles, one of the biggest steps we can take to preserve our environment for generations to come.

Budget

Funding for this project will come from the King County Ferry District. We have not identified any budget implications for the City of Seattle.

Schedule

The Ferry District expects to have final design by the end of June. This would allow them to go out to bid in July, award a contract in September, have the dock and gangway constructed by December and installed before the end of the year. All of this is contingent on getting the appropriate approvals from the various jurisdictions. Year- round Elliott Bay Water Taxi service would begin sometime in 2010.

Additional Information

Information on the proposed design can be found at <http://www.kingcountyferrydistrict.org/>

Contacts

Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks and Recreation Strategic Advisor paula.hoff@seattle.gov

Don Campbell, King County Marine Division Project Manager don.campbell@kingcounty.gov

Kris Faucett, Communications Director, King County Ferry District kris@cofen.com

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Ms. Hoff introduced Don Campbell, King County Marine Division Project Manager, and Kjriss Lund, King County Ferry System Executive Director. Ms. Hoff and Mr. Campbell reviewed the information in the written briefing paper and displayed several maps of the area, pointing out where the dock is currently located and the design of the new dock.

Mr. Campbell described the modifications to the dock. King County has completed a parking study for the area, which was completed this week. There are 700 street parking stalls in the area, with 400 of those within ½ mile from Seacrest Park. County staff will continue to monitor the parking. Responding to a question from Commissioner Adams on the parking study, Mr. Campbell answered that the County is working to establish baselines and understand parking uses at the water taxi area and adjust those as needed. Commissioner Ramels asked what King County will do with the parking study once it is completed. Ms. Lund responded that the County Ferry System has funding for a parking shuttle and the study will help determine its best use.

Mr. Campbell stated that using Seacrest Park as the interim site is the quickest way to get a year-round water taxi system in place. West Seattle residents are excited about having the opportunity to use the water taxi year round. He added that if it is chosen, King County will continue looking for a permanent site.

Commissioner Ramels asked if County staff are looking at the Jack Block site and Mr. Campbell answered that it is, as well as the Bronson Way site. Commissioner Ramels asked what agencies would issue permits for this use. Mr. Campbell responded that an extensive list of permits would have to be secured from the City, State Fish and Wildlife Agency, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Campbell noted that the dock work is not as extensive as going to an entirely new site to dock the water taxi. The plan uses the same number of pilings to reduce the over-water shadow. Commissioner Barber responded the spending \$2 million on an interim site does not sound like an interim use. Mr. Campbell answered that a stable concrete dock has to be installed due to wave action. Commissioner Barber referred to Initiative 42, which prohibits non-park use of park space and asked again if this proposal is an interim or permanent use? Ms. Lund responded that King County Ferry System has the budget for a permanent site and is moving ahead with plans for a permanent facility. However, it is requesting use of Seacrest Dock during that process. She pointed out that both tourists and commuters use the water taxi to travel from Seattle to Seacrest Park and many then visit the park. In addition, the shuttle to the water taxi helps get people out of their cars, which is one of the City's initiatives. King County Ferry System appreciates this partnership with the City. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that Parks wants to adhere as much as possible to Initiative 42, but also help serve the City's goals to reduce traffic.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme on the pattern of navigation at the proposed new dock, Mr. Campbell answered that the new water taxi will be able to turn and back up at the site. This will be a great improvement. Commissioner Holme noted that Seacrest Park dock used to be a boat rental site. He believes it is good for the park to have this new dock built.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Hoff, Mr. Campbell, and Ms. Lund for the briefing. The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal at its March 26 meeting.

Briefing: Park Operating Hours

Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks Policy and Business Analysis Manager, briefed the Board on the Department's proposal to revise park operating hours. Commissioners received a written briefing paper, which was also posted on the Board's web page one week prior to the meeting. The Board will hold a public hearing on the operating hours at the May 14 meeting, followed by a discussion and recommendation to the Superintendent at the May 28 meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

The Board is being requested to provide feedback on the question of park operating hours including initial comments, concerns and suggestion on what additional information they would like to see. Following a series of public meetings to be held by parks staff in March/April, the Park Board will be asked to host a public hearing and to make a recommendation on this topic in May.

Background

Seattle Park operating hour's standard of 4:00 am to 11:30 pm was set in 1995 by City Council Ordinance 117645. The Superintendent has the authority to make exceptions to park operating hours for individual parks or parts thereof. Park Policy 060-P-7.13.0 outlines the process to be followed when exceptions are made. Several dozen exceptions have been made over the years in response to citizen and staff requests. Current Seattle park operating hours are outlined in Attachment A.

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to consider 1) standardizing park operating hours so there is less opportunity for confusion about what the operating hours are, 2) alleviating actual and perceived safety issues – alcohol use, graffiti, and noise, 3) demonstrating Parks intention to be good neighbors by limiting negative impacts on our park neighbors, and 4) providing Seattle Police an additional tool for resolving issues in parks. Parks has an ongoing interest in being good neighbors and alleviating late night problems in our parks. Operating hours is one tool available to us and Seattle Police to address issues of noise, graffiti, and alcohol use. This review is not intended to limit an individual's enjoyment of our parks. The final proposal will need to balance open access and use of our parks with the need to limit unacceptable behaviors.

New Operating Hours Proposal under Consideration

Parks staff has reviewed several options that would achieve the purpose of the review. Under this draft proposal, park hours would vary by type of park as follows:

<i>Park Classification</i>	<i>Proposed Hours</i>
Regional*	4 am –11:30 pm year round
Neighborhood / Pocket	One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset
Downtown	One hour before sunrise –10:00 pm year round**
Parks with Indoor Facilities (Pools, CC's ELC's)	Parking lot hours would coincide with facility operation hours or surrounding park hours, whichever is later.

Boat ramps, Boulevards	Open 24 hours a day
Lighted Athletic Complexes	Governed by lighting / scheduling protocols

*Regional Parks: Green Lake, Magnuson, Carkeek, Golden Gardens, Seward, Lincoln, Alki, Myrtle Edwards, Volunteer, Discovery

** The proposed hours for Downtown parks will undergo further review with the Seattle Police Department West Precinct.

Alternatives Considered

1. No change: Parks standard operating hours remain open at 4 am and close at 11:30 pm; keep exceptions in place (see attachment A).
2. Parks standard operating hours remain open 4 am and close at 11:30 pm; CHANGE all exceptions to open at 6 am – and close at 10 pm. New exception requests would use these hours only.

This alternative would maintain the current standard but allow for exceptions where public safety is an issue. The exceptions would be standardized to reduce confusion. The process for requesting an exception would remain unchanged.

3. All parks open one hour before sunrise and close one hour after sunset.
This alternative would standardize all park hours – including regional parks. The shortest hours would be from approximately 7 am to 5:30 pm in winter and longest hours from 4 am to 10 pm in the summer.
4. All parks open at 6 am and close at 11:30 pm in summer and close at 10:00 pm in winter.

This alternative would standardize all park hours allowing for seasonal variation.

Next Steps

A series of public meetings will be held by staff in March and April. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled in front of the Park Board on May 14 and a discussion and recommendation on May 28. An ordinance adopted by the City Council is required and will be presented to the Council in the third quarter to implement a change in operating hours.

Additional Background: Other Jurisdictions Park Hours

Information was collected from other park and recreation agencies located primarily in the western U.S. and Canada. Of these agencies only Portland, Oregon, specifically has policies and procedures for establishing exceptions to standard park open hours. See Appendix B – Rule Exception Policy and Procedure. These appear to establish an appropriate procedure based on stakeholder involvement by users, adjacent property owners, neighborhood groups, and law enforcement entities.

Table 1: Comparative Park Open Hours

Note: Open Hours Listed in 24 Hour Format

City	Open Hrs Start	Open Hrs End	Hours Exemption Policies
Albuquerque, NM	0600	0000	Mayor may change opening and closing hours of any park. Skate parks 0700-2300 summer, 0900-2200 winter.
Bakersfield, CA	0500	2200	City sponsored events open hours, 0500-0000 (midnight).
Bellevue, WA			One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset
Bellingham, WA	0600	2200	

City	Open Hrs Start	Open Hrs End	Hours Exemption Policies
Berkeley, CA	Dawn	Dusk	Dawn to dusk unless otherwise posted. When no hours posted 0600-2200. Skate parks open 0630-2130.
Denver, CO			Individual requests to Parks for altering hours.
Fresno, CA	0800	Dusk	Regional parks open from 0700-2200 summer. 0700-1900 winter. Neighborhood parks open daily by 0800 and close at dusk.
Kent, WA	Dawn	Dusk	Parks are open from dawn to dusk unless otherwise posted or authorized by the City of Kent.
Medford, OR	0600	2230	Exceptions: (a) pedestrians crossing the Mini Park or Library Park on a paved path; (b) participants or spectators of an athletic contest in park areas lit by park flood lights for those contests; (c) persons attending a scheduled event in a park or park building designated for community recreation or instruction; (d) city employees or other government employees during the course of official activities.
Minneapolis, MN		0000	Non-developed parks close 2200, developed parks close 0000 (midnight). Exceptions to closing times would be granted by permission of the Board, Superintendent or his designee.
Portland, OR	0500	0000	Yes. Also Specific rules downtown park open hours (0500-2100).
Sacramento, CA	0500	2300	Open hours Sun-Thu 0500-2300. Open hours Fri-Sat 0500-0000. Skate Park 0800-dusk. Dog park, dawn-dusk. Parks director, with the concurrence of the chief of police, may designate extended park hours or reduced park hours when the director determines that such extension or reduction of hours is consistent with sound use of park resources, will enhance recreational activities in the city, and will not be detrimental to the public safety or welfare.
Salem, OR	0500	2200	Neighborhood parks 0500-2200. All other parks 0500-0000. Exemption by permit only.
San Diego, CA			Various open hours, see Appendix B. Unknown policy.
San Jose, CA	Sunrise	Sunset	Regional Parks: 0800 to half an hour after sunset
Santa Ana, CA	0500	2300	The Director of Parks has the authority to set different opening or closure times based on the conditions, situations concerning individual parks.
Santa Monica, CA	0600	2300	
Seattle, WA	0400	2330	Case by case basis, see Appendix A for details. No overnight camping.
Tacoma, WA		2200	
Vancouver, BC	0600	2200	Golf courses open dawn to dusk every day.
Winnipeg, MB			

Sources: US cities 2000 Census, Vancouver, BC – Statistics Canada 2001 Census; acres/parks per 10,000 Trust for Public Lands 2001; City of Portland – Parks 2020 Vision (2000), New Data on City Parks, Trust for Public Land 2004, individual cities' websites.

Attachment A

SEATTLE GENERAL PARK OPERATING HOURS: 4:00am to 11:30pm

Pursuant To:

- SMC 18.12.245 General Park Operating Hours: 4:00am to 11:30pm
- SMC 18.12.235 Restrictions on Use of Vehicles and Animals in a Park
- SMC Section 3.02.030 (Administrative Code - Notice and Hearing on Adoption of Rules)
- Park Department Policy and Procedure #060-P Park Roadway and Parking Lot Closure to Motor Vehicles

Exceptions:

6:00 am to Sunset:

Fauntleroy Park
Lower Kinnear
Martha Washington School
Pratt Playground

Pritchard Beach
Ross Playground
Kubota Gardens

6:00am to 9:00pm:

Parsons Gardens

6:00am to 10:00pm:

Lake Washington Blvd. Parks:

Colman Park (including Colman Beach)
East Portal Park

Others:

Mee-Kwa-Mooks Natural Area
Schmitz Memorial Overlook
Volunteer Park
Prentis I. Frazier Park
John C Little Senior Park
Pratt Park

Mt. Baker Beach Park
Day Street Landing Park

Blanche Lavizzo
Flow Ware
Madrona Playground
Othello Playground
Roxhill
University Playground

6:00am to 11:00 pm:

Garfield
Laurelhurst
Miller Park
Seward Park Benefit Playground

Brighton Playfield
Van Asselt Playfield
12th Ave Viewpoint

6:00am to 11:30pm:

Boren/Pike Pine
City Hall Park
Freeway Park
Hing Hay Park
Hubble Place Fountain
International Children's Park
Kobe Terrace Park
McGraw Square
Occidental Square
Pier 62, 63
Pigott Corridor
Pioneer Square Park

Golden Gardens
Prefontaine Place
Regrade Park
South Washington St Dock
Steinbrueck Park
Tilikum Place
Union Station Square
Waterfront Park
Westlake Park
Westlake Square

Individual Parks with Modified Operating Hours:

Don Armeni Boat Ramp	4: am – 11:30 pm (Except for Vehicles with Boats Trailers and Permits)
Magnuson Beach Park/ Boat Ramp	4:00am to 11:30pm May 1 to Labor Day 4:00am to 10:00pm from the day after Labor Day to April 30
Pratt Park covered Basketball court	6:00am to 11:30pm May 1 to Labor Day 6:00am to 10:00pm from the day after Labor Day to April 30
Alki Beach	4:00 am to 11:30 p.m. Oct 2 nd to April 14 th 6:00 am – 11:00 pm April 15 th to Oct 1 st

Parks That Remain Open 24 Hours a Day (Policy 06-P 7.13.0):

Green Lake Park
Myrtle Edwards Park
Kerry Viewpoint
Eddie Vine Boat Ramp

Lake Washington Blvd Jogging Trail

First Avenue so Boat Ramp

Ferdinand St Boat Ramp

Sunnyside Ave. So. Boat Ramp (responsible for dock only)

Atlantic City Boat Ramp

Stan Sayers Boat Launch

The following Park **PARKING LOTS and ROADWAYS** are closed to Motor Vehicles at night (Policy 060-P 7.11.2):

Bitter Lake Playfield	10 pm - 6 am
Carkeek	10 pm - 6am
Discovery (all lots)	11 pm - 6 am
Gas Works	10 pm - 6 am
Golden Gardens	11:30 pm - 6 am
Green Lake Bathhouse Theater	11 pm - 6 am
Japanese Tea Garden	6 pm - 6 am
Lake Washington Blvd.	
Adams Street	10 pm - 6 am
Duck Bay	10 pm - 6 am
Ferdinand Street	10 pm - 6 am
Lakewood Moorages	10 pm - 6 am
Mt. Baker Beach	10 pm - 6 am
Laurelhurst Park	11 pm - 6 am
Leschi Tennis Court	10 pm - 6 am
Lincoln	11 pm - 6 am
Madrona Playground	10 pm - 6 am
Magnolia Viewpoint	10 pm - 6 am
(Between Howe & Montevista)	
Magnuson (May 1 - Sept. 10)	9 pm - 6 am
(Sept. 11 - Apr. 30)	6 pm - 6 am
Maplewood Playfield	10 pm - 6 am
Matthews Beach	Sunset - 6 am
Meadowbrook Community Center	11 pm - 6 am
Montlake Community Center	11 pm - 6 am
Museum of History and Industry	11 pm - 6 am
North Acres	Sunset - 6 am
Pratt Park	11 pm - 6 am
Pritchard Island Beach	Sunset - 6 am
Riverview Playfield	10 pm - 6 am
Roxhill	10 pm - 6 am
Schmitz Preserve	11 pm - 6 am
Seward	10 pm - 6 am
Volunteer	11:30pm - 6 am
Washington Park Arboretum	Sunset and Sunrise
(Upper Loop Only)	
Westcrest	Sunset and 6 am
Woodland Park/ Ballfield	11 pm - 6 am

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Friedli introduced himself, Lt. Ken Hicks from Seattle Police Department, and Parks Security Manager Larry Campbell. He next gave an overview of the written briefing and reasons the Department is considering changing the operating hours. Tonight the Department is asking the Park Board to help brainstorm the proposal and determine what needs to be addressed further. Parks staff will hold a series of public meetings in March and April, followed by a public hearing by the Park Board. If the determination is made, at the end of

this process, to change the overall park operating hours, it would require an ordinance to be adopted by City Council. If changes are made at only a few parks, that is within the Superintendent's purview to decide.

Mr. Campbell and Lt. Hicks next addressed the benefits of not having 106 different park operating schedules. It is beneficial to the Parks Department and easier for Seattle Police Department to staff. Lt. Hicks stated that SPD wants to support the community and their resources are shrinking. SPD supports the proposal to have universal park operating hours. It is confusing to have so many different schedules.

Commissioner Ramels asked how SPD officers would determine when one hour before sunrise or after sunset occurs. Lt. Hicks responded that officers, rather than viewing this as a hard and fast rule, would use it to contact people remaining in the parks after closure on a "social" basis. Officers would ask something like "do you realize the park is closing now?" There are more officers available to help enforce earlier closings than if parks close later.

Commissioner Kostka asked if there are any financial savings with the universal hours of operation. Mr. Friedli responded that there isn't. Some costs will be incurred, as the park signs would have to be altered to reflect the new hours of operation.

Commissioner Adams commented that he wants to consider what is really the question for the public with this proposal? What does the public want to happen? What are the ways to update the current policy? Mr. Friedli responded that staff want the Board to ask these and other questions. Does the Board agree with staff observations and that the Department should respond to the proposal? If the answer is yes, is the sunrise-sunset proposal the right response?

Deputy Superintendent Williams added that the universal hours proposal would eliminate the need for the park exceptions and Commissioner Adams agreed. Commissioner Holmes commented that when the park hours are lessened, then the public's access to its parks is also lessened. He agrees with Commissioner Adams' observations and thinks that one way to approach the proposal is to identify the reasons for the various exceptions to hours.

For years Commissioner Barber took a walk in the park near his home, sometime between 7-9:00 pm and he believes other working people may have similar habits. Mr. Friedli noted that the earliest park closing would occur at 5:20 pm (in winter). The Board responded that would be early to close a park.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kostka on whether this will affect operating hours at pools or community centers, Mr. Friedli answered that it won't. These are built facilities and the park hours of operation do not affect their operating hours. Mr. Campbell noted that SPD officers lock a number of gates at the parks and they would have to modify their schedule if the hours are changed.

Commissioner Ramels asked that Parks staff send the Board notices of the meetings and send summaries of the meetings. Commissioner Holme asked that staff prepare a cost estimate for changing the park hours on the various park signs. Mr. Friedli agreed to do so.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Friedli, Mr. Campbell, and Lt. Hicks for the briefing. The Board will hold a public hearing on this proposal at its May 14 meeting.

Update Briefing: Magnuson Park's Recent Public Meetings

Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks' Partnerships Manager, presented a summary of several recent public meetings regarding the future of Magnuson Park. Ms. Salinas prepared a written briefing which was sent to Commissioners prior to this meeting and posted on the Board's web page.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This briefing is for informational purposes. A series of public meetings was held at Warren G. Magnuson Park to hear from the community what amenities and improvements they would like Parks to consider during the next stage of planning and development at Magnuson. The purpose of the meetings was to answer the question, "Where do you want to go from here?"

Public Involvement Process

Three public meetings were held at the "Brig" at Magnuson Park.

The first was held on November 17, 2008, and was primarily attended by the Magnuson Park Community Communications Committee (MPCCC). Notice was sent to MPCCC members and to the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) Northeast District Coordinator and also posted on the Magnuson Park webpage. Eight people signed the attendance roster. The Superintendent and staff provided a review of previously-adopted master plans, and the second phase of the Northshore Project was described. The audience was asked to comment and provide input about the Northshore Project and other issues related to planning and development at Magnuson Park. A second meeting was planned, with the suggestion that notice be sent out to a broader community base.

The second meeting was held on December 10, 2008. Parks and Recreation issued a press release and notice was posted on the Magnuson Park webpage. MPCCC members and the DON Northeast District Coordinator were notified. Magnuson staff sent e-mails and notified Magnuson tenants and other community park users. Sixty people signed the attendance roster. The Superintendent and staff provided a review of park projects and asked the audience for ideas as to what they wanted to see at the park; staff documented all the issues and concerns presented. People who did not speak were asked to e-mail their ideas to staff or the Superintendent directly. A follow up meeting was announced which would be for participants to work together to reach consensus on all the ideas that had been presented.

The third meeting was held on February 3, 2009. Parks and Recreation issued a press release and posted a notice on the Magnuson Park webpage. MPCCC members and the DON Northeast District Coordinator were notified, Magnuson tenants sent out e-mails to their constituents, and all the people who left contact information at the previous meetings were invited to attend. Fifty-three people signed the attendance roster. Staff presented information regarding historic preservation including the process for historic designation, benefits and disadvantages of a listing on the federal National Register of Historic Places, and the municipal Historic Landmark designation. Attendees were presented with comparisons and lessons learned from other military base historic reuse projects. This overview was in response to citizen-based interest in historic designation for Magnuson buildings.

The meeting broke into seven smaller work groups. Each group was given a map of Magnuson and a set of cards, each containing an idea/suggestion that had been presented at the two previous meetings. Blank cards were also available for new ideas that had not previously been presented. With these tools they were asked to plan the next stages of the park. In order for an idea card to be pasted onto the map, it had to have the unanimous approval of the group. Individuals had to work as a team, listen to one another, and reach consensus. At the end of the meeting each group was asked to present an overview of their selected ideas. Staff will send out a summary of the meeting results to all participants and will post on the website for public review.

Issues

The Superintendent asked the audience to not dwell on prior processes or on ideas that had been included in previous plans. At the first two meetings, citizens spoke as individuals; in the last meeting, they were asked to speak as a team. By requiring consensus to determine what amenities or improvements made it onto the map, group participants had to wrestle with competing interests and weigh choices carefully. All participants were engaged in the process and every group took the goal of reaching consensus very seriously.

Three plans were considered important to all seven groups: increase disabled accessibility to the park, retain Building 30 as a citywide community event space, and develop an arts facility in the west side of Building 30. Six groups agreed that priority be given to: developing safe trails and walkways, preserving habitat and retaining undeveloped open space, providing tranquil areas in the park, and increasing Metro bus routes for events and park use. A tally of the group comments is provided in Attachment 1.

Citizen Concerns/Opposition

Two concerns were expressed: what would Parks do with the information and what can Parks do during a time when the economy is in decline. The Superintendent affirmed to the audience that he valued the work they completed in each group and would seriously consider the ideas that were presented. He also offered to the group that the best time to plan is often when there are no funds available. It is this time when broad and thoughtful decision-making can occur so that when money does become available there is a well-thought plan ready to implement.

Schedule

Staff will summarize the information gathered at the third meeting and make it available to the public by March 1, 2009. The Superintendent and staff will continue to examine the ideas presented and assess their feasibility and overall value to the community and Park users.

Additional Information

For additional information please see the Magnuson Park webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/default.htm>, or contact Rebecca Salinas, Partnerships Manager, at 684-7279 or Charles Ng at 684-8001.

ATTACHMENT 1

Tally MPCCC Meeting February 3, 2009

Consensus Items by Total Score

Note: "Write-In" means items included by Teams at workshop

Item	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6	Table 7
Facilities: Retain Bldg 30 Citywide Community Event Space	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Write-In: Develop West Side of Bldg 30 into Arts Facility</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Facilities: DEVELOP PERMANENT FACILITIES FOR FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALES</i>		1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Facilities: DEVELOP SAFE TRAILS AND WALKWAYS</i>		1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Facilities: INCREASE DISABLED ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PARK</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Item	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6	Table 7
Facilities: PRESERVE HABITAT AND RETAIN UNDEVELOPED OPEN SPACE	1	1	1	1		1	1
Facilities: PROVIDE TRANQUIL AREAS IN THE PARK	1	1	1	1	1		1
Services: INCREASE METRO BUS ROUTES FOR EVENTS AND PARK USE	1	1	1	1	1		1
Facilities: IMPROVE ONSITE SIGNAGE	1	1	1		1		1
Facilities: PROVIDE PERMANENT PUBLIC RESTROOMS IN PARK	1	1	1	1	1		
Operations: COMMUNICATE EARLY AND OFTEN TO COMMUNITY	1	1		1	1		1
Operations: DEVELOP TRANS. MASTER PLAN TO IMPROVE EGRESS	1	1		1	1		1
Operations: MAINTAIN SPECIAL EVENT DIVERSITY	1	1	1		1		1
Operations: RESTORE NATIVE VEGETATION	1		1	1	1	1	
Facilities: DEVELOP MORE ACCESSIBLE TRAILS & PATHS			1	1	1	1	
Operations: CONTINUE COMMUNITY OUTREACH	1		1	1	1		
Operations: E-MAIL PARK UPDATES TO TENANTS AND/OR THE COMMUNITY	1		1	1	1		
Operations: LIMIT COMMERCIAL USE(S) IN THE PARK	1	1	1		1		
Operations: PERMIT MORE VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT IN PARK PROJECTS	1	1	1	1			
Facilities: BUILD AN INDOOR AND/OR OUTDOOR POOL FACILITIES	1		1		1		
Facilities: CONSERVE OPEN/GREEN SPACES NEAR COMMUNITY HOUSING	1		1	1			
Facilities: CREATE EASY ACCESS TO BURKE-GILMAN TRAIL	1			1			1
Facilities: INCLUDE MORE NATIVE PLANTS		1	1		1		
Facilities: PROVIDE ONSITE TENANT STORAGE FACILITIES	1				1		1
Facilities: RETAIN EXISTING PARKING LOTS				1	1		1
Facilities: WAYFINDING SIGNAGE – DIRECTIONAL SIGNS				1	1	1	
Operations: CONTROL OFF LEASH DOGS OUTSIDE DOG PARK	1	1	1				
Operations: DESIGNATE SAND POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT, FEDERAL OR CITY LEVEL	1	1				1	
Operations: DEVELOP MAGNUSON PARK CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE		1	1			1	
Operations: INCREASE USE OF VOLUNTEERS			1	1			1
Operations: PRIORITIZE INDOOR SPACE RESEVATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS		1			1		1
Operations: PUBLIC EDUCATION LEASH LAWS E.G. LOOSE DOGS OUTSIDE DOG PARK			1		1		1
Facilities: DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR BUILDINGS 11 AND 27	1	1			1		
Facilities: DEVELOP IN-LINE SKATING FACILITIES			1	1			
Facilities: DEVELOP SHORELINE ACTIVITIES				1	1		
Facilities: INCREASE DISABLED ACCESSIBILTY TO				1			1

Item	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6	Table 7
THE PARK							
Facilities: INCREASE NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE ACCESS TO PARK			1	1			
Facilities: STREET FURNITURE - BENCHES				1	1		
Write-In: More Pea Patches				1			1
Operations: CONDENSE PREVIOUS MASTER PLANS INTO ONE MASTER VISION		1	1				
Operations: IMPLEMENT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN			1				1
Facilities: REPLACE BUILDING 2 WITH AN OUTDOOR POOL	1			1			
Facilities: BALANCE PARK NEEDS AND USES			1				
Facilities: DEVELOP FISHING PIER	1						
Facilities: DEVELOP SKATE PARK			1				
Facilities: PROVIDE SEPARATION BETWEEN BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN TRAILS						1	
Facilities: WAYFINDING SIGNAGE - KIOSKS				1			
Operations: COORDINATE PARK DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES			1				
Operations: DECREASE MOTORIZED ACTIVITY NORTH SHORE E.G. MOTORCYCLE TRAINING							1
Operations: INCREASE ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSIT USE			1				
Operations: PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TRANS. OPTIONS	1						
Operations: UPDATE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN			1				
<i>Write-In: Coffee House at Gas Station</i>		1					
<i>Write-In: Home for Displaced Artists</i>				1			
Facilities: COMPLETE NORTH SHORE MASTER PLAN PHASE 2							1
Facilities: BUILDING 18 SITE REUSE: OPTION:				1			
Facilities: DEVELOP ADDITIONAL THEATER SPACE IN BLDG 30 WORKSHOP			1				
<i>Write-In: FOL gets long time lease for Bldg 30</i>	1						
<i>Write-In: Permanent Restroom By Bldg 67</i>				1			
Facilities: DEVELOP SHORELINE PROJECTS							
Facilities: REDUCE USE OF PORTABLE TOILETS							
Facilities: STREET FURNITURE - BENCHES							
Facilities: WAYFINDING SIGNAGE – DIRECTIONAL SIGNS							
Facilities: WAYFINDING SIGNAGE - KIOSKS							
Operations: BALANCE AND LIMIT SPECIAL EVENTS							
Facilities: BUILDING 2 SITE REUSE: OPTION:							
Facilities: BUILDING 12 SITE REUSE: OPTION:							
Facilities: BUILDING 18 SITE REUSE: OPTION:							

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Ms. Salinas reviewed the information in the written briefing paper. Commissioner Barber commented that a shortcoming of this process is that suggestions/ideas can get lost when there is little support or consensus for the idea. Ms. Salinas responded that staff is assembling a list of every suggestion/idea that was put forth. She

will send a copy of this information to the Board. She noted that Building 30 was a priority for everyone at the meetings.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Salinas for the update.

Old/New Business

Committee Reports: Commissioners represent the Park Board on various committees and regularly update the rest of the Park Board.

Associated Recreation Council (ARC) Board: Commissioner Adams is the Park Board's representative to the ARC Board. He recently attended the annual meeting and breakfast and complimented the event.

Park Naming Committee: Commissioner Kostka represents the Board on the Park Naming Committee and reported on a recent meeting and decisions on three new names for parks. She voted for two of the three names. The names that have since been announced by the Superintendent are located at Magnuson Park's new athletics field complex: Mickey Merriam Athletic Field Complex and the Frank Papasedero Field at Mickey Merriam Complex. For more information, see <http://www.seattle.gov/news/detail.asp?ID=9409&Dept=14>.

Parks Levy Oversight Committee: Commissioner Holme represents the Park Board on the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee, which will soon complete its work. The committee is now being re-formed for continuing oversight of the new 2008 Parks Levy. Commissioner Holme and Adams are both appointees to this new oversight committee, with terms ending at the end of 2009.

Coffee with Councilmember Rasmussen: As Park Board Chair, Commissioner Ramels has coffee with Councilmember Rasmussen once each month. She asked Commissioners to contact her with any topics they would like discussed. In January, the Councilmember had asked for the Board to review the Department's budget and make recommendations before it comes to Council for review. Deputy Superintendent Williams noted that Department staff cannot discuss the budget with the Park Board until the mayor has approved it and moved it forward to Council for review and approval. A short discussion followed, with Commissioner Ramels asking whether the Park Board can weigh in on whether the Department should, or should not, propose any budget cuts.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Neal Adams, Vice-Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____