



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009
Meeting Held at West Seattle Golf Clubhouse

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:

Timothy Gallagher, Superintendent
Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

This meeting was held at West Seattle Golf Clubhouse. Prior to the meeting, Parks staff led Commissioners on a tour of Seacrest Marina and West Seattle Golf Course.

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda and correspondence received by the Board since the February 26 meeting. The review included information on written testimony on a number of topics. **Commissioner Barber moved, and Commissioner Holme seconded, approval of the agenda and the record of correspondence. The vote was taken and the motion carried.** The February 26 meeting minutes will be approved at the Board's March 26 meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gallagher reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Park Board Interviews: A panel interviewed four candidates on Tuesday for the vacant position on the Park Board, and a recommendation has been given to the Mayor. Staff anticipate the new member will join the Board in April or May, after their City Council confirmation.

Wawona: This ship was moved off Park property last week. It is currently being dismantled, with portions to be used at the Museum of History and Industry as part of a historic display. For more information on the Wawona, see http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008814404_wawona05.html.

Arboretum Road Closure: The Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent met this morning with the Arboretum Foundation Board's President and its Executive Director to discuss the proposal to permanently close Arboretum Drive. The Superintendent believes a misunderstanding about whether the road would have closed gates at both ends is now cleared up. The closure will include a gate at the south end, while some who must access the park by vehicle will be allowed entry at the north end. The Arboretum Foundation Board will discuss and vote on the proposal next week and the Superintendent believes they will support the closure. He noted that the road has been closed in the same fashion for the past 18 months for construction and no complaints have been received. For more information on the Arboretum, see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/index.htm>.

24th Ave Pier in Ballard: The Seattle Department of Transportation is in the process of transferring this facility to Seattle Parks. To see a brief video of the property, which is located next to the former Yankee Diner restaurant in Ballard, see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YB6g8ZcP2VA>.

California Park & Recreation Conference: Six line staff and several managers attended last week's California Park and Recreation Conference, which is larger than the National Park and Recreation Conference. The Superintendent stated that it is important to continue training staff during tough economic times for career growth and to help staff build skills. Those who attended learned a great deal and returned with good ideas.

Budget: The Department anticipates changes in its biennium budget, due to current economic conditions. The budget will see some reductions in 2009 and more in 2010. The goal is to keep staff and provide services to the public. It has been shown that parks and recreation facilities see more use during tough economic times, as many people stay close to home and use local facilities. Staff are already seeing an increased use at facilities located in lower income areas.

The Superintendent added that artists made 415 pottery bowls and sold them at Ballard Community Center as a fund raiser for a local food bank. Buyers received a bowl of soup with each bowl purchased and over \$15,000 was raised from this endeavor.

Waterfront Park: This park is located on Pier 57, just south of the Aquarium. The loading dock that adjoins a commercial area next door is deteriorating and is scheduled to come down in the future. A considerable amount of money will need to be spent on this waterfront pier area. The Department is looking at the next-door commercial owner taking over responsibility of this area in the interim, as they use the pier for access to their second floor.

Commissioner Barber asked if there are any ramifications to this agreement. The Superintendent responded that the Department is pleased with the cooperation of the park's neighbor and is moving towards a maintenance agreement. For more information on Waterfront Park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=3973.

Seward Park Encroachment: For several weeks, the Superintendent has reported on progress to remove 11 private property encroachments on Seward Park property. Ten of the owners agreed to remove their encroachments, and the Department is pleased with the homeowners' cooperation. The remaining homeowner had planted a botanic garden on the public park land and then garnered public support for the garden to remain. The Department has removed the owner's fence and garden shed from park property and agreed to allow the garden to remain, with the stipulation that the public has access to it. For more information on Seward Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/Parks/environment/seward.htm>

Commissioner Holme asked if the Department is tracking labor costs to dismantle the encroachments near the botanic garden and the Superintendent Gallagher responded that it isn't.

Off-Leash Areas: The Superintendent reported that Seattle Animal Control has been extremely helpful in dealing with the many complaints of dogs illegally being off-leash in a number of parks. [See below for link to designated official off-leash areas.] Animal Control staff have issued a high number of tickets, and Parks has received many positive compliments from other park users on this increased enforcement.

Responding to Superintendent Gallagher's statement that Parks staff has developed a "Top 10" list of parks where the most dogs are reported as being illegally off their leashes, Commissioner Adams asked that the list be forwarded to the Board. For more information on designated off-leash areas in Seattle's parks, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/offleash.asp>.

All-Staff Retreat: Commissioners are invited to attend the second annual all-staff retreat, scheduled for April 1 at Seattle Center.

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:

Mark Holland: Mr. Holland lives on Beacon Hill and has been involved in the area's neighborhood planning process since 1999. He is also a member of the Jefferson Park Planning committee. He believes that a serious problem with the Golf Master Plan is that it does not explain how the Jefferson Golf Course is integrated into the Jefferson Park planning process. He attended a public meeting on the Jefferson Golf master plan and the maps that were shown did not include the park.

Mira Latoszek: She is a member of the Jefferson Park Alliance and two other neighborhood planning committees. She also stated that there is no coordination between the planning for Jefferson Park and the golf course master plan. Not integrating these two plans is the wrong approach. She had a couple comments on the Jefferson Park Golf Master Plan: (1) the maintenance facility is located in the view line and she urged that it not be improved as it is in the wrong place; and (2) the driving range is in the wrong place as it points towards the community center. Ms. Latoszek stated that she will also submit written comments for the Board's consideration.

Discussion/Recommendation: 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) and the Board held a public hearing at its February 26 meeting. For a copy of the minutes, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/02-12-09.pdf> and <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/02-26-09.pdf>. Tonight, the Board plans to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent, except the discussion and recommendation on the proposal to permanently close Arboretum Drive has been re-scheduled to the March 26 meeting.

Board Discussion

Ms. Tsao gave a brief overview of the proposal for "Summer Streets". Seattle Park's components of this citywide summer program includes a walking Wednesday at Carkeek Park; closure of the Seward Park Upper Loop; closure of Lake Washington Boulevard every Sunday, except for three dates; and closure of the Volunteer Park Loop. In addition, the proposal calls for a permanent closure of Arboretum Drive. She noted one change since her March 12 briefing to the Board: Idaho Street in Discovery Park, originally slated for closure to bicyclists and pedestrians, no longer exists. The asphalt has been removed from this former military street.

Commissioner Ramels stated that the Board received a copy of the news release sent from the Mayor's office earlier in the week announcing the Summer Streets program – although the Park Board, which is established to advise the mayor and superintendent, had not completed its public hearing process or made a recommendation on the proposal. She asked why the press release was distributed. Ms. Tsao responded that the mayor's office is generally aware of the Park Board's process and didn't realize that the Board's recommendation would be made at a later date. Ms. Tsao was aware that the Mayor's office planned to send a press release; however, she didn't know when it would be distributed. The Superintendent added that the timing of the press release was beyond Ms. Tsao's control. She is working to coordinate Seattle Park's portion of the citywide Summer Streets program. Summer Streets is a much larger proposal and has absorbed the park road summer closures.

Commissioner Barber moved that the Board not take a position on Summer Streets, as it is an advisory board to the mayor and he has already taken action on the proposal. Commissioner Kostka seconded. Commissioner Adams suggested a friendly amendment, which was accepted, that the Board will take action only on the permanent closure of Arboretum Drive at the March 26 meeting. Commissioner Holme seconded the friendly amendment, the vote was taken, and the motion carried as amended.

Commissioner Adams stated that this is an awkward situation as the Park Board is not going to vote against the mayor's decision. He feels that the Board is just blessing the mayor's decision and Commissioner Kostka agreed. Commissioner Holme stated that he is disappointed that the Board did not have an opportunity discuss the schedule to close Lake Washington Boulevard every Sunday. Commissioner Ramels suggested that staff make a strong effort to educate bicyclists, as the Board heard many complaints last summer at the rude behavior of a number of bicyclists during the road closures. Ms. Tsao agreed to do so and added that additional signage will be installed to indicate that some vehicle access (homeowners, etc.) is allowed and bicyclists should be aware of the vehicles and courteous to the drivers.

Commissioner Holme asked that the Board receive a one-two paragraph summary of the agreement to close Arboretum Drive prior to its March 26 discussion and recommendation. Commissioner Adams is concerned with the strong objections to the closure voiced by the Arboretum Foundation. (Results of the Foundation Board's vote will be forwarded to the Park Board prior to the next meeting.) Commissioner Adams asked if the Superintendent also plans to meet with the Friends of Olmsted Parks to discuss the closure; the Superintendent responded that he doesn't plan to do so.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Tsao for her work on this program and will continue to accept written testimony on the Arboretum Drive proposal through Tuesday, March 24, followed by a discussion and recommendation at the March 26 meeting.

Public Hearing: Elliott Bay Water Taxi

At the Board's February 26 meeting, Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, presented a briefing on the proposal for a year-round Elliott Bay Water Taxi. To read the minutes, including the briefing paper on the proposal, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/02-26-09.pdf>. Tonight, Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks' Policy and Business Analysis Manager, and Don Campbell, King County Marine Division Project Manager, gave a brief summary of the proposal to change the Elliott Bay Water Taxi to a year round use and answered questions from Commissioners. A public hearing was held and the Board plans to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at the March 26 meeting. Mr. Friedli asked that, if Commissioners have additional questions after tonight's meeting, to send them in writing and he and staff will respond prior to the Board's March 26 discussion. Commissioner Ramels noted that Board members had an informative tour of the Seacrest dock prior to tonight's meeting.

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 24.

Jack Block: Mr. Block is a former Port of Seattle commissioner and has always advocated for water transportation. He believes water taxis and other forms of water transportation have many advantages – such as no potholes. He supports the year-round water taxi service proposal; however, he disagrees with Seacrest Marina being considered as the location for this expanded service. Commissioner Ramels asked if he realized that this was on a temporary basis and he responded that he does.

Vicki Schmitz: Ms. Schmitz lives in West Seattle and supports the staff recommendation. The summer water taxi is a benefit to West Seattle residents and a year-round schedule is even better. She has spoken to a number of her neighbors and they also support the proposal.

The public hearing concluded.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Commissioner Ramels requested that staff summarize the proposal for the benefit of the audience and Seattle channel's tape of the meeting. Mr. Campbell summarized the changes and improvements that are planned at Seacrest Dock. In addition to the dock improvements, the current water taxi will be replaced with a low-wake style of boat.

Commissioner Ramels asked for more information on any alternate sites being studied as a permanent site for the water taxi and asked how long Seacrest Dock would be used for this purpose. Mr. Campbell responded that the King County Ferry District has already begun studying other sites. It is working closely with Seattle Department of Transportation to locate alternative docking sites; however, many of the possible sites are very problematic, thereby limiting the number of alternative locations that would be feasible. Once an alternative site is determined, the Ferry District will apply for permits and the permitting process is lengthy for a new site. The Ferry District expects that the Elliott Bay Water Taxi would continue to dock at Seacrest Marina for the next three-five years.

Mike Beck, Acting Interim Director of the King County Marine Division, gave a brief overview of the King County Ferry District, which was formed two years ago by State vote and is separate from King County government agencies. The following information is from the Ferry District web page at <http://www.kingcountyferries.org/>

[Nearly a century ago a "Mosquito Fleet" of small boats linked the communities that ring Lake Washington and Puget Sound. These vessels provided vital transportation connections. With the advent of automobile travel, passenger ferry service declined. Today, with highways and roads reaching capacity, our region's waterways are once again a viable alternative for moving people within King County.

The King County Ferry District (KCFD) was formed in 2007 and offers services under the name, "King County Water Taxi." The district saved service between Seattle and Vashon Island that the State of Washington discontinued effective June 30, 2008. This district is also providing operation of the Seattle-West Seattle service previously referred to as the Elliott Bay Water Taxi, and will offer five demonstration routes on Lake Washington and Puget Sound.***

Starting January 1, 2008, the KCFD levied a 5.5 cents (per \$1,000 assessed value) property tax in King County to fund service and capital projects for a maximum seven permanent routes. This amounts to approximately \$22 per year for a \$400,000 home. The state passenger ferry account, federal grants, and passenger fares will provide additional revenue.

All routes will be served by shuttle services to deliver commuters to docks and connect them with park-and-ride lots and other modes of transportation.

The Metropolitan King County Council created the King County Ferry District on April 30, 2007 to expand transportation options for county residents through provision of waterborne transit services. All nine members of the County Council sit as the Ferry District Board of Supervisors.]

Commissioner Holme commented that it is helpful to have this background information.

Commissioner Barber asked if the Washington Recreation Council has any concerns with this proposed year-round use of Seacrest Marina, as there is a grant from the Council at the site. Mr. Friedli responded that the grant states that it must be used for parks. This proposal does not limit people's access to Seacrest Marina Park and improves the park. The long-term result will be a better facility.

Commissioner Barber next referred to Initiative 42 [Adopted by the Seattle City Council in 1997, which "restricts the conversion of park land to another use unless it can be replaced in kind" and referred to the use of Forward Thrust bonds at the site. He recently wrote Parks staff his concerns that the year-round use of the site may be in violation of Initiative 42 and received a response. Commissioner Barber stated that he showed the reply to the framer of the Initiative 42 language and his response is that the staff reply is flawed, as there is a difference between an interim and permanent use of a park. He asked that the Department check with the City's legal staff on the proposal. Commissioner Barber campaigned for Initiative 42 and believes that the pedestrian use from the water taxi could be looked at as a non-park use. He urged the Department to closely examine this proposal.

Mr. Friedli responded that the Department will take Commissioner Barber's advice under consideration and will take the proposal through a thorough review. He will report any results to the Board prior to the March 26 discussion and recommendation.

Commissioner Holme asked if the elements that are for ferry only use will be left at Seacrest Marina when the Ferry District locates a different and permanent site. Will the floating docks be left? Superintendent Gallagher stated that the Department is working under the assumption that the Ferry District will leave the new dock in optimum condition.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Hoff, Mr. Campbell, and Ms. Lund for the briefing. The Board will discuss the recommendation at its March 26 meeting and make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Briefing: Golf Master Plan Financial Overview

Susanne Friedman, Seattle Parks Project Planner, has presented a series of briefings on the Golf Master Plan. On November 13, 2008, the initial briefing was presented, with an update briefing on February 12. To read the minutes from those meetings, see the Board's web page at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>. Tonight Ms. Friedman will brief the Board on the financial plan. The Board has scheduled a public hearing at its April 9 meeting, followed by a discussion and recommendation to the Superintendent at the April 23 meeting.

Along with the written briefing paper, Commissioners received the draft Golf Master Plan Economic Report. To view this document, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

No action is being requested at this meeting. This briefing presents the draft economic assessment conducted by Economic Research Associates (ERA) for potential golf capital improvement projects as part of the Plan Update, and staff recommendations. The draft Master Plan was presented to the Board on February 12, 2009.

The Board is scheduled for a public hearing on April 9 with a discussion and recommendation to follow on April 23, 2009.

Staff Recommendations

Based upon analysis of structural deficiencies with the existing facilities, current and projected revenue potentials and the economic assessment, the staff recommendation is to move forward with implementation of Option II, subject to Executive recommendations:

Option II – \$19.9 million

Option II is a prioritized improvement program consisting of perimeter trails at all courses, new clubhouses and cart barns at Jackson Park and Jefferson Park, a fully renovated clubhouse at West Seattle, a new driving range at Jackson Park and completion of the driving range at Jefferson Park.

Project Description and Background

Financial projections for two alternative development options were prepared assuming existing revenue streams and with the assumption of no fee increases. Costs for the full Master Plan (Option I) total \$29.8 million, and would require about \$6 million in other funding sources to implement the entire program at one time if a standard level debt service bond issue was used to finance the work (see Table 1 below on course supported debt capabilities).

The more limited program (Option II) addresses highest and second tier prioritized improvements with a combined cost of about \$19.9 million, supported from golf course revenues. Table 2 lists features of the full Master Plan that would not be funded in Option II.

The source of funding for the two options is summarized in Table 1. The level of debt that can be supported is based on projected available net cash flow in the second year of debt service payment.

Table 1: Funding Sources

	Amount (\$000) 2009 dollars	
	Option I	Option II
Master Plan Costs	\$29,754	\$19,868
Course Supported Debt*	\$23,530**	\$20,208
Other Funding Sources	6,224	(340)
Total	\$29,754	\$19,868

*Assumes 20-year amortization, 5.5% interest, and a 1.0 debt service coverage ratio.

Also assumes projected revenues from year 2, not year 1.

** Higher revenue from West Seattle driving range increases debt capacity.

Public Involvement Process

Public involvement for the Golf Master Plan Update was described in the briefing paper presented February 12 and included open houses at each course. Staff have worked closely with the Golf Steering Committee, and at its meeting in January 2009 it, recommended priorities for golf improvements. They are: 1) new/renovated clubhouses, 2) new driving ranges at West Seattle and Jackson, and 3) new/renovated on-course restrooms. The Park Board is scheduled to hold a public hearing on April 9.

Issues

- Creating a balanced funding strategy/package – Option II provides a balanced funding strategy, but does not provide the full golf experience that some patrons desire;
- West Seattle Driving Range – Golfers want a driving range at West Seattle (not included in Option II); and

- Improving the overall golf experience – Both Options I and II increase the overall golf experience, the difference being to what level.

Budget

The improvements and their related capital costs are summarized for the two options as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Comparison of Options

	Cost (\$000) 2009 dollars	
	Option I	Option II
Highest Priorities		
Jackson Park Clubhouse	\$ 4,698.7	\$ 4,698.7
Jackson Park Range	2,871.4	2,871.4
Jackson Park Cart Barn	223.1	223.1
West Seattle Maintenance Facility	1,181.5	1,181.5
Perimeter Trails – All	1,228.7	1,228.8
Subtotal	\$10,203.5	\$10,203.5
Second Tier		
Jefferson Park Clubhouse	\$ 4,543.4	\$ 4,543.4
West Seattle Clubhouse	4,672.2	3,517.7
Jefferson Park – Range	1,071.1	1,071.1
Jefferson Park – Cart Barn	285.6	285.6
West Seattle Cart Barn	156.4	246.7
Subtotal	\$10,728.7	\$ 9,664.5
Third Tier		
West Seattle Driving Range	\$ 3,416.1	---
Fourth Tier		
Interbay Clubhouse	\$ 197.1	---
Cart Paths – All Courses	997.5	---
On-Course Restrooms – All Courses	702.0	---
Maintenance Facility – Jackson	187.7	---
Maintenance Facility – Jefferson	583.8	---
Irrigation Improvements – All Courses	1,110.3	---
Other Course Improvements	1,627.5	---
Subtotal	\$ 5,405.9	---
Total	\$29,754.2	\$19,868.0

Schedule

- **March 12th** - Park Board briefing on the financial plan
- **April 9th** - Park Board public hearing on the draft Golf Course Master Plan Update and financial plan
- **April 23rd** - Park Board discussion and recommendations
- **May 2009** – Final Golf Course Master Plan Update

Additional Information

- Project Web link: <http://seattle.gov/parks/Athletics/golfcrse.htm>

- Susanne K. Friedman, 800 Maynard Ave S, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98134, 206.684.0902, susanne.friedman@seattle.gov.

References

- City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Municipal Golf Renovation Master Plans, April 1991, prepared by John Steidel, Golf Course Architect
- Business and Strategic Plan, City of Seattle Municipal Golf Course System, July 2005, Economics Research Associates
- Resolution 30926, Golf Financial Policies

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Ms. Friedman introduced Parks' Project and Planning Deputy Director Michael Shiosaki, Golf Manager Andy Soden, Bill Shiebler, President of Premier Golf, and Eric Anderson and Brett Hosier of Makers.

Ms. Friedman reviewed the Master Plan timeline, financial plan objectives, and staff recommendation, and gave a brief overview of the written briefing paper.

Commissioner Ramels and Adams were especially interested in West Seattle Golf Clubhouse. In Phase II, this clubhouse would be renovated and not replaced, while both Jackson and Jefferson Clubhouses would be replaced. Commissioner Adams asked if there is a feasible way to include replacement of the West Seattle Clubhouse. Ms. Friedman and the Superintendent responded that the buildings that need attention most are included in Phase II. The Superintendent reviewed the financial aspects of taking on more debt in order to move additional projects into Phase II. If the Master Plan were being implemented during good economic times, staff would have recommended the replacement. However, the Department does not want to raise the greens fees in order to implement the Master Plan and wants to do the work in a phased approach.

Commissioner Barber stated that he likes the approach the Department is taking.

Commissioner Holme asked if the only significant difference in Phase I and II is whether the West Seattle Clubhouse will be renovated or replaced and Ms. Friedman agreed. Commissioner Holme requested justification for this, as when other Park Department buildings are improved, the choices aren't made on a "best of the worst" basis.

Commissioner Adams stated that he can accept that Phase II is a good approach; however, he wondered if Phase I was ever feasible. Superintendent Gallagher gave more information on the funding. Phase I requires financing \$30 million, with debt service in the amount of \$2.4 annually. Phase II, recommended by staff, requires financing \$20 million, with an annual debt service of \$1.6 million. Phase II can be accomplished without raising the green fees; Phase I cannot. The Department could, alternatively, do Phase I in segments and not borrow the full \$30 million; however, doing the work in segments is based on many "ifs." Going with Phase II is a way to begin the process, knowing that the components can most likely be accomplished. The Superintendent stated that it is a 100% economic decision to recommend Phase II.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on what consultants charged to prepare the economic study, Ms. Friedman answered that it cost \$10,000. Commissioner Ramels commented that the report had a number of grammatical and other errors and she was not confident of the information it contained. She was not impressed by the report and believes Parks staff could have done a better job in-house. Commissioner Adams later commented that he wasn't bothered so much by the grammatical errors and thought it was a good report. Commissioner Holme stated that he looks to the Park staff's analysis on the reports and to determine their accuracy.

Commissioner Kostka noted that page 3 of the study reads that the consultant is not responsible for the data source. Superintendent Gallagher explained that this referred to the figures and other data that Parks supplied

to the consultants. The consultants mean that they cannot be held responsible if Parks staff give them incorrect information, and do not mean that they won't guarantee their work. Commissioner Kostka noted that all the justification is in numbers and suggested that more of the information in the final version be shown as charts, graphs, or other visual aids.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber on building costs per square foot, Mr. Friedli answered that the draft plan is based on the most recent building costs.

Commissioner Ramels stated that she has been surprised at how lucrative cart rentals are for golf courses.

Parks staff will lead a tour of Jefferson, Jackson, and Interbay golf courses on Tuesday morning, beginning at 9:00 am. The tour will begin at Jefferson Golf and the public is invited to join the tour.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the Golf Master Plan on April 9, followed by a discussion and recommendation at the April 23 meeting. Commissioners thanked Ms. Friedli and other staff for the briefings. Commissioner Ramels commented that she appreciates the extended amount of time the Board has had to discuss the various components of this Plan.

Briefing: Seattle Tilth/Meridian Playground

Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks' Partnerships Manager, and Marylou Whiteford, Seattle Parks Senior Property Agent, presented a briefing on the City's agreement with Seattle Tilth, which is located in Meridian Playground. Prior to tonight's meeting, the Board received a written briefing

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This briefing is for informational purposes.

Background Information

In 1976, the City purchased a former religious facility known as the Home of the Good Shepherd, located at 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, using Forward Thrust and federal Housing and Urban Development monies. The westernmost six acres of the 11.5 acre site was to be used as a playground, now known as Meridian Playground, under jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation. The remainder of the site was to be used for "general municipal purposes," under jurisdiction of what is now the Fleets and Facility Department (FFD), as a self-sustaining multi-purpose community center, now known as the Good Shepherd Center. Title to the building itself was given to Historic Seattle and the entire site was designated a landmark in 1984. (See Attached Site Plan)

Over time, the site has had a very complex legislative history (see Attachment 1, Meridian Playground Background Information). A 25-year Comprehensive Site Plan, adopted by City Council in 1984, established two complementary uses on a portion of the land: a P-patch, a program administered now by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON); and a Demonstration Garden under a private non-profit organization, Seattle Tilth. Both these land areas are under jurisdiction of FFD. At the end of 25 years (September 2009), the P-patch and demonstration garden were to revert to playground use under jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation.

Current Requests and Actions Required

Both Seattle Tilth and the P-patch would like to continue activities at Meridian Playground. Additionally, Seattle Tilth would like to expand its use to another area of the park, identified on the Comprehensive Site Plan as the landmarked "Formal Lawn," using it in a more active fashion as a children's garden.

Several actions would be necessary to accommodate these requests: The Landmarks Board must approve an amendment to the Site Plan, allowing the "Formal Lawn" to be identified as a more active space with expanded uses such as educational opportunities.

- The City Council must adopt the amended Site Plan by ordinance.

- As part of the legislation, Parks would include clarification of jurisdictional responsibility accepting the P-patch and Seattle Tilth demonstration areas as under Parks jurisdiction, as intended in the original Comprehensive Site Plan. This will ensure that future uses will continue to be compatible with Parks' priorities.
- The legislation would also give Parks authority to negotiate new agreements with DON for the P-patch and with Seattle Tilth for both the original demonstration garden area and the new children's garden area.

Public Involvement Process

There will be a process for the general public to give input into the proposed amendment to the current Comprehensive Site Plan. The amendment will also go before the Landmarks Commission as outlined in Ordinance 111882 and the Good Shepherd Center Advisory Board per Ordinance 111865.

Schedule

- Feb/March – Discussions with FFD and DON
- March – Present amendment of current Comprehensive Site Plan to the Landmarks Commission
- April – Public process
- May – Prepare legislation
- June – Present legislation to Park Board
- July 28 – Present legislation before Parks and Seattle Center committee
- Aug – Negotiate new agreements with Seattle Tilth and DON

For additional information please contact, Rebecca Salinas, Partnerships Manager, 206-684-7279 or Marylou Whiteford at 206-684-7388.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Ms. Salinas gave a brief overview of the information in the briefing and showed a map and pointed out the different components to the Park Board and added that the City has passed a great deal of legislation around this site.

Ms. Whiteford presented more details on the site's history and agreements. These agreements are complicated and must now go back to City Council for an ordinance and to Landmarks for a Certificate of Approval. Ms. Whiteford reviewed the proposed changes and stated that P-patches in parks are regarded as a reasonable recreational opportunity.

Commissioner Kostka noted that she was visiting the gardens last summer and there was a wedding taking place at the south annex which spilled into the lawn and garden area. She recommended that staff work to ensure rentals at the site not conflict with park users. Ms. Whiteford responded that this a good point and agreed that the public park land is available for all to use during events.

Ms. Whiteford noted that the Good Shepherd Center has worked closely with the Fleets and Facilities Department over the years and the relationship has worked well. Deputy Superintendent Williams added that this is a heavily watched-landmark site, with close attention paid to the maintenance. Responding to a question from Commissioner Adams on the current status of the proposal, Ms. Whiteford answered that the proposal went before the Landmarks Board today and will go to City Council in July.

Commissioner Ramels asked if there is any controversy about the agreement and Ms. Whiteford responded that there hasn't yet been any; however, the change has not yet been vetted to the public. Staff will keep the Board informed as the process moves forward. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Salinas and Ms. Whiteford for the update.

Old/New Business

March 26 Park Board Meeting: Commissioner Ramels will be absent: Commissioner Adams will chair the meeting.

Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee Meeting: Commissioner Holme reported that the 2008 Levy Oversight Committee is being formed and coming together. The new committee will meet on March 30. Superintendent Gallagher added that City Council will confirm its appointees to the committee on March 30; Mayor Nickels will confirm his appointees in April. Commissioner Ramels last heard that four applications were received for the 16-member committee. Superintendent Gallagher responded that a good number of applications have since been submitted and reviewed.

Citizens Oversight Committee for the West Point Settlement Funds (Discovery Park): Commissioner Barber is a new member to this committee and attended its first quarterly meeting in February. He noted that the other committee members are well versed in the Army's history at Discovery Park. He is pleased to be a member of this committee and pleased with the demolition of some of the military sites at this park.

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

APPROVED: _____

Jackie Ramels, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____