

# Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2011

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>  
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<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

## ***Board of Park Commissioners***

Present:

Antoinette Angulo  
John Barber  
Terry Holme, Chair  
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair  
Donna Kostka

Excused:

Jourdan Keith  
Jackie Ramels

## ***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:***

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Holme called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the March 24 agenda and record of correspondence received by the Board since the March 10 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kostka. The vote was taken and the motion approved.**

As there wasn't a quorum of commissioners present who attended the March 10 meeting or watched the Seattle Channel tape, approval of the minutes was deferred until the March 24 meeting.

Commissioner Holme welcomed the Board's newest member, Antoinette Angulo, a recent City Council appointment to the Board.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following topics. To listen to the report, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591130> and move cursor to position 1.20.

Magnuson Park's Building 11 Update: Termination notices to Building 11 tenants were sent out on March 15 notifying tenants to vacate by May 16, as construction will begin after that date and new tenants expected to move in during October 2011. The lease amendment between the City of Seattle and Building 11 Investors LLC has not yet been reviewed by City Council; Parks staff expect this review within the next few weeks.

The area of Magnuson Park where Building 11 is located was recently designated the Sand Point Historic District. Building 11 Investors LLC want to take advantage of Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits and to do so,

the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service require an agreement term of at least 39 years. The amendment changes the lease from a 30-year agreement with three possible five-year extensions to a 40-year lease with one 5-year extension. If the development doesn't go forward, the lease terminations can be rescinded.

Commissioners asked a number of questions. Commissioner Kincaid wanted to know if Building 11 Investors will pay additional for the 13,000 additional square feet they receive under the proposed lease amendment. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded they will pay more than in the original lease; however, the increase is not tied to their receiving additional space. The additional space is for outside land to be used for the daycare and outdoor food seating, both of which are required in the lease. The food deck will be open to the public at all times and the daycare outdoor property will be open to the public on weekends.

Responding to Commissioner Kincaid's request for the Board to view the proposed lease amendment, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that the amendment has not yet been forwarded from the Mayor's office to City Council. Once that has occurred, the amendment proposal would be available to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Barber believes 40 years is a long time to lease the building and asked how the Parks Department will control the recreation activities at Building 11 under the lease amendment. He understands that Sail Sand Point (a current tenant of Building 11) has been providing kayak rentals at low cost and the developer may have its own plans to take over this role. Commissioner Kincaid also has concerns that Building 11 is located on the parks' north shore, with easy and inexpensive access for kayakers provided by Sail Sand Point. She is worried that this asset will be lost to the public. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that originally both Sail Sand Point and Seattle Raft and Kayak were located at the site, with the latter leaving the building. Now both Sail Sand Point and the developer are interested in providing this service. He next gave a brief overview of how the rental space and rates are determined for park/recreation use, with these tenants paying lower rent.

Commissioner Barber understands that the City will receive less in proceeds from the developer than it currently receives from the artists and other current renters. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli agreed that the rental proceeds will be less; however, the City also receives the \$8 million capital developments paid for by the developer as part of the lease.

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reminded Commissioners that both the Park Board and City Council reviewed the bids when Building 11 was leased to the current developer. Eventually the building will become uninhabitable, as the City does not have capital funds to maintain it.

For the first year of the lease amendment, Nathan Torgelson of the Superintendent's office will oversee the lease, then Isabel Hamilton of the Parks Department Grants and Contracts office will take over the contract. Commissioner Holme asked that the Park Board receive regular updates on this lease. For more information on Building 11, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/docs/Building11\\_2.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/docs/Building11_2.pdf).

Hempfest Festival Update: Hempfest promoters have settled their lawsuit with the City of Seattle. The festival is scheduled for August 19, 20, and 21 at Myrtle Edward Park, with a third day (Friday) added for the first time. The construction project to add a street overpass from Olympic Sculpture Park to Myrtle Edwards Park will be slightly re-scheduled to avoid the festival.

Tilikum Place: In early 2011, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) issued Dave Meinert, the owner of 5 Point Cafe in Belltown, a permit to build a 16-by-22-foot outdoor area outside the restaurant, which will extend into Tilikum Place. This is a public space owned by both Seattle Parks and SDOT. The area is located at the intersection of Denny Way and Cedar Street and includes benches, a paved walkway, and a large fountain with a statue of Chief Sealth.

After the permit was issued, the Park Board heard opposition testimony from adjoining business and condo owners. The Parks Superintendent then met with SDOT staff to help craft a solution. On March 23, Peter Hahn, Director of SDOT, issued a final decision to reduce the footprint of the outdoor café area so that it does not extend into the park area and excludes trees that are a public amenity. In his letters to Mr. Meinert and to Tilikum Place neighbors, Mr. Hahn states that, "...the current footprint of the sidewalk café could possibly be expanded into the 'park' area at permit renewal next year. However the continuance of the permit or any possible future expansion of the footprint of the café will be contingent upon the ability of the 5-Point Café to ensure that the noise is properly managed and that the new pedestrian path is clear of motorcycles and other obstacles that could discourage pedestrian travel." Parks staff will share any new developments with the Park Board.

Cleanscapes: This private organization performs daily streetscape maintenance in downtown Seattle, which includes daily maintenance, on-call emergency cleanups, graffiti removal; hot water pressure washing; parking structure service; bulky item pickup; litter pickup; and snow removal. Cleanscapes Seattle has previously offered to adopt Westlake Park and do general cleanup at no charge. It is now moving its new headquarters to a building near Occidental Park and has offered to adopt this park, too. For more information about Cleanscapes, see <http://www.cleanscapes.com/>.

Belltown Community Center Update: On March 16, a public meeting was held to discuss this new community center in the Belltown area, which may include space for a Seattle Police Department site. For more information, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/current/Belltown\\_Neighborhood\\_Center.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/current/Belltown_Neighborhood_Center.htm).

YMCA Partnership: Seattle Parks is working to develop a closer relationship and partnership with the YMCA. For more information on the Y, see <http://seattleyymca.org/pages/Welcome.aspx>.

Youth Basketball Coach: Stevie Shpreyreginis, a popular 12-year-old basketball coach at Meadowbrook Community Center, was recently featured on "Evening Magazine." To see a video of the show, see <http://www.king5.com/video/featured-videos/12-year-old-basketball-coach-104987679.html?unconfirmed=1>.

Basketball Participation: The Citywide Youth Basketball Program concluded its youth basketball regular season, with more than 260 teams playing. Kids ranged in ages from 10-17, with nearly 3,000 participants. Over 1,500 games were played at 24 community centers between January and March. In addition, over 520 coaches volunteered their time.

Viretta Park: Parks staff met recently with concerned neighbors of Viretta Park. This small park is located near the former home of Kurt Cobain, well know Seattle musician who committed suicide in his home. Tour buses drive by the house and Viretta Park and leave tributes to Cobain at the park. Recently, a Seattle Parks employee, during his non-work hours, has met with others interested in a more formal memorial in the park.

At the community meeting, Parks staff told concerned neighbors the Department will not install a memorial. It will, however, install some plantings on the perimeter of the park to help give neighbors privacy from the tour buses.

Park Board Room Naming: Ken Bounds served as Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, retiring in 2008. The Board Room at Park Headquarters (where the Park Board schedules its meetings) will be renamed to the Kenneth R. Bounds Board Room on Wednesday morning, March 27, at 8:00 am. Park Board commissioners were invited to the dedication.

Golden Gardens Park Jamboree: Recently North Regions Park Resource staff dedicated a day (jamboree) to preparing Golden Gardens for the summer. A jamboree involves a number of crews for an intensive cleanup of a park. The crews like the jamborees, as they are able to accomplish a great deal of work in one day. The

improvements at the park include new gravel on the trails, new temporary fencing, blackberry vine removal along the dunes, tree and fence removal for a pending restoration project, and a spring cleaning of the comfort stations, picnic shelters, and shoreline.

Slide at Golden Gardens Park: Responding to an inquiry about reports of a mudslide at Golden Gardens Park during recent rains, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported that there wasn't a slide; however some soil beneath the new road moved. No trees or plants were lost. Seattle Department of Transportation is checking to see if the area is still under warranty; if not Parks will complete any needed soil replacement.

Sunset Hill Park: There was slide activity on the slope that undermined the sidewalk at Sunset Hill Park, located on the bluffs above Golden Gardens Park. Parks staff installed safety fencing to keep people off the sidewalk and the area where the slide occurred. Parks staff will redesign the sidewalk to change the layout around the slide prone area and direct the path away from the bluff. Staff will also do site stabilization once the soil has a chance to dry out.

Environmental Education Event: Seattle Parks will hold an environmental event on Friday, April 29, with invitations being issued next week. Lisa Graumlich, UW Dean of the College of the Environment, will be keynote speaker. Other agencies invited include Seattle School District, Seattle Audubon, IslandWood, and others. The goal is to look for new partners in environmental education.

## **Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience**

The Chair explained 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-to-three minutes each, will be timed, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. 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 Old/New Business. Four people signed up to testify. A brief summary of their testimony follows. To hear the testimony, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591130> and move cursor to position 37.00.

Michael Clinard: He is an artist and tenant at Building 11 and lives in the Wedgewood area. He testified that the building is not "coming down" in the near future, although it has roof issues and lead paint. The artists at first agreed with the Building 11 lease but have been unhappy with the results. He kept his studio at the site and trusted that the City would do good by the artists and other tenants. He worries about the legacy of this newest lease amendment and believes the City is giving away this building for the next 40 years. He believes the City can do better and is opposed to the lease.

Jack Collins: He is a former Park Board Commissioner, active member on another of the Department's advisory groups, the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, and highly approves of naming the board room after former Superintendent Ken Bounds.

His other reason for testifying tonight is about the Tilikum Place permit. He noted that SDOT issued this permit, although the permitting authority was transferred to Seattle Parks in 1983. He believes the Parks Department, rather than SDOT, should have issued the most recent permit. There is considerable community opposition to the permit and there may be legal ramifications as it permits alcohol to be served in the park on an ongoing basis. At other park sites, alcohol can only be served with a temporary permit. He believes this is a terrible and botched process and urged the Park Board to hold a public hearing and get this issue out before the public.

Paul Dormann: Mr. Dormann is the owner of Tilikum Café, located near the 5 Spot Cafe. This is his third time to appear before the Park Board. He does not want to see the sidewalk outside his and other businesses commercialized by the 5 Point Café's permit for its outdoor area. He referred to a recent New York Times

article that describes his restaurant as a first-class amenity for the area. He thanked the Park Board for its attention to this issue.

**Bob Scully:** Mr. Scully urged the Park Board to review the lease amendment for Building 11. He stated the lease can force Sail Sand Point out and bring in another business that can afford to pay more rent. He disagrees with Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli about the inclusion of the 13,000 sq. ft. of outdoor space in the lease amendment and believes Building 11 LLC will have exclusive use of this park land during their hours of operation. This is bad for the City and was not part of the original agreement.

Commissioner Holme asked for clarification on whether the lease or lease amendment is being reviewed. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that it is the lease amendment. The Board asked that it be kept updated on this issue.

## **Discussion/Recommendation: Supplemental Park Use Guidelines for Downtown Parks**

At the Board's January 27 meeting, Victoria Schoenberg, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, presented a briefing on the Supplemental Park Use Guidelines for Downtown Parks. To read the minutes see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2011/01-27-11.pdf>. At its February 10 meeting, the Board held a public hearing. To read the minutes from the hearing, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2011/02-10-11.pdf>. Tonight the Board will discuss the Supplement Guidelines and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent. Commissioner Angulo is a new member and will not vote.

### ***Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion***

Following the public hearing, Commissioners accepted written testimony. Prior to tonight's meeting, Parks staff sent a summary of the written testimony which included 11 e-mails with concerns about amplified music at Victor Steinbrueck Park and one urging approval of the Guidelines as proposed by staff.

Ms. Schoenberg introduced Sgt. Gracy of Seattle Police Department's community policing unit to answer questions about activity at Victor Steinbrueck Park, as most of the testimony voiced concerns about this particular park. Ms. Schoenberg gave a very brief overview and re-stated that the Historic Preservation guidelines are the primary and final authority in determining when amplified sound is allowed at Victor Steinbrueck Park. Historic Preservation must approve all requests for amplified sounds, the amplified sounds may not last longer than three hours, and amplified sounds after 6:00 pm are discouraged. Commissioners are asked to approve the Department's Supplemental Park Use Guidelines that were changed to reflect the Historic Preservation language regarding amplified sound.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber whether these Guidelines are applicable to all Seattle's downtown parks, Ms. Schoenberg agreed they are. However, several, such as Victor Steinbrueck Park, are also in a Historic Preservation District, and its guidelines trump those of the Parks Department.

From a conversation with Victor Steinbrueck Park neighbor John Mason and from a Saturday evening visit he made to the park, Commissioner Barber believes the park is already very activated by tourists and questions the need for any amplified events in order to further activate the park. Mr. Mason and other park neighbors are concerned with any additional noise from amplified concerts. Is it possible to bring the different interests together on this issue? Ms. Schoenberg noted that, unlike a number of Seattle's parks, there is no Friends of Victor Steinbrueck Park or other organized group focused on the park. What does exist is a group of neighbors angry about noise level. In lieu of an organized park-focused group, she has worked closely with Historic Preservation Commission.

Commissioner Barber asked if the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) represents park neighbors. Ms. Schoenberg responded that DSA membership includes a citizen representative. Commissioner Barber asked if Parks is proposing amplified sound events/concerts to last as late as 7:00 pm. Ms. Schoenberg responded that Parks doesn't have any plans to do so and Historic Preservation discourages amplified sound after 6:00 pm. However, the language leaves leeway for Parks to schedule an amplified sound event for after 6:00 pm – with approval from Historic Preservation.

Commissioner Kincaid stated she was a member of the Center City Task Force and believes it did a wonderful job. The Task Force heard from a number of downtown residents requesting the parks be activated to help remove illegal behavior. Ms. Schoenberg agreed and stated that Seattle is now seeing an evolution in these parks. The first steps were for additional presence from Seattle Police Department, and then the addition of Park Rangers who focused on enforcement of regulations and not necessarily expulsion from the parks. Parks staff are now working to determine what other methods may be effective ways to activate these parks. Sgt. Gracy added the City wants to empower its residents to use their own parks and keep the criminal aspect down in these locations.

Commissioner Barber agrees with this strategy; however, he believes Victor Steinbrueck is a tourist magnet and the tourists deter crime. Sgt. Gracy checked SPD's records on the park and in the past year SPD had 392 calls about Victor Steinbrueck Park, with 46 of those being 911 emergency calls. In addition, there were five assaults, three felony warrants, and 28 people were taken to detox.

He also talked to the West Precinct Shift Lieutenant, who has noticed the behavior at the park has become rougher at night. The day shift bicycle police squads begin pedaling back to their headquarters at 5:00 pm and there is a lapse in police monitoring of the park between the next shift of officers coming through. Commissioner Kincaid noted that Pike Place Market, located next to Victor Steinbrueck Park and a big draw for tourists, also begins closing around 5-6:00 pm, with tourists leaving the area. The pedestrian patterns at the park also begin changing then.

Ms. Schoenberg added that a concierge will staff the park this summer until 8:00 pm and local restaurant owner Tom Douglas has scheduled four public non-musical evening events there. Sgt. Gracy commented that there is a history of public drinking in the park and these events and having "eyes on the park" is a real deterrent to this and other illegal behaviors.

**Commissioner Barber moved that the Board recommend approval of the Supplemental Park Use Guidelines for Downtown Parks as presented, and requested Parks staff to present an update briefing to the Park Board in one year. Commissioner Kincaid seconded.**

Commissioner Kincaid asked how park neighbors can access the policy language for amplified sound at the parks. Ms. Schoenberg answered that if someone wants to have amplified sound in the park, they must first contact Parks Scheduling Office to request a permit. The Scheduling staff must then contact the Historic Preservation Office for permission for the event. If Historic Preservation doesn't approve, the event is not permitted to have amplified sound.

Commissioner Kostka noted that the Guidelines do not call out Historic Preservation by name. Ms. Schoenberg noted that agencies sometimes change their names and the Guidelines try to avoid using current names. If the names are changed, it then invalidates the references.

**The vote was taken with Commissioners Barber, Kincaid, and Kostka voting in favor. Commissioner Angulo, as a new member and not on the Board during the prior process, abstained. The Chair only votes to make or break a tie. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Holme recommended that Parks assign a staff person to work with the neighbors of Victor Steinbrueck Park to form a "Friends of" group. Ms. Schoenberg has approached the neighbors with this proposal and wants them involved, but they are not interested at this time. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli noted that a capital project is in process for Victor Steinbrueck Park and that will give additional opportunities for the community to become engaged.

Commissioner thanked Ms. Schoenberg and will look forward to an update briefing in spring of 2012.

## **Update Briefing: Associated Recreation Council (ARC)**

Bill Keller, Associated Recreation Council Executive Director, presented the annual briefing from ARC. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, made available to the public on the Board's web page, and included below in these minutes. To hear Mr. Keller's presentation and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591130> and move cursor to position 74.00.

### *Written Briefing*

**Purpose of Briefing:** Regular briefing of Parks Board of Commissioners on the current status of the Associated Recreation Council system, projects and activities.

#### **Background:**

Advisory Councils (AC) are a vital and integral part of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) program delivery system. DPR relies on hundreds of volunteer AC members for advice, assistance and more importantly the representation of the many communities that make up our diverse neighborhoods. Currently there are 37 advisory councils operating within the City of Seattle. Approximately 300 advisory council members volunteer their time throughout the system.

Advisory Councils have been part of the citizen involvement process with the Seattle Department of Park and Recreation for over three decades.

Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Associated Recreation Council (ARC), and its 37 advisory councils are celebrating the 36th anniversary of a unique and strong partnership. The partnership has grown from its modest beginnings in 1976 to encompass programs at 25 community centers, 3 environmental learning centers, 3 citywide programs, 1 tennis center, 3 small craft programs and an arts and culture facility.

#### **2010 Financial Report**

The Associated Recreation Council system had an active and successful year in 2010. Total support and revenue produced for the year was \$11,116,569. The system invested \$10,557,148 in program and staffing expenses. \$2,041,210 was fund raised in grants and donations. The system employed 1,100 staff for the year working in over 30 locations throughout the City.

#### **Representation**

In 2010 the Associated Recreation Council system represented 37 advisory councils, 8 fiscal sponsorships and 31 restricted fund accounts. In addition to the advisory council operating accounts we supported the following playground, park and building projects:

- Annie's Playground
- Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery
- Mt. Baker Building Expansion
- Ravenna Park Playground
- South Portage Bay Park Project
- Seal Sitters
- Volunteer Park Lily Pond Project
- Downtown Parks Buskers Program

- Cheasty Greenspace

In addition, we supported the following community projects:

- Cal Anderson Park Alliance
- STEP Program (**S**teps **T**oward **E**nvironmental **P**artnerships)
- Community Learning Centers
- RecTech Community Center Computer Labs
- Heron Habitat Helpers

### **Financial support (unaudited)**

In 2010 the Associated Recreation Council system provided the following financial support to the partnership:

- \$347,758 in Class Participation Fees
- \$127,871 in Child Care scholarships
- \$ 86,786 in Recreation Scholarships

In the face of a declining economy, the ARC Board made a financial commitment to the Budget challenges facing the Department – an unprecedented move and in full support of the partnership. ARC contributed \$881,000 for 2010. The intent of the contribution was to keep as many facilities and programs open and running as possible.

### **Community Technology Centers:**

In August of 2005, ARC, on behalf of the RecTech Coalition (Advisory Councils representing Rainier, Rainier Beach, Miller, Garfield, Delridge, South Park and Southwest Community Centers), submitted a grant request to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in order to provide Community Technology Centers (CTCs) at each of the sites. A primary purpose of the grant request was to provide academic support to the many youth who use the community centers for recreation. The curriculum was aligned with the Community Learning Centers and the Seattle School District. In March of 2006 we received the notification of the two year grant award of \$377,950. Since our beginning in 2005 the RechTech Coalition has been awarded over \$1,000,000 in support for this important community technology effort.

RecTech continues to serve community members in the central and south areas of Seattle, with an increasing focus on adult users and work force development classes. Job searching, resume building, and basic computer skills classes have been consistently filling up in light of the recent economic conditions. Youth programs continue to bring in about 1,000 unique users annually.

This year we were awarded a grant by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) to provide technology access and literacy for vulnerable populations. The grant for 2011 totals \$445,732 with the possibility of receiving \$550,429 for 2012. This funding helped stabilize our program delivery and staffing.

### **Limited Use Sites**

2011 saw the Department forced to take budget cuts totaling \$10.8 million. In response to staff reductions and reduced hours of operation at Alki, Ballard, Queen Anne, Green Lake, and Laurelhurst Community Centers, ARC is supporting staff hours for recreation attendant and custodian positions plus utility costs and supplies. Each of the centers had differing needs. The costs were built into the 2011 operating budgets.

### **School Age Care**

ARC continues to deliver licensed school age care programs at 24 sites. On average we serve 1400 students ages 5-12 in before and after school programs each day. The 2010 summer day camp program served over 1100 youth each week for the 10 weeks of summer. In addition our 16 preschool programs served over 500 3 to 5 year olds.

## **Print shop**

ARC continues to provide print shop service to the partnership. We provide publication of brochures, flyers, posters, manuals, postcards and mailings. We coordinate distribution, bulk mailing and design services for many projects. Our partnership works together to produce the quarterly brochures that promote our partnership programs, classes, and activities throughout the year.

### ***Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion***

Mr. Keller introduced himself and reviewed information in the written briefing paper. Commissioner Kostka asked if the scholarship process is set up so the kids who apply for/receive the scholarships aren't embarrassed and Mr. Keller stated it is a confidential process. Applicants must pay 10% of the costs, with ARC and the City paying the 90%. Commissioner Kincaid asked if ARC gets funding from the Family Education Levy for use as scholarships. It does not. Commissioner Angulo asked if scholarships are available for low-English speaking youth. Mr. Keller responded that ARC does as much of this as it can to recruit low-English speaking youth into the programs. She next asked how kids are recruited for the positions that include stipends. Mr. Keller answered that kids at the community center's teen centers and from local high schools apply. They are required to attend the classes and there is a program at the end of each course to show what they have learned. There is a waiting list for the stipend programs.

Commissioner Barber is impressed with the ARC web page, clear reports, and transparent financial information. The web page shows that ARC has two paid staff members, which is a very slim staff for all the work it accomplishes. Commissioner Barber next asked for statistics on increased/decreased classes. Mr. Keller explained that before the CLASS system was implemented a few years ago, it was difficult to calculate the sustainability of various classes; CLASS is supplying ARC accurate statistics to determine which classes should be increased and which decreased or eliminated.

Commissioner Holme complimented the good report and asked Mr. Keller to address ARC's role on the Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) [consisting of Parks Department and other City staff and members of the public] preparing the Department's Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requested by City Council. Mr. Keller is on CCAC and it is being asked to do two polar opposites: increase participation at community centers while funding is being decreased. He gave a brief overview of the elements CCAC is assessing. He believes the Department is leaving no stones unturned in looking at ways to keep the community centers in operation. He believes the community center models that go forth from the SLI will be both responsive to the community and to the budget realities. This is a daunting task and a new funding strategy must be developed to hold the Parks Department together.

Commissioner Holme stated ARC is a valued partner in the Department's operations and he wants to ensure that ARC knows how much it is valued. The Board of Park Commissioners will support the work of ARC as this process moves forward. Mr. Keller strongly encouraged the Board members to work with Mayor McGinn and City Council on finding new funding for the Department and speak up every chance they get on this critical need.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Keller for the update.

## **Update Briefing: Seattle Parks Planning and Development Division**

Kevin Stoops, Planning and Development Division Director, next presented a quarterly update on his division. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, which was available to the public on the Board's web page and at tonight's meeting in hard copy, and included in these minutes. To hear Mr. Stoop's presentation and the Board's discussion see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4829> and move cursor to position 9.5.

### ***Written Briefing***

### **Acquisitions-Pro Parks Levy**

- First Hill Park-offers made; appraisals under review

### **Acquisitions –Parks and Green Spaces Levy**

- Fremont – acquisition completed to expand Ernst Park
- Phinney – Greenwood area – negotiations underway
- Morgan Junction – negotiations are underway to expand Dakota Place
- North Rainier – negotiations are underway.
- Wedgwood – negotiations with Seattle City Light underway for substation on 35<sup>th</sup> NE

### **Planning**

- PSG Levy Opportunity Fund Review and Recommendations
- Development Plan for Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) being prepared
- Kinneer Park- FOLK Park (with Neighborhood Matching Fund)
- SR 520 Issues
- King County Combined Sewer Overflow(CSO) issues-Lowman Beach Park to be affected
- Seattle Public Utility Genessee CSO issues-Lake Washington Boulevard to be affected at two locations- triangle lot and Duck Bay
- Seattle Public Utility Henderson CSO issues-Seward and Martha Washington Parks to be affected.
- Volunteer Park Play Area
- Roxhill Park Play Area
- Roxhill Park skatepark
- Belltown Community Center

### **In Design-PPL and others**

- Crown Hill Open Space park development
- University Heights Open Space
- Discovery Park Capehart Site Restoration
- Rainier Beach Community Center and Swimming Pool
- Colman Pool structural rehabilitation and pool discharge revisions
- Riverview Playfield shelterhouse
- Denny Park Lighting
- South Park Community Center (CC) building siding corrections
- Queen Anne CC boiler replacement
- Queen Anne CC electrical system upgrades
- Dakota Place Building Renovation
- Volunteer Park Conservatory renovation (on hold)
- Magnuson Park picnic shelter (on hold)
- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum (on hold)

### **In Design- PSG Levy**

- Georgetown Playground spray feature
- Northacres Park play area and spray feature
- Highland Park Playground spray feature
- Golden Gardens play area
- Ross Playground play area
- Rainier Playfield Play Area
- Jefferson Park skatepark
- Jefferson Park playfield
- 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Site (Kirke Park)

- Othello Playground Lighting and Safety Improvements
- West Seattle Reservoir
- Maple Leaf Reservoir
- Bell Street Boulevard
- Hubbard Homestead skatepark element

### **In Construction-PPL and Others**

- Freeway Park Renovation (fountains, lighting)
- Leschi Moorage renovations
- Aquarium pumps and filter controls
- Ravenna Eckstein Roofing

### **In Construction-PSG Levy**

- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center seismic and other renovations
- Delridge Playfield skatepark

### **Completion PPL and Others**

- Lincoln Park beach renourishment (with ACOE)
- "Dexter Pit" (Thomas C. Wales) Park: *Dedication April 16*
- "Bellevue Substation" Park (John and Summit): *Dedication May 1*
- Myrtle Reservoir: *Dedication April 30*
- Meadowbrook Playfield field #1 renovation
- Cal Anderson Park Turf Repair
- Hiawatha Playfield field conversion and lighting
- Stan Sayres Boat Launch renovations
- Burke Gilman Trail renovations (part of Chesiahud Trail work)

### **Completion PSG Levy**

- Delridge Playfield field conversion
- Genesee Playfield #1 field conversion
- Genesee Playfield #2 field surface replacement
- Beacon Hill Playground play area
- Fairmount Park Playground play area
- Lawton Park play area
- Matthews Beach play area
- Sandel Playground play area
- Seattle Children's Playgarden
- Hubbard Homestead: *Dedication April 23*

### **Other**

- Virginia-Graham Baker Act swimming & wading pool compliance
- Jefferson CC Seismic Upgrade grant application
- "Yellow Swings" installations
- Department of Justice ADA Audit screening
- Green Lake Wading Pool Study
- Landslides

## **UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION**

### **Policy Review and Recommendation**

- Non Park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement

## Status Reports/Briefings

- Parks and Green Spaces Levy Implementation
- Rainier Beach Community Center and Swimming Pool
- Central Waterfront Planning
- SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks
- Seattle Public Utilities CSO Projects
- King County CSO Projects

### *Verbal Briefing and Board Discussion*

Mr. Stoops introduced himself and reviewed the information in his written briefing. Commissioners asked a number of questions. Commissioner Barber wondered how many pool drains were replaced [under the Virginia Graeme law] and then closed soon after. Mr. Stoops answered that all the pool drains have been replaced. Commissioner Kostka referred to the recent tsunamis in Japan and asked for information on how the Department has designated tsunami evacuation routes from its facilities. Parks staff had previously scheduled a June 9 briefing on the Department's emergency management strategy and will include this request in that briefing. Mr. Stoops noted that Queen Anne Community Center recently underwent seismic upgrades.

He noted that some FEMA money has been received for Jefferson Community Center. Commissioner Holme commented this new park has been a long time coming and is a great accomplishment. He asked if the damage to the gym floor, caused by a roof leak, has been repaired. Mr. Stoops replied that it has. He next asked about the playfield lights at the park. Mr. Stoops attended a City Council meeting yesterday on that topic and several people testified in favor of the lights. The playfield will have synthetic turf and the Samoan cricket area will have a new goal space.

Commissioner Holme next asked about the recent work at Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill. Mr. Stoops responded that reservoir covers may only have a thin layer of soil of well-draining soil. The soil installed at Cal Anderson did not drain properly. Seattle Public Utilities paid \$300,000 for the replacement project.

Commissioner Kincaid inquired whether the UW's Bryant Marina will be purchased as part of the SR520 mitigation for impacts to several of Seattle's parks. Mr. Stoops gave a brief review of the 6f mitigation process and answered that Bryant Marina is being considered. Commissioner Kincaid asked about the status of the WSDOT "peninsula" of land located at the Washington Park Arboretum. Mr. Stoops replied that WSDOT plans to remove the ramps at the peninsula as well as the ones that now come into the Arboretum. The land underneath the ramps will eventually be transferred to Seattle Parks. He noted that the SR 520 project involves many layers of mitigation.

### **Briefing: King County West Point Treatment Plant Odor**

Prior to this meeting, Commissioner Kostka expressed strong concerns about odors at the West Point Treatment Center, located at the tip of Discovery Park. She asked for a briefing from Parks staff. Mr. Stoops arranged for King County staff to brief the Board as West Point is managed by the County and not the City. He arranged for Dan Granat, Section Manager at West Point Treatment Center, to attend tonight's meeting. To hear the presentation and Board discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4829> and move cursor to position 30.20.

Mr. Granat introduced an additional King County staff person who has worked at the Treatment Center for 30 years, and Monica Van der Vieren, Community Relations Manager. Mr. Granat distributed two handouts, including the written briefing below.

## *Written Briefing*

### **Overview**

This document provides information about odor requirements, monitoring, and odor control activities at West Point Treatment Plant (West Point). Although odors can be a problem in wastewater systems, King County works hard to be a good neighbor by monitoring and controlling odors at our facilities and making long-term improvements to odor control systems.

### **Odor Monitoring and Control Requirements**

Regulations and policies require King County Wastewater Treatment Division to monitor and control odors. A 1991 Project Level Plan Permit with the City of Seattle requires that odor shall not exceed three odor units outside the plant footprint. "Three odor units" equals 300 parts per billion H<sub>2</sub>S according to federal guidelines. Odor testing results are submitted to the City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development. The City of Seattle may take enforcement action in response to violations, if needed.

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) approved a Title V Air Operating Permit (AOP) (<http://www.pscleanair.org/announce/permits/issued/10088-faop.pdf>) for West Point. The AOP applies to operation of, and modifications to, equipment, as well as pollutant emissions limits. The AOP does not put specific limits on odor. PSCAA enforces exceptions to the AOP.

King County's 1999 Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) includes policy guidance to prevent and control nuisance odor occurrences at all treatment plants and associated conveyance facilities and to carry out an odor prevention program that goes beyond traditional odor control.

Odor complaints are summarized in the RWSP annual report at [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/construction/planning/rwsp/library/annualreport.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/construction/planning/rwsp/library/annualreport.aspx).

### **Monitoring Odors at West Point**

Two types of odor monitoring occur at West Point:

- Online instrumentation measures H<sub>2</sub>S levels of air entering and leaving scrubbers. Staff obtain weekly measurements of inlet and outlet H<sub>2</sub>S with meters.
- Perimeter odor monitoring is conducted on a weekly basis at perimeter locations around the plant. This frequency exceeds the requirement of the Testing Plan.

Staff investigates odor complaints within two hours of receiving the complaint.

### **Controlling Odors at West Point**

Before they reach West Point, flows are treated with bioxide (calcium nitrate) to reduce production of H<sub>2</sub>S. Covers and enclosures, along with air handling and scrubbing systems, are used to control odors from key components of the wastewater treatment facilities. Odor monitoring maintenance activities have not detected odor problems. To minimize the potential for unforeseen odor impacts, staff schedules maintenance activities to avoid periods of heavy park use and take precautions such as neutralizing exposed surfaces and covering or immersing areas during maintenance activities to further reduce the potential for odors.

### **Odor Control Improvements**

Under the RWSP, odor control improvements continue to be made at West Point. Phase I Odor Control Improvements were completed in 2007, and some elements of Phase II recommendations for improvements in equipment and practices have been implemented. The need for odor control is considered during design when facilities are upgraded or replaced. From 2000 to 2009, West Point received 55 odor complaints, with 40 of those from one person. Ten complaints have been received since Phase I was completed in April 2007.

Capital projects planned to meet current regulatory standards or replace operating facilities and equipment consider the potential need for odor control. Current odor control technology and practices to reduce odors are considered as part of project design, if needed.

### **Community Outreach**

King County engages with the community in a variety of ways to help people understand wastewater treatment, to keep them up to date on projects and activities at West Point, to hear their concerns, and to answer their questions. Every year, thousands of visitors tour the West Point Center to learn about the wastewater treatment process and ways to protect wastewater quality.

When non-routine activities create the potentials for odor, unusual activities, or disruption in Discovery Park, King County staff issue press releases and distribute fliers at the [Discovery Park] Visitor's Center and near the plant. County staff sends e-mail notifications to Seattle Parks staff and request distribution through electronic lists maintained by Seattle Parks, community groups and organizations, and the Department of Neighborhoods.

King County maintains a Web page with information about the plant at [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/System/West.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/System/West.aspx). West Point maintains a staffed 24/7 phone line, 206-263-3840, that people can use to report problems, including odor complaints, anywhere in King County's West Section. Staff respond promptly to concerns and complaints, with a commitment to investigate odor complaints within two hours of the report.

### **How City of Seattle Staff Can Help King County**

King County is committed to being a good neighbor in Discovery Park, and throughout its conveyance system. In order to investigate odors, County staff need to receive complaints in a timely manner. City of Seattle staff can encourage people to report odor problems to King County's West Section for immediate investigation to the hotline.

### **For More Information**

Contact Monica Van der Vieren, Water Quality Planner, at 206-263-7301 or [monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov](mailto:monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov). See <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd.aspx> for additional information.

### **Odor Control Hotline: 206-263-3840**

#### ***Verbal Presentation/Board Discussion***

King County representatives explained that the treatment plant serves 1.4 million people. A portion of the plant handles sewer overflow and is very impacted by rainfall. In 1991 the treatment center was permitted, and is required to monitor odors, have odor controls, and use scrubbers to remove odors. The permit only requires monitoring on a weekly basis during the month of August; however, King County wants to be a good neighbor and they monitor odors weekly throughout the year.

They next spent some time describing units of odor and how the odor level is monitored. They demonstrated the portable monitoring equipment, nicknamed "Jerome", and gave technical information on how the odors are scrubbed. 1500 lbs of chlorine are used daily to remove odors. Commissioner Kostka noted that regulations limit hydrogen sulfite to 300 parts per billion (ppb) at the site. Mr. Granat agreed with that figure and stated the highest level ever at West Point was 19 ppb. He noted that some odors can be caused by the sludge, which is sprinkled with granular chloride. Decaying seaweed on the beach area may also be the source of some odors.

Commissioner Kostka has noticed the odors and received complaints from other park visitors. Commissioner Kincaid added that she will not visit Discovery Park, nor will she take out of town guests there, because of the

bad odors. She asked if eventually no odors will be emitted by the Treatment Center. Commissioner Holme walks at the park frequently and has sometimes noticed the odors. He added that he may be olfactory challenged and the odors aren't offensive enough to keep him from visiting the park.

The discussion next turned to how King County staff receive and respond to odor complaints. There are signs posted near the treatment center asking the public to call the odor hotline. Receiving these reports is very helpful to the Treatment Center, which is staffed 24 hours daily, seven days a week. They can quickly investigate and treat the source of the odor. They respond to any complaints within two hours and contact the person who made the complaint with their findings. Responding to a question from Commissioner Angulo on translation services for low-English speaking callers, Ms. Van der Vieren answered that the calls are routed to a translation center and directed to the appropriate translator as these calls are a matter of public health and must be responded to quickly. King County staff also notifies Parks staff of any odors and Parks staff has been very cooperative and send notice to their list serves. Commissioners suggested that King County staff consider more effective language on the signs, such as "Your call will make a difference". King County staff thanked the Commissioners for the suggestions and input.

Commissioner Kostka asked if there is anything further King County can do to reduce the odors. Ms. Van der Vieren responded that King County Phase II of the nuisance odor controls are being implemented and they are always trying to improve the response to the odors. There are many components in nuisance odor control.

Commissioner Holme stated that it was a great leap of faith on the part of Seattle to permit a waste treatment center in one of the City's largest parks. King County has gone way beyond the current standards to deal with the odors – and he believes it owes this continued extra effort to the city.

The Commissioners thanked King County staff for attending this meeting and answering questions.

## **Old/New Business**

April 28 Park Board Meeting: Commissioner Barber will miss the April 28 meeting and asked that the briefings on the Washington Park Arboretum's Master Plan, SR 520 Mitigation Process, and Lake Washington Boulevard Traffic Calming briefings be re-scheduled. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli agreed to this request and the briefings have been tentatively re-scheduled to May 26.

Central Waterfront Committee (CWC) Update: At earlier meetings, Commissioner Kostka voiced concern that she and two other members of this committee [all three members serve on one of the City's boards or commissions] will not be allowed to vote on the design elements of the waterfront. She recently learned that this is the final decision of the CWC. She will remain on the committee, as an ex-officio member.

Follow up on Parks Funding Study: Commissioner Kostka asked about the Board's next steps in the Funding Study, following the March 10 briefing from Seattle Parks Foundation Executive Director Thatcher Bailey. Commissioner Holme, suggested at the March 10 briefing that the Park Board take the lead on the effort. However, he has reconsidered his statement and now believes it inappropriate for the Board to move ahead of the group of eight partners who commissioned the study. The Park Board is the most appropriate group to take recommendations forth to the mayor and City Council; however, he prefers to hear from the partners how they see the Board's role in this important effort. Parks staff will schedule Mr. Bailey for an update briefing to the Park Board in the near future.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Terry Holme, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_