

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners Meeting Minutes April 14, 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
Jourdan Keith
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair
Jackie Ramels

Excused:

Terry Holme, Chair
Donna Kostka

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. The Chair was absent and Vice-chair Kincaid called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the April 14 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith. The vote was taken and the motion approved.**

There wasn't a quorum of commissioners at this meeting who attended the March 10 or March 24 meetings, or viewed the tapes. Approval of both sets of minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

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=5591133> and move cursor to position 2.52.

Update on Atlantic City Nursery: Seattle Parks and Recreation's Atlantic City Nursery was closed in January 2010. The closure created an opportunity for the neighborhood to help shape the future use of this park property. In November 2010, Superintendent Williams endorsed the Use Plan, proposed by the Board of Park Commissioners, that would improve safety and provide for public access for the site.

In February 2011, Parks issued a Request for Proposal for the development and long-term operations and management of a community garden at the Atlantic City Nursery site. One proposal was submitted and reviewed by a Parks panel which included Parks staff, a Park Board commissioner and staff member from the office of City Council President Richard Conlin. A recommendation from the panel will be submitted to Superintendent Williams in the next few days. Staff hope to have legislation proposing a five-year agreement approved by the City Council in the next few months. For more information, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/atlantic_city/nursery.htm.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Angulo, Deputy Superintendent Friedli gave a brief history. This site is a former nursery for Seattle Parks, which has been closed. In 2010, the Park Board held a public hearing on the future use of the site and Commissioner Keith volunteered as a member of the team reviewing the Requests for Proposals. Commissioner Keith added that the focus for the site is to serve the community with education programs and a focus on urban agriculture.

Update on Central Waterfront Committee: The February 17 Central Waterfront kickoff event at the Seattle Aquarium was a huge success. Over 1,000 people attended to engage in the waterfront vision and hear the project team present their approach to the design. The City has received nearly 2,000 responses from the public on the future vision and potential uses of the new waterfront. This information will be used by the project team to better understand public preferences for the waterfront. A summary of the feedback can be found on the project's website at www.waterfrontseattle.org.

On May 19, James Corner and the project team will present initial waterfront design directions. This public meeting will be held at the Bell Harbor Conference Center. The waterfront framework plan and concept design will be completed in the Fall of 2012.

Update on CCAT SLI: The Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT) SLI is nearing the point where committee members will consider various options for operating Parks' 26 community centers and for charging for activities and rentals. An options matrix was distributed to staff and CCAT on April 7. To give CCAT members adequate time to consider the options carefully and perhaps to come up with some additional ones, the Department has requested, and Council has granted, a one-month extension on the due date for the Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) response. [For a full description of the community center and paid parking analysis SLI's, see <http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=101-1-A-1&S2=&S3=&S4=&S5=&S6=&S7=&S8=2011.CYCL.&Sect4=AND&l=50&Sect6=HITOFF&Sect5=BUDGET&Sect3=PLURON&d=BUDG&p=1&u=/~public/budget.htm&r=1&f=G.>]

The general public meetings will be postponed until mid-June, to give CCAT more time to develop public participation and format the meetings.

Update on Parking SLI: The City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee (PASC) discussed the first response to the Paid Parking Analysis Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) on March 10. The feedback from PASC was that the Department should plan to implement paid parking at Lake Union Park only, which will be reflected in the SLI responses due to City Council on July 1.

Commissioner Keith asked why only Lake Union Park was selected. Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that many commuters are already parking their vehicles at Lake Union Park. Parks staff have noted the parking lots are filled with vehicles every weekday, and not by park visitors.

"Celebrate Urban Nature" is Successful Event: Last Saturday's event at Magnuson Park was a big success, with over 500 people present and the gymnasium packed to the gills. A popular attraction was "Reptile Man" (<http://www.reptileman.com/home.html>). Feedback was very positive, indicating that everyone had a great time and learned a lot, too! The Magnuson Park Children's Garden hosted an impromptu filming of the "Gardening With Ciscoe" television show, which will be shown several times over the next few weeks.

Update on Queen Anne Community Center Operations: This is one of five community centers operating on a limited use basis, due to reductions in the Department's budget. Community members are trying to raise \$45,000 so the operating hours can be extended; they have raised \$900 in the past three weeks. The Associated Recreation Council (ARC) has agreed to be the fiscal agent.

Seattle Parks Foundation Survey: The park use report and survey are posted on the Foundation's web page at <http://www.seattleparksfoundation.org/>. Over 1,500 people have responded to the survey, with 90% of the respondents satisfied with the quality and upkeep of Seattle's parks.

Building 27 at Magnuson Park: Last fall the Sand Point Historic District, where Building 27 is located, was designated a historic district and City Landmark. Arena 27, which is leasing Building 27, recently won a Washington State award for its historic preservation efforts at the site.

The following is excerpted from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation at <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/HistoricSites/SHPOAwardsCurrent.htm>:

"Another award category recognized by the State Historic Preservation Officer each year is for outstanding achievement in rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures. Named in honor of late Tacoma architect Valerie Sivinski, this year's two award recipients in this category have a transportation theme. The first winner is Arena Sports for their outstanding rehabilitation of the Sandpoint Seaplane Hangar #27 in Seattle. The seaplane hangar's massive volumes and historic spaces severely limited most proposed adaptive re-use activities. But Arena Sports was up to the challenge and the payoff is a fun and exciting place to play and work out. The seaplane hangar rehabilitation extends the building's useful life while maintaining those features that make the building important."

Building 11: Deputy Superintendent Friedli gave an overview of the lease amendment proposed for Building 11 at Magnuson Park. Mayor McGinn has not yet transmitted the legislation to City Council. The developer, Building LLC, wants a different amendment and the City is working to better accommodate Sail Sand Point. [For more on Building 11 LLC, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/docs/Building11_2.pdf.]

Commissioner Ramels referred to several e-mails sent to the Park Board about the lease amendment. She believes those people feel betrayed and asked why this lease amendment wasn't brought to the Park Board, as it held a public hearing on the first lease. Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the Board's public hearing was on the concept proposal for Building 11 and several other sites at Magnuson Park. The leases haven't been brought to the Board. Commissioner Ramels asked that the Board receive further information on this issue and hopes there is a good resolution. [Discussion continued under New/Old Business.]

Environmental Summit on April 29: Seattle Parks is sponsoring an Environmental Summit on Friday, April 29. Lisa Graumlich, Dean of the University of Washington College of the Environment, will be the keynote speaker. A number of environmental education providers have been invited. A focus will be determining Seattle Parks' role in environmental education, in conjunction with other providers. This focus follows the Department's partial closure of its Carkeek Environmental Learning Center, due to budget cuts.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 am:	Thomas C. Wales Park Opening
Saturday, April 23, 10:00 am – noon:	Hubbard Homestead Opening (ribbon cutting)
Saturday, April 23, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm:	Myrtle Reservoir Park Opening
Sunday, May 1, noon:	Summit Slope Park Opening

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 Old/New Business. Three people testified. A brief summary of their testimony follows. To hear the testimony, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591133> and move cursor to position 22.01.

Ellen Taft: Ms. Taft stated she asked Seattle Parks Department two years ago for additional signs at Magnuson Park to read “no dogs on fields and playgrounds.” Then-Superintendent Gallagher agreed to this request; however, the signs still haven’t been installed. There are no such signs at the athletic field entrance and only a small sign at a nearby picnic shelter. These signs are very effective and empower people like her to help enforce the off-leash rules. Deputy Superintendent Friedli will ask staff to follow up with this request.

Ms. Taft also urged the Department to keep its wading pools open, rather than closing them due to budget cuts.

Barbara Downward: She volunteers at Lawton Park and asked that the Green Seattle Partnership provide its partners with a badge to identify themselves to park neighbors. Along with the badges, volunteers need contact information for the Park Rangers so they can call for assistance. Mark Mead, Seattle Parks Senior Urban Forester, stated that the badges can be provided.

Ms. Downward also voiced concerns with the amount of dog feces in parks that their owners fail to pick up and discard. Seattle needs a good program that requires dog owners to clean up after their pets and keep them on leash, unless they are in an off-leash area.

Barb Balden: Ms. Balden is a member of the Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance and had several comments: (1) Previously vehicles could park at Golden Gardens Park up to four hours; recently the time limit was changed to two hours. She questioned this change, as park visitors frequently want to stay at the park more than two hours. The parking enforcement officers are now giving many more tickets; (2) Recently, Seattle Parks crews removed and replaced the surface at the Gilman Playground and there wasn’t any sand in the new mixture; (3) She has observed that homeless people aren’t present at the City’s budget meetings to testify for themselves; (4) She has noticed invasive plants, especially English ivy, all over Seattle and wondered if this is a Parks Department or larger City of Seattle issue; and (5) She asked that the Department add borders on the trails at Magnuson Park to help keep wheelchairs and strollers from running off the trail.

Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded to #5 and stated the City recently completed an American with Disabilities Association (ADA) survey and is now prioritizing needed improvements. The suggestion for borders on the trails may fit well within that list.

Briefing: Green Seattle Partnership

Mark Mead, Seattle Parks Senior Urban Forester, presented a briefing on the Green Seattle Partnership. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, included below and posted on the Board’s web page for the public. To hear Mr. Mead’s presentation and the Board’s discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591133> and move cursor to position 34.5.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

The Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) is a volunteer effort to restore the 2,500 acres of Parks forested land to sustainable native forests. The Green Seattle Partnership is a unique public/private partnership between the City of Seattle and the Cascade Land Conservancy, currently in its sixth year. No Board action is requested.

Project Description and Background

In 2004 the City of Seattle embarked on an innovative 20-year effort to restore over 2,500 acres of urban forested parkland, a restoration effort that has become one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in the country. The Green Seattle Partnership is the culmination of the Forest Restoration Program begun in 1994 by Seattle Parks and Recreation.

City forests are failing as trees reach the end of their natural life and invasive plants choke out the next generation of trees. Over 40% of the forest is heavily infested with English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and

other invasive plants. Without a massive, coordinated community effort, seven out of ten trees in these natural areas will be dead within twenty years.

By mobilizing Seattle residents to donate 2 million volunteer hours and plant 200,000 trees by 2025, the Green Seattle Partnership will create healthier, more livable communities and pass on a legacy of community service to future generations. This effort would not be possible without inspiring levels of volunteerism, a dedication to appropriate ecosystem science and high levels of executive and managerial support across the City and within our community. The GSP has become one of the largest efforts of its kind in the state, if not the country, primarily because of the tireless investment of citizens, community leaders, agencies, non-profits, companies and the City.

Since the program's inception over 600 acres have been restored through a combination of:

- City investment of \$8 million from a combination of Cumulative Reserve Funds (CRF), the Pro Parks Levy and the 2008 Parks Levy funding;
- Community investment of over 500,000 hours of volunteer support; and
- \$4 million in community donations and grants.

Cascade Land Conservancy has replicated the Green Seattle Partnership model, launching similar programs in four cities in the region.

Public Involvement Process

Over 900 public meetings, in the form of volunteer work events, are held annually for the Green Seattle Partnership. Public outreach is managed by a committee of the partners and includes advertisements, materials, posters and attendance at local festivals and events. Since 2004 the annual Green Seattle Day has been held on the first weekend of November. In 2010 over 1,000 people attended this event. It is estimated that over 22,000 citizens participated in at least one GSP event in 2010. There are over 100 dedicated volunteer Forest Stewards that donate Saturdays every month, hundreds of small and large companies that donate staff time and resources, over 20 non-profits that leverage City funding and over 70 schools that participate annually in the Partnership.

Issues

No major issues of conflict have been encountered during the last five years of the Green Seattle Partnership. Some issues, such as working in and around encampments, slope stability, worker safety, loss of privacy and potential view conflicts have come up and are addressed through applicable City procedures or measures.

Environmental Sustainability

The intention of the Green Seattle Partnership is to improve the overall environmental and community health of Seattle by modeling a sustainable program that directly improves the urban forest, creates the management infrastructure to support these efforts and creates a community of knowledgeable and engaged stewards.

Budget

The current combined Cumulative Reserve Fund (CRF) and Parks Levy funding for GSP in 2011 is \$1.4 million. Future CRF funding is uncertain at this time and the \$3 million from the Levy will be expended by 2012. The initial funding requirement for the GSP was estimated at \$53 million over the planned 20-year restoration period. The planning was for a gradual ramping up through the 20 years to a sustainable General Fund budget of \$1.5 million for crews and ongoing maintenance of the forest once restored. These funds would be supplemented by outside leveraged funds from grants, gifts and other sources. Two significant non-City contributions to the GSP are the \$1.0 million anonymous donation to the restoration of the forest in Seward Park and the \$630,000 from the Coleman Park illegal cutting settlement. In addition, Seattle Public Utilities and other departments in the City are contributing in-kind resources and staff time. For long-term program sustainability, GSP is looking for alternative funding sources.

Schedule

The Partnership was originally developed as a 20-year plan. Budget reductions have increased the timeline. Current estimates are that restoration of 2,500 acres will take 25 to 30 years.

Additional Information

The Green Seattle Partnership can be found at <http://greenseattle.org/>. For more information, contact Mark Mead: mark.mead@seattle.gov.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Mead reviewed information in the briefing paper. This is a healthy and vibrant program, that is creating a good model of sustainability and follow through. Staff at the Department's environmental learning centers train high school students and they in turn help train middle and elementary age kids. Many of the students can walk to the work sites from their schools. Approximately one-third of the Parks Departments' volunteers hours are donated by the Green Seattle Partnership volunteers.

Questions and Answers

Commissioner Barber recalled that in 1998, the Leschi community partnered with Seattle Parks to remove invasives and restore the canopy of 26-acre Frink Park. In 2004, Mayor Nickels announced the Green Seattle Partnership, which really helped the community with this project. This partnership has been a great success at Frink Park, with nearly half the restoration completed. He suggested Green Seattle Partnership now provide the public statistics on what has been accomplished and set new goals.

Mr. Mead responded that staff are currently preparing a five-year strategic plan and a cost-per-acre analysis. Commissioners requested this study be forwarded to them when it is complete. He noted that, while volunteers do a great deal of free work, their efforts aren't entirely cost free. They must have materials and tools to work with and have supervision. One hour of paid staff time is required for every four hours volunteered.

The Board spent some discussing the funding sources. Green Seattle Partnership has received funding from a number of sources, including the 2004-2005 Real Estate and Excise Tax (REET), Pro Parks Levy, Parks and Green Spaces Levy, and private funds of \$4 million, as well as the 500,000 volunteer hours. Cascade Land Conservancy is the largest private donor, having donated \$3 million to the effort. The City has provided \$8 million. If the City cannot continue to invest in the program, due to the current economic crisis, the level of public support for the program will decrease. Staff are working on a variety of options to continue this good work.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Mead for the briefing.

Update Briefing: Seattle Parks and Recreation Budget

Carol Everson, Seattle Parks Finance Director, presented an update on the Department's budget. Commissioners received a handout at the beginning of this meeting, and copies were also made available to the public. The handout included information from a Powerpoint presentation, see summary below. The summary below does not include a number of charts provided by Ms. Everson.

To hear Ms. Everson's presentation and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591130> and move cursor to position 70.5.

Written Briefing

City's Smaller General Fund Can't Support Maintenance of an Expanding Park System

- City's General Fund (in inflation adjusted dollars) peaked in 2008 at \$930 million
- In the 2011 budget, the General Fund is \$863 million – a 7% decline
- However, General Fund is still above the 2000 level by almost 30%

Parks General Fund Support Peaks in 2009 and then Falls over 10%

- \$9.254 million in 2011 is Operations and Maintenance for parks and facilities that are new since 2000
- Backing out these New Facilities Costs (NFC), the General Fund support falls by 14% since peaking in 2009 Adopted Budget
- General Fund support minus New Facilities Costs is about \$1.5 million below its level in 2000 in real terms

What's Next for Seattle?

- Uncertainly about 2011 and 2012 revenue situation
 - As federal and state governments work to balance their budgets, impacts will be felt by Seattle
 - Unknown how revenues dependent on economy will hold up; will update revenue forecast in mid April
- Mayor has asked all departments to identify mid-year 2011 reductions equal to 3% of their General Fund support
- For Parks this is \$2.4 million
 - 2010 year-end surplus fund balance of \$3.3 million can mitigate mid-year and 2012 reductions
 - Community Center Statement of Legislative Intent may result in significant changes in 2012

Bottom Line

- General Fund that is shrinking in real terms can't support an ever-expanding park system
- Parks competes with other community needs for scarce resources
- Parks has already taken over 10% reduction in its workforce
- Parks is figuring out ways to operate more efficiently in both its grounds maintenance and community center management
- There is a limit to how much can be achieved with less

CIP Over 5 Bienniums

- Major Maintenance averages \$50.8 million per biennium
- Acquisition and Development averages \$70.6 million per biennium
 - Note that acquisitions are often not in adopted budget but in separate legislation so amount in 2011-2012 biennium is artificially small
- Debt service is increasing

Major Maintenance Funding

- Cumulative Reserve Sub-fund (CRS)/Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) funding averaged \$26 million per biennium
- In 2011-2012 it is only \$15 million and this assumes that projects delayed until 2012 can be funded
- Bond funding was for piling replacement (2005-2006) and Rainier Beach (2011-2012)
- Levy funding really compensated for fall in CRS/REET in 2009-2010 and somewhat in 2011-2012

Bottom Line

- Parks is a very big system with over \$250 million of major maintenance work to do in next six years
- CRS/REET funds only \$15 million in the next biennium
- At this rate it would take over 16 years to work through "to do list" and by that time many more things would be added
- Need funding of about \$62 million per biennium to not have an ever-expanding list
- This level of CRS/REET funding only seen in "boom years" of 2007-2008

Verbal Briefing

Ms. Everson reviewed the information from the handouts and the graphs. In mid-April, the City's Budget Director will present the mid-year revised budget forecast to Seattle City Council. It is expected that all City departments will be asked to take a 3% cut to their remaining 2011 budgets. Departments will get initial

directions for 2012 budget preparation soon after the revised budget forecast is released. Commissioners focused on major maintenance needs of the Parks Department, which is estimated at \$250 million and growing. Major maintenance is primarily funded by the Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), based on property sales. REET funds have shrunk during the current recession. Deputy Superintendent Friedli noted that the State Legislature very recently changed how REET funds may be utilized.

The Department has prioritized the first \$150 million in major maintenance projects, over the next six years. The Board expressed strong concerns with the amount of major maintenance and the Department's budget and asked Ms. Everson what types of solutions would help. Ms. Everson responded that the Department could make more cuts to other areas of its budget, but it has already cut 10% of its staff and reduced five community centers to limited hours of operation. Any additional cuts will result in decreased services for the public. Deputy Superintendent Friedli observed that Magnuson Park alone has \$50 million in needed major maintenance. The Department partnered with Arena Sports, which will do \$8 million in major maintenance at Building 27, and with the Mountaineers Club, which will do \$6 million. Public-private partnerships can make a large dent in the amount.

Commissioner Ramels stated that voters strongly support parks and, time after time, have approved park levies. She sees the current major maintenance needs as a political issue, as the City Councilmembers promoted the last park levy and failed to include any funding for major maintenance. Instead, they promised that Council would step up with funding when the Levy ended. Ms. Everson noted that when those promises were made, the economy was in much better shape than it is currently. The Department needs a permanent source of major maintenance funds that isn't tied to economic ups and downs.

Commissioner Kincaid agreed that REET is not a stable funding source. The City is grappling with reduced federal and State budgets, as well as the Tim Eyman initiatives on property growth. Ms. Everson responded that Parks is working hard to be creative. It has two choices – cut more of its budget or look at new ways of doing business. Commissioner Kincaid referred to public-private partnerships and urged the Department to be cautious with these agreement and to test results before expanding any partnerships. She believes the Department has strong public support and the partnerships may change the dynamics.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Everson for the update and stated her briefings are always very informative and useful.

Old/New Business

To hear this segment of the meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4845> and move cursor to position 28.00.

Magnuson Park Building 11: Commissioner Barber asked how the square footage of this building is to be used. The major part is designated for public use: 17,000 sq. ft. for recreational purposes; 17,000 sq. ft. for artists, daycare, and food service; 8,000 sq. ft. for water-related uses; and 25,000 sq. ft. for commercial purposes. He voiced concern that the developer has not followed through with the 8,000 sq. ft. for water-related purposes.

Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that the developers just yesterday suggested a new use ratio, with water-related use reduced to 5,000 sq. ft. and 5,000 sq. ft. designated for the artists. Commissioner Barber is surprised the developer has been unable to rent the full 8,000 sq. ft. for water-related uses.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on the status of Sail Sand Point (SSP), Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that SSP and the developer are holding discussions on the latest proposal and SSP Board is taking the latest offer under advisement, but haven't yet made a decision.

Commissioner Kincaid represents the Park Board on the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee and stated that it was a long-time plan to house the artists in Building 30; however, that building has seismic issues that would

cost \$8.5 million to remedy. The economy went downhill before the funds could be secured and the City cannot pay for the building to be renovated.

Commissioner Ramels noted the Park Board has received e-mails from several people angry about the way this agreement is progressing. How is the Department dealing with the anger? Commissioner Kincaid stated that the artists and other groups are taking a "wait and see" attitude. Commissioner Barber believes the artists are angry for two reasons: their rents will be double what they expected to pay and they will get about half the space they expected. Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the rent is still significantly less than they would pay at locations outside the park. The artists are still in discussions with the developer. He will give the Board an update at its April 28 meeting. The Board requested Parks staff to send it the completed structural report.

Building LLC will pay the City \$4,000 per year for 30 years and perform \$8 million in renovations to include roof, seismic, ADA, restrooms, and other improvements. Commissioner Barber stated this financing seems very generous to him and questioned whether it is normal practice for the City.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kincaid on who will pay for the improvements to tenant areas, Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded the Building 11 LLC will pay for the shell core.

Race and Social Justice Initiative: Commissioner Keith voiced concerns that minority organizations, especially the smaller ones, are not being invited to the table to help Seattle Parks Department brainstorm solutions. She also noted that small groups need more advance notice of events, as often they have few staff members and must plan early to attend conferences and workshops. She gave the upcoming Environmental Summit as an example: the invitations were sent in early April and the event is on April 29. She has observed that the "same old, same old" groups are being invited to help make decisions, and believes there is an impossible playing field for small groups vs. large organizations. She requested that Parks staff brief the Board on the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative. Deputy Superintendent Friedli agreed with this request and staff will schedule the briefing as soon as possible.

Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT): Commissioners Ramels and Kincaid are the Board's representatives on the CCAT. Commissioner Ramels stated that one member believes there isn't enough diversity on the team. Commissioner Ramels believes the process is moving too quickly and is being guided/led by Parks staff to a pre-determined solution. The non-Park Department committee members have requested a brainstorming session where Parks staff observe, rather than lead, the process.

Park Street Closures: Commissioner Barber voiced his ongoing concerns with the permanent closure of the loop drive at Volunteer Park. He requested it be opened on weekends and holidays during warmer weather.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Terry Holme, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____