



## **Park District Oversight Committee Meeting Summary- April 18, 2017**

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**Welcome** – Lylianna Allala, Park District Oversight Committee Chair

- The Committee welcomed a new member, Marlon Herrera, a representative from the Board of Park Commissioners.

### **Public Comment**

**Scott Bonjukian:** Mr. Bonjukian spoke to the Committee about the campaign for a new lid on I-5. Lidding I-5 helps re-stitch the urban fabric of the City which was divided by I-5. Both I-90 and SR 520 have lids which add land to their communities. The current focus is to lid additional parts of I-5 downtown where the City is running out of land for public use. While the Park District provides some funding to buy new land for parks, the cost of land in downtown and First Hill is prohibitive. Currently the lid-I-5 proponents are trying to get funding for a feasibility study of lidding il-5 from the convention center expansion project and the requirement that the project provide public benefits.

### **Get Moving: Evaluation by University of Washington School of Public Health Students**

Lakema Bell introduced graduate students from the University of Washington's School of Public Health who had evaluated the Get Moving program to be sure that the City is most effectively and productively using Park District funds. The students reported on their findings and set up stations around the room for Committee members to visit to learn:

- What we did
- What we learned
- What comes next

The following are highlights of their findings.

- The programs are making a big difference in communities
- The first year of the Get Moving fund was very successful
  - 96% of surveyed participants reported their physical activity increased because of the program
  - 99% reported they will continue to be active after the program
  - 96% reported being satisfied or very satisfied
- Public health research confirms culturally-responsive interventions, such as Get Moving, are successful in improving participants' levels of physical activity
- Get Moving has a unique funding and program structure



- After reviewing 30 other parks and recreation departments in the country, the students didn't find anyone else combining community-led, culturally-responsive and peer-to-peer mentorship with grants for community groups
- Recommendations from the students' evaluation include:
  - Improving communication about the application process
  - Provide grantee organizations with choices for evaluation tools
  - Provide additional opportunities for feedback from grantee organizations to Parks and Recreation
  - Provide additional opportunities for grantees to share ideas and information with one another
  - Sharing stories is important: individual impact is as important as data
  - Get Moving program staff are at capacity and need additional help to implement the students' recommendations

### **Major Maintenance Background and Process Information: Parks and Recreation's Capital Project Delivery**

Kathleen Conner, the Parks and Recreation Planning Manager, presented the process Parks and Recreation uses to develop our Asset Management Plan.

- Funding for capital projects comes from the Park District, Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), grants and partnerships
- With funding from the Park District, we've purchased 21<sup>st</sup> century asset management technology, the Asset Management Work Order system (AMWO)
- The system connects work orders with major maintenance
  - Repeated failures of a system which generate multiple work orders will now be automatically tracked to demonstrate possible need for replacement
- When the Park District was first presented to the voters, our major maintenance backlog was \$267 million
  - Because of the improved knowledge generated by AMWO, more systematic condition assessments, and escalating costs the backlog is now estimated at \$330 million
- SPR prioritizes asset management projects based on criteria, including:
  - Code requirements, for example for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, pool safety code requirements
  - Life safety issues, such as trip hazards
  - Extending the life of the facility, such as a new surface on a tennis court
  - Operating efficiencies, such as LED lighting
  - Beginning in 2018, we will add an equity criterion: if projects scored the same on the other criteria, an equity evaluation will help choose between projects
- The Asset Management Plan includes on-going programs for small projects which otherwise would never rise to a high enough priority for funding
- The small programs keep facilities in good operating condition and include



- Trails
- Electrical upgrades
- Tennis and basketball court resurfacing
- Playground program
- Once a project is funded, the planning and design process begins
- Community outreach often is via meetings in the community where the project is located
- SPR is trying other approaches as well, including setting up information gathering tables at farmers' markets, at project locations and interactive on-line meetings

#### Questions and comments from Committee members

- Communicating the message that the once \$267 million major maintenance backlog has risen to about \$330 million will be a challenge
- SPR will need to clearly demonstrate what projects have been completed and the costs
- Will need to clearly describe the reasons for the increase: the fact that we have more sophisticated information from AMWO and the fact that costs have increased in the current very competitive construction climate
- Regarding how contractors are found, SPR goes out to bid for large projects and must use the lowest qualified bidder
- For smaller projects, contractors can be selected from a list developed by the City's Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) Department, identifies those who qualify as Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE)
- For the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool, the community is very concerned about the deteriorating condition of the facilities
  - A recent evaluation determined that the facilities had reached the end of their life and need to be replaced
  - Until replacement occurs, SPR will be moving forward with improving facility components most urgently needing attention, including roof repair

The Committee asked how they could help SPR expedite or improve the capital project process, and asked that this be the subject for more complete discussion at the June 20, 2017 meeting.

#### **Committee Membership Update**

- There are 2 Council District vacancies: District 1, West Seattle and District 2, Southeast Seattle
- In response to the Committee's suggestion, staff reached out to the United Way's Leadership Program and to Puget Sound Sage to solicit interest in the positions
- Reappointments for second terms will be scheduled before the City Council's Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries and Waterfront Committee in May or June

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2017



Park District Oversight Committee  
Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom  
100 Dexter Avenue N

- The agenda will include:
  - Follow-up discussion on how the Committee can help with the capital project process
  - Update on the Green Lake Community Center/Evans Pool improvements
  - Bonding strategies: how to get a bigger jump on the capital project backlog

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.