

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2001

Present:

Bruce Bentley, Chair
James Fearn
Susan Golub
Yale Lewis
Sarah Neilson
Kathleen Warren

Excused:

Kate Pflaumer

Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The agenda consent items were approved as submitted including approval of the November 8 agenda, minutes of October 25 and the correspondence list. Correspondence included a letter from Fay and Justin Shimada regarding frustrations with the upcoming plans at Sand Point/Magnuson Park, specifically pertaining to possible view obstruction and a Department reply to Jim Simpkins and Jeannie Hall, Co-Chairs of the NE District Council regarding quality of the commitment to citizen involvement in Sand Point/Magnuson Park planning.

The Board welcomed Sarah Neilson as a new Board of Park Commissioner. Sarah was appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council at their October 29 meeting.

Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience: None

John C. Little Spirit Award Presentation:

Background: John C. Little came to Seattle in 1947 from East St. Louis with his wife, Gertis. He went to work for the Seattle Water Department, but his heart always was in creating a better life for the young people of the community. His motto became, "In order to improve the life of all people, you must improve the life of young people." Mr. Little received many honors and awards during his lifetime, including: King County's first Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the Washington State University's President's Faculty Award for Community Service, the Salvation Army's Torchy Award for Service to the Community, the Bishop Foundation Youth Worker of the Year Award and the City of Seattle Community Service Award. In 1994 he received Safeco's Rudy Award for dedicated service to the community which included a \$30,000 prize that he donated to the Seattle 4-H program.

John C. Little also served the community as a member of the Washington Human Rights Commission, and as a member of the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners from 1990 to 1997. In addition he was very involved with his community through his church.

He believed that sports competition offered opportunities for youth development, and noticed that there was lack of such programs in the inner city. He worked with others to create the Central Area Youth Association in the 1960s. Always disguised by the success of its sports leagues, CAYA subsequently expanded its programs with a variety of offerings, including one-on-one tutoring of students and job training.

During the early 1970s Mr. Little helped devise a youth conservation corps program in which inner city youth trained and worked in Olympic National Park. He concluded that he had never seen a program that so profoundly affected the lives of its young participants, and from that day on Mr. Little searched for opportunities to expose young people to wilderness experiences and challenges.

Although he was supporting a wife and seven children, Mr. Little returned to the University of Washington and earned a master's degree from the School of Social Work. He became director of the Mt. Baker Youth Service Bureau, which pioneered a demanding, realistic job training and placement program for inner-city youngsters.

Mr. Little's next and final career was head of the Seattle 4-H program, which falls under the sponsorship of Washington State University and the King County Extension Program. Mr. Little created a program to deliver 4-H activities to urban youth which became one of the most successful and innovative urban 4-H programs in America. This led to the creation of the remarkable 4-H Challenge Program at Franklin High School. The program was then expanded to include skills in job development.

In Mr. Little's seven years on the Board of Park Commissioners, he will be most remembered for his gentle judgment of how a proposed policy or new undertaking would be perceived by the people we serve, particularly by the young people. John died in the company of his family on May 11, 1991.

An award will be given annually to a Seattle Parks and Recreation employee. The selection committee will include a member of the Little family, someone from the Associated Recreation Council and a representative from Seattle Parks and Recreation. Nominees must be current employees in the Seattle Parks and Recreation. The Selection Committee will review applications in September of each year and the award will be presented annually during an October Park Board meeting. In order to be eligible for nomination, the individual must demonstrate the following characteristics: mentoring our youth, leadership in the community, making a difference in young lives and going above and beyond the call of duty.

Bruce Bentley stated it was his pleasure and he is truly honored to be present at the first John C. Little award presentation. He is a product of the CAYA program and also had the privilege of sitting on the Parks Commission and working with Mr. Little. Bruce also

appreciated the wisdom and influence Mr. Little imparted on him and he thinks a lot of kids for generations will be touched by him whether they know it or not.

Sandra, one of Mr. Little's daughters, thanked the Board and the Department for making this award possible on behalf of the John C. Little family and stated the award means a lot to the family and it is very special. Mrs. Little could not be present this evening but she wanted Sandra to tell everyone that she really appreciates the honor. Ken Bounds related this award is an inspiration of the Board and Parks and Recreation staff and it really came from Mr. Little's life. He helped many young people throughout the entire city. The Superintendent further related that if you walked down the street alongside Mr. Little, someone would stop him and asked how he was doing and proceed to have a conversation on how he affected their lives. John Little's oldest granddaughter Stephanie stated she is overwhelmed and happy his legacy is living on. She is working on her Ph.D. and her heart, goal and desire is with youth. She appreciates that her grandfather and his work are being recognized.

Herbye White, Director of the Parks Central Division, explained how he established a special kind of friendship with Mr. Little in a very short time. Herbye remembers Mr. Little's spirit and enthusiasm but also his candidness. "You would know what was in Mr. Little's heart and what he was feeling. He thinks the epitome of what John Little stands for is within the candidate that we are recognizing here this evening."

On behalf of the John C. Little family, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Park Board and the City of Seattle, Herbye White presented the first annual John C. Little Spirit Award to Pat Warberg, recently retired Yesler Community Center Coordinator. Pat Warberg started doing special things in the Department a long time ago. Herbye believes Recreation Attendants, Recreation Leaders, Assistant Coordinators and Coordinators are the people who can truly become heroes in this Department and Pat Warberg has been a hero for a long time. She has raised kids, she has dominated bad kids and turned their lives around. She has mentored people and Herbye knows her heart is filled because most of the people in the room are present on her behalf. Herbye said he knows a special feeling goes through her heart because Tharvy Pen, now Acting Recreation Center Coordinator at Yesler, is one of her prodigies and a person that she mentored.

Pat Warberg stated she is deeply flattered for being chosen as the recipient of this award. Pat met John Little through the 4-H program that she thought was one of the most solid experiences she had. One of the programs that really touched Pat was Mr. Little's work with the Franklin High School football team. Mr. Little had told the coach that his football team did not play as a team. Working with the Coach, Mr. Little designed a low-cost, outward bound-type program. The boys got better acquainted, engaged in team building activities, faced challenges, took risks and set individual and group goals. They won the Metro football championship in 1986 and most years from then until now. Pat helped some of "her" kids' and their kids at the Yesler Community Center. Pat said as long as Mr. Little is "up there looking at us" she will be down here doing something. Pat expressed her appreciation to everyone. A perpetual award plaque will remain on display at the Park headquarters. Other members of the Little family were introduced. Jamila

Brown - granddaughter; Kaylea -great granddaughter, Tanzankia Spears - great granddaughter-in-law and Gam Tran - granddaughter-in-law.

Public Hearing: Sand Point/Magnuson Park Vegetation Management Plan

Mark Mead, Senior Urban Forester, distributed a Project Summary of the Sand Point Magnuson Park Vegetation Management Plan to the Board. The Summary explains the public involvement process, the development and content of the plan, the major issues addressed and a summary of the proposed changes of the draft document as of November 7, 2001. There were no major content changes in Sections 1-4. In Section 5, Vegetation Treatment Types by Zone and Management Area, specific instructions for each management and maintenance action will be described including limits on size of removal/invasive control areas, details on incremental removal interval, replanting ratios and densities, and species composition of replacement planting to attain desire plant community goals. Text will be added for the Building 193 Zone. Formatting will be added to make finding each Management Area easier. Section 6 will have text for Section 6.2 Establishing Meadow. Text will be added in Section 6.5 Planting, to add plant list with species-specific microclimate preferences as well as re-planting densities and replacement ratios. Text in Section 6.11, Weeding and Invasive Control, will be added to more clearly define different removal and control options with specific seasonal timing for each strategy. Section 7, Plan Implementation, clearer prioritization of implementation strategy including more specific guidance on locations of desired actions and implementation schedule to reflect proposed sequencing will be included. A large master calendar of all Management Areas and all management and maintenance actions will be prepared. There will be clarification/reiteration of commitment to removal and control invasives only with intent to replant, maintain and monitor as direction in the Plan. Section 8, Monitoring, a checklist for staff to use for two year site monitoring to assess change over time and inform adaptive management of problem areas will be added. Text will be included for project monitoring of specific projects implemented in formal landscape areas such as the Historic District.

Tom Kelly, park user and neighbor of Sand Point/Magnuson Park, has put hundreds of hours in volunteer time into improving the park. He praises the plan and feels the people involved in the plan did a professional job, both the staff and the contracted people. They listened to people and the plan respects all views. It is a great plan in the horticultural and ecological aspects and he also thinks it is going to meet human needs very well. Mr. Kelly thinks the plan will help control maintenance costs in the long run through the park. It will be a very helpful document into the future in terms of defining conditions in the park, helping people recognize other opportunities, and will be a great plan for volunteers to do the right thing. The plan also has some features that are very good such as how to do various kinds of maintenance.

Mr. Kelly has a minor criticism regarding Fin Art and renegotiating the maintenance plan. He hopes maintenance work will be done there to improve the wildlife and natural areas. He would like the proposed mowing plan changing to two times a year from the present maintenance agreement to having the area mowed just once a year after the bird-

nesting season. Once a year is enough to control the Scotch Broom, blackberries and other invasives. Mr. Kelly referred to display boards and pointed out some areas he does not think need to be mowed. If people really work with the Plan it will be a better park.

Mark Mead introduced the staff and consultants (Eliza Davidson, Diane Sheldon, Marsha Fisher and Kevin Bergsrud) and expressed his appreciation for their work involved in the preparation of the plan.

Diane Sheldon informed the Board that the key issues they have heard from the public involve use of native species, use of goats to mow the grass, additional nesting bird areas, mowing pattern concerns down around the boat launch parking lots and feedback around the sequence in timing and removal of native species. There is no plan to manage vegetation in the park to maintain views from private property outside of the park. The Vegetation Management Plan has been written as if the funding for the wetlands project may never materialize.

Mark Mead stated there have been public meetings for the Vegetation Management Plan as well as public meetings for the Habitat and Fields project. The meetings have been built on each other. The public may see and anticipate more change through the habitat plan perhaps than the Vegetation Management Plan.

The Park Board will be reviewing and making its recommendation to the Superintendent on the final Sand Point/Magnuson Park Vegetation Management Plan at its December 13 meeting.

Superintendent's Report

- The Superintendent attended a local task force meeting in Union Gap today. The task force is comprised of several legislators and park officials from around the state and is reviewing potential ways for the state to support park maintenance and operations.
- **Lower Woodland #1 – Field Lighting** – The City Council approved the variance on the pole height for the field lights.
- **Pro Parks Kick-Off Celebration** – The Department celebrated the completion of the first Pro Parks Levy-funded construction project on October 27 at the Genesee Playfield.
- **Aquarium Master Plan** – The concept design for the proposed Pacific Northwest Aquarium was presented to the City's Landmarks Preservation Board on November 7. This was the second presentation to the full Preservation Board and the first to show the full concept design and a three dimensional model. The next step is to complete a Controls and Incentives Agreement and apply for Certificates of Approval for the specific changes to the pier. A Park Board briefing will be scheduled.
- **Pioneer Square Park, Pergola Restoration** – The contractor has completed on-site concrete work. The site will be inactive until the replacement of the iron and

steel structure begins. In an attempt to make the work site more friendly, seven 2' x 3' full color signs will be posted along the temporary sidewalk on Yesler Way. The signs give the history of the Pergola and explain the work that must be done to get the Pergola back on site.

- **After School Activities Program (ASAP)** – All 18 Middle School sites are up and running with the exception of Whitman, which will begin after-school programs on November 13, and Madrona who will not be running the program this year due to school renovation. There has been an increase in participation and many of the larger schools are above 60% student body participation.
- **Hansa's Birthday** –There were 5,242 visitors who came to celebrate the elephant's birthday last Saturday.
- **WRPA Conference** – Seattle Parks and Recreation hosted the mid-year WRPA Conference at Sand Point on November 1. It was a great opportunity for networking and professional growth development. Approximately 450 attended.
- **Zoo Governance/Transition Issues** – The Department submitted the draft Zoo transition agreement to the City Council. Councilmember Drago is scheduling a public hearing on December 3. The Council's Finance Committee will review the draft on December 5 and the full Council may act on it December 10. The draft agreement was submitted by the Executive who will incorporate comments from the Councilmembers and Board of Park Commissioners.

Items of Interest to the Board:

Susan Golub noted the Zoo Agreement is not going through the Park Board's usual process of holding a public hearing, discussing and making a recommendation to the Superintendent and City Council. The Superintendent stated that much of this agreement is built on things that have been decided in the past. Issues that came up during the Metropolitan Park District discussion about accountability, public reporting and public involvement are incorporated in the agreement.

Future Agenda:

- November 22 Thanksgiving holiday - meeting canceled
- December 3 Joint City Council/Park Board Public Hearing
Zoo management agreement, followed by special Park Board meeting to discuss agreement and make a recommendation to the Council.
- January 26 Park Board Retreat – Camp Long

Woodland Park Zoo Briefing

- **Operations & Management Agreement:**

Mike Waller, Zoo Director, gave a brief history of the Zoo beginning with the Zoo Commission. The Seattle Zoological Society was formed in 1966. The organization's purpose was to mobilize public support and generate additional funding for zoo improvements. Mayor Wes Uhlman formed a citizen's task force to help formulate a new plan for the zoo, surrounded by the Save Our Elephants Campaign, and developed the bond issue which allowed the Zoo to redevelop. In 1976, the Jones & Jones plan was approved. That plan has served as an outline for the Zoo's future development. After the \$31.5 million of county bonds and an additional \$20 million was spent to finish that phase of the master plan, a 40-member Zoo Commission II was appointed by Mayor Norm Rice in 1995 to determine the next steps for the Zoo. That Commission chaired by Phil Nudelman was charged with crafting recommendations on the future of Zoo funding and operations. The Commission, after concluding that a dual management system is cumbersome and duplicative, recommended a unified form of management by the Zoo Society under a contract with the City. This will allow further public funding and allow unitary management and allow the Zoo to be focused on its other mission. The Zoo will remain a cherished public resource, public park, and move further into education and conservation. There are 12 city employees in zoo education and another 40 WPZS employees who help with education and zoo conservation programs. Discussions began approximately three years ago with the Executive and Department to talk about what form this might take. Mayor Paul Schell accepted the recommendations and directed City staff to work with the Zoo Society to develop the agreement.

To lay the legal groundwork for the agreement, the City secured authority from the State Legislature to enter management contracts for both the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium, included funding for Zoo projects and programs in the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, made substantial progress on the Zoo Long Range Plan and environmental impact statement and worked through labor issues relating to the transfer of City employees to the Woodland Park Zoological Society.

Sarah Welch, Director of Finance, Budget & Administrative Services, reviewed the Executive Summary of the Draft Memorandum of Agreement for Nonprofit Management of Woodland Park Zoo, dated October 25, 2001. It is anticipated that 2002 will be a transition year. The first three months of the year will be devoted to developing a transition plan for transfer of vehicles, equipment, and other procedures. City employees will continue to be employed by the City until the employee transition plan is completed.

The term of the contract shall be twenty years with an optional ten-year renewal. The City is required by contract to provide \$5 million annually of General Fund revenue to the Zoo, plus an annual increase of 70% of the CPI index for Seattle Tacoma. The agreement includes a Fiscal Emergency clause that enables the City to reduce the Zoo's payment temporarily in the event of a severe fiscal emergency in which total City General Fund revenue for a year is reasonably projected in the final forecast of the adopted budget to be less than the revenue the previous year. In the event of a fiscal emergency, the Operations Support can be reduced from amount provided the previous year by up to the percentage decline in expected General Fund revenue or by 5%,

whichever is less. Once the fiscal emergency ends, the Operations Support shall be adjusted annually from the new base using the escalation factor.

The City shall transfer to the Zoo Society a routine maintenance payment of \$500,000 on an annual basis with the payments being transitioned over time. To address the existing major maintenance backlog at the Zoo and planned 2001 major maintenance projects, the City shall transfer to the Society a total of \$6.4 million over the first seven years of this Agreement.

Payments for major maintenance by the City will be matched by the Society fundraising. The City will provide \$1.00 of major maintenance funding for each \$2.50 raised by the Society up to a maximum of \$2.5 million. If the Society does not raise sufficient funds to meet the total matching requirement in any year, the remaining City funding for major maintenance for that year will not be provided. If the amount provided to the Zoo from the General Fund is reduced due to a fiscal emergency, the Society's match requirement shall be reduced as follows: for every \$1.00 the General Fund contributed the zoo is cut, the match requirement for the Society will be reduced by \$2.50 for that year and in each subsequent year until the General Fund transfer reached the original base.

The City will provide all the proceeds from the Zoo portion of the Levy to the Society (\$2.5 annually, plus escalation included in the levy language) to expand operations, maintenance and programming at the Zoo. The City also agrees that it will inform the Society of its intention to pursue renewal of the levy one year before the expiration of the 8-year levy. In the event the City does not pursue renewal of the levy or continues to provide \$2.5 million annually from another source, the Society has the right to terminate the agreement.

Parking - The City agrees to finance through the Parking Bonds, appropriate parking structures and surface improvements to bring the Zoo's total on-grounds parking spaces to 1,450 visitor spaces. The City will be responsible for paying debt service on the Parking Bonds provided the debt service is paid on the following terms: WPZS shall provide the yearly net parking revenue toward debt service on the parking bonds. After the net revenue is deducted from the yearly debt-service, the remaining debt service payment will be split between the city and WPZS, with the city paying $\frac{3}{4}$ of the balance and WPZS paying $\frac{1}{4}$ of the balance.

The City will not institute the Restricted Parking Zone or other parking restrictions in the areas surrounding the Zoo unless and until construction of structured parking to replace the number of parking spaces removed from zoo by such restrictions.

WPZS and its prime contractors will establish a target that 25% of estimated hours construction work on the Parking Garage would be assigned to apprentices. WPZS will ensure that at least 15% of the value of the construction work on the Parking Garage be subcontracted to certified Women or Minority-Owned Business Enterprises.

Long Range Plan – the Agreement contemplates the adoption of the Long-Range Plan as deemed accepted by the WPZS or before April 1, 2002. In the event that the Plan is not adopted by April 1, 2002, WPZS may terminate this Agreement without cause. WPZS is prohibited from making any capital improvements that are not consistent with the Long-Range Plan.

Admissions – WPZS will have the authority to set admission fees; provided the City and WPZS intend that the Zoo remains accessible to individuals from all economic circumstances. The Agreement states that admission prices should reflect market rates for comparable attractions and not increase by more than the rate of inflation being experienced by the Zoo (which includes, but is not limited to, costs such as personnel, supplies, equipment and utilities). WPZS will retain all admission proceeds, including gate receipts.

Access: WPZS agrees to operate the Zoo with the goal of providing the widest possible access of the zoo to the general public, at an affordable cost. In furtherance of that goal, the Society agrees to retain the policy of providing reduced admission to the zoo for school groups, and to pursue other options for ease of access to the Zoo and special services at the zoo for children, seniors, the disabled and low-income individuals.

Naming – Under no circumstances, with the exception of formal action by the Board of Park Commissioners and the City Council, may the zoo's name be changed from Woodland Park Zoo.

Zoo Employees – the Agreement includes a transition year to deal with union, pension and benefits issues. City employees will remain city employees until these issues are resolved. The agreement will allow the new Zoo Director to be hired by the Zoological Society and to supervise all zoo employees consistent with existing labor agreements and personnel rules.

There has been a lot of discussion with the employees and all options will be described. James Fearn asked how many employees are represented by unions. There are approximately 105 represented employees out of a total of 170 City Zoo employees. The Joint Crafts Council, Local 17 and Local 1239 have been scheduling discussions with employees. One of the main City employee concerns relates to the retirement benefits. Actuaries are being consulted. There will be a transition plan developed for City employees. One of the goals with the unified management system would be to not have a two-tier type pay system. Currently, city employees get paid more than Society employees.

Zoo Revenue – all revenue collected by WPZS at the Zoo, including admissions, concessions, souvenirs and other services offered by the WPZS at the Zoo, and all contributions collected by WPZS from any other source shall be expended or invested by WPZS exclusively for zoo purposes.

Grant Funding – the city shall allow the Society to apply for grants in its name which the Society might not otherwise be eligible subject to prior approval by the Superintendent of Parks. All grants to the City received from the zoo will be transferred to the zoo within 30 days of the receipt of the grant funds.

Reporting – The agreement requires WPZS to submit a number of written reports to oversight authorities, which will then become public documents including annual report to Superintendent, quarterly reports to Park Board summarizing Zoo operations, annual report to Levy Oversight Committee and a monthly financial report to the Superintendent.

WPZS will undergo an audit of its books and records by an independent certified public accountant and provide a copy of the audit to the Superintendent. WPZS will establish books, records and systems in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices for non-profit organizations. These books, records and systems of account will be available all reasonable times, with or without notice, for inspection by the City.

Public Involvement – The Mayor, Superintendent and Chair of the City Council Cultural, Arts and Parks Committee shall each have the right to appoint one citizen to the WPZS Board of Directors, subject to the same criteria generally recognized for membership on the Board.

The WPZS will provide the public with the opportunity to review and comment on the Annual Report and respond to such comments in a supplemental report to the Superintendent.

Major capital projects at the Zoo will go through the same public process as is required for other major Park Department projects. In addition, the Public Affairs Committee of the WPZS Board can recommend to the Board as a whole that a public involvement process is held for other major activities at the Zoo. A majority of the Board can require such a process. Kathleen Warren inquired if the WPZS will essentially be using the same Public Involvement Policy as the Department and was informed that it would.

WPZS intends for the Zoo to be operated as a high quality attraction with exceptional customer service at all levels. WPZS will regularly evaluate its performance and include those results in the annual report. To this end, WPZS will establish a process by which suggestions from the public can be received and addressed in a reasonable and timely manner.

In recognition of the special circumstances of immediate neighbors to the Zoo, WPZS will establish a neighborhood liaison at the Board and staff levels to work with the Phinney Ridge, Wallingford and Green Lake communities on a regular basis.

Termination – The City has the right to terminate the agreement immediately if WPZS defaults on any of the provisions of the agreement provided WPZS has a period of sixty days from the date of written notification from the City within which to take actions to

cure the default. WPZS has the right to terminate the agreement in the event the City defaults on its terms of the agreement, including failure to timely pay any portion of any fee due under the agreement or to begin the process for requesting voter approval of the levy renewal, provided such failure is not cured within sixty days after written notice from WPZS.

Susan Golub questioned the tie-in with the levy and asked, as an example, if the city goes ahead with another levy and it fails what happens? Sarah Welch stated the City could continue from non-levy to add \$2.5 million to what the General Fund support is and if the city had neither levy money nor another \$.2.5 million then the WPZS could decide to get out of the agreement. Susan further asked if the city would keep the land. The City would keep the land and the buildings.

Kathleen Warren inquired about admissions and what might be looked at five years from now. Mike Waller stated that has not been projected. The admission prices might equal some percentage of the CPI. The Society desires the flexibility to do some other kinds of things – perhaps price more in summer and a little less in the off-season. The Society is committed to maintaining access to people and maintain the rate as low as it can be and still maintain the facility.

Ken Bounds stated having long term stable funding will be a key to help keep the admissions down and help to achieve the objectives of conservation and education without having to commercialize the operation. This is not an agreement to privatize the Zoo. There is a lot of public resource going into the Zoo to keep it accessible and available and the agreement is contracting out the management and operation to the Society.

Susan Golub inquired about what protection and oversight would be in place on how the Zoo is developed. The Long-Range Plan will not be changed unless the Society comes back through the city process. James Fearn asked if the land is still parkland would people come to the Park Board if there were a problem. Yale Lewis stated the agreement would transfer more authority to the Society. There is a clause in the agreement regarding donation acknowledgment stating that naming recognition shall not include names intended for commercial or advertising purposes, although corporate or organizational gifts may be recognized through the simple use of the donor's name, subject to approval by the Superintendent. There are three publicly appointed members to the Society board that can help oversee projects.

Yale Lewis stated there is nothing in the Agreement that states the Long-Range Plan governs the Zoo. Physically the plan is pretty restrictive to what is allowed but not programmatically. Kathleen Warren stated the agreement needs to be explicit beyond the capital projects.

Kathleen Warren inquired under “fiscal emergency” if you have to reduce the money, do you have to pay it back? It branches down and when the emergency is over it starts going back up again. It also allows the Society to drop its matching amount at the same time.

Bruce Bentley asked if the \$500,000 routine maintenance is a constant with no CPI adjustment. That amount is the value of the shop service the Department is currently providing and can be broken down into work orders. Bruce asked for clarification about default. If there was default by the Society would the Department have to go back and purchase the equipment. Sarah Welch stated that is something that will be addressed.

- **Long Range Plan Update**

Mike Waller stated the Zoo is continuing to work on the plan. One of the major issues was the mass and scale of the Discovery Village. Additional work is being done with the design firm. The area has been broken into a campus, which split out the office building from the other activities. The elements are the bio-central, conservation gallery and the family learning center. The zoo is now in the process of going through an assessment of the historic value of the old primate house. The office building will be “green” as much as is possible. Bethune Architects is a firm dedicated to protecting the environment. The windows would need to be to opened and shut and locating the building by the loading dock would not be the best place because of the diesel fumes. The building would be located where the north gate is now. In the Long-Range Plan the north gate is being closed and a northwest entrance opened.

The major issue has been the discussion about parking. There were six options and cost estimating has being done. The EIS consultants, Shapiro, are analyzing the data. The Zoo has worked with the Office of Sustainability and encouraged people to use bicycles and Metro transit when visiting the zoo. Discounts were offered. Bicycle corrals were filled to capacity during the summer concert series. There are some positive things that can be done as the structures are designed. There does not seem to be an efficient way to provide parking on the other side of Aurora. It would cost over \$2 million to provide access and would put the rose garden at some risk. Major renovation of the intersection and underpass would have to be done. There are two candidates for preferred options at this point – the west parking structure above ground and a west parking structure underground.

The Zoo had long discussions with Metro in terms of shuttles and other things. The zoo does not bring enough people from the same places at the same, even on weekends, to warrant a shuttle effort. Changing some of the bus stops has been discussed to make it more convenient for people to take the bus to the Zoo.

An internal version of the Draft EIS will be available after the beginning of the year. A briefing is tentatively scheduled at the January 10, 2002 Park Board meeting.

The Park Board will forward a letter to Councilmember Drago requesting the Board join the Finance, Budget and Economic Development Committee’s public hearing on December 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Park Board would then meet immediately following that hearing to discuss their recommendation and forward comments to the Council Committee. The Council Committee is scheduled to meet on December 5 and forward their recommendation to the full Council on December 10. If

the hearing goes too late into the evening on December 3, the Board will convene a special meeting the morning of December 4 at 100 Dexter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair