

# **BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 8, 2001**

Present:

Bruce Bentley, Chair  
Karen Daubert  
James Fearn  
Susan Golub  
Michael Shiosaki-Excused  
Kathleen Warren

Staff: Ken Bounds, Superintendent  
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Bentley at 7:05 p.m. The agenda was approved as distributed.

**Correspondence:** e-mail from Dermot Noonan supporting the Sand Point tennis center, North Division Earth Day Events, e-mail from Paul Gibson regarding Arboretum Master Plan, Letter from Friends of Olmsted Parks regarding Off-Leash Dogs Exercise Area in Volunteer Park, e-mail from Jim McClurg regarding Aquarium South Option, List of Park Board Committees, Invitation to URPA Reception, Eric Gold Response to Rob Cockerham's Riverview Park inquiry, e-mail from Rick Hemmen regarding tree policy, e-mail from Stacy Birk-Risheim regarding Magnuson Park, e-mail from Kathy Whitman to Mike Shilham regarding Seacrest Taxi-ferry.

**Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience:** None

**Superintendent's Report:**

- **Earthquake** – Ken Bounds distributed a department earthquake damage report dated March 8, 2001 to the Board members. The report summarizes damages and has been submitted to the FEMA coordinator. Consulting firms have been retained for structures and marine facilities expertise and their efforts will continue until assessment and recovery phases are completed. Some of the facilities damaged include: Green Lake Community Center damage when a separation occurred between the gymnasium and lobby, Green Lake boating facility red-tagged as entire building moved 3-5 inches toward the lake, Hiawatha Community Center ceiling moved separate from walls, Aquarium saltwater pipe rupture and the pier moved away from the seawall. Pier 59 was yellow-

tagged and the Aquarium was closed to the public on Thursday, partially open on Friday and Saturday, and fully open on Sunday. Projects fall into specific categories as outlined by FEMA. For small projects, payment of the Federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project and no further accounting to FEMA is required. For large projects, payment is made on the basis of actual costs determined after the project is completed. Once FEMA obligates funds to the State, disbursement to subgrantees is the responsibility of the State. FEMA continues to monitor the recovery progress to ensure timely delivery of eligible assistance.

- **Project Pachyderm** – The zoo contest officially began on February 26. The famous baby continues to receive attention in the media, including a feature on KING 5 TV and a cover story in Pacific Magazine.
- **Interbay** – Completed purchase of the Family Golf Operations agreement and signed a 22 month Interim Management Agreement with Premier Golf. The new operation began on March 1. A news release was distributed to the Board.
- **Sand Point Sportsfields Resolution** – The Resolution requesting Council approval of the Magnuson Park sportsfields is on the CAP Committee agenda for March 14.
- **Magnuson Off-Leash Area and Wetlands** – The Department received a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers raising issues about bark use in the Off-Leash area. The Department stopped using the bark, is reviewing the issues, working with the Law Department and will prepare a response.
- **Yesler Community Center** – Two public meetings have been scheduled (April 4 and May 2 at the Neighborhood House, 825 Yesler Way, from 7-8:30 p.m.) to talk about siting options.
- **Planning and Capital Development Division Director Interviews** – scheduled for March 9.
- **Calder Sculpture** – The Eagle sculpture has been installed outside the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park. The installation celebration will be held at 3:30 p.m. on March 10 at SAAM.
- **Japanese Garden** – The garden reopened on March 1. It will be open daily until
- September 9<sup>th</sup> when it will close for a shoreline renovation project.
- **Youth Appreciation Week** is April 6-14.

- **Langston Hughes Culture Arts Center** – A workshop was held to develop a new strategic plan for the center. It involved representatives of the performing arts community, the advisory council, the Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation staff. The group agreed that its general emphasis should be performing arts.

- **10 Broad Street** –

An ordinance authorizing the acquisition of property located at 10 Broad Street has been forwarded to the City Council. We anticipate redevelopment of the 10 Broad Street property as a seamless component of the Olympic Sculpture Park.

- **Ballard Safeway** –

The City Council approved the purchase of the former Ballard Safeway property at 5701 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW for the development of a park as part of the larger Ballard Municipal Center Master Plan.

- Copies of a Parks and Recreation Magazine supplement regarding the "spirit of volunteerism in parks and recreation - Woods Legacy," written by Dewey Potter, Parks Public Relations Manager, was distributed to the Board.
- Copies of a February 28, 2001 Seattle Times op-ed article regarding African Americans and Seattle's Parks will be sent to the Board.

### **Items of Interest to the Board**

Karen Daubert noted the Department of Neighborhood's Newsletter lists Parks Department meetings and has various articles about Parks and Recreation projects and programs.

Karen Daubert inquired about the proposed water taxi at Seacrest Park. A proposal has been developed by King County to improve transportation. A year-round demonstration project for the water taxi would begin in May of this year and would involve the use of Seacrest Park as a ferry landing. At the same time, planning and permitting would begin for a permanent location somewhere in the Alki area, but not at Seacrest. Parks recognizes the importance of Seacrest Park in providing recreational opportunities for the public. It is clear that access to this protected and interesting diving location is important to the citizens. Diving will be prohibited within 300 feet of the dock when Seacrest Park is used as the landing area for the water taxi. Only the south pocket beach would be available for diving access. Parks has asked King County to sponsor a public meeting on the water taxi later this spring to address community concerns.

James Fearn inquired about the status of the Belltown cottages. The Belltown P-Patch at Vine and Elliott, was purchased for \$1 million through the Open Space Opportunity Fund. The property was purchased for the purpose of keeping the P-Patch garden viable and increasing open space opportunities. The site included three cottages. The Belltown community has been continuing to explore options to rehabilitate and reuse the cottages. There are proposals before the city to use the cottages for various purposes including care taking, writers in residence and community center activities. Open space goals that were the basis for the purchase of the cottage property need to be accomplished Retaining any more than one cottage may require funding source reimbursement.

The Board wished the Superintendent a Happy Birthday!

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 22, 2001 Board meeting were approved as distributed.

### **Revocable Use Permit - Underground Natural Gas Line**

Terry Dunning, Parks Real Estate Manager, reviewed a Revocable Use Permit request to allow Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to install an underground natural gas service line to a private property located at 4217 Lake Washington Boulevard South. In accordance with the approved procedures for issue of permits, notice of this application was published in the Daily Journal of Commerce. An application fee in the amount of \$100 has been paid. In accordance with the approved fee schedule there is no further charge for permits for essential utility services. Puget Sound Energy is a self-insured entity. Acceptable indemnification provisions, which have been approved through the City's Office of Risk Management, must be provided by PSE prior to the issuance of the permits. The permit identifies the exact location of the service line for Parks' records. PSE installation typically takes place a few days after issuance of a permit. As a condition of the permit, park property must be restored to a condition acceptable to the Department. **The Board unanimously recommended the Superintendent issue the permit.**

Susan Golub requests the Park Board discuss a consent calendar format for revocable use permits at the Park Board Retreat on March 27.

### **Central Waterfront Aquarium South Option Public Hearing**

John Braden, Senior Planning & Development Specialist, informed the Board due to Pier 59 being "yellow-tagged" by DCLU engineers on March 1 following the February 28 earthquake an inspection was scheduled. Engineers found that Pier 59 was structurally sound and the Aquarium reopened on Sunday, March 4. An ongoing program and expenditure for wooden pier inspection is necessary.

John Braden stated there have been questions regarding the Pier 59 Landmarks Board process. The Landmarks Preservation Board did accept the nomination of

the Pier 59 structure to potentially be a city landmark. On April 4, the Landmarks Board will take public testimony and try to make a determination of designation. The designation will define specific elements of the pier or pier shed structure to determine if they are worthy of controls. Subsequent to that there is a 75-day period where there is a negotiation for a Control and Incentives Agreement which would provide clarity as to which objects are designated, subject to controls, and what kind of controls. There would be an environmental review. The city could apply for a certificate of approval for any alternations that are part of what is designated and subject to control. The Department is a ways from knowing in detail what can be done with Pier 59.

The Department needs to present to the City Council a resolution to adopt a 2001 work program. That work program will include the EIS work to proceed. In order to do that the Department would like to know what the preferred alternative is and will be seeking clarification from the Council. The Department cannot alter the adopted Master Plan until the EIS is completed.

**Betty Kerr** read a letter on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Seattle appreciative of the efforts to study alternative sites for the proposed new aquarium. "A plus for any proposal would be that it allows the current collection to remain intact as a new aquarium is built. Our primary interests are in the aquarium as an educational facility which through its location and programs can enhance the natural environment. We would also like to see an aquarium, which does not block the general public from the water. We do not see its primary value as that of a tourist attraction. We also support the continuing participation of citizens' advisory group as the site selection and design process continue. While the present aquarium has been valuable as an educational resource, some of its problems seem to be related to design, and for that reason we support continuing input from a wide variety of users as the process continues." Barbara Guptill; President, LWVS, and Land Use Committee members Jan O'Connor and Betty Kerr signed the letter.

**Janice Blair** commended the Citizens Advisory Committee's work and finding that moving the aquarium south would be best in preserving the open space on the waterfront. She has issues regarding parking. Parking meters have been removed along Alaskan Way by Pier 62/63 giving way to charter buses. A new hotel is breaking ground and the parking in that area will be gone. Ms. Blair urged the Aquarium to continue to research and find a solution to the parking problem.

**Art Skolnik** wonders why it is important for the Parks Board to make a recommendation at this time given the process status. Some CAC members still feel their work needs to continue as the evolution of the siting becomes refined through the Landmarks Preservation Board to the City Council discussions. The CAC desires to continue to work on the design program for the new Central Waterfront Park if the Aquarium is built on the south option, which he supports. If the Board feels obligated to make a recommendation on the siting of the

Aquarium at this time it should be kept fairly generic and the recommendation of the southern option be just that and not specific in terms of Alternatives 1, 2, 3 or 4. There will be adequate time as the Landmarks Preservation Board process continues on and other discussions to have input and have recommendations. It seems premature to make a recommendation not knowing what the Landmarks Board would designate or what would be the controls. He is not suggesting an extension or to have any more meetings scheduled but to let the process go and plug in at the appropriate times. He urges the Board in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill to recommend the Aquarium be built at the southern site and define the southern tip as south of the present tip of Pier 59, meaning the northwest tip as measured perpendicular back to shore.

**Irene Wall**, resident of Phinney Ridge, President of the Phinney Ridge Community Council and member of CAC, thanked Bill Arntz, John Braden and SEAS Board members who participated in the CAC for their willingness to open-mindedly enter into the public discussion that resulted in an affirmative decision that a southern option is feasible. Ms. Wall thinks the southern option is a very desirable choice to make as it allows the city to get more "bang for its buck." The south option is also most consistent with the feel of the central waterfront as a historic character area. For 25 successful years the Seattle Aquarium has been very identified with Pier 59 and the southern alternative recognizes that bit of history. Ms. Wall wants to support an idea that maintains as much historic character integrity as possible. She thinks the CAC did a very good job. She thinks the CAC has more work to do and thinks it should meet after the Landmarks Board meets on April 4<sup>th</sup>. She thinks the group should stay in existence until a stronger recommendation can be developed to the City Council with respect to identifying a preferred alternative for the EIS. The CAC also needs to address itself to the issues of the park, programmatic development and design concepts. The CAC spent most of its time on the siting issue of the Aquarium. There are other residual issues related to the development of the central waterfront as there are many development projects going on at the same time that the CAC should be involved in such as construction staging, maintaining the waterfront as pedestrian friendly area while all the construction is underway. She asked the Board to vote on the continuation of the CAC and a general support for a southern alternative, holding its recommendation for a specific site until the Landmarks Board has made its determination.

**Nancy Rerucha**, Seattle Open Spaces, commended the CAC and support their recommendation of the continuation of that committee. She encourages the south option selection and would also like to rethink the scale of the project. Projections of attendance are not likely to be met and the likelihood of this project being fiscally balanced diminishes proportionately to the size and scale.

**Lori Montoya**, employee of SEAS, testifying as a mother of two children, is concerned about the children in the community encountering significant decrease in nature experiences. She feels the new Aquarium will encourage children to get

out into nature and support other efforts going on in the community such as salmon restoration. She encourages the Board to proceed with this process in a manner in which will let the immediate community see the value.

### **International District Community Center/Village Square II Briefing**

The 1999 Community Center Levy provided \$2.1 million for a community center and gathering space as part of Phase 2 of the nationally acclaimed International District Village Square. The \$2.1 million in the 1999 levy is not enough for whole project. The SCIPDA is doing some additional fundraising to bring the entire project to \$3.6 million.

Sue Taoka, Executive Director of Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA) informed the Board the project would be located directly adjacent to the current site on 8<sup>th</sup> and Dearborn in Seattle's historic International District. Phase 2 complements the first phase by providing educational, recreational, social and residential opportunities for 133,000 people every year and includes: Affordable Family Housing – will increase the neighborhood's affordable family housing stock by over 300%. Approximately 198 residents will reside in 57 units of two and three bedroom apartments for families at/below 50 median income. Phase 1 also provides health care, childcare, job training, social services for low-income families. Community Recreation Center - Parks and Recreation will own and operate the 16,000 square foot community center with an annual attendance of 80,000 people. The neighborhood will finally have a constructive outlet for youthful energy, thus complementing the first major development of family housing in the International District. It will provide a gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, restroom, showers, kitchen and meeting space. Seattle Public Library – a 4,000 square foot branch library featuring a multilingual collection of 12,000 books annually service 48,000 people. Activities will include story times, computer classes and English as a Second Language programs for non-limited English speaking youth and families. Along with the community center, the library will create new spaces for intergenerational interaction and activity, strengthening the fabric of the community. 6,000 square feet of storefront retail space for small businesses. 732 stall underground parking garage;

Phase 2 is a highly leveraged project with a diverse mix of public and private sources. \$7.6 million has been raised towards a \$23 million development budget. Project funding is estimated to include \$7.9 million in public funds, \$7.5 million in financing, \$3.9 million in tax credits, \$3 million in fundraising and \$1.9 million from SCIDPDA's equity contribution. Kubota Kato Chinn/Kovalenk Hale Joint Venture has been selected as the project architect.

Sue Taoka informed the Board that having the community center a part of this project is a dream come true. It is an exciting project for the International District. There are 40 different languages and dialects spoken in the District. It is very

important for people from many different backgrounds to have a place to come to and enjoy themselves. They want a safe and affordable place for children of all ages to play. Sue related working with Toby Ressler, Project Manager, and others at Parks and Recreation has been very exciting because they want to make the facility accessible to meet everybody's needs. This project will be a facility within a facility and is a new concept to the park system. The project is a challenge as they are a lot more people involved in the review process. Continuing to work together cooperatively will make this project successful.

Toby Ressler displayed pictures of the community center and reviewed the floor plans with the Board. The community center will be located on the first floor and a gymnasium is proposed for the second floor. Other components proposed include a multipurpose meeting space, restroom/showers, kitchen, office space, reception/lobby, storage, and mechanical/electrical room. Negotiations are progressing on the memorandum of understanding/agreement and operational responsibilities. A community meeting was held on November 2, 2000 to review the location, overview of the entire Phase 2 project, layout of the community center, funding, schedule, project impacts, the objective the center and possible community center elements. Toby has been working with the Central Division staff including Herbye White and Kerry Lasko.

The project components have been assembled to meet the program needs of the International District Community Center and include the Parks and Recreation Department's standards. Those standards are based on any approximate square footage to be provided, intended use of the space, functional relationship to other spaces, and any special requirements of that space. Total programmed space, including internal circulation is 12,200 gross square feet. The top of the gym will be open space for use by the condo residents.

Bob Santos pointed out the significance of this proposed project. It anchors the southeast part of the District. For the residents and business in the District all they see month after month are cranes going up and lots of development encroaching into the neighborhood. Folks that live in the community are very concerned about losing their neighborhood. When they see this project is for them they can relax a little bit. It helps revitalize the neighborhood concept of this community.

Herbye White wants to make sure the total community center levy program stays on schedule. He supports his staff and will do whatever is necessary to assist Toby and Sue in their efforts.

### **P-Patch Policy - Board Discussion/Recommendation**

**Karen Daubert** recently toured the Interbay P-Patch and learned they donated over 5,000 pounds of produce to the food banks. She reviewed the correspondence, the policy, and listened to the February 22 meeting tapes. She

supports the policy as written with the caveat that the Memorandum of Understanding proceeds as soon as possible. She does not support holding the adoption of the policy until the MOU is completed. She thinks it is important to maintain affordability but at the same time maintain standards so the gardens are attractive throughout the city. She praised the work involved in developing the policy by the Department of Neighborhoods and Parks staff.

**Susan Golub** thinks the policy as written will give the Department the tool for evaluating P-Patches. She shares a concern that James Fearn expressed previously that P-Patches allow a limited private use of parks. She thinks the policy provides the Department with the guidance to make decisions to determine if a piece of a larger park is appropriate for a P-Patch use. The strategic plan prepared by the Department of Neighborhoods and Friends of P-Patch calls for co-location of P-Patches on city-owned property; that is good but let Parks control the location. This policy provides that opportunity. Susan sees in some ways it parallels the off-leash issue where a portion of a park is walled off for a limited use. The Park Board will be involved in discussions reviewing proposals for P-Patches on park property She supports the policy was written.

**Kathleen Warren** is concerned about the costs if work needs to be completed by outside people if there is something the gardeners cannot do themselves. Gardening has been recognized as a desirable recreation and leisure activity and should not cost too much. The construction standards require property development to meet current and local building codes and design standards. The Memorandum of Understanding will address issues such as construction standards and define the general maintenance responsibilities. As new P-Patches are developed on Park-managed property, specific site agreements will govern any issues unique to the site. She agrees that

P-Patch staff and Parks be equal partners from the get go. Kathleen does not think the P-Patch use can be compared to the dog off-leash areas because the dog use is not compatible with other uses such as children playing. It was noted that some P-Patches welcome visitors while others seem to treat the area as their own space.

**James Fearn** stated that he agrees that gardening is a recreational activity and therefore is suitable for parks. It is good to have a policy that governs this and he sees little to argue about the policy. He would like to review the Memorandum of Understanding. He is concerned about the private use of public space. He thinks the garden spaces should turn over for others to use, whether annually or some other time period. The way it is done now seems to give a few people park space for life. Staff informed the Board currently there is a 30% turnover. Some P-Patch sites have a two-year waiting list. The policy currently allows gardeners to renew their plots annually provided they maintain their plots and fulfill their community service requirement Vancouver, B.C. guidelines show a 5-year term for use of a public garden site.

**Bruce Bentley** is concerned about the construction standards and the cost of building a P-Patch. His experience in trying to get a Neighborhood Matching Fund is getting volunteers and matching them with hours. It would be hard to find people with the expertise to build it to code within the community. Perhaps pieces can be completed by providing some volunteer hours to cover an irrigation ditch for example. The gardens must be built to code or they can develop problems. The policy is good, overall, and is a good standard from which to work. If dogs can have a place in parks, P-Patches can too.

**The Board approved the adoption of the P-Patch Policy but wants to review the Memorandum of Understanding .**

New Business: None

Old Business:

**Tree Policy** – At the February 8 Park Board meeting a motion was adopted to remove the second sentence from Section 4.11 and in its place state "no trees will be cut solely for private views. In order for a permit to be approved the public benefits that will be considered are as listed in Section 6." The Board did not formally adopt the policy at its February 8 meeting, which was their intent.

**The Board approved a motion to adopt the Tree Policy.** Karen Daubert voted against the final policy (although fully supporting the policy as amended, she also supported a more restrictive policy whereby a private property owner could not apply for a permit to cut city trees for any reason).

**Board Retreat** – Board members presented suggested agenda items. Kathleen Warren requested a briefing on the Pro Parks Levy Implementation Plans. She would like to schedule Division Director/Park Board tours. Karen Daubert would like to streamline the Board meetings (use subcommittees more, limit briefing topics to one or two each meeting, specify board action ahead. Considering changing meeting time to 6 or 6:30); increase proactive nature of board (prioritize vision issues, use additional staff to develop policy statements and research issues, publish Board summaries in semimonthly report, write letters to the Editors where appropriate, attend CAP meetings with Chair on rotating basis, hold more joint CAP/Park Board meetings, lunches, and Vision Issues (100 year park vision using current GAP analysis, COMP Plan, environmental focus, signs policy, expand SCC to include more use of homeless, jobless, underserved in our parks). Bruce Bentley like the thought of the Board being pro-active. He thinks Red Barn Ranch is a jewel for urban kids.

**Future Agenda:** The Board requested due to the full March 22 agenda the Salmon in the City Art Project briefing be deleted. Wendy Ceccherelli will prepare a briefing paper and if the Board members have any questions they can ask Wendy at the April 12 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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

Bruce Bentley, Chair