

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2002

Present:

Bruce Bentley
Sarah Neilson
Kate Pflaumer
Kathleen Warren

Excused:

James Fearn
Susan Golub
Yale Lewis

Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda consent items were approved as submitted including the May 9 agenda, minutes of the April 25 meeting and the acknowledgment of correspondence. The Board reviewed the Easement and Right of Entry for Queen Anne Bowl Access. The Agreement is made by and among the City, Northwest Center Child Development Program, and the Seattle School District (North Queen Anne School). A pedestrian trail is proposed for public use that meets ADA requirements on and across Seattle Pacific University property for the purpose of providing a new route of pedestrian access to the Queen Anne Bowl. Any portion of the Easement Area or SPU abutting property that is disturbed or destroyed as a result of City construction activities or maintenance of the ADA trail will be restored. The Board recommended approved of the Easement and Right of Entry.

Superintendent's Report:

- **Pro Parks Opportunity Fund** - On May 14, the Oversight Committee is scheduled to make its final recommendations for development and acquisition projects through the Pro Parks Opportunity Fund. The Committee's recommendations will then be forwarded to the Superintendent, Mayor and City Council for approval.
- **Mounger Pool Opening** - May 18 is the 2002 opening date for "Pop" Mounger Pool in Magnolia. The popularity of this outdoor pool is evident with the advance registrations for swimming lessons with 1,875 children now enrolled, 109 on waiting lists and 34 refunds processed because space was not available in a particular class.

- **Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center** Selects New Artistic Director - Ms. Jaqueline Moscou has been selected as the new Artistic Director for the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. She has been a working actress/director for more than 25 years. Jackie has been a major contributor to Seattle's arts and cultural environment; acting and direction on most of Seattle's stages, creating visionary new work and projects.
- **Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center** Hosts the Seattle Symphony - Continuing the year-long celebration of Langston Hughes 100th Birthday, the Center partnered with the Seattle Symphony to present a free community concert on May 7. Prior to the concert, children in neighborhood and after-school programs and our Project Lift Off Teens participated in Symphony Wheels, a pre-concert education activities sound play, musical storytelling and musical instrument exploration, led by Seattle Symphony education staff and volunteers. Following the performance all attendees were invited to a dessert reception with the musicians.
- **Safeco Grant** - Parks received a \$10,000 grant for STEP, a summer youth employment and job skills development program, also sponsored by the Department, Seattle Urban League and the Seattle Downtown Rotary Club. It will provide job training opportunities for at-risk youth between the ages of 15-17. During the summer the program will serve 24 youths in Central and Southeast Seattle. Environmental education will be used as a tool for teaching young people important social values and life skills. The YES program is also taking enrollments for younger teenagers.
- **Beach Naturalist Program** begins Memorial Weekend on seven local beaches.
- **Aquarium** - A new exhibit - "Life on the Edge" will be opening on May 31. Two large touch tanks will make the exhibit interesting and educational.
- **Belvedere and Green Lake Vegetation**
Work is being done on two landscape restoration projects, funded by Pro Parks, at Belvedere View Point Park in West Seattle and the eastern entry to Green Lake. There are significant changes to both sites.
- **Seattle Youth Involvement Day** - The Superintendent thanked the Park Board members for participating in the Seattle Youth Involvement Day on April 30. It was a useful and interesting day. There are challenges for creating facilities that are welcoming and have the right kind of activities for young people.
- **Mariner's Legacy Grant** - The Department is forwarding the agreement to the Council next week. Improvements will be made to the baseball field and cloverleaf at Lower Woodland. The Mariner's gave the city a \$1 million legacy grant resulting from the 2001 All-Star baseball game held in Seattle. As part of the agreement that was negotiated with the Mariners, the field will be named "Mariners All Star Field at Woodland Park."

Chair Bruce Bentley thanked the Commissioners for their intellectual, passionate, thoughtful discussion on the Joint Athletic Field Development Program at the April 25 meeting. The Superintendent has begun discussions with the Mayor's Office and will be ready to send the JAFDP to the City Council for review. The Seattle Times, is doing a story on the plan and athletic fields that will be published on May 19.

Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

Chair Bruce Bentley reminded the audience the general public comment portion of the agenda will be reserved for topics that have not had or are not scheduled for a public hearing.

Ralph Warren, Jr. - spoke in support of the Late Night Program in the community centers. He is also concerned about the Sunday Summer electronic music events and wants to make sure the music program is going to go forward and supported by the Parks Department. He expressed disagreement with the proposed All Ages Dance Ordinance. The ordinance would allow people of all ages to attend dances, while requiring the venues that support such events to be specifically licensed from them. The ordinance requires expensive protections such as security and insurance which would cut into funding. Mr. Warren asked the Park Board and Department to place options for teens versus public programming to the citizens prior to the budget hearing on June 20. Mr. Warren also inquired who he should speak to about the Summer Sunday music programs and getting equipment and time donated to support programs.

Mazvita Maraire, Senior Recreation Specialist from the Garfield Teen Life Center, will discuss the music program with Mr. Warren. The Superintendent noted he has not heard how the June 20 budget meeting is going to be organized yet but the teen programming should be highlighted. Kathleen Warren is interested in the Teen Dance Ordinance and how it would affect the dances at community centers.

Nancy Malmgren, Carkeek/CWCAP, appealed to the Board for Pro Parks Opportunity Fund money in the amount of \$60,000 for the Carkeek Education Center. Nancy wants the direction set by the Comp Plan honored. Nancy will prepare a letter, which will be forwarded to the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee.

Teen Programming - Board Briefing

Overview of Pro Parks Levy Teen Initiative, Teen Councils/Leadership/Life Centers/ Late Night Program

Fritz Hedges, Director of the Citywide Division, highlighted the teen program and distributed an overview to the Board members. The Department has always placed a priority on developing programs for youth ages 11-21. The programs range from summer day camps to after-school activities for every middle-school student in the school system, Late Night Recreation, youth classes, sports and activities of all kinds at the community centers and volunteer and employment opportunities for hundreds of youths. Staff has worked on the Teen Program Strategy since approximately 1997 to identify some of the

needs. Programming is divided between middle school and high school. New teen centers are planned for the Meadowbrook and Southwest community centers. Improvements are also being made to the building at Golden Gardens and there will be teen programming at that site. The after school program is funded through the Family and Education Levy. The Advisory Councils sponsor a summer teen camp. One of the Department's goals is to have an evening program for middle-school age kids at all the community centers on Friday nights. It is hoped to have this program up and running in the fall. There are a number of opportunities for teen employment including scorekeepers and officials for the sports programs. Service learning is an area in the school system that the Department is trying to work with and make sure there are enough opportunities. There are a number of programs that are oriented to the environment for teens including TREC and programs at the Zoo and Aquarium. Athletics is a big area for teens with many events at the community centers and on the fields. The Department is doing more now, with the help of Pro Parks, on environmental stewardship involving teens.

Expanded programs for youth has been made possible because of the passage of the Pro Parks Levy. Prior to hiring teen leaders, staff investigated what types of programs are going on in the country. Staff attended National Parks and Recreation Association conferences and learned a lot from that experience as well as looking at local teen programs at Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, etc. Teen Development Leaders have been placed in all the community centers. There are two teen development leaders working at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. At the Garfield Teen Life Center there is one full time leader and one temporary support person. Dave Gilbertson kicked off a power point presentation, which outlined the program outcome measures.

Dave introduced Nanette Fuerte, Teen Leader for Rainier and J. D. Leza, Teen Leader for South Park. Nanette and JD reviewed an outline of building development assets, including community values, constructive use of time, social competencies (planning and decision making), youth as resources, positive identity and self esteem. Programs, Activities and Special Events were reviewed including Arts Corps, field trips, dances, barbecues, indoor/outdoor activities, spring clean, Teen Advisory Councils and life skills and readiness. The Seattle Parks and Recreation's Citywide Teen Programs works to improve and enhance the self esteem, opportunities, knowledge, cultural awareness and well being among Seattle teens. Citywide Teen Programs assists teens in navigating traditional systems to get what they need to meet their individual and community goals. The Department actively instigates teens to empower themselves by participating in civic dialogue, community activities, self-exploration and development.

Kate Pflaumer asked to what extent are activities planned to go across all of the centers or are activities developed at individual centers? Who designs the programs? Patti Petesch, Manager of Citywide Recreation Programs, stated some things are planned by the Teen Development Leaders in their monthly meetings to include everybody across the centers. There are programs developed by teens at the local community centers and programs are decided through the Teen Leadership Board and the individual Teen Councils. At this point it is a combination of how programs are developed. As the program moves forwarded it is desired to have everything decided and developed by teens.

Partnerships with other agencies include the Seattle School District, Arts Corps, Power of Hope, 4H, Junior Achievement, Youth Network and the Seattle Center. Citywide events include "Week Without Violence," Martin King Jr. Walk events and "The Wiz" at the Paramount Theater. Parks joined the YWCA of Seattle, King County and Snohomish County in spending a week focusing on talking to kids about violence, including what violence does to the communities, what it does to families, how it permeates the suburbs, schools and homes. And most important, how to recognize its early symptoms and reject the messages that glamorize it.

One of the first tasks of the Teen Leadership Board was preparing a grant proposal. \$35,000 of the grant is to identify teen directed projects. The teens named the fund TLB "Giving Back" Grant Fund. The teens want to give back to the community and improve the life and opportunities for young people in the neighborhoods. Requests of up to a \$5,000 project or a mini fund request of \$1,000 can be submitted. The task at hand will be determining whom to fund. The Teen Leadership Board will be working on the criteria at its next meeting.

Dave Gilbertson introduced Sazzy Kohli, representative from the Queen Anne Community Center. Zassy told the Board the teens are getting the hang of future projects they might do. He thinks it is good that Parks is letting the teens put their say in the system. J. D. Lezo introduced teens from the South Park Community Center - Victor Ayala, Gineth Pineda, Teresa Cruz and-Manuel Ayala.

There are Center Teen Council's that are responsible for local teen program fundraising, teen program planning with Advisory, providing issues and information for Citywide Teen Council representatives and meet monthly with an Advisor. The Citywide Teen Council is responsible for bringing teen issues, ideas and interests from the Center Teen Council and neighborhood, serve as "line of communication" for the teen voice network, serve as park teen representatives at other engagements (Adult Advisory Council meetings, neighborhood district council meetings and Citywide Teen Council meetings). The Citywide Teen Council also plans an Annual Teen Conference.

The Citywide Teen Council Leadership Board consists of nine members (six Parks & Recreation and three at-large CBO Youth Representatives), three Adult Advisors; Teen Advocate, Youth Adult Park Board Member and Teen Development Representative. The responsibilities include: administer Citywide Teen Advisory Council funds, administer Totally Teen Grant Fund, discuss teen issues and make recommendations for action, coordinate teen voice network, and serve as Parks and Recreation teen representatives for ARC Board, Park Board and City Council meetings.

Mazvita Maraire, Senior Recreation Specialist from the Garfield Teen Life Center, briefed the Board Members on the teen programming at the Center. The goal of the Center is to provide teens opportunities to developmental assets necessary to make positive life choices. The Center tries to provide a safe gathering place for the diverse population teens in the community. It provides access for teens to positive mentors and positive role models. The Center provides a place to challenge and inspire teens. The

Teen Center is working with Garfield High School and offers programs for all teens. Current programs include Hip Hop music, digital photography, video production and acting/story telling. Recreation interns/aides come from the high school and work at the Center. They are the eyes and ears to the teens. Bruce Bentley inquired about unscheduled, drop in time. There is a balance at the Center and drop ins are provided a room. Sarah Neilson inquired about things being stolen at the Center as she heard some teens had items taken. Mazvita has not received reports of items being stolen from others but will check into the matter. He would like the people to come forward and discuss the situation with staff. The proposal of having personal items checked in at the front desk was discussed.

Patti Petesch, Citywide Recreation Program Manager, briefed the Board of the Late Night Recreation Program. The program is at Rainier on Friday/Saturday nights, Rainier Beach on Fridays, Mercer Middle School on Saturdays, High Point Community Center on Fridays, Delridge on Saturday nights, Garfield Teen Life Center and Meadowbrook Community Center on Friday and Saturday nights. The program has been in existence for approximately twelve years. It is geared for youth 14-22 from 8 p.m. to midnight. The Late Night Recreation Program is a fun, safe environment for high-risk Seattle youth. The goal is to save the lives of the youth, create opportunities for success and provide positive alternatives to drugs, gangs, and other undesirable activities. The Late Night Recreation Program targets youths most prone to harmful behavior and shows them the possibility of having a positive future. According to the Seattle Police Department, crime has been reduced an average of 30 percent near the Late Night centers. Activities provided include: Educational services such as tutoring, computer and teen parenting programs, Inter-cultural activities such as ethnic dance and bead-making, athletic activities such as basketball, volleyball, martial arts and other sports, People who care about and listen to our youth and a positive alternative to life on the street.

Kathleen Warren wished there were more ways to have seniors involved with the teens and have people in the neighborhood involved in programs at the Teen Centers.

A copy of "Where to Turn" for Teens (Teen Link) booklet was distributed to the Board members. Teen Link is a confidential, anonymous and non-judgmental telephone help line answered by teens each evening from 6-10 p.m. After hours calls are transferred to the 24-hour crisis line.

The Department's web page includes a page on Special Events for Teens. A Youth Appreciation Week was held April 5-13. During Youth Appreciation Week, the Department offered programs and special events for young people. coinciding with spring break for Seattle Public Schools

A Youth Involvement Day was held on April 30 at Seattle Center. The Board will be briefed on other Department youth programs at a future Board meeting.

1% for Art Plan - Pro Parks & Community Center Levies

Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Levy Program, Planning and Development Manager, distributed a project list which included the status, plan source, project type, planner/project manager name and total project funding. Washington Park Arboretum, Belltown and Lower Queen Anne Waterfront Connections, Cascade Playground Improvements, South Lake Union Park Development, Sand Point/Magnuson (fields, building improvements, off-leash area, community garden and wetlands), Gas Works Park Improvements, Beacon Reservoir Park (Jefferson Park) Acquisition/Development, Cheasty Boulevard Improvements and Westcrest are likely to come before the Board this year because there are master planning issues and other issues that the Board will be asked to weigh in on. Also distributed was a Pro Parks Levy Program brochure. There is \$198.2 million in the overall levy with \$103 million for development projects, in addition to the teen program funding. Two Pro Parks projects have been completed - Genesee field project and the Ward Springs project on Queen Anne. Several projects are under construction - Lincoln Park Annex, several projects at Sand Point and Wallingford Steps.

Carolyn Law, Seattle Arts Commission arts planner, was placed "in residence" at Seattle Parks and Recreation Major Projects and Planning Division in September 2001. Her charge was to develop art plans for the Pro Parks 2000 and the Community Center levy programs. Combined, the levies generate approximately \$1.5 million One Percent for Art funds (\$1.2 million for Pro Parks and \$350,000 for community centers).

Carolyn briefed the Board via a power point presentation. The shared goal of the two Art Plans is to create a comprehensive vision for the role of art in Seattle's growing parks system, a vision grounded in an understanding of what parks and community centers mean to Seattle residents. Additionally, it was crucial to understand the distinctive nature of an urban park experience, the various layers of park development that have occurred in Seattle over time, and the choices available for art in parks and community centers. Bringing a contemporary perspective to these issues played a vital role in shaping this new opportunity to involve artists in Seattle parks.

In the full Art Plan, these issues and questions are examined in depth and reveal the path taken to reach the most artistically dynamic vision possible for these park projects. The Art Plan provides both the conceptual and practical framework leading to fulfillment of this vision.

A strength of both public Art Plans is that they completely intertwine the viewpoints and objectives of Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Arts Commission, and when implemented, will positively enhance park sites and community centers for all users. Linking the visions of these two departments, for parks and community centers and the public art within them, promises a legacy of deeply enriching, experiential artworks. This cohesive view will also allow the Parks Department and Arts Commission to fashion a collaborative approach and process for each public art project that strengthens each outcome.

During the six-month residency, Carolyn development knowledgeable relations with Department staff in all division. She forged effective working relationships based on a

solid comprehension of Parks' mission, goals and working processes, an informed exchange of vision, shared ideas and information. Carolyn spoke with key stakeholders including the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Design Commission, Planning Commission, city departments and community representatives. She also researched the topics of urban parks and artwork derived from an interest in the natural world, sited in natural environments or parks.

The residency at Parks was essential for clarifying a vision for the Art Plans. This vision is strongly informed by several of their central goals for Seattle's parks and community centers: Support community sharing and building; provide welcoming, safe opportunities to play, learn and contemplate; create a respite from the pressures of urban life; instill a fundamental understanding of the value of and connection to nature and inspire people to be good environmental and civic stewards.

These goals complement one of the Seattle Arts Commission Public art Program's primary goals: to engage artists in actively exploring the City's cultural identity and civic values and develop public places through art.

The Art Plans are poised to create an exciting and inspiring cohesive network of art that will thread its way through the city, connecting place to place and inspiring conversations between people and place.

Art Plan Recommendations

Pro Parks 2000 Levy Art Plan: The primary vision focuses on artists making art within park settings that provide respite from urban life and an occasion to reflect on and connect with the natural world. These artworks will draw their essential concepts, metaphors, and materials from nature and from the character and patterns of use in each particular park. These enduring artworks will create engaging, interactive places or areas of deep meaning and unique imagination that creatively express a purpose and use - offering all generations a specific experience within each park. The majority of Percent for Art funds are dedicated to the development of major art projects that address this vision in a significant and extraordinary fashion at selected park sites located in all sectors of the city.

The program creates a General Arts Fund for smaller scale projects. This fund provides flexibility to develop unique, integrated artworks in parks that vary in character from the major project parks. It allows the Arts Commission and Parks Department to address shifting priorities, as development continues in the city, and emerging potential, as parkland is acquired during the life of the levy. The fund also makes it possible to encourage participation among talented emerging artists. General Art Opportunity Fund projects will also be dispersed throughout the city.

An annual fund for in-house Park Department projects allows Parks Department staff to engage in a new level of creativity by adding aesthetic components to their projects. The funds can be used to engage artists from pre-qualified rosters to work on selected projects.

A residency project will bring a writer to the Parks Department. The selected writer will develop written work to be used in myriad ways to enhance the communication of Parks Department mission and stories, enliven a range of written materials developed and used by parks for public and community interaction, investigate the life and meaning of parks, allow staff to reflect on the work they do and more.

Community Centers Levy Art Plan

The central concept is to employ artists to design artworks that establish a 3-dimensional exterior, interactive presence in the entry area of each community center. These artworks will define a welcoming experience for all ages of people as they come and go. The art will act as a lively identifier and beacon for each center. By being located in a common zone from center to center, the art will effectively link the centers together, accentuating the fact that each is part of a citywide system.

The community center artwork projects will be of several different scales, grouped into three funding tiers based on assessment of the physical characteristics of sites, concurrent projects taking place in the vicinity, and historical investment in open space and community centers in different areas of the city.

The detailed Art Plan, sites, budgets and selection methods for these two levy programs were distributed. Major Art Project Sites include: Bitter Lake Reservoir Open Space, Sand Point Magnuson Park, Fremont Peak Park, Dexter Pit Park, I-5 Open Space, South Lake Union Park, Jefferson Park, Westcrest Park, and Lincoln Park Annex. Proposed General Opportunity Fund project sites include: Pratt Park, Bergen Place Park, Rainier Beach Public Plaza, Boren/Pike/Pine and the Lake City Civic Core. Community Center Sites include: Belltown, Chinatown/International District, Yesler, Van Asselt, Southwest, High Point, Montlake, Laurelhurst and Northgate.

A copy of the full plan will be available in two or three weeks.

Park Board Business - None

New Business/Old Business: Sandy Brooks, newly appointed Park Board Coordinator, will begin work on May 22. The Park Board gave Michele Daly, who has been working in the position temporarily, a certificate of appreciation, gift and dessert reception.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Bruce Bentley, Chair