

**Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2004**

Present: Bruce Bentley, Chair
James Fearn
Joanna Grist
Terry Holme
Sarah Neilson

Staff: Sarah Welch, Budget Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Note: Archived agendas and minutes from 2000 to present may be viewed online at
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkboard>

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Terry moved and James seconded that the January 22 agenda, January 8 minutes, and acknowledgment of correspondence be approved, with one clarification (see next section.) Motion passed unanimously.**

Clarification on Homer Harris Park/Plum Park from 1/08/04 meeting

Terry stated that, during the discussion on Homer Harris Park during the January 8 meeting, a Parks staff member quoted an amount of funds available for restoration work at Plum Park, which is very near the new Homer Harris Park, and asked that this amount be included in the minutes.

The Park staff member was contacted after the January 22 meeting for clarification and wrote the following to the Board: "The figure I mistakenly used at the January 8 meeting, \$60,000, was an old 2003 figure. The 2004 Park Upgrade allocations have not been completed to include the dollar amounts, only a list of eligible projects have been identified. This will be explained also at the January 26 Homer Harris Park community meeting."

Superintendent's Report

Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds is out of town. Budget Director Sarah Welch reported on the following:

Last Public Meeting for New Northgate Community Center/Library/Park is Scheduled: Parks, the Library, and Seattle Department of Transportation will host the final public meeting for the new community center, park, library, and street improvements in Northgate on Monday, February 23. There were four siting meetings and three previous planning and design meetings. The groundbreaking is planned for summer 2004. On January 12, the Northgate Project Advisory Team (PAT) met and selected the preferred art project proposal. The PAT particularly liked the metal wave designs that will go around the play area at the north entrance to the community center.

Two Community Center Renovations Nearing Completion: The first two, from a total of nine, Community Center Levy projects to be completed from the 1999 Levy will be finished during the first quarter of 2004. The Sand Point project renovated an existing recreation building, bringing it up to current seismic and building codes. The opening is set for February 28, 1:00-2:00 p.m. The High Point Community Center addition's grand opening is scheduled for

March 20, 1:00-2:00 p.m. This project added a multi-purpose room, doubling the size of the facility to about 20,000 square feet.

Oxbow Park Development Moving Forward: Now that the Hat ‘n’ Boots have been relocated to the new Oxbow Park, site development is in full swing. The first step in this park’s construction is the installation of infrastructure such as water lines, electrical service, and sewer. The Georgetown community is busy planning the restoration of the Hat ‘n’ Boots structures.

Beer Sheva Park Groundbreaking Scheduled: A groundbreaking will take place on Sunday, February 8, 1:00 p.m., at Beer Sheva Park, following Tu B'Shvat, or Jewish Arbor Day. Trees will be planted in honor of Jack Spitzer, former chair of the Seattle-Beer Sheva Sister City Committee, in addition to other work in the park. The Sister City Committee is also sponsoring an art competition for high school students at Rainier Beach High and Beer Sheva, Israel. The six best submissions from each city will be displayed and winners honored at this spring’s grand opening.

Ballard Municipal Park Planning Continues: On January 13, more than 150 people attended the second public meeting for this project. Just over half expressed support for a skate park at the location.

Martin Luther King Jr. Honored: Youth and staff from throughout the Department’s teen programs took part in programs honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Teen Leaders organized the transportation and the youth involvement for these events. Events included:

- ❖ The Garfield Teen Life Center held the 5th Annual Garfield Teen Life Center MLK Jr. Celebration, continuing the tradition of an annual community engagement project to honor Dr. King’s memory. More than 80 youth attended the youth-led workshops that focused on “Racism in the Media”, “Making Positive Choices”, and “Juvenile Justice. Panelists included a Garfield student, Seattle Police officers, Seattle School Board members, the Garfield High School Principal, and others. After the workshops, the youth attended the MLK Rally at Garfield High School and then took part in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Social Justice March.
- ❖ Thirty-five youth from Alki, Delridge, South Park, and Southwest Community Centers attended the event held at Garfield Campus and then joined the citywide MLK march.
- ❖ Over 150 teens marched 2 ½ miles from Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park to Langston Hughes Cultural Performing Arts Center.

Starbucks Contributes Money for Southwest Parks: Starbucks recently donated money for the “Make your Mark” volunteer program. The donation earmarked \$360 for Mee-Kwa-Mooks and \$800 for Schmitz Park. The money will be used for supplies and plants for future park improvement projects.

Cascade Bicycle 2005 Bike Expo Scheduled at Sand Point: This event, to be held in February 2005 and expected to attract more than 7000 people, will showcase vendors and feature educational workshops and seminars.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Bruce explained that the general public comment portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had or are not scheduled for a public hearing. Testimony is limited to three minutes per speaker. One person signed up to testify.

Chris Leman: Has two concerns with the I-5 Open Space project, which originated in the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan. This is a densely populated area and residents need lawn to play Frisbee and catch, for bicyclists to rest, and for toddlers to crawl on. The Design Commission is concerned that there is no lawn planned for this new park. Chris discussed this with the project manager, David Goldberg, and hopes that the Park Board will re-emphasize the need for a lawn area. The planned off-leash area (OLA) will be the most costly in Seattle. He is not opposed to OLAs, but the size may make its cost and construction unfeasible. A comment was made at the public hearing that if residents want grass, they can go to Volunteer Park — a number of steps must be climbed to reach the grassy area there.

Briefing: Nations in Bloom International Award

On October 6, 2003, Seattle took second place and a gold certificate for the 200,000-to-1,000,000 population category in the annual Nations in Bloom competition in Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

[Nations in Bloom](#) is an annual international competition that invites cities from all over the world to participate. Its objective is to encourage the best practices, innovation, and leadership that lead to a vibrant, environmentally sustainable, and lively community with a high quality of life.

Nations In Bloom recognizes cities for their achievements in five categories: Environmentally Sensitive Practices, Enhancement of the Landscape, Heritage Management, Community Involvement, and Planning for the Future. Nations in Bloom is the only competition of its kind endorsed by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

Nations in Bloom recognizes five population categories: below 10,000, 10,001 to 50,000, 50,001 to 200,000, 200,001 to one million, and more than one million. Each community is judged not on how it compares to others in its population category, but on how it performs on each judging criterion within its cultural, political, economic, geographic and climatic circumstances.

Parks staff members Catherine Anstett, Duane Penttila, Dewey Potter, and Richard Firth came before the Board to present the winning documentary and describe the competition. This is the eighth year of the competition, with over 50 countries having competed. Seattle submitted its first application in 2002, which was declined. 192 cities applied in 2003 and Seattle was one of only 32 that met the criteria to move on to the finalists. Seven cities dropped out of the competition, leaving 25 finalists. Two other U.S. cities, Chicago and Woodland, Texas, were also finalists. Each competing city had 35 minutes for its presentation, followed by a 20-minute question and answer session. Two each of gold, silver, or bronze medals were awarded. Seattle won a gold medal, placing second to Xiango, China.

A hearty round of applause followed the presentation, along with congratulations from the Board.

Briefing Update: I-5 Park Project

David Goldberg, project manager for this new park, came before the Board on August 14 to give a briefing, which was followed by a public hearing. At its August 28 meeting, the Board discussed the project and recommended approval of the overall site plan, subject to the stipulation that additional information on lighting, drainage and watering of the off-leash area, and parking come back to the Board during the design/development phase.

(August 14 minutes: http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2003/08-14-03_Minutes.htm)

(August 28 minutes http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2003/08-28-03_Minutes.htm)

Tonight David came back before the Board to give an update on the project. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Both are included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

INTRODUCTION

Budget \$1.8 million.

Location The I-5 Open Space is in Eastlake on approximately 7.5 acres located below I-5 (WSDOT property). It is between Lakeview Blvd. and Franklin Ave. and Howe and Garfield Streets. Parks is negotiating a lease with WSDOT.

Schedule:	Planning	Design	Construction	Completion
	2002-3	2003	2004	2004

POLICY ISSUES

August 28, 2003 Board Motion: The Board approved the overall site plan, subject to the stipulation that staff provide additional information on lighting, drainage and watering of the off-leash area, and parking during the design/development phase.

- **Lighting:** The schematic design did not propose lighting. The Board requested the design team identify the costs options and costs for lighting, primarily the Urban Trails portion.
- **Watering/Drainage of OLA:** The Park Board requested additional information on how the design would address drainage from watering the OLA.
- **Parking along Franklin Ave. E:** The Board requested staff to confirm that SDOT would establish time-limited parking on the portion of Franklin Ave. E. that fronts the open space.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Lighting

Staff Lighting Recommendation: Staff recommends adding lighting along the E. Howe St. stairs extension and along a portion of the ADA trail. The recommendation considered the following factors.

- Staff proposes to light the 240' portion of the Urban Trail that serves as part of the ADA path. We are initiating conversations with SDOT to determine if they wish to add lighting for the remaining 295' portion of the trail to their funding priorities.
- Staff recommends lighting the portion of the ADA trail that provides access to a viewpoint along the stairs. Lighting is not proposed for the portion of the ADA path between the stairs and the E. Blaine St. service road. This portion of the path provides access to the mountain biking and OLA, which are not proposed to be lit at this time.
- Current project cost estimates indicate that funding the recommended lighting elements will cost approximately \$60,000. This will require reducing the amount of parking on Lakeview to 10 spaces, and simplifying the design of stairs and ADA path.

Other Lighting Options Considered: Staff considered options for lighting each of the walking areas and active-use areas. In addition to the costs provided below, there would be an additional \$15,000 cost to establish electrical service. The lighting costs are based on a fixture mounted on a 12' pole. Using floodlights is possible but the columns present difficulties with achieving even lighting.

- **ADA Path:** The 1,580' ADA path provides links between upper and lower portions of the site, view areas, the OLA and mountain biking area. The cost of lighting this trail is estimated to be \$50,000. This cost includes 240' of the Urban Trail. The portion of the path staff recommends lighting would cost roughly \$25,000.
- **Stair:** Based on the current use of the stairs across Lakeview Blvd., staff expects the extension to the E. Howe St. stairs to be well used. The 300' stairway is not an accessible route. The cost of lighting the stairs is estimated to be \$20,000.
- **Urban Trail:** This is an SDOT facility that Parks is constructing because it is contained in the City's Comprehensive Plan. A 240' section serves as a portion of the needed site ADA circulation. The remaining 295' is not fully accessible. The cost of lighting this trail is estimated to be \$19,000. The trail is very close to Lakeview Blvd, which has a sidewalk and lighting. Staff will work with SDOT to determine if lighting the 295' portion can be placed on their list for funding.
- **OLA:** This area would hopefully receive consistent use during the winter months because it is out of the rain. There is little ambient light from surrounding areas. The estimated cost to provide lighting to the OLA is \$21,000. Staff would work with COLA to install lighting if they were able to provide funding.
- **Mountain Biking Trails:** Staff did not fully analyze the cost of lighting the mountain biking area because the need for even lighting levels would require detailed analysis. However, considering that the site is roughly

twice the size of the OLA, a base estimate would be approximately \$40,000. Staff would work with the Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club to install lighting if they were able to provide funding.

OLA Drainage

Staff Recommendation: Staff proposes providing manual irrigation attached to quick couplers to compensate for the lack of natural rainwater to clean the OLA. To address potential runoff, staff recommends instituting Best Management Practices (BMPs), installing drainage and connecting the drainage to a sanitary sewer. The BMPs could include:

- Keeping site clean of obvious fecal deposits. This is achieved through individuals depositing waste in collection facilities and reinforced by COLA's outreach and monitoring.
- Maintaining some form of onsite stormwater filtration and flow impediment such as covering the site with areas of grass, rock, wood chips, etc. The site will be covered with wood chips and/or gravel. Infiltration will be designed to accommodate runoff generated by spraying down the site. The drainage will be connected to sanitary sewer.
- Maintaining a buffer of grass and/or some other form of stormwater filtration and flow impediment between the downgradient side of the off-leash area and adjacent public areas including surface water bodies. The site will be buffered on the downhill side by dirt, soils and a row of redwoods and understory.

OLA Drainage Analysis: The OLA at the I-5 Open Space will not receive rain and will therefore, not have the benefit of natural water to clean it. Staff proposes to compensate for this by providing manual irrigation attached to quick couplers. This will allow for a flexible, cost-effective response to watering needs. Staff and consultants have completed preliminary analysis of drainage for the OLA. The intent of the analysis was to: 1) understand what "pollutants" might be found at OLA's and the extent to which these could migrate with run-off in soils; 2) the capacity of the I-5 soils to absorb run-off; and 3) recommend appropriate drainage given these considerations.

1. Sampling of existing OLA's showed that fecal coliform and ammonia can be found in the soils within and adjacent to OLA's.
2. Preliminary soils analysis completed by Shannon and Wilson indicated that the soils within the proposed I-5 OLA are relatively impermeable clay and glacial till. They can be expected to allow for a low amount of infiltration.
3. Where water is being introduced to clean the OLA surface, the soils analysis recommends providing subsurface drainage. This would be accomplished with perforated pipe laid in pea gravel. Since the soils are relatively impervious and there may be fecal coliform and ammonia in the run-off, staff recommends connecting the drainage to the sanitary sewer. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the King County Health Department have no established regulatory limits for ammonia or fecal coliform in soil. In general, both Ecology and the King County Health Department recommend implementation of BMPs, as described above, to help minimize ammonia and fecal coliform impacts to the environment.

Parking

Staff Recommendation: Staff met with SDOT parking management staff. They have agreed to implement time-limited parking and Franklin Ave. E, between E. Blaine St and E. Garfield St. SDOT suggested that approximately 20 spaces be signed and that these be monitored to see if more or less is needed. SDOT has also completed an initial review of parking proposed on a portion of SDOT right of way along Lakeview Blvd. and does not anticipate any permit issues.

Verbal Briefing

David displayed a large conceptual drawing of the park, distributed copies of a map and copies of the written briefing paper, and reviewed the information in the briefing paper. David addressed the three areas that the Board requested

additional information on at its August 28 meeting: lighting, drainage and watering of the off-leash area, and parking. Lighting estimates took the most time to formulate.

Questions and Answers

James asked if the entire park site is located under the I-5 freeway and David answered that the majority of it is. The primary exception is the Lakeview area. James asked if plans include for the park to be lit during the day. David said the option of keeping the lights on 24 hours per day is being explored.

Terry asked if the cost of drainage for the OLA was included in the initial costs. David answered yes, but said the lighting costs were not included. Sarah asked if the yellow circles on the drawing represented the reach of the lighting, which is estimated to cost \$60,000. David answered yes and said lighting costs add up quickly. Terry asked about the type of lighting and whether the lights would be shielded. David answered that it would be pedestrian lighting on 12' poles, rather than the higher street-type of lighting.

Sarah asked about the public process since August. David answered that an additional community meeting has been held and a Design Commission meeting was held. The Design Commission urged the designers to be strong about the design statement, especially with the landscaping, as this is a non-traditional park. Staff are working with the consultant on this aspect.

Sarah asked about an earlier comment during oral communications about the need for passive lawn space. David answered that the new park is located under the freeway and the costs to maintain lawn in this area would be significant. Some community members want a lawn in this park and some don't. Staff considered the various input and is recommending no lawn. The funding was focused on the stairways and pathways. Sarah commented that she wouldn't be inclined to "hang out" under the freeway if she wanted a lawn area, as there are many hectares of grassy park area located in other parks where the sky is visible. David stated that the site is a dramatic one, with interesting design elements.

James asked if there would be benches in the park. David said probably not, as the area is heavily used by homeless.

Terry suggested that, even though there may not be adequate funds now, the design team should plan the infrastructure, while the electrical vault is being installed and the ground is open, to allow additional lighting to be added more easily in the future.

Bruce asked how long the lease with WSDOT is. David answered 10 years, with renewable increments of ten years. Parks staff are working with WSDOT on the lease.

Bruce asked how much water is required to flush the off-leash area. David stated that this is unknown. The need for flushing will not be constant (more flushing will be needed during dry seasons than during rainy ones.) Bruce asked if some type of irrigation/water is being included in the mountain bike trail area to help keep dust down. David is working with the mountain bike users on the design for this.

Joanna asked what the Board is being asked to do tonight. David answered that he is seeking the Board's feedback on the three issues that have had further research, as the Board requested in August. Joanna asked if the public has responded well to these changes and Sarah asked, if these revisions were included, would the park still reflect the vision of the designer? David said that, while there have been a number of compromises on the design to address different interests, the design still reflects the consultant's vision. David said that the Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) and mountain bikers are volunteering a great deal of work to this park.

Sarah suggested that staff should test some of the current off-leash area sites this summer to see how long it takes for the areas to get heavily soiled. David said that he walked around several off-leash areas this past dry summer and, even with little rain, they were cleaner than he expected and had little odor.

Bruce asked if the Design Commission requested more green space to be included. David answered that there were a lot of comments offering differing directions, and one included a request to consider a lawn area. As the design concept has solidified, the designers chose the direction of not providing lawn.

The Board thanked David for the briefing and Sarah stated that she appreciates this type of periodic update on Parks projects. David said he would come back to the Board with an additional briefing at the end of the design phase.

Briefing: 2004 Work Plan

Budget Director Sarah Welch reviewed the Department's 2004 Work Plan and the process used to determine the Plan. The Mayor's goals are (1) families and communities; (2) safe neighborhoods; (3) jobs and opportunity; and (4) transportation. The Superintendent proposes a list of work items, the Mayor reviews this list, and then an accountability contract is signed. The Department has a list of 19 work items and Sarah gave a brief review of these. The Board spent several minutes discussing one of the items, "Implement Golf Management Process". This issue will come before the Board at its February 26 and March 11 meetings.

Terry asked a question in reference to another of the items, "Implement Zoo Agreement". The Board recently received a copy of the Zoo's lengthy Draft Environmental Impact Statement to review. Terry asked if Board members should read the entire document or if the summary portion is adequate. It was agreed that the summary contains adequate information for the Board's purposes.

Board members thanked Sarah and commented that this type of briefing is very helpful.

Old/New Business

- James heard earlier today that the chapel at Fort Lawton is to be demolished (as part of the West Point Settlement.) The Park Board, in a narrow vote, had recommended that the chapel stay. Superintendent Bounds recommended that the building be demolished, as did the citizen committee that worked to determine how the settlement funds are to be spent.
- Sarah is considering resigning from the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee. She is the Park Board's representative to this committee.
- Joanna is a member of the Seattle Parks Foundation Board and reported that the group held a productive retreat the day before. Fundraising efforts are moving forward for the new South Lake Union Park. The proposed canal, with an estimated cost of \$15 million, has been removed from the project, making the fundraising goal more attainable.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Bruce Bentley, Chair