

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2004

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

Excused: James Fearn
Kate Pflaumer

Staff: B. J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent
Michele Daly for Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

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

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Terry Holme moved the approval of the Consent Items including the May 13 agenda, the April 8 and 22 meeting minutes and acknowledgement of correspondence. Sarah Neilson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

B. J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent, reported on the following on behalf of vacationing Superintendent Ken Bounds:

South Lake Union: A temporary Native American Carving Shed will be erected in the Northwest Seaport area of South Lake Union Park. This shed will be composed of recycled timbers that were originally taken out during Phase I Wharf Reconstruction. Saduuts, a Native American Haida, will finish one canoe and carve another as part of the Center for Wooden Boats programming. This activity is part of the Wharf/Armory/Center for Wooden Boats connection being established to keep the park active and exciting while it blooms over the next few years. Rentals of the Armory building are also going strong; events already scheduled through the end of June will bring in more revenues than the total for 2003.

Pioneer Square Park Improvements: The first phase of a multi-phase improvement project in Pioneer Square Park began on Monday, May 10. This Pro Parks Levy project will remove and replace all the cobbles in the park and replace them with newer, safer pavers. The historical cobbles have been a source of consternation for park users for years. They are uneven and are an extreme trip hazard. The replacement pavers have been approved by the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board. Phase I improvements also include the removal of two unhealthy trees, improvement of drainage, implementation of ADA compliant grading, relocation of a bicycle rack, relocation and upgrade of phone booths, repainting and repair of benches, installation of tree grate frames and provision of electrical outlets for event and seasonal use. Every effort is being

made to reduce impacts on Pioneer Square merchants. Work is expected to be complete before the end of June, when the height of tourist season begins.

Senior Day at the Aquarium: There are 700 senior adults registered for the annual Senior Day at the Aquarium to be held on Sunday, May 16th. There is a wait list of 50 tickets. This is an increase this year of 100 senior adults.

Parks Senior Adult Sound Steps: Sound Steps kick off week begins May 17 - May 21 at 12 Community Centers from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers, community center staff and senior adult staff are helping with the registrations. The Val Pac Ad promoting the program went out last week and we are getting calls from senior adults wanting to know how they can get started with the program! There are 12 walk times scheduled so far.

Miller Sports: Miller Community Center has 37 youth participating in the track program this year. Miller has partnered with the Union Gospel Mission's Youth Outreach Center to offer track to their youth. We have 3 registered volunteer coaches from the Union Gospel Mission helping with the track team. Miller Softball Team has twelve 10-11 year old girls. They have played one practice game and one real. They won the practice game and lost the real game but are having a great time playing.

Mayors Teen Town Hall Meeting: More than 200 teens attended the Mayor's Youth Town Hall meeting at the Seattle Children's Theatre on May 11. Of that number, the Seattle Parks TDL's brought about 50% of the teens that were in attendance. The event was organized by the Mayor's Teen Council with Christine Chen Co-Author for Q13 News as the Moderator. Youth asked the Mayor questions ranging from his view on the Iraq war to why Gay marriages were not allowed in the State of Washington. Several teens questioned him around safety issues at Golden Gardens.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Chair Bruce Bentley 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. No personal attacks are allowed. Testimony is limited to three minutes per speaker. One person signed up to testify.

Stephen Edwin Lundgren is concerned about adequate funding and budgeting for the parks system. He is the past chair of the City Neighborhood Budget Committee and has reviewed the city budget for the past eight years trying to figure out what is and is not being funded. He tries to participate wherever he can to help people express their opinions on where their money should be going and admitted he has voted for almost every levy put on the ballot in the last ten years. He has been involved with a number of major projects and has reviewed major project applications for the Neighborhood Matching Fund. He is looking to find clear and more efficient ways for proponents of major projects to get their time and their money directed specifically to those projects without so many hearings and meetings. He looks with great expectation to thousands of signatures of support for major projects and stated 4,000 signatures times even a \$1 is a heck of a contribution to a Neighborhood Matching Grant. Mr. Lundgren pledged his financial and time support for continuing to help fund parks projects and donated a cash contribution to be forwarded to Karen Daubert of the Parks Foundation for his favorite project, which is located in the center of Ballard. He urged others to donate to the Seattle Parks Foundation for their favorite project.

Chair Bruce Bentley stated Mr. Lundgren is a “jewel” for all the personal finances and time he contributes to the city.

Bergen Place Park Update Briefing

Written Briefing

Action Requested

No action is requested.

Bergen Place Park reopened for public use on April 20, 2004. As a follow-up to the public comments at the April 8th Park Board meeting, this briefing paper describes improvements and changes to the maritime and Scandinavian elements of the park.

Project Intent

The Pro Parks Levy provided \$276,308 to plan, design, and construct improvements to Bergen Place Park, a 8,900 s.f. triangular park in the Ballard business district at the intersection of Leary Avenue NW, 22nd Avenue NW, and NW Market Street. Pro Parks Levy language: “*Improve Bergen Place Park.*”

Project Background

The 1998 Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Plan proposed the redesign of Bergen Place Park. This Plan called Bergen Place Park, “underutilized, uninviting, and out of character in the thriving shopping Ballard shopping district. Its central location is ideal for redevelopment and will bring a new, visually appealing image and pedestrian amenity to downtown Ballard.” Hewitt Architects was selected by Parks staff and the community to lead the redevelopment effort. The firm has extensive civic design experience. Significant design issues at the outset of the project included ameliorating frequent use of the park by the transient community and developing a plan that could integrate a variety of existing park elements into an appealing public area. Because of Bergen Place Park’s prominence in the community, the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs (formerly the Seattle Arts Commission) selected the park as one of 10 locations citywide to receive \$25,000 in Pro Parks 1% for Art funding. A Pro Parks Levy opening event for the redeveloped park will be celebrated after installation of the art piece is completed in June.

Design

While the park is tiny and the budget small for a public redevelopment project, interest in this central Ballard park by both the community and the City gave the project stature. Bergen Place Park designs were reviewed by the Board of Park Commissioners (3/13/03), the Seattle Design Commission, the Ballard District Council, and the Ballard Civic Center Steering Committee. The following are the park elements upgraded and added that relate to the Scandinavian and maritime heritage of Ballard:

- **Major artwork:** A selection panel that included Nordic Heritage Museum Director Marianne Forssblad chose artist Jen Dixon to create an integrated artwork for the project. Each of the five “Witness Trees” that Dixon will place atop the old growth cedar poles that once held the park awning describes a period of time during Ballard’s ancient and current history, from the Paleolithic to the Duwamish, to Scandinavian immigrant loggers, fishermen, and entrepreneurs, to the Ballard of the future. One tree is, in the artist’s words, “inspired by the mythological Nordic world or cosmic tree, *Yggdrasil* ... The form takes its shape from topiary trees commonly found in Ballard’s neighborhoods. The blue and white ‘cloud’ palette is inspired by porcelain and its pattern influenced by embroidery found on traditional Nordic folk costumes.”



Hewitt Architects
Bergen Place Park

- **Park Furnishings:** Parks renovated and relocated the Bergen Place Park kiosk with its distinctive Scandinavian roofline. A 60' curved wooden bench, meant to be reminiscent of a vessel, was designed by Hewitt Architects and added as the focal point of the park's interior.
- **Trees:** King Olav donated two Norway maple trees during his historic visit to Seattle. Mature Norway maple trees now frame the western boundary of Bergen Place Park.
- **Mural:** Parks staff went to great extremes during construction to protect and preserve a community mural representing Scandinavian

culture. The mural remains in great condition. Now that trees and the park awning have been removed, the mural is even more vibrant and visible to all of Ballard. The mural is owned by the Department of Neighborhoods and affixed to a building owned by a local retailer. The mural is not on Parks property. Parks lease of the building wall ends in September 2005. If the community decides to permanently locate the mural in Bergen Place Park, the city and the community could fund an armature to hold the artwork next to the retailer's wall.

- **Flags:** Because the old flags were in poor condition, Parks purchased six new Scandinavian and American flags. The old flags were properly disposed of by All the King's Flags, and were mounted following the proper flag procedure recommended for hanging flags. The American flag was placed first, with Scandinavian flags placed in alphabetical order. Parks hopes the Scandinavian community will continue its tradition of replacing these flags as they age.
- **Cornerstones:** At meetings with the Norwegian Commercial Club, Kris Snider of Hewitt Architects has been working to define the five cornerstones of the park to be placed on granite capstones. The community may fund imported cornerstones from Scandinavia.
- **Cedar poles:** The community would like to clad the cedar poles to reduce sign posting. Hewitt staff will continue to work with the community and the artist to identify a solution that does not disrupt the "Witness Trees." One solution discussed was to wrap the poles in maritime cables. During the week of April 26th, all posting were removed from the cedar poles by the Conservation Corps. Signs were added to notify the public that postings are not permitted on the poles.

Public Process

The decisions about how to redevelop the park followed four community meetings in 2002-3 that more than 100 people attended. Parks informed people of these community meetings through the Ballard News Tribune, through postings on a large sign at the park, through e-mails, and through postcards sent out prior to each meeting to approximately 2000 nearby residents and people who contacted Parks and expressed interest in the park redevelopment. Among those who participated in the community meetings were members of the Bergen Sister City Association, the Ballard Historical Society, and staff from the Nordic Heritage Museum. Parks staff and the park design consultants from Hewitt Architects have also met and communicated frequently with representatives of the Norwegian Commercial Club. Because they recognized the significance of this park to Ballard and Seattle, Hewitt Architects offered *pro bono* time for these additional Bergen Place Park community meetings.

Additional information

A great deal has been accomplished with the Pro Parks Bergen Place Park redevelopment project. Parks has respected and retained many significant maritime and Scandinavian elements – and has

added others – while redeveloping Bergen Place Park as a safer, cleaner, and more inviting park for all of Ballard. The park is now open to the public. For additional information contact Andrew Sheffer, Parks Project Manager, (206)684-7041 andrew.sheffer@seattle.gov

Verbal Briefing

Cathy Tuttle, Pro Parks Development Project Manager, distributed before and after photos of the Bergen Place Park project including the cornerstones, flags, major artwork, cedar poles, park furnishings and trees. The park will be used during the Ballard Scandinavian Festival on May 17. Cathy reviewed the design criteria that were used to pull the park together and how well the park met the criteria. The park creates opportunities to connect downtown Ballard and the Historic District, it is light, open and airy and ADA accessible. Cathy related that Parks Project Manager Andy Sheffer has been working with the Ballard community to retain many significant maritime and Scandinavian elements while redeveloping the park as a safer, cleaner and more inviting park for all of Ballard.

Board Discussion

Sarah Neilson inquired about the mural and the community concerns. Parks staff worked hard to protect and preserve the community mural representing Scandinavian culture during park construction. The mural is in great condition. Now that the trees and park awning have been removed the mural is even more vibrant and visible to all of Ballard. The Department of Neighborhoods owns the mural, and it is affixed to a building owned by the Olsen family. It is not on Parks property and the lease of the building wall ends in September 2005. If the community decides to permanently locate the mural in the Bergen Place Park, the city and the community could fund an armature to hold the artwork next to the retailer's wall. Sarah also noted that some of the community comments the Board of Park Commissioners received at its April 8 meeting concerning artwork should have been directed to the Seattle Design Commission. Cathy Tuttle has discussed the community concerns with Design Commission staff.

Ballard Civic Center Park - Board Discussion/Recommendation

Written Briefing

This information was prepared in response to questions that arose at the April 8th Park Board meeting by Cathy Tuttle, Project Manager, and Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Levy Planning & Development Manager.

- **Deficits in open space:** The Ballard Urban Village has substantial gaps in its usable open space according to Park's Gap Assessment analysis. The new park was purchased to rectify some of this open space deficiency.
- **Zoning and nearby property development** The park is envisioned as the centerpiece of the Ballard Civic Center, a 12-block commercial/residential area that was zoned to receive high growth. Substantial amounts of new retail and residential development are under construction or in design review close to the park including the new Ballard Library and Neighborhood Service Center across the street, a 270 unit apartment/retail building to the west of the park, and a 100 unit apartment/retail building to the southwest.

Perhaps the most compelling reason Parks staff have used in making a recommendation to limit the skateboard park is that a large amount of residential property currently faces the

park, and a great deal of new residential development is planned nearby. The Ballard Civic Center Park will soon function as the front yard and only green space for hundreds of residents in one of the most dense urban villages in Seattle. While some urban dwellers would be delighted to pass by, hear, and see a constant buzz of park activity, many nearby existing residents have expressed concern about a constantly active skateboard park in this location. The open space demand on this small piece of property will only increase as the urban village develops.

- **Scandinavian and maritime heritage**

Parks and Swift & Company will work with local Ballard groups to incorporate elements reflecting Scandinavian design sensibility, including the region's exceptional tradition of simple form, and rich materials and detailing. Wood, water, and stone will be used to celebrate the culture, rich maritime heritage, and regional identity of Ballard.

- **Ballard Skate Bowl –Evaluation of Options**

Parks staff completed a review of the construction of the existing Ballard Bowl and evaluated the conditions of the existing concrete structure. From the assessment completed, Parks staff has concluded that the bowl was built as a temporary structure for use over a relatively short time period. This conclusion is in keeping with the staff recommendation for the schematic design that recommends not retaining the existing bowl as a permanent component at the park. (See Appendix "A" for additional information on the construction and condition of the bowl).

Four options related to the bowl are explored: construct a new bowl, retain the bowl at its present location permanently, retain it just during construction but remove it as this park and other skate parks open in 2005, relocate the bowl to a different location on-site. The latter 3 options will require changes to the preferred schematic. In addition, pros and cons are shown for the options.

Staff-Preferred Schematic Design (construct a new bowl off-site)

Parks staff recommends limiting the skateboard element to a street skate plaza that can be reprogrammed during large community events.

Pros:

- Is more in keeping with the Ballard Municipal Center Master Plan
- Minimizes conflict of uses on-site
- Creates transition of passive to active uses
- Retains a skate element at park

Cons:

- Requires a new site to be identified for the bowl
- Requires additional funding for new bowl

Retain the bowl at its present location

The cost of keeping the bowl during construction is high (see Appendix "A"). The southern wall of the Safeway to be demolished at the outset of the park construction will need to be preserved and shored up to support the bowl. Due to the extent of surrounding construction, it is unlikely that the bowl could remain open during periods of park construction work. Because the bowl has no standard seismic support, Park engineers are concerned that the vibrations associated with demolishing the Safeway and constructing the adjacent eight-story building will irreparably damage the bowl. If a bowl is to be retained in this location long-term it will need to be replaced by a permanent bowl.

Pros:

- Retains popular park feature and committed user group
- Extends period of bowl use

Cons:

- Bowl was constructed for a 3 to 5 year life. Repairs/retrofitting would be needed to keep bowl structurally and seismically safe
- Significant additional costs to retain bowl during construction
- Limits overall park design
- Creates conflict with proposed adjacent uses
- Use of bowl during construction will be limited due to safety issues

Relocate the bowl to a different location on-site

Park engineers evaluated the bowl and concluded its construction does not meet construction standards typical of Park projects (See Appendix “A”). The location of the bowl directly over utility lines limits the ability to excavate under it. With the use of gravity-stacked eco-blocks and a less substantial rebar frame than meets current standards, the bowl may not be strong enough to hold together to move it.

Pros:

- Reuse of existing popular bowl
- Allows design flexibility
- Allows for buffer between neighboring uses

Cons:

- Given original construction methods, it is unlikely that the bowl can be moved
- Costs to relocate existing bowl are much greater than costs to build a new permanent bowl
- Sanitary sewer and storm water lines directly beneath the bowl make excavation to move bowl difficult, if not impossible

Construct a new bowl on-site

- The cost of replicating this bowl is approximately \$100,000 to 120,000. Park staff recommends this option if a bowl is to remain as an element in the park (see Appendix “A”). However, given the budget and site constraints, Park staff believe a choice needs to be made between having a bowl OR a street skate plaza at the Ballard Civic Center park.

Pros:

- Retains existing popular temporary use
- Less expensive than retaining or relocating existing bowl
- Allows design flexibility
- Allows for buffer between neighboring uses

Cons:

- not in keeping with more passive nature of Municipal Center Master Plan
- difficult to fit both a bowl and street skate plaza in park due to space needs and budget constraints

APPENDIX “A”

Existing Skate Bowl Background & Cost

Construction methods: Volunteers and donated labor used.

Bowl dimensions: The bowl dimensions are approximately 40' X 55' covering a surface area of 2200 sq. ft. The structure contains two levels creating two skate areas, the first area is a 20' X 30' at 4'6" deep and the second area is a 40' X 25' at 9' deep.

Site preparation and Excavation: Workers excavated the southwest corner of the old Safeway site. The site could only be excavated to a depth of 6 ft., due to two existing utilities lines a 6" sewer line and an 8" storm sewer line. To achieve the 9 ft. depth and allow for drainage, workers installed two rows of concrete ecology blocks to frame the west, south, east and part of the north walls of the bowl. The existing building foundation was used to frame a portion of the north wall. Workers used existing hand-tamped soil and shaped the base of the bowl.

Preferred method: A reinforced concrete retaining wall is the city's standard, but due to the bowl's budget, project used ecology blocks. The blocks were allowed by Parks knowing that the structure being built was temporary. Mechanical soil compactors and/or vibrating rolls are required to achieve 95% soil compaction.

Drainage: 6" PVC (plastic) piping connects the bowl's drain to the city's storm sewer line.

Preferred method: Ductile iron piping is the city's standard, but again, due to the bowl's budget, the project could only afford the plastic piping. The plastic piping was allowed by Parks knowing the structure being built was temporary.

Framing, forming and concrete: Project built with ½" rebar to frame the structure, creating a grid pattern of 12" to 24" on-center (O.C.). Project used a 7-1/2 sack concrete mix in three separate pours to create the shell. The base and wall thickness varies from 4" maximum to about 1" minimum.

Preferred method: A permanent structure requires the base and wall thickness of 6" to 4" minimum and a reinforcing bar grid at 6" O.C. anchoring the rebar into the top slab and footings for structural support and longevity. A permanent structure also requires expansion, contraction and control joints to minimize the cracking.

Conclusion:

The existing bowl was built for short-term, temporary use. The structure now shows the wear of its heavy use. Surface and structural defects are evident, allowing ground water to seep into the bowl. In the short term, repair work will be needed to fix and seal the cracks. Additional shoring and patching are needed around the three sides of the ecology block walls where gravel and fill material is eroding onto the sidewalk and alley. Continued erosion may eventually undermine portions of the bowl. Significant construction projects nearby may irreparably damage the bowl.

Retain the bowl at its present location

If the recommendation is to work around the existing bowl during construction, an extra 2-4 weeks of design time and additional significant costs for shoring (supporting) the walls to protect the bowl would have to be added to the Ballard Civic Center Park project. The most difficult side to protect is the north wall which is currently supported by the existing building that will be demolished. Since the project site is only 1.4 acres, working around the bowl during construction will add construction complexity and costs. During periods of park construction in areas close to the existing bowl, the facility would likely have to be closed for the safety of skaters.

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| Additional design cost to integrate the bowl and the Civic Center Park design: | \$10,000 - 20,000 |
| Cost for shoring to retain and protect the existing bowl: | \$110,000 - 150,000 |
| Cost to install permanent railing/fencing around existing bowl: | <u>\$ 4,000</u> |

Total cost estimate to retain bowl: **\$ 124,000 to 174,000**

Source: Swift and Company, Shoring Contractor, 2004 Edition – The Guide, Building Construction Material Prices, Parks Staff.

Relocate the bowl to a different location on-site

Moving the bowl is possible only if the bowl is structurally sound enough to be moved. After learning about how the bowl was construction, Park staff asked an architect and two contractors about the feasibility of moving the existing bowl. All formed the same opinion that they do not believe the bowl would survive a move and would be more cost efficient to build a new skate bowl. If the bowl could be moved, addition cost for repairing and resurfacing would have to be added to the project.

Moving method: Emmert International, a specialized carrier and transportation company, provided a cost estimate to move the bowl to a new location at the Ballard park site. The company only transports the structure. All site preparation would have to be completed by another company. Emmert International recommended a concrete coring company, that has previously prepared large concrete structures for Emmert International to transport. The preparations for moving include placing two large steel I-beams on top of the bowl. The coring company would drill and install a series of anchor bolts into the bowl (24” spacing). Steel cables would run from the anchor bolts back to the I-beams to create a support system to hold the bowl together during the move.

The coring company would then begin digging out the existing bowl and create a dirt ramp in order for Emmert International to get underneath the bowl and pull the bowl out from its existing location. The coring company would also have to prepare a new hole on site in order for Emmert International to side the bowl into its new location.

Note: The two existing utility lines are under the west end of the existing bowl making it very difficult to work under.

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| Additional cost for site preparation for transporting the bowl: | \$ 75,000 -85,000 |
| Additional cost for moving the bowl: | \$ 60,000 -70,000 |
| Additional cost for repairing and resurfacing the bowl: | <u>\$ 35,000</u> |

Total cost estimate to relocate the bowl to different location on-site: **\$ 170,000 to 190,000**

Source: Emmert International, Architect firm, Local General Contractors, 2004 Edition – The Guide, Building Construction Material Prices, Parks Staff.

Construct a new bowl on-site

Staff contacted a landscape architecture firm and a local contractor, both with many years and experience in building skate parks.

Design:

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| Survey existing bowl and develop an "as built" drawing: | \$ 2,000 |
| Design costs/Structural calculations: | \$ 10,000-12,000 |

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| Construction: | |
| Construction cost estimate, (Includes Sales Tax) | <u>\$85,000 -108,000</u> |
| <u>Total cost estimate to construct a new bowl on-site:</u> | \$ 97,000 to 122,000 |

Source: Landscape Architect, Local Contractor, 2004 Edition – The Guide, Building Construction Material Prices, Parks Staff.

Verbal Briefing

Michael Shiosaki gave a brief summary of the written briefing paper. A number of large drawings of the Ballard Civic Park at 5701 22nd Avenue Northwest were displayed for reference. The Department is at schematic design and is asking the Park Board to recommend the elements and uses that should be included in this park site. \$2.47 million in the Pro Parks Levy has been earmarked for this project. If a bowl is appropriate for the site, it should not be considered the primary use of the park but integrated into a cohesive park design, built to be durable and long lasting and it be a good neighbor by minimizing impacts to adjacent uses. The Board received an early project briefing on November 13, 2003 and received both a written and verbal briefing at its April 8, 2004 meeting prior to its public hearing at which 43 people testified. Joining Michael to answer Park Board questions were Barbara Swift and Lisa Corry of Swift & Company Landscape Architects, Parks staff Cathy Tuttle, Jon Jainga and Susan Golub.

Board Discussion/Recommendation

Joanna Grist inquired about phasing costs to keep the existing bowl during the park construction until a new bowl is built. Michael noted the shoring costs would exceed \$100,000. Joanna asked how long of a time period would there not be a bowl if it is torn down and a new one built. Michael stated the construction period is estimated to begin in January '05 and not be completed until October or November. Joanna requested Kate and James' comments be reviewed for the record. Commissioners Kate Pflaumer and James Fearn were excused from this meeting but each had forwarded comments to the Board members. Kate favored the option of keeping the existing bowl and trying to build it into the new park design and James noted a bowl should be retained as part of the new park if at all possible but noted retention depends on environmental review and park design. Their input to the Board members was advisory since they cannot vote in absentia.

Sarah Neilson appreciates the community's response on this issue and noted it is exciting to see so many people care about what happens in Ballard. She appreciates that the Department has developed the Skateboard Park Advisory Committee and has taken this opportunity to develop other needed skate parks. Sarah stated it is unfortunate that this park development turned into a skaters vs. neighbors controversy but thinks it can work in a cohesive way. Sarah supports an alternative that would keep the existing bowl on site and might include features such as a roof, gated skateboard area to enable specific closure hours and grading of the park site to incorporate the existing bowl. She understands the project will go through an environmental review process and the existing bowl may be cracked or endangered in other ways. She does not favor a street skate plaza in the center of the park. Keeping a bowl on the corner is the best way to combine an active use with the other uses in mind for the park. Sarah thinks it is a wonderful thing to offer the new condo neighbors and not something that should be taken away.

Terry Holme noted he appreciates what politicians have to do on a close call issue because over the last six weeks he has gone back and forth on this issue. There are very compelling arguments on both sides. The Park Board's job is to make a recommendation to the Superintendent who will make the decision. Terry asked Barbara Swift how did the development of the design go from passive to active. The architect related at the first community meeting there were discussions about the nature of the place, the vision of the park and discussion of programming. In that discussion there was a master plan tied to those three categories. The community was asked to provide feedback. During the discussion there was a request for more active programmed activity than had been illustrated in the master plan. When the alternatives were developed one was passive, one included the skatebowl in its current location and two others with a slightly more active use with the inclusion of a play area and the inclusion of a skate element. There has not been any negative feedback received relative to the notion of the subtle shift to add the play area but the debate about the discussion of the skating activity was certainly there. Terry asked should the bowl remain where it is how would do you incorporate and make the grades and retaining walls work within the new design. The architect explained the elevational issues. The elevation at the street is 79. The existing bowl is set back from the property line about 5 feet. The site slopes up and gets up to about 83. There is roughly a four-foot grade change. A way to integrate the grade change into the site is to take a wall and begin to bring it back up to meet grade on the outside and then integrate it into the overall park. What the architect was trying to do was create a fairly large lawn area, which became a sloped, large informal amphitheater. How the park is a neighbor is important and the architect proposed an area for vegetation and whether there needed to be some attention to acoustical issues. Terry inquired about how we stand in terms of projected costs relative to budget for the preferred alternative design. Michael Shiosaki stated the costs are \$215,000 over the projected budget. Some finishing choices could bring the costs down. Terry asked what the budget was in the preferred alternative design for the skate element. The architect related without overhead it was approximately \$54,000. No cost projection has been completed for a proposed roof. Terry asked who on staff did the cost estimating. Michael Shiosaki replied it was done by the project manager, staff engineers, speaking to moving and demo companies and working with the architect. Terry referenced a statement in a staff preferred schematic design (construct a new bowl off-site) that would allow the street skate plaza to be reprogrammed during large community events and wondered how that would be accomplished if the skating element was fenced and how high of a fence are we talking about. Michael Shiosaki stated the area could not be used for a music event because of the noise generated and would not have a lot of other uses such as during a festival or other gathering. The fence would be 6-8' and would have the ability to open and close to limit the hours of use.

Terry does not think the preferred alternative serves the park well by having the skateboard element in the middle of the park. The existing structure is 1" – 4" concrete. It was built as a temporary structure and the seriousness in terms of the construction methods and specifications were not as great as they might have been to build a permanent structure. Whatever we do in this park should be meant to last, as we do not want to be revisiting this park with a flawed structure. Terry does feel that there is ample evidence that a skate function on this park will serve the community well and he is inclined to feel that Study No. 2 is better because the skate facility is in the corner and Study 1 "eats up the park too much." He would like an adequate space for skaters to warm up be incorporated in Study 2. Terry has been a community activist for a long time and stated nothing is more disheartening to be on a project that you have worked on for six or eight years and have a new group come along in the final two years and change the program. It is very important for the skate community to respect the fact that there has been a lot of effort put in by the community on this design over the years. He understands the needs and success of this facility but also thinks there are issues for the Department and decision makers when you use the

word “temporary” and it does not actually mean temporary. If we cross that boundary and we go into changing a master plan or change our definition of temporary then we better get it right.

Bruce Bentley inquired if Study No. 2 can be built within budget. Michael Shiosaki stated it is all about making choices and the budget is the ultimate parameter. There is going to have to be give and take. Bruce stated it is great to see and feel the passion of the citizens of Seattle. The Park Board looks at decisions from a system-wide basis. Ballard is deficit in terms of green space in the city and this park would be a front yard to many. The City is working to address the lack of space for skateboarders in the city through the Skateboard Policy. Bruce noted he found the various ages of skateboarders interesting. He is concerned about the existing bowl condition and would prefer to see something new constructed if a skate bowl is incorporated in the park. He thinks a great outcome of this process has been getting the younger citizens motivated. The Department is moving forward with its Skateboard Advisory Committee. Study 2 may be an opportunity to serve the community.

Terry Holme stated there was a little variation in the comments from the skate community in terms of street skating and bowl skating. He thinks it may be of some value to designate some kind of footprint on the site for skating and actually ask the skate community to work out what they want in terms of skating. The designers and planners can make recommendations but one of the things that actually make parks work is when the users organize and come to their own conclusion. There are two parts: involvement in the community on design, but also raising money. The skate community has proven that they can bring resources and that is what is making the parks work now – people’s time and financial muscle work.

Commissioner Terry Holme moved that the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation consider the "[Skateboard Study 2](#)" as a guideline for the design of skate park features. The study proposes the construction of a new skate bowl, replacing the existing temporary skate bowl structure, located in the same vicinity as the existing structure in the southwest corner of the park. The Board also recommended that Parks staff work with the skateboard community on specific design elements. Sarah Neilson seconded the motion with the addition of a friendly amendment to consider a design of a roof or other ways to mitigate noise impacts. Terry Holme accepted the friendly amendment and the motion was approved unanimously. The Park Board recommendation now moves forward to the Superintendent for a decision.

Bruce thanked all the staff, consultants and community who worked on this issue. He thinks we all win when we are all involved and engaged.

Susan Golub noted she is the staff person for the Skateboard Park Advisory Committee and advised the Board the Committee did a design charette for Lower Woodland in March and came up with a terrific design. The Department is moving forward with plans to build a new skateboard park at the Lower Woodland site, which meets the locational criteria of the Skateboard Park Policy. It will have parking and restrooms available. A full service park that will include a bowl and street skate features is planned. Funding for the new park will come from a variety of grant sources, e.g. Neighborhood Matching Fund, State Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation and will seek other grants from skateboard related sources such as the Tony Hawk Foundation.

Vending Machine Project Briefing

Susan Golub, Staff Analyst, reviewed the proposed restructuring of the Department's vending machine operations. The goals of the project are to:

- Increase the number and variety of healthy items offered in the machines;
- Increase revenue; and
- Simplify vending machine management, while improving consistency and enhancing customer service.

Current Vending Operation

Most of the community centers and pools have vending machines. They each contract separately with a vendor. The income from the machines is received by the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) and then distributed back to the facility from where it came. Facilities vary greatly in the extent of their vending operations and income. The Department receives one percent of vending revenue.

Project Status

Currently the Department is drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) that is planned to issued in late May. Through the RFP process, the Department will reduce our list of vendors from over ten to two: one for drinks and one for snacks. This will simplify vending contact management and should result in better service and higher revenue. In contrast to the current practice, the Department, rather than ARC, will be entering into the agreements with the vendors; income from the machines will be returned to the advisory council of the facility from where it is generated, as occurs with the current vending system. Also, in the RFP the Department will be asking vendors to provide additional revenue enhancement, above the income we receive from product sales. The consolidation of the vending operations makes the business more attractive to vendors and should result in "signing bonus" revenue.

Throughout the planning for the restructured vending operations, the Department has worked with a vending subcommittee of the ARC Board. This committee will review and provide comments on all aspects of this project, from drafting the RFP to selecting vendors and preparing vendor agreements. Also, we have made a number of presentations to our staff to inform them of the proposal to restructure our vending operations.

Healthy Products

One of the requirements of the RFP will be providing a selection of healthy items in the vending machines. Based on advice the Department received from a representative of Children's Hospital Obesity Program, we should not remove all unhealthy items: giving people options and information is the best method of promoting healthy eating. As new agreements are entered into, the Department will require that vendors provide a good selection of healthy food and drinks. Another requirement will be identifying healthy items. The vending agreements will include some method to indicate healthy choices. Susan noted the Department has had recent discussions with the Children's Alliance and Seattle King County Public Health staff. They are providing the information the Department needs so when they put out the contract and say "healthy" there will be some very specific guidelines that have to be met. The Department is going to look at prices as when you price healthy food lower people make that choice and the revenues go out after perhaps a dip at the beginning.

Additional Vending Locations

Through the new vending contracts, we will add vending to new indoor facilities, such as the Sand Point Magnuson Park community center. We currently have a few outdoor vending

machines (for example, at the Lower Woodland tennis courts) and are considering whether there are suitable new locations for outdoor vending. Sites that have been raised as potential locations are:

1. Bobby Morris
2. Lincoln Park tennis courts
3. Lincoln Park south parking lot
4. Seward Park parking lot.

A reason for expanding vending to additional locations is the revenue that would be generated for the Department, and the fact that the more locations we include in the RFP the bigger “signing bonus” we can expect.

Park Board Consideration

Before proceeding with any additional outdoor vending, the Department would like to get feedback from the Board of Park Commissioners regarding this issue.

Board Discussion

Terry Holme noted if vending machines are going to be put in to any new location there needs to be guidelines relating to visibility. You need to plan where the machines are going to go and box them in so you see the face when you are in front of them not when you are a block away.

Joanna Grist inquired if the machines would all be Coke or Pepsi or if one distributor can offer a variety. Susan Golub noted it could be either way but if the contract ends up Coke or Pepsi they can do healthy items. The Department is open to having one distributor or a corporation. Joanna is happy about the healthy guidelines. Susan stated it is estimated that the machines will be 2/3 “healthy” to start and may transition to 100% if things are going well.

Sarah Neilson wondered if making the switch to 100% healthy to start would be seen as too strict and people would not feel they had a choice. Susan said some of the school districts have gone “cold turkey” but giving people options and information is the best method of promoting healthy eating according to the Children’s Hospital Obesity Program. Part of the RFP will include that the healthy foods will have to be easily identifiable on the machines with a sticker and poster.

Terry Holme asked if ARC agrees with the proposed vending machine changes. Susan related ARC is 100% behind the changes. Terry asked if the revenue curve reverses and takes a big drop that the vending machine issue be revisited.

Joanna Grist inquired about the revenue brought in from the vending machines. Susan responded that the vending operations are handled differently at the various sites. The income from the machines is received by the Associated Recreation Council and then distributed back to the facility from where it came. The vending machine management will be simplified with one vendor for drinks and one for snacks.

Bruce Bentley asked if there is a possibility of a local vendor. Susan hopes so but state law prohibits the Department from saying it has to be local vendor. Bruce stated the revenue does go back to the park system. The signing bonus money will help fill in gaps. Bruce noted Bill Keller will be briefing the Park Board on the Associated Recreation Councils' operations update on July 8.

It is hoped the RFP will be advertised later in May with City Council review in September and a new vendor on board in October or November.

Park Board Business

Items of Interest to the Board

Candy Rewards - Sarah Neilson noted she recently spoke to some parents of children in community center programs who were concerned about staff giving out candy as rewards. The parents were trying to keep candy away from their children. Sarah suggested when something calls for a reward that an item other than candy is given such as stickers or little toys. Bruce noted that his Advisory Council spends approximately \$600-\$700 on its Easter egg hunt for candy and prizes every year. Staff education needs to be addressed. The Children's Alliance has a grant from the UW for education of after school program leaders. The Alliance will be discussing the education program with Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director. Terry Holme stated small plastic toys should not be given to small children and he does not think the reward of stickers goes very far but suggested providing healthy food snacks.

Correspondence – Terry Holme referenced two letters received from Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks. They are concerned about a Volunteer Park Conservatory admission fee rumor, as well as dog damage to the Volunteer Park Lily Ponds. B. J. Brooks noted the Department has to take another large budget cut and staff was asked to look at various options. The suggestion of charging an admission fee "spun out of control." Staff will prepare a response to the May 4 Olmsted letter. Christopher Williams is reviewing the Lily Pond damage and will prepare a response to the letter. The Park Board will receive copies of the responses.

Budget – Joanna Grist requested the Board receive a presentation on the budget process so that they are familiar with the issues that are being considered.

Terry Holme noted approximately three years ago ARC held a citywide meeting to brainstorm ways to save money and come up with efficiency ideas. If ARC plans another brainstorming event, the Park Board would like to be invited.

Staff – B. J. Brooks noted the Superintendent's Staff Assistant, Josette Valentino, lost her sister Denise Hibbit last weekend; services were held Monday. B. J. also informed the Board members that Recreation, Arts & Athletics Manager Patti Petesch is at Harborview until Sunday, Room 404E.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE: _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair