

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2004

Present: Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Joanna Grist
Terry Holme
Debbie Jackson

Staff: Ken Bounds, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Kate Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. **Terry moved and Joanna seconded that the minutes and the agenda, as presented, be approved. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

October 28 Park Board Meeting: Because three of the six members will be out of town on October 28, that meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is on Thursday, November 18, at which time tonight's public hearing item, Beach Fires, will be discussed and a recommendation made to the Superintendent.

Superintendent's Report

Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds reported on the following:

City Obtains Lighthouse at Discovery Park: Good news! On October 13 the Department received word from the federal government that the lighthouse at Discovery Park will be transferred to the City. In collaboration with Historic Seattle, Parks prepared a proposal in 2003 to gain ownership of the lighthouse. It was surplus to the City free of charge; however, there are conditions attached, such as re-habbing and making it available to the public.

City Council Park-related Approvals: On Monday, City Council approved the Zoo's Long Range Plan. The Council's Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee also approved the preferred alternative for a two-way corridor for Mercer. This is of interest to the Department as it relates to South Lake Union Park. This traffic revision would make the park much more accessible to the public, as it is now very difficult for vehicles to cross Valley to enter the park.

Oil Spill Reported: The Board and audience may have heard reports of an oil spill earlier today in Puget Sound between Tacoma and Vashon. At last report, the oil was moving southward, not northwards towards Seattle's beaches. Parks staff members are on alert if the oil begins moving northwards. State employees and the Coast Guard are working to corral the oil.

Nations in Bloom: Several Parks staff members are in Buffalo, New York, making a presentation to the International Livable Cities organization. Parks won second place last year in its competition and was invited back to compete again this year.

Canada Geese Update: Staff members have completed the evaluation of the 2004 program and will continue the moratorium on lethal control for 2005, conditioned on an expansion of the volunteer efforts. Volunteers successfully

assisted with nest identification, harassment, cleanup, and other actions in 2004. In 2005, one of the new efforts will be to focus on Green Lake to discourage geese from choosing this site.

Mariner Players Donate \$12,000 to Summer Musical: Annie Wilson, wife of Seattle Mariner Dan Wilson, solicited \$12,000 from other Mariner players for the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center's Summer Musical. The donation was presented to Edgar Martinez's wife, Holli, at a special October 2 post-game event to honor Edgar. Mrs. Martinez had already donated \$5,000 to the musical.

Pro Parks Opportunity Fund: The Department received 60 letters of intent by the October 4 deadline for \$3 million available through the second cycle of the Opportunity Fund. These included potential park acquisition and development projects from every sector of the city. Parks staff and the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee will review the letters and give feedback to the applicants. Full applications are due in February.

Magnuson Park North Shore: An agreement has been signed with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe outlining the conditions of the tribe's access to the North Shore area during tribal fisheries. This agreement was a condition of the Army Corps of Engineer's permit.

Discovery Park Chapel: The landmarks nomination report for the Discovery Park Chapel will be presented to the Landmarks Board on November 3. Their decision about the historical significance of the building will determine how Parks will proceed with renovation and restoration work planned at Discovery Park. Park renovations are funded with mitigation money from King County.

Terry asked what role Historic Preservation plays in the lighthouse at Discovery Park. Ken said that the organization may be helpful in securing outside funding for restoration and may be involved in programming around Puget Sound lighthouses and their historical significance. Discovery Park staff will be responsible for the lighthouse.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Kate explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing before the Board. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. No one signed up to testify.

Discussion/Recommendation: Proposal to Sadako and the Thousand Cranes from Peace Park to Greenlake Park

At its October 14 meeting, Paula Hoff, Parks Department Strategic Advisor, came before the Board to give a briefing on a citizen-driven proposal to move the Sadako statue from Peace Park to Greenlake Park. The statue was vandalized and removed for repairs in late 2003. In the interim, citizens approached Parks with the proposal. The October 14 briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing.

Tonight Paula came back before the Board to answer questions, in anticipation of the Board's recommendation to the Superintendent. Paula re-stated that the Parks' staff recommendation is to leave the Sadako statue at Peace Park. The Board had several questions at the October 14 meeting and Paula had forwarded answers to those questions.

Jack stated that one of the citizen e-mails stated that Paula hadn't presented all the arguments for moving the statue, although he found it hard to believe — after all the information presented — that there could be additional arguments. He stressed that he would never vote for an issue solely on the volume of correspondence sent to the Board. The question he asks himself is "has the Board heard all the arguments?" and he feels that it has. Kate thanked the Park Board Coordinator for her work in collating the many items of correspondence on this issue.

Debbie stated that, although she wasn't able to attend the October 14 meeting, she listened to the tapes, read all the correspondence, and initially agreed with the staff recommendation. However, she drove to the park today and changed her mind. She asked Paula to explain the primary basis of the staff recommendation to leave the statue at Peace Park. Paula answered that two internal Parks review committees made the recommendation, with two reasons

given: (1) the committees were concerned with the precedent of placing statues in Greenlake Park, which currently has no statues; and (2) the committees did not feel that the proposal to move the statue was compelling enough. There is money in the Pro Parks Levy to improve Peace Park. The statue is the focal point of Peace Park and the committees believe it would be unfair to spend the citizen-approved funds at the park, and then move the focal point to a larger park. Debbie referred to citizen testimony given to the Board on the lack of parking and inaccessibility to school kids. When she visited today, she found that the park is difficult to find, is poorly signed, and located on a very busy corner. There is no safe place for a vehicle to pull over and drop off passengers. She was met by one transient as she entered the park and another was lying down in the park. She believes the park is too small for the Sadako statue.

Jack stated that he has also visited Peace Park. He feels that Greenlake is already a busy park. He is persuaded by Floyd Schmoie, who helped create Peace Park and invested his Hiroshima peace award funds into the park. When he read Mrs. Schmoie's letter urging that Sadako remain at Peace Park, he was very moved. The memory of Floyd Schmoie walking down the street, at age 104 with water can in hand, to maintain Peace Park is a powerful symbol to him of what the park means. He agrees that the location is awkward; however, it is not a major concern to him that there isn't nearby parking for buses. There is vandalism and transients in many of the City's parks.

Joanna stated that she is struggling with this decision. She used to live in that area and has passed by the park many times. She has always disliked the location for the statue because of the heavy traffic. Returning Sadako to Peace Park would not be her personal decision; however, she is also understanding of the Department's recommendation and will support it.

Angela stated that she will also support the Department's recommendation. Many busloads of people and vehicles do travel by the statue every day. Maybe they can't stay long to reflect on the statue; however, when she drives by and sees the statue it makes her feel good. She believes that the statue represents two pieces of history — the World War II/Hiroshima element and the Floyd Schmoie history at Peace Park.

Terry had several questions. (1) At the October 14 meeting, one citizen stated that there are future plans to remove the park to accommodate a traffic plan for Aurora Avenue and asked if Parks staff followed up on this. Paula had called Seattle Department of Transportation Director's Office and they have no indication that this is being planned. She also called the citizen who made this statement and he could offer no additional basis for the statement. (2) Terry asked Paula to send the Board specific information on costs for an exact duplicate statue. Paula had sent the Board information that covered a range of costs. Terry asked if more specific information could be sent to the Board. Paula answered yes, that she will do further research and send this to the Board. (3) In reference to concerns on statues being placed in Greenlake Park, he asked if there is a Department policy that addresses this. Paula answered that the Gifts and Donations policy does. Paula had previously e-mailed the policy to the Board. (4) Terry asked how many times the statue has been damaged and removed from Peace Park. Paula answered that, to her knowledge, this is the only time the statue has had to be removed. Other damage has occurred to the statue, but it didn't warrant removal from the park for repairs. Ken stated that the Statue of Liberty is located at Alki Park in a very visible spot and has been vandalized at least three times.

Ken asked Paula to state how much money is in the Pro Parks Fund. Paula answered that there is \$150,000; however, it isn't all slated to go to Peace Park. Funds are allocated to two other nearby projects, along with Peace Park. One goal is to make the park more visible, so it doesn't harbor transients, as Debbie experienced earlier today. The Department is working to have more effective signage and directions to the park. Joanna asked if it is accessible from Burke-Gilman Trail. Paula and Ken answered yes. Joanna stated that for years she rode her bike along the Trail and was never aware that the park was so near. She suggested adding signage along the Trail, to encourage bikers and pedestrians to make the short detour to visit the small park. Debbie reiterated that her concerns for parking are not just for bus parking — even stopping a car to let passengers off is dangerous.

Jack moved that the Sadako statue be returned to Peace Park. Angela seconded.

A brief discussion followed on the Board's recommendation process. Jack stated that citizens have asked him if they can appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Mayor or Council. The answer was yes. Terry sent an e-mail to the Board that if it votes in favor of leaving the statue at Peace Park and a second Sadako is donated, that the donors go

through the standard Parks' public policy on ideal placement of the statue. It is important that donors understand that they cannot dictate the placement of items donated to the Department. He is somewhat uncomfortable with the idea of a group coming to the Department with a donation and then deciding where the donation would be placed. He also encourages the University Friends Center, located across the street from the park, to adopt the park to give increased oversight and maintenance of the park. Jack suggested that Parks staff contact the University Friends as a formal Friends of Peace Park. Ken stated that Floyd Schmoie was the adopt-a-park steward. When the statue was there, the park received more attention. With the replacement of the statue, the Department will work to get the neighborhood more involved in care and oversight of the park.

The vote was called for: Jack, Angela, and Joanna approved, Debbie opposed, and Terry abstained. Motion carried, 3-1-1.

Debbie asked what is the status of replacing the statue and Paula answered the end of November. Terry asked for a presentation to the Board for the planned Pro Parks Levy work slated for Peace Park. Paula believes the work is scheduled for 2006. She will confirm this and report back to the Board.

The Board thanked Paula.

Briefing and Public Hearing: Beach Fires

Adam Cole, Environmental Steward Coordinator, came before the Board to give a briefing on the environmental impacts of beach fires and recommendations based on these findings. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Portions of the written briefing follow:

Written Briefing

Overview

This report is for information purposes only. In the absence of complete data sets directly germane to the issue of recreational fires in the Puget Sound region, data used for this report often comes from non-uniform sources. Therefore, numeric (including dollar amounts) and narrative conclusions should be viewed as our best estimates and trends. Data and statements in this report are based on interviews with Seattle Parks staff in the first ten months of 2004, air quality and human health data (and information) supplied by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the American Lung Association of Washington, Washington State Dept of Ecology, staff at UW School of Environmental Health, and others. In particular:

Executive Summary

Brief History

In 2002, Parks was issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) for "allowing" illegal fuels to be burned at Alki Beach. Parks' response to the NOV was to increase 2003 staffing levels at Golden Gardens and Alki beaches during peak times to educate fire recreationists on beach fire rules and regulations. This reduced the amount of illegal fuels burned on our beaches 50% (down to 177 tons annually), and illegal fires by 30%.

Our (major) Findings

The most germane and pressing way to view the environmental impacts of the public's beach fires is to focus on wood smoke emissions as a localized environmental health issue.

- **Illegal Fuels:** The public's burning of illegal fuels still makes up about 37% of all beach fire emissions (or 177 tons of fuel). This type of emissions is considered highly toxic and should be eliminated (to the best of our ability). The overwhelming majority of illegal fuel burning occurs at Golden Gardens Park.
- **Illegal Fires:** 37% of all the public's beach fires occur outside established fire rings which is illegal by City code. These fires (which are typically smaller than the ones in designated rings) produce 18% of annual beach fire emissions, most often contain illegal fuels, and represent a safety hazard due to debris and hot coals left behind.
- **Particulate Matter** (or PM, or smoke): At various times of the year, PM is considered a pollution/health concern in our City. Beach fires at Golden Gardens and Alki Beach represent approximately 1% (8 tons) of the total wood fire PM

produced annually in Seattle. Members of the Alki Beach and Golden Gardens communities often complain that beach fire smoke impacts them on their property.

Options For Reducing Environmental Risk and Increasing Compliance

Parks staff identified three options to improve our environmental stewardship and the compliance of our users:

Option #1

Ending public beach fires (except under Special Event permitted status)

- Eliminates the burning of illegal fuels and illegal fires on the beaches. Results in a 95% reduction of emissions. Eliminates hazardous fire debris hidden in beach sand and allows time for restoration processes (at Golden Gardens mainly). This option required increased enforcement but eliminates the need to clean up after fires. Enforcement would be done by police after park opening hours and parks staff.

Option #2

Prohibit fires October 2 – May 30, allow June 1 – October 1 by reservation and fee only

- Reduces annual beach fire emissions by 30%. Fees partially support a management model ensuring fires are legal. Creates opportunity to educate users before they arrive on the beach. Promotes individual accountability by changing the “culture of use” for beach fires. Eliminates hazardous fire debris hidden in beach sand and allows time for restoration processes (at Golden Gardens mainly). Parks has proposed a fee of \$10 for fire permits in the budget generating \$11,000 of annual revenue.

Option #3

Allow beach fire recreation to continue “as is” (or status quo)

- Some improvements to public safety, minimal reductions in annual emissions, and a minimal reduction in illegal fuels and illegal fires will be realized over time if “PM Beach Patrol” efforts continue at existing levels (2003 and 2004). City staff estimates that as much as \$95,846 annually in staff time is dedicated to beach fire maintenance.

Attachment 1

Current Beach Fire Recreation at Parks, and Regional Air Quality

Current State of Beach Fires in Seattle

Following a 2002 PSCAA Notice of Violation issued to Parks for “allowing” illegal fuels (rubbish) to be burned on Alki Beach, staff were assigned to “patrol” both beaches during peak fire periods. (No other known citations, notices of violation, or claims have resulted from allowing recreational fires to take place on our beaches.) Through the public education efforts of these beach patrols at Alki and Golden Gardens, overall impacts to our air due to the public’s improper use of these beaches and our fire rings have lessened dramatically beginning in the spring of 2003. Through educating and encouraging regulatory compliance with beach fire recreationists in 2003, our beach patrol presence reduced (from assumed 2002 levels) the amount of illegal fuels burned (“bare untreated” firewood being the only “legal fuel”), the number of fires occurring outside established fire rings (defined as illegal by the Park Code), and shortened burn times of many fires as staff extinguished most upon closing of the park. At Alki Beach and Golden Gardens, complaints from park neighbors regarding beach fire smoke declined significantly in 2003 (over 2001 and 2002 levels), and at Golden Gardens, the public has come out in praise and support of our beach patrol efforts. Seattle Parks continued beach patrol staffing in the summer of 2004 to further improve beach fire recreationists’ regulatory compliance. Despite the successes of our recent changes in staffing levels at these beaches in the summer; illegal fuels and illegal fires continue to burn in these parks, public safety concerns continue to exist, and citizens in the Alki and Golden Gardens’ communities continue to express concern over wood smoke in their neighborhoods.

Fire rings are first-come/first-serve, free, and available year-round. The demand for these rings exceeds the capacity in the summer months. During the summer of 2003, legal fuel (firewood) was sold at the bathhouse at Golden Gardens Park.

Illegal Fuels - Health and Environmental Impacts

Toxic emissions from illegally burned materials such as treated wood and particle board (and other materials such as plastic, construction debris, and garbage) are harmful to humans and should remain our highest beach fire concern. Detailed analysis of the human health and environmental effects of illegal fuels burned in a recreational

fire could not be included in the context and scope of this report; however, the recommendation to address the impacts of burning illegal fuels as our highest priority was consistent in the opinion of the people who we consulted on this issue and contributed to and reviewed (in some cases portions) of this report.

PM (Particulate Matter) - Health and Environmental Impacts

PM (“Soot” or “Smoke”) can trigger and/or aggravate existing respiratory ailments such as asthma, can cause damage to normal lung tissue, and increases the chance of infection and illness. Inhaled PM also introduces cancer causing compounds directly into the body. PM is most dangerous for people with existing health problems (lung ailments, heart disease, etc), children, seniors, unborn children, and people most active during high PM episodes. Some statistics show that increased deaths occur in seniors and those suffering from lung or heart ailments when elevated amounts of PM are in our air. Studies have found that more symptoms of respiratory disease in pre-school children are present in high-wood-smoke areas, and increased levels of PM in Seattle are associated with increased asthma symptoms and emergency room visits among children with asthma (at least one in ten children are diagnosed with asthma).

PM is also a major source of haze that reduces visibility, changes soil and water chemistry, and causes erosion/staining of structures (according to the EPA).

VOCs - Health and Environmental Impacts

Wood burning also produces Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which, when combined with other pollutants and sunlight, can form ground level ozone (O3) during the summer months in the northwest. Ozone is harmful to humans and our environment when it exists at ground level. Even at very low concentrations, ground-level ozone triggers a variety of health problems including aggravated asthma, reduced lung capacity, and increased susceptibility to respiratory illnesses. Ozone can affect healthy people who are active outdoors when ozone levels are high. Motor vehicle exhaust, industry, and gasoline and solvent vapors are some of the major sources of VOCs, but wood combustion also produces significant amounts of it.

Ground-level ozone also interferes with the ability of plants to produce and store food, and makes them more susceptible to disease and harsh weather.

Seattle’s Air Quality Now

In general, Washington’s air is cleaner than it was 20 years ago as technology and regulation address air pollution (including wood smoke, cut by 50% in that time). However, Seattle remains in the top five percent of cities nationwide with the worst/highest air-toxics (wood smoke contributes to this), and as the Seattle metro area continues to grow, we as a region or city may some day violate the Federal Clean Air Act which would result in increased regulation for our region. Presently, “Good” air quality (an EPA standard, see below) dominates our region on average while most of our air pollution results from choices individuals make daily (driving vehicles more, enjoying fires, etc).

The national measure of the "health concern" (or "quality") of the air is EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI). The PSCAA monitors our region’s air (Kitsap, King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties) to insure it does not violate federal air quality standards. If periods of high pollution and/or air stagnation are expected (or exist), and concentrations of certain regulated pollutants, Ozone (O3) and PM are among them, are anticipated to rise from “Good” to “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” or to “Unhealthy” for all people (see the table on p.10), the PSCAA will issue a Smog Watch or Burn Ban in hopes of limiting pollution and protecting public health. Smog Watches are only triggered in the summer (when ground level ozone is a major health concern), and Burn Bans are only initiated in the winter (when PM is the leading pollutant of concern).

Smog Watches and Burn Bans Declared In the Puget Sound Region 1998-2003

Pollution Event	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Burn Ban days	2	12	5	11	3	0
Smog Watch days	4	0	2	3	3	0

Beach Fire Inventory, Emission Inventory

Beach Fire Inventory

Beach fires are allowed by Washington State law as a means of “pleasure,” “cooking,” and/or “ceremony.” A legal beach fire (defined as a “recreational fire” under WAC 173-425), is one that has a fuel pile three feet wide and two feet high or smaller, and the fuel is natural firewood (“bare untreated wood.”). A legal recreational fire in a City of Seattle park is further defined by SMC 18.12.270 as one which occurs in a “designated stove or fire ring.” Alki Beach has six designated fire rings (up from four in 2002), and Golden Gardens has 12 (up from 6 in 2002). These rings are metal and built to the legal maximum dimension of a recreational fire.

Fire rings at both beaches are sparsely used except in “summer” (June – Oct) when they are used over capacity most of the time. On any given summer day and night, approximately three percent of park visitors at Alki, and 20% at Golden Gardens, attend the beach fires. In January of 2004 at the request of the Environmental Stewardship Unit, maintenance and “beach patrol” staff estimated the frequency of beach fires and type, legal or illegal, and fuel type (legal or illegal) for 2003. Additionally, Seattle Parks’ staff determined through test burns that on average, a legal fire on our beaches consumes 184 pounds of firewood over five to six hours, and illegal fires consume 62 pounds over one to two hours.

Beach Fire Emission Inventory

Beach Fire Emissions Annually Estimated for 2003	Total Fires (of which were illegal)	Tons Wood/Fuel Burned (of which were in illegal fires)	Tons PM Produced (of which were from illegal fires)	Tons VOCs Produced (of which were from illegal fires)
Golden Gardens (12 rings)	5,146 (2,386)	327.9 (74)	5.5 (1.2)	37.5 (8.5)
Alki Beach (6 rings)	1,732 (416)	134 (12.9)	2.2 (.2)	15.3 (1.5)
Other *	671	17.8	.3	2
Total**	7549 (2802)	479.7 (86.9)	8 (1.4)	54.8 (10)
% from illegal fires	37%	18%	18%	18%

**Includes about 30 other Parks sites, including Christmas Ship fires.*

***Pollutants based on legal fuel emissions. Approximately one third of fuels are illegal...so actual emissions will vary.*

Illegal Fuels Inventory

“Bare untreated firewood,” often described as “clean, seasoned, dry firewood,” is the only acceptable fuel source for a legal beach fire (WAC 173-425, and subsequent PSCAA and other agency decisions). Of the illegal fuels burned at Golden Gardens in 2003, staff estimates 70% were from wooden pallets and construction debris, 20% from yard waste, and 10% cardboard and paper. These materials emit toxic compounds that can be a threat to human health and can cause environmental damage. This type of emission and the subsequent health risks are difficult to qualify in the context and scope of this report, but reducing the burning of illegal fuels should continue to be the top priority for Parks. Although new efforts such as beach patrol staffing and added signage have improved the public’s compliance with beach fire regulations and laws, many park visitors continue to burn illegal fuels at Golden Gardens, and to a lesser extent at Alki.

Fewer illegal fuels and illegal fires burn at Alki beach as staff there have the capacity and opportunity to respond adequately to known burning of illegal fuels (and illegal fires), but the geography and intense use at Golden Gardens make it difficult for staff to respond to all illegal burning issues.

In 2003, when beach patrol staffing was added to Golden Gardens and Alki Beach, the public’s burning of illegal fuels on our beaches dropped by approximately 50% from assumed 2002 levels, but illegally burned fuels still make up about 37% (177 tons) of total fuels burned at Alki and Golden Gardens. Of the 177 tons of illegal fuels burned, 94% (166 tons) of those fuels were burned at Golden Gardens.

Percent of Illegal Fuels Burned on the Beach

* Estimated, information table only.

Site-Fuel Type Burned-In Fire Type	Pre-2003	2003
Golden Gardens		
Illegal Fuels in Legal Fires	80%	45%
Illegal Fuels in Illegal Fires	85%	70%
Golden Gardens Illegal Fuels (all fires)	84%*	51%
Alki Beach		
Illegal Fuels in Legal Fires	70%	5%
Illegal Fuels in Illegal Fires	70%	35%
Alki Beach Illegal Fuels (all fires)	70%*	8%

based on the presented in this

Illegal Fire

Many more occurring ring) occur at than at Alki and the makes them

of all fires in 2003 were illegal. These illegal fires accounted for 18% (or 87 tons) of fuel burned on the beaches that year. 85% of the 2802 illegal fires that burned on our beaches in 2003 occurred at Golden Gardens (legal fires at both beaches totaled 6878).

Inventory

illegal fires (those outside a designate Golden Gardens Beach, as park use geography there more likely. 37%

Significant public safety (and to some extent, staff safety) issues can result from illegal fuels and illegal fires burned on our beaches. Nails, brackets, broken glass, and other sharp objects from illegally burned fuels can often be found in beach sand and can pose a threat to unaware beach recreationists. Hot sand, coals, and other hot debris left on the beach or buried in sand can also be dangerous to park visitors (and staff).

Regional PM

Although our region as a whole continues to be in compliance with federal standards regarding PM, the PSCAA 2002 Air Quality Data Summary (the most recent available) claims that in 2002 (October - December), elevated PM concentration throughout the Puget Sound region demonstrated that air quality issues with regard to fine particles (PM) are a concern (for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties).

Annual (2003) Beach Fires' Contribution to PM and VOCs Concentrations

Area	Parks beach fire emissions Compared to total wood fire emissions:		Parks beach fire emissions Compared to all area sources (transportation, industry, etc):	
	PM*	VOCs*	PM	VOCs
Puget Sound Region	.19 %	.4 %	.02 %	.03 %
King County	.4 %	.8 %	.06 %	.06 %
Seattle	.9 %	1.9 %	.13 %	.14 %

**Compared to fireplace emissions... as recreational fire data is not compiled by any regional source.*

Regional Ozone (which beach fire VOC's contribute to)

Ground level ozone is another regional pollutant of concern. According to the PSCAA 2002 Air Quality Data Summary, the highest ozone levels in the Puget Sound region occur from mid-May to mid-September on the few hot days favorable for photochemical activity. In this region, the hot sunny days favorable for ozone formation typically have light north-to-northwest afternoon winds. The photochemical reactions that produce ozone continue for several hours, and the trapped pollutants are transported downwind. This creates the greatest ozone concentrations between noon and early evening, at locations 10 to 30 miles from the major sources of VOCs (in general, urban areas, including Seattle). Therefore the highest concentrations of ground level ozone (and greatest health risks) in the Puget Sound region are measured in areas such as North Bend, Enumclaw, and Eatonville (see table on p.11).

While ground level ozone pollution levels in Seattle remain "Good" year-round, concentrations of ozone in some of the outlying areas during the summer average in the "Moderate" level, and frequently climb into the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" level, and at times reaches the "Unhealthy" for all people level.

Local and Regional Effects of Beach Fire PM and Ozone

PM-Local Effects

Common sense dictates that people living nearest Alki and Golden Gardens beaches are most impacted by beach fire smoke generated at those beaches, but there is little hard evidence to substantiate this because air quality monitoring stations are not located immediately near these parks, changing meteorological conditions affect the dilution and dispersion of the smoke, and data regarding bulk PM in Seattle and outlying areas show it is fairly evenly distributed.

The data and statements that follow use raw air quality data from the two air monitoring stations nearest (and downwind of) Alki and Golden Gardens beaches. The Duwamish Valley station is 3.5 miles away from Alki Beach, while the Queen Anne Station is 4.7 miles away for Golden Gardens. Based on our interviews with a number of professionals in the air quality and environmental health field, accurate measurement of the public's beach fire generated PM (and its local effects) most likely needs to take place within one quarter to one half mile of the beach, but nonetheless, some of the conclusions that follow may be relevant to our interests.

(Note: Smog Watches and Burn Bans are called when a weather phenomenon termed an "inversion" occurs or is expected. Inversions prevent the mixing of air from ground level to the more upper layers of the atmosphere thereby "trapping" pollutants along the surface of the earth where air quality can degrade over time and effect human health, wildlife, and plant life.)

During PSCAA declared region-wide Smog Watches (called to limit the concentration of ground level ozone in the region) and Burn Bans (called to limit the concentration of PM in populated areas) in 2001-2003, which combined covered a total of 25 days, the majority of PM readings (daily averages) at the Duwamish Valley and Queen Anne air stations rose from "Good" to "Moderate," and at limited times "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" (at the Duwamish site only). In Seattle, these elevated PM levels remained up to 5 days after a region-wide Smog Watch or Burn Ban had been lifted. Additionally, many days of "Moderate" air quality occurred at times unassociated with a PSCAA Burn Ban or Smog Watch. Based on these statements (and the table that follows), it can be assumed that the PSCAA declared pollution episodes (Smog Watches and Burn Bans) are good indicators of times when "Good" PM concentrations in Seattle can be expected to reach a "Moderate" or "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" level, but "Moderate" (rather than "Good") air quality due to elevated PM pollution in Seattle can also be expected to exist at times outside of declared pollution episodes.

Nuisance Smoke

Despite the efforts of our 2003 Beach patrol staff reducing the amount of illegal fuels and illegal fires burned at Alki Beach (and Golden Gardens), the proximity of homes to Alki beach, and the frequency of smoke complaints telephoned in to Parks during the summer, raise concerns that beach fire emissions (which are overwhelmingly "legal" emissions) may at times be a nuisance to neighbors of Alki Beach.

"Normal" levels of Daily PM for 2001-2003 in Seattle Compared to Smog Watches and Burn Bans Days

*Based on a daily average of hourly PM measurements from Queen Anne and Duwamish

Air Quality 2001-2003	Summers, Smog Watches total: 6 days	Summers, Smog Watches total: 19 days	Health Risk
# Days Good	532 (D) 536 (Q)	391 (D) 504 (Q)	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
# Days Moderate	15 (D) 10 (Q)	156 (D) 43 (Q)	Air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people.
# Days Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	0	3 (D)	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
# Days Unhealthy	0	0	Everyone may begin to experience health effects

Valley air stations

D= As recorded by the Duwamish Valley Air Quality Station

Q= As recorded by the Queen Anne Air Quality Station

It is important to note that the Duwamish Valley monitoring station is in an industrial part of Seattle while the Queen Anne station is in an area of residential homes and small businesses, and Burn Bans and Smog Watches are generally intended to prevent pollution levels from entering the “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” level and “Unhealthy” for all level, not “Moderate” level.

Ozone-Local Effects

According to the only ozone monitoring site in Seattle (on Beacon Hill), Seattle’s ozone concentrations were measured at “Good” every day for the last three years. As the table below suggests, ozone formation in Seattle does not represent a significant pollution problem for our citizens, but beach fire emissions can be assumed to contribute to ozone levels which often reach “Moderate,” “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups,” and at limited times “Unhealthy” (for all people) in outlying areas.

Beach Fires at Golden Gardens and Alki Beaches produce approximately .03% of all VOCs in our region.

2001-2003 Summertime OZONE Levels in Seattle, Issaquah, and the Further Outlying Areas.

Area	Aprox Miles from beaches	Days of PSCAA Smog Watches*	Days of 8 hour average Ozone concentrations at the “Moderate” level.	Days of 8 hour average or 1 hour max Ozone concentrations at or in excess of the “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” level.
Seattle	0	6	0	0
Issaquah	20	6	3	0
North Bend, Eatonville, Enumclaw	32-38	6	4+	relatively frequent

* Same number for all towns as they are in the same region

Other Significant Impacts

Illegal fires in the northern part of Golden Gardens beach, combined with the foot traffic they create, cause some degradation of natural habitat and cause some wildlife displacement. This mainly occurs on the beach and back-beach (“dunes”) environments adjacent to the Marine Reserve. Birds (and to a lesser extent seals) use this area for rest, food, fresh water, and shelter (at limited times).

Fires do not significantly impact the existing natural habitat value (which is minimal) at Alki Beach.

Verbal Briefing

Ken gave a brief background as to why the beach fire policy is being brought before the Board. Golden Gardens and Alki Park are the two public beaches where fires have been allowed. Over the years, the number of fires has increased and two years ago, the Department was cited by Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for allowing the burning of illegal fuels, including a sofa at one of the fires. Ken visited Golden Gardens one evening and counted 57 illegal fires. The Department began an effort to try to control the illegal fires. These efforts have included educating the public, utilizing volunteers and staff for beach cleanups, and installing additional fire pits. This helped the Department to get some control of the illegal fires; however, the issues of smoke, noise, and the impact on neighbors continues. Parks staff were asked to investigate ways to better manage the illegal fires and are here tonight to present their findings and a recommendation.

Adam Cole, Environmental Steward Coordinator, introduced himself and his manager, Leila Wilke. Adam reviewed the written briefing the Board received (above) and the three options. Parks staff are recommending adoption of option #1:

Option #1

Ending public beach fires (except under Special Event permitted status)

- Eliminates the burning of illegal fuels and illegal fires on the beaches. Results in a 95% reduction of emissions. Eliminates hazardous fire debris hidden in beach sand and allows time for restoration processes (at Golden Gardens mainly). This option requires increased enforcement but eliminates the need to clean up after fires. Enforcement would be done by police after park opening hours and parks staff.

Option #2

Prohibit fires October 2 – May 30, allow June 1 – October 1 by reservation and fee only

- Reduces annual beach fire emissions by 30%. Fees partially support a management model ensuring fires are legal. Creates opportunity to educate users before they arrive on the beach. Promotes individual accountability by changing the “culture of use” for beach fires. Eliminates hazardous fire debris hidden in beach sand and allows time for restoration processes (at Golden Gardens mainly). Parks has proposed a fee of \$10 for fire permits in the budget generating \$11,000 of annual revenue.

Option #3

Allow beach fire recreation to continue “as is” (or status quo)

- Some improvements to public safety, minimal reductions in annual emissions, and a minimal reduction in illegal fuels and illegal fires will be realized over time if “PM Beach Patrol” efforts continue at existing levels (2003 and 2004). City staff estimate that as much as \$95,846 annually in staff time is dedicated to beach fire maintenance.

Questions & Answers

Kate asked if City staff cannot now control 37 illegal fires, how does it expect to gain total control. Adam answered that currently the public has the expectation that beach fires are allowed at both these parks. They leave home and head for the beach, expecting to build a fire if they want. Over time, with education and enforcement, that expectation would change. Jack commented that it will be very difficult to totally eliminate the fires; Adam answered that the best effort would be made to minimize them. Alki Beach has lots of nearby neighbors to keep an eye out and report illegal fires. Golden Gardens is more remote and will be more difficult.

Jack asked why the Seattle Police Department is spending its time enforcing a ban on bonfires. SPD staff answered that part of the culture around the fires is illegal drinking and intimidation of other park users. Police are already

patrolling the area to prohibit illegal drinking and the intimidation of other park users. SPD believes that, over two years or so, its presence could eliminate any illegal beach fires. Jack stated that it is easy to break these types of laws and wondered how rigidly SPD plans to enforce them, as this would be a major undertaking. Sgt. Jim Kelly stated that he has patrolled Alki Beach for two years. Families come to the beach in early evening and then leave. Then another younger crowd moves in with a portion of those drinking beer. Parks Department staff often must douse the fires left burning in an effort to control the fires. He has 10 officers for the entire West Seattle area and illegal fires are a low priority for SPD. It will take time and education to eliminate the fires.

Adam introduced additional Parks staff: Katie Gray, Southwest Support Manager, Kathie Huus, Northwest Support Manager; Don Allen, Southwest Grounds Maintenance Crew Chief; and Michele Finnegan, Operations Division Strategic Analyst.

Debbie asked staff to elaborate on the Department's sale of firewood at Golden Gardens. Kathie stated that the teen activity center members did this as a business enterprise. The teens received some donated wood and purchased additional wood. Then the teens packaged the wood and sold it for beach fires. If the decision is to continue having fires, when a concessionaire is contracted for the beach café, the sale of clean and packaged wood would be included at that site.

Katie stated that, in looking at the beach fire policy, a challenge was how to gain control of the illegal fires. The easiest way is to totally ban, as that gives SPD a tool to enforce the fires. With a strong effort to educate the public, the message will get out quickly. Kathie stated that, over the years, different parks have faced different challenges. This "change of custom" on beach fires would reclaim parks for positive use.

Terry commented that Seattle has a number of other beach parks which don't have fires and he believes, over time, that the behavior will stop. He also commented that both SPD and Parks will incur extra costs to regulate and enforce the policy. Over the long term, will the Departments see a cost savings? Katie Gray answered that there would not be a monetary savings, but staff could focus on other work, instead of cleaning up after the nightly fires. Kathie Huus stated that the Department currently spends many thousands of dollars hauling and dumping debris from beach fires and, if fires were not allowed, that would no longer be required. Terry asked about the \$10 fee. Adam explained that this would be a pre-purchase; permits would not be issued on site. Terry thought this would be impractical.

Angela asked if fires are allowed during smog watch. Adam answered yes, during a smog watch, efforts are voluntary to reduce the causes of the smog. Smog most often happens in summer months and voluntary wood smoke is not a significant contributor to smog. Burn bans are called in winter, making it illegal to burn wood. Fires are currently allowed at the two parks in the winter; however, during a burn ban it would be illegal to have a fire.

Jack commented that he is hearing that beach fires have several issues associated — social, criminal, trash, hazard, and air pollution — and all are significant. He asked if beach fires are eliminated, would that lead to a better quality of beach sand. Katie answered that the beaches will be cleaner. Residue from the burned material turns nearby sand black. Parks maintenance crews pick up the debris but it is impossible to clean up all the ash. Staff have cleaned the beach two times in the last year by cleaning, raking, and hauling in many truckloads of sand. It helps for awhile, but is only temporary.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing began, with 3 citizens testifying. Kate reminded those testifying that each person has up to three minutes to speak and will be timed.

Larry Carpenter: Alki Community Council Secretary. He gave a history of his organization's involvement in the beach fires. SPD came to the Alki community in 2003 to recommend that Alki Beach's closing hours be changed from 11:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The Community Council sent a letter urging SPD to try this as a pilot. The Parks Department was resistant to the idea and dawdled. In February 2004, SPD again brought this idea to the community. After discussion, the community voted to try closing the park at 10:30 pm for one year. SPD said this was not enough of a change. Then the Community Council distributed a survey to the community. Larry distributed a copy of the fire ring

survey results, with 69 voting to close the fire rings at 9:00 pm and 80 voting to keep the fire ring closure at the current time of 11:00 pm.

Liesbet Trappenburg: Alki Community Council trustee. She believes that Alki residents have done their best to create a sense of community at Alki and she is here tonight to encourage all parties to keep that creativity going. She thinks most of those who live near Alki Beach are law-abiding. The negative elements will be drawn to the beach whether or not fires are allowed. Remember the positive sides of beach fires. Youth don't have many places to go and the nearby community center is very small. The fires usually offer a place with safe and watchful eyes from the residential community across the street. The Christmas bonfire at the park is especially nice. She asked that alternative solutions be sought first.

Tony Fragada: Alki Community Council President. He commented that Golden Gardens Park has a gate, while Alki has a free flow of traffic going by. He believes beach fires are appropriate at these parks and can have a positive effect on those attending. Keep looking at options to come up with a positive outcome. He keeps hearing from SPD that the fires are connected to other issues. Fire Department positive, enforcement needs message. He thanked the Board for its consideration.

As there were no other speakers, the public hearing closed at 7:20 pm.

Board Questions & Answers

Joanna asked if there is any impact on water quality from ash. Adam answered that there was some discussion on this. There is a bit of impact, but it isn't significant. Terry asked if Option 1 allows for the bonfire during the Christmas ship visit. Adam answered yes. Leila commented that if the ship visits during a burn ban, natural gas may be substituted for wood to comply with the ban.

Terry asked why no one from the Golden Gardens area testified tonight and asked about the public notice given to the nearby neighborhoods. Kathie stated that the Park Board hearing was announced at both the Ballard and Northwest District Council meetings and at various advisory council meetings. Unfortunately, a large public meeting on the monorail's impacts to the Ballard area is being held tonight at Ballard High School.

Kate suggested that prominent signs explaining the policy be posted at the beaches. The Board plans to discuss the options and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its November 18 meeting. Written testimony will be accepted until November 17 and may be sent to the Board's Coordinator at sandy.brooks@seattle.gov

Adam distributed a one-page handout and asked the Board to call him if further questions. The Board thanked Adam and the other City staff for the presentation.

Update Briefing: Navy Privatization of Housing at Capehart (Discovery Park)

Kevin Stoops, Manager of Major Projects and Development, came before the Board to give an update briefing on this issue. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing, both are included.

Written Briefing

On July 24 of this year, Kevin briefed the Board of Parks Commissioners on the Navy's proposed privatization of the Fort Lawton Housing at Discovery Park. At that time, the Navy had just announced the selection of American Eagle as its preferred development partner for privatization of family housing in the Puget Sound area.

By way of background, the privatization process, authorized by Congress in 1996, allows the Navy to transfer ownership of existing housing to a limited liability partnership in which the private partner redevelops and operates the housing. For the Puget Sound area, over 3,000 housing units will be part of the privatization process. Existing units will be replaced at Navy installations at Whidbey Island and Bremerton, unneeded units at several small sites sold, and new housing built to serve the Everett naval station. At Discovery Park, the partnership will divest the 92 Fort Lawton housing units on 33 acres that are surrounded by Discovery Park. Both the Navy housing and the park were created from the Army's surplus Fort Lawton in the 1970's.

This memo recaps events that have occurred since the June briefing:

- The City and American Eagle have discussed the potential for land trade to acquire the navy properties. American Eagle expressed interest in acquiring the undeveloped “Bay Terrace” area the northeast corner of the park.
- At an open house held by the Magnolia Community Club on September 9, citizens expressed a great deal of opposition to the privatization process affecting Discovery Park. They questioned why the Navy could not convey the surplus property to the City, and were critical of any land trade involving the Bay Terrace property. 200-250 citizens attended this meeting.
- On September 23-24, Superintendent Ken Bounds and Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis traveled to Washington, D.C., to speak to Navy administration and congressional committees to explain the unique and valuable role of Discovery Park, and the City’s concerns about the privatization.
- During September, the Navy revealed it would also include the Admiral’s quarters at Smith Cove in the privatization process. The City’s recent acquisition of Smith Cove property surrounded the house, which the Navy previously said they would retain.
- The City’s Department of Neighborhoods has worked with Navy staff and others to develop a memorandum of agreement relative to historic preservation for properties listed to the National Register of Historic Places. The Fort Lawton Historic District, containing 26 housing units is a listed property, as is the Admiral’s house at Smith Cove. The agreement provides a process for assessing historic properties and ensuring protection of such resources. The agreement will be amended, or followed by a more detailed agreement, for the Fort Lawton Historic District.

The City will continue to press the Navy to address the Fort Lawton properties separate from the balance of the privatization process. It is but a small, but very volatile part of the overall Puget Sound housing program.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Kevin last briefed the Board on this issue in June 2004. He reviewed the information in the written briefing, displayed a large map of Discovery Park, pointed out what has happened so far, and pointed out where the housing is located within the park. The Navy looks at this parcel as an asset to cash out in order to get 140 housing units in Everett. There are 92 units at Fort Lawton. Parks’ plan for Discovery Park has always envisioned this property as being added to the park.

Superintendent Bounds and Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis traveled to Washington, DC, on September 23 to speak with both the Navy and Washington State representatives. The Department and City are asking for the Navy to hold off signing a contract to transfer the property to American Eagle. The Navy needs to keep the housing while new housing is being built in Marysville, so holding off on signing the contract would not slow the Navy’s housing process.

Kate asked if the Navy plans to include the Admiral’s House at Smith Cove in the privatization plans and Kevin answered yes. Jack asked about the proposal to trade the Bay Terrace land in Discovery Park to the Navy for the Capehart property. Kevin pointed out the Bay Terrace area on the map. Ken stated that this was a suggestion; however, the public did not want to trade any of the park land.

Joanna commented that it is ironic that the Everett Navy base is slated to be closed, yet the Navy is building new housing nearby. Joanna asked if it will take one-two years for a decision on the Capehart housing and Ken answered yes. Some of the homes are more than 100 years old. If these old houses stay, plans must be made to keep them viable. It takes time to work all this out.

Angela asked if the housing would be built for low-income buyers or possibly million-dollar home buyers. Staff answered that it could be million-dollar homes. The Board asked several more questions and thanked Kevin for the update briefing. He will continue to give the Board update briefings on a regular basis.

Briefing: 2005 Budget – Department of Parks and Recreation

Written Briefing

Sarah Welch, the Department’s Budget Director, came before the Board to give a briefing on the 2005 budget. The Board received a Budget Overview, 2005-2006 Proposed Operating Budget, included below. In addition, the Board also received: (1) a “Position Summary” listing abrogated positions; (2) a graph chart comparing the Department’s budget with the entire City’s budget; and (3) a pie chart showing revenue sources and other information. For the latest on the Department’s budget, please see the following: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/>

Seattle Parks and Recreation Summary of 2005-6 Operating Budget Submittal

2003 Adopted	2004 Adopted	2005 Proposed	2006 Proposed
\$107,907,816	\$106,091,862	\$105,564,202	\$109,398,863

2005 Increments – General inflation, new facilities, and additional payments associated with the Zoo Management Agreement total \$3,945,000. Other increments are costs associated with implementation and staffing for the pilot phase of Parking fees in 4 sites in 2005, and another 12 sites in 2006, creating admission fees at Volunteer Park Conservatory, General Fund support of New Facilities (Community Centers-High Point, International District, Jefferson Park, and Sand Point; forest restoration sites, Sand Point North Shore Improvement, etc.), 2000 Levy support of thirty-one completed New Facilities, the Downtown Initiative (includes Occidental, Pioneer Square, Freeway, and Boren/Pike/Pine parks), the Business Service Center which is a centralized service team that supports the implementation of an on-line scheduling software, and shifting pool rental staff from ARC to City personnel.

2005 Decrements –

- Sustainable 2004 reductions (includes \$400K in shift of revenue from GF to Other) - \$1,048,000.
- 2005 Budget Issues Papers- Actual General Fund expenditure reductions total \$2,100,000, and new revenues totaling that that reduce General Fund support total , less credit for 2004 sustainable reductions, and credit of \$185,000 for proposals that did not require alternatives.
- Budget neutral reduction (includes revenue/expenses) to complete employee transition program at Woodland Park Zoo - \$2,300,000
- Includes approximately \$ 2,300,000 in General Fund expenditure reductions to meet the DPR target-
 - ✓ Reorganization - \$500,000
 - ✓ Parks Supplies Budget - \$176,000
 - ✓ Late Night Program - \$162,000
 - ✓ Seattle Aquarium, increase in fees to eliminate General Fund support and become a self sustaining program - \$271,000
 - ✓ Seattle Conservation Corps, increase in work program revenues to eliminate General Fund support and become a self-sustaining program - \$157,000
 - ✓ Environmental Programs - \$80,000
 - ✓ Increase in Salary Savings over 2004 - \$250,000
 - ✓ Park Cleaning and Routine Maintenance - \$251,000
 - ✓ Landscape Architect - \$99,000
 - ✓ Misc. utilities and other expenses - \$162,000
 - ✓ Summer playgrounds - \$60,000
 - ✓ Facility Maintenance in house - \$116,000
 - ✓ Reduction in utilities and supplies - \$62,000
 - ✓ Athletic Ballfield Coordinator - \$71,000
- Includes approximately \$1,200,000 in new revenue proposals and shift in revenues from General Fund support to other revenues:
 - ✓ Parking Fee - \$100,000 net in 2005 and an additional \$225,000 in 2006
 - ✓ Conservatory Admissions - \$465,000
 - ✓ Aquatics Program - \$205,000
 - ✓ Adult Sportsfield Usage Fee - \$67,000
 - ✓ Increase in Facility Rentals - \$60,000
 - ✓ Miscellaneous revenues -

- Tennis Center - \$71,000
 - Events Scheduling - \$40,000
 - Increase in Drop-In Sports Fees - \$26,000
 - Increase In Japanese Garden Fees - \$12,000
 - Beach Fire Permits - \$11,000
- ✓ Increase ARC fee to 3.25 %- \$100,000

Verbal Briefing/ Questions & Answers

Sarah has been the Department’s Budget Director for the past five years. This year, Mayor Nickels asked for an additional \$5 million reduction in programs and services. Parks was asked to absorb 25% of this latest round of cuts. The City Light streetlight refund checks are a big portion of the latest budget reduction. Looking ahead, after the year 2008 the City and Department must begin funding maintenance that will be required for the Pro Parks Levy projects now being built.

Sarah distributed a handout and talked about how the Department determined its latest budget cuts. Staff discussed and focused on what are the core functions of Parks and Recreation and agreed that these are to “maintain and sustain.” This was further refined to six high priority functions, followed by four lower priority functions. Staff used these elements to devise the budget submittal.

The Aquarium and Seattle Conservation Corp are now almost self-sustaining level and will require a smaller amount of the Department’s budget. Staff looked at user fees, which are reviewed every couple of years and proposed: (1) a 25 cent increase for swimming pools; (2) a parking fee at five major parks (Greenlake, McCurdy where Museum of History and Industry is located, Lincoln, Seward, and Lake Washington Boulevard). This has been the most controversial proposal; and (3) an entrance fee for Volunteer Park Conservatory, which has also proven controversial. There was a lengthy Board discussion on the fees.

Other cuts included:

- reducing operating hours of community centers from 53 hours to 48
- Ken stated that the Department is trying hard to avoid cutting skilled labor positions such as carpenters, plumbers, and electricians, but some cuts will be made in the shops’ assistant and helper positions
- in the late night program, the teen leaders are funded from the levy and the program will remain at 5 sites. There is a cut in general funds to the late night program and its operation will be modified to reflect the reduction
- summer playground programs will be eliminated, except at sites that have wading pools.

Jack asked about the Board’s role in determining the Department’s budget. The parking fees, especially, are a hot issue and the Board would like to be more informed and involved in the process. Ken stated that the parking fee would be an appropriate policy issue to come before the Board for a briefing and public hearing. A more detailed discussion on how the Department’s budget is set will be scheduled soon with the Board. The Board thanked Ken and Sarah for the briefing.

Park Board Business

None

New/Old Business

- The Board Coordinator continues to search for a retreat date that will work for everyone. Board members were asked to hold the first week in February on their calendar. The Board Coordinator will work to schedule the retreat during that week.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair