

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2005

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 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Bounds asked that a new item of business be added to the agenda regarding Alaskan Way property. **Jack moved and Debbie seconded that the minutes as presented and the agenda as amended be approved. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bounds reported on the following:

Capehart Housing: After month of negotiations with the Magnolia community, the Navy, the U.S. Congress, and American Eagle Communities-LLC, the City will buy the 23-acre Capehart housing site for \$9 million and some City-owned land to be identified and agreed upon later. Mayor Nickels has now signed the Memorandum of Agreement. American Eagle will demolish the Capehart housing and complete the meadow area in compliance with the Discovery Park Master Plan. The 100-year-old homes within the Fort Lawton Historic District will become the property of the Navy and American Eagle can use, lease, or sell that housing, but only within the legal confines of the historic landmark designation. The City will seek funding from federal, State, and County governments to complete the deal within 10 months.

The Board welcomed this news, asked a number of questions about the acquisition, and made several comments.

National Guard Rescinds Offer: The National Guard has cancelled its "innovative readiness" project at Magnuson Park where guard members would come to Magnuson and train and do improvements on the athletic fields and other areas. The Guard sent a letter to the Department in January, stating that it has canceled the project, after receiving letters of objection from local contractors and labor groups. This cancellation is unfortunate, as the improvements to Magnuson Park were valued at \$1-5 million.

Kroc Community Center Proposed: In December, the Superintendent reported that the City sent a letter to the Salvation Army requesting that Rainier Vista be considered for a new Ray and Joan Kroc Cops Community Center in Seattle. This is an opportunity for a \$30-50 million community center facility in an area of town that has over 1/3 of the City's children and a very diverse population. Rainier Vista has moved on to the next round for consideration, and the City will be preparing a proposal to the Salvation Army with more specifics on how such a center could work in Rainier Vista.

The Superintendent reported tonight that Parks and the Salvation Army are now through the first couple hurdles. This is an exciting opportunity and Parks may have a role in running the Center.

Relocation of Seattle Center Skate Park: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced today that it is purchasing the Seattle Center parking lot at 5th and Mercer. The site includes the Center's skateboard park and outdoor basketball courts. As part of the agreement between the City and the Gates Foundation, the Foundation has pledged to provide the City (Parks) with funds to replace the skate park and courts on Parks property.

The Board asked several questions regarding this transaction. The Superintendent stated that this will come back to the Park Board in the near future.

Seattle Aquarium Surpasses Yearly Attendance Record: The Seattle Aquarium opened in 1977 and had a record 705,000 visitors in 1980. That record was broken at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28 — with three more days until the end of the year. Final attendance for 2004 was 716,316 visitors.

South Lake Union Park: Seattle Parks and Recreation will host a public meeting on Thursday, February 10, to discuss the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) results for the South Lake Union Park development. The final public meeting to discuss design development was held in November 2004. This meeting will focus on how park development is likely to impact the environment around the park.

Paul Newman Donates \$2,000 to Langston Hughes: Actor Paul Newman donated \$2,000 to Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. The money will be used to fund this year's African American Film Festival.

Youth Outreach: Parks now has 101 students enrolled in environmental program at the Golden Gardens Park facility. Students have logged 1,684 hours of programs since August, completed four service projects, and traveled throughout Washington State studying a variety of environmental topics during monthly overnight trips.

Upcoming Events:

Occidental Park: The final community meeting will be held on January 18 and this project will, hopefully, be before City Council in early February.

Yesler Community Center: The grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, February 12. The ceremony will be from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and will celebrate the completion of the new 20,000 square foot community center in Yesler Terrace.

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. The Board's regular process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Park Board business. No one signed up to testify.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Pike-Pine-Boren Park Off-leash Pilot

Lynn Sullivan, Parks Department project manager, came before the Board to give a briefing on the Pike-Pine-Boren Park Off-leash Pilot. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing, with both included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

PARK BOARD ACTION

On January 13, 2005, a briefing and hearing will be conducted before the Park Board in consideration of establishing a pilot 18-month off-leash area at Boren-Pike-Pine Park. The Park Board will issue its recommendation to the Superintendent at the following meeting on January 27.

PROPOSAL

The Pike/Pine community is advocating for a portion of Boren-Pike-Pine Park to be established as a pilot off-leash area. The tremendous success of Regrade Park, located in the Belltown area, has demonstrated that off-leash areas can

successfully displace persistent illegal activities while creating a welcoming gathering place for a new user group in Seattle parks.

BACKGROUND

Boren-Pike-Pine Park spans Boren Avenue between Pike and Pine Streets. It is most renowned for the four columns that stand at Pike Street and Boren Avenue. However, across Boren Avenue, between Boren and Pine Street, lays a little-known linear piece that serves as a pedestrian corridor and as a haven for vagrants and drug users. Illegal activity has long been a concern for community leaders who have been searching for a more legitimate use since 1997.

In an effort to find a successful design that will create a welcoming space for the general populace, three different park designs have been prepared over the last seven years. Most recently, as part of the Boren-Pike-Pine Pro Parks Levy project, a design was developed for a plaza which covered the entire site and which was to provide an area for programmed activities. In May 2004, bids for this park project design came in substantially over budget. As Parks prepared to scale back the amount of paving in order to meet the budget, community leaders approached Parks with the request to abandon the design and designate the site as an off-leash area.

After several meetings between the Superintendent and community leaders, the Parks Department decided to present the idea of an off-leash area to the Pike/Pine Community. On November 9, 2004, Parks staff presented three new concepts to an audience of approximately 40 people.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS COMMENT

At the community meeting, an audience member requested that an informal poll be taken of the three schematic designs. Polling resulted in the entire voting audience, save one person, supporting an off-leash area running the entire length of the park between Boren Avenue and Pine Street. Staff has also received approximately 50 e-mails with all but one of these e-mails in favor of establishing a pilot off-leash area. All of the writers identified themselves as either living or working in the Pike/Pine neighborhood. The Pike/Pine Urban Neighborhood Council has also expressed support for an off-leash area.

A flyer announcing the public meeting was sent to some 5,000 addresses surrounding Boren-Pike-Pine Park. It clearly identified the reason for the meeting as being the consideration of an off-leash area in the park. A press release was also distributed, and Channel 13 News covered the meeting. An informational poster was posted on the Levy sign at the four columns.

KEY FACTORS

City Council Resolution Number 29628 lists several key factors that should be assessed when establishing an off-leash area. Staff comments regarding these factors (underlined below) are as follows.

- Avoid interference with other established uses or Department-sponsored activities. Establishment of an off-leash area in Boren Pike Pine Park would not displace any legal uses that currently exist.
- Avoid directly abutting residences. An existing apartment building (Villa Apartments) is directly adjacent to the south portion of the site, though the closest apartment units are some 30 feet above the park. Illegal activities have routinely generated complaints from the residents who now voice support for an off-leash area. New owners of the Olivetti site, which is located along the north portion of the park, are working closely with the neighborhood in developing high-end condominiums. Though the preliminary design locates five live/work units directly adjacent to the park (along with a retail space at the corner of Pine Street), the developers view the off-leash area as a selling point and are coordinating their building design with the park design.
- Assure the availability of close parking. There is metered, on-street parking available on the blocks surrounding the park. A private pay lot is located across Pine Street.
- Avoid locating near children's play areas. There is no children's play area in the vicinity.
- Locate where there are minimal impacts upon the total visual character of a park. An off-leash area would improve the current character of the park.
- Locate where there is low potential for spillover into areas not designated for off-leash use. The site would be fenced to contain off-leash use.

- Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes. The site is sloped but the designers are attempting to reduce the degree of slope with the use of walls. Money may be a constraint to this.
- Develop clearly marked boundaries and signs explaining the rules of behavior for use of the off leash areas. The site will be signed and fenced.
- Fence sites completely where there are no natural barriers separating off-leash areas from other areas. The site will be completely fenced; pedestrians will be separated from dogs and their owners.
- Encourage Animal Control to continue to enforce the scoop and leash laws. Parks meets regularly with Citizens for Off-Leash (COLA) to promote effective management of off-leash areas.

CONCLUSIONS

- Community opinion is strongly for establishing a pilot off-leash area.
- Community perception is that there is a valid need for an off-leash area in the Pike/Pine neighborhood.
- Community perception is that legitimate park uses have been displaced by persistent illegal activity and an off-leash area will create a legitimate use that would displace illegal ones.
- There is a strong possibility that the existing illegal activities will be displaced to other areas in the neighborhood.

Verbal Briefing

Lynn displayed several large aerial photos and maps of the park. The proposed off-leash (OLA) area is owned by Washington State Department of Transportation and is maintained by Parks. For the past 40 years, the park has mostly been used as a “pass-through” for pedestrians. That element of the park will remain, with a wall being added between the pedestrian area and the OLA.

The building next door to the park is being torn down and high-end condos are being built on the site. The developers are very supportive of the off-leash area.

Board Questions and Answers

Jack asked about the surface and recommended at least wood chip, or crushed rock if it is affordable. Jack commented that the less impervious surfaces used the better. Jack recommended catching the drainage from the upper level before it hits the off-leash area. Lynn stated that designers hadn’t planned to do that, but would look into the suggestion. There is a 3% slope in the off-leash area and a filter strip is planned for the border.

Debbie asked about the parking. Lynn answered that parking is adequate, with both on-street and pay parking nearby. It is not expected that this smallest off-leash area will be a regional destination, but rather a neighborhood one.

Terry noted an alley adjacent to the park and asked if it has right of way through the park. Lynn answered no. Terry asked if the condo developers’ support of this project has been documented in writing and Lynn answered no.

Angela asked Lynn where people would access the OLA and Lynn pointed out the gates on the maps. Angela referred to the popular OLA at Regrade Park and asked if this OLA is expected to get high usage and Lynn answered yes.

Terry asked if the fencing fabric at the back will remain and Lynn answered yes, if the budget allows. Terry asked if a decorative or a chain link fence is planned. Lynn answered that the fencing will depend on budget funds. Terry commented that the fence will be very visible and Kate suggested vegetation could be planted in front, such as photinia (a large shrub). Angela asked if vegetation could block the visibility and Lynn stated that there is a limit to the change use. The design includes a 3’ wall, with a 4’ fence above.

Jack praised Parks staff for changing direction on this project, at the desire of the community, to accommodate an off-leash area. He complimented both the attractive design and landscaping components. His compliments will be conveyed to the two Parks landscape designers, Karen Galt and Randy Robinson.

Public Hearing

A public hearing followed, with four citizens signed up to testify. Kate reminded the audience that each person has up to three minutes to speak and will be recorded and timed.

Alley Rutzel: She is chair of the Coalition of Off-Leash Areas (COLA) and supports this effort. She also has concerns. The safety of the dogs must come first and she recommends a 5-6' high fence so the dogs cannot jump over. This is a high traffic area and is located close to Interstate 5. Dog owners throw tennis balls and Frisbees for their animals to play with and, due to the close proximity to I-5, a good buffer between the freeway and OLA must be provided so thrown items don't reach the freeway. COLA members believe the proposed buffer area is less than 100'. She recommended installation of an ornate fence with small mesh at the bottom. She urged that a water source be provided (Lynn stated that the budget will determine if this is possible.) These types of small pocket parks are located all over Seattle and she hopes that more are used for off-leash areas. She suggested an OLA at Cal Anderson Park.

Stephanie Pure: She is a neighbor of the park and, although she is not a dog owner, she is delighted with the proposed off-leash area. She is very glad to have new uses for this park and likes the proposed design. She commented that many pedestrians use the park as a pass-through and a concrete surface is much better for pedestrians. She urged that the park be well-lit if it is open for nightly use. Nearby on-street parking is almost non-existent; however, she expects this to be a neighborhood off-leash area, with local residents walking their dogs to the park. This is a great opportunity to serve a community need. In regards to the vegetation screen, she wants to be able to see the dogs running and playing and urged that any vegetation used not block the OLA from pedestrians.

Michael Brooks: He is the contractor building the nearby high-end condos. He commended Parks Department staff for their fine work and for the interaction he has had with them. At first he was concerned with the proposed OLA, and then he visited Regrade Park. He believes this is a great idea for the small Pike-Pine-Boren Park. His company is committed to an elegant live/work building of condos adjoining the park and has designed its parking area to be out of sight of the park. The design includes an espresso bar with tables and chairs situated so patrons can watch the dogs playing. He believes this strategy will also help put more "eyes on the park." The surface of the park will be very visible and he recommended that it be attractive. He added that this small park has panoramic views of Seattle.

Chris Mapes: He is the steward for the Woodland Park OLA and has several concerns: (1) if crushed rock is used in the off-leash area, a water source will be needed to avoid odor during warm, dry months; (2) lights are needed if the area is to be used at night; and (3) if there are any trees inside the OLA, compaction of the roots is an issue with the dogs running across the roots and urinating on the trees. He mentioned that fake fire hydrants were installed at Woodland Park to distract the dogs from the trees. (This comment evoked laughter from the Board and audience.)

Additional Board Questions and Answers

Terry asked where lighting would be installed and Lynn pointed out the sites on the large map. He asked about the operating hours and if the park is closed at night, what time would it close. Ken commented that the park is currently used as a pedestrian walk through and is not closed at night. The Department will address this issue.

Terry asked if staff have received any negative feedback. Lynn stated that one person at the public meeting objected, stating that homeless people would be displaced. She received one e-mail, out of approximately 50, opposing the off-leash area.

Lynn will send the square footage of the proposed OLA to the Board. Jack made additional suggestions on the surface.

The Board thanked Lynn for the presentation. At its January 27 meeting, the Board will discuss the proposal and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Briefing: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Cathy Tuttle, Parks planner, came before the Board to give a briefing on Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. The Board received a written and verbal briefing. No action is requested of the Board at this time.

Written Briefing

Attachment #1

Action Requested

Planning and Development staff will brief the Board of Park Commissioners on the improvements proposed for Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. No Park Board action is requested.

Project Intent

Pro Parks Levy language: Improve MOK park including sanctuary seating, pathways, parking, picnic area, and landscaping. This Pro Parks project moves forward on the implementation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Master Plan. The Master Plan had a public hearing and was recommended by the Board of Park Commissioners in March 1994 and approved by the Seattle City Council in May 1994.

Project Background

The park is located at 2200 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in the northern end of the North Rainier neighborhood, just south of the Amy Yee Tennis Center and the I-90 lid parks. The 4.3 acre site is steeply sloped. The northern half of the park is defined by a set of six 28-inch high concrete block walls overlooking a large reflecting pool with a 30-foot black granite sculpture at its center. Visitors tend to park on the unfinished eastern edge of the park, where there are spectacular territorial views to the Rainier Valley to the west and downtown Seattle to the north. A variety of trees and shrubs have been planted during the park's evolution in both the entry area and in the northeast sector of the park but the dominant vegetation in the park is lawn.

The property was designated as a memorial park for Dr. King in 1983 and in 1984 \$130,000 of Community Development Block Grant money was invested in grading, drainage, and other site improvements. In the early 1990s the community raised additional funds to install a memorial fountain. A Master Plan was developed in 1994, estimated to cost \$1.4 million for full implementation. The goal of the Master Plan was to create a regional park honoring the life and work of Dr. King with year round seasonal flowering trees, a path system, parking and curbside visitor drop-off and bus load zone, a stage, and a restroom. Limited funds were allocated in 1995 to improve grading, utility and landscape elements. The 2000 Pro Parks Levy provides \$475,000 for additional improvements. The project is one of the Mayor's current priorities for Southeast Seattle development.

Public Involvement Process

Three community meetings in 2004 were attended by about 100 community members. The meetings included a design charette and lively community discussions. An additional 100 surveys from nearby residents and people interested in the park were collected and tabulated. Parks staff also met with community groups including local churches, the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind, and several youth groups at the Treehouse, a nearby social service agency. Parks staff met several times with the Friends of Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park to discuss programming ideas and the possibility of fundraising for full site development. Overall, there was strong interest in turning the park into a more active regional facility with interactive educational exhibits, classroom and performance space, adequate parking, and street visibility.

Two designs were presented at the final community meeting on October 26, 2004 — a Phase I plan within budget and a more ambitious Phase II plan that reflected more Master Plan goals but had a cost estimate of between \$1.3 and \$2 million. The community was given the option of delaying the construction of park improvements until 2006 in order to mount a fundraising effort for the Phase II plan but opted for moving forward with construction of the phase I plan in 2005.

Design

Designs for the park are the work of in-house Parks landscape architectural staff. Phase I improvements include accessibility improvements — interior paths and stairs leading to the top view point of the park. Additional benches and picnic tables will provide seating focused on the fountain plaza area. Minor landscape improvements will replace

diseased trees and shrubs. Primary parking will remain on the unfinished eastern edge of the park. Maintenance improvements including fountain and lighting repairs, directional signage and donation plaque cleaning are other planned improvements.

Phase II improvements include creating a dramatic park entry, building a performance stage with paving, and completing sidewalks around the park's perimeter. Other elements can be added as funds are raised such as a granite memorial arbor, an educational space that can also be a picnic shelter, street pole banners, unique interactive art and educational elements through the park, repairs to the unstable slope on the park's southwest side, and a restroom facility.

Project Schedule

The project will go out to bid in May and construction will be completed by the end of 2005.

Project Budget

The Pro Parks Levy provides \$475,000 for project planning, design and construction.

Additional Information

Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, 684-7033; or cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/mlk.htm>

Attachment #2

Mission Statement

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park was conceived as an inspirational memorial to Dr. King. The park is dedicated to teaching each new generation the lessons of Dr. King's life, and providing a sanctuary to remember his legacy. It serves as a reminder of the force of Dr. King's spirit, and gives visitors an opportunity to be inspired by his words. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park will awaken awe when seen from a distance and inspiration when experienced from within.

Schedule

Community Meeting #1: Interactive workshop	August 17, 2004
Community Meeting #2: Review and discuss design ideas	September 14, 2004
Design Commission Review	September 16, 2004
Community Meeting #3: Review final plan for park improvements	October 26, 2004
Additional fundraising and construction document review	Nov 2004-Mar 2005
Construction of the improvements	Apr 2005-Nov 2005

Scope and Budget

Pro Parks Levy language: *Improve MLK park including sanctuary seating, pathways, parking, picnic area and landscaping.*

\$475,000 is available from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy for planning, design and construction of Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park Improvements.

Verbal Briefing

Cathy displayed several large maps and aerial photos and pointed out the park's location. She also displayed a drawing from the Master Plan, and large versions of maps sent to the Board in the agenda packets.

This is a Pro Parks Levy project, with \$1/2 million earmarked for improvements. This large park, with territorial views of downtown Seattle, is significant to the community; however, it currently has low usage. The amphitheater seating is constructed of blocks that are 2-1/2 feet tall, which makes it difficult to use. This project addresses the accessibility needs, along with adding park furniture, pathways, and parking.

Board Questions and Answers

Joanne noted that the park is located alongside a street with high traffic volumes and asked if more trees were added as a buffer, would use of the amphitheater increase. Cathy answered that the amphitheater is set far enough away from the street that noise isn't the problem; rather it is the negotiating the tall blocks to use as seating areas. Debbie suggested that some church services could be held at this site and Jack suggested that schools could hold graduation ceremonies here.

Cathy displayed a second, more developed plan. The community is anxious to raise additional funds to turn this into a regional park. This plan contains big elements, including a grand entrance, dramatic interpretive and interactive displays about Dr. King, a winter garden area to celebrate his February birthday, and a classroom.

Jack asked what specific connections this park has to Dr. King. Cathy answered that a number of Dr. King's most famous quotes have been inscribed in the wall in the park. She showed the Board a pencil rubbing of one of the quotes. Ken stated that if the programming is changed, then more users would be attracted to the site.

Debbie noted that there is nowhere to sit in the park, other than on the large, 2-1/2 ft tall blocks and she thinks the park is located at its current site because it is near Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Jack suggested that once the park is re-developed, that outreach be developed to encourage schools and churches to use this park.

Jack asked if the Board should entertain a motion. Ken answered that this project is for implementation of the Master Plan developed and approved 10 years ago. The Board may vote approval, but it isn't necessary.

Debbie suggested that Parks staff plan a celebration one year from now for Martin Luther King Day to kickstart the next phase of the project. Ken stated that this is a good idea and the Department will follow this suggestion. Terry commented on the neighborhood concern that there is no curbing on 28th Avenue, making the park feel "un-boundaried." He is concerned that the park's future programming elements be focused on Dr. King and not more recreation uses. Cathy agreed that the goal is to keep the site as a contemplative and reflective area.

Parks landscape designers Karen Galt, Kim Baldwin, and Vince Nguyen were the designers of this project. The Board thanked Cathy for this briefing.

Briefing: York Substation Park

Verbal Briefing

Cathy Tuttle, Parks planner, next briefed the Board on a proposal at York Substation Park. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing, included in these minutes. In addition, the Board received a paper detailing the benefits of using goats for brush removal (not included.)

Written Briefing

Action Requested

Planning and Development staff will brief the Board of Park Commissioners on the proposed development of a new park on the site of the former York Substation in Rainier Valley. No Park Board action is requested.

Project Intent

Pro Parks Levy language: *Develop York Substation for community open space.* This project develops an 11,625 sq. ft. site into a neighborhood pocket park.

Project Background

An open space and play area gap exists in this dense, diverse, multifamily, predominately low income neighborhood. The North Rainier Hub Urban Village Neighborhood Plan requested the City "purchase York substation for community open space and develop it into a pocket park." The site was transferred from City Light to Parks in August 2003 and \$109,070 of Pro Parks Levy development funds were allocated for park development. During 2004 the community was successful in raising an additional \$52,000 to supplement Levy funding. As a result, a more fully developed park can be constructed in 2005.

Design

The in-house design by Parks landscape architectural staff features an asphalt loop path directs park visitors along a variety of colorful, seasonal, low-maintenance plantings that are attractive to people and urban wildlife. An existing multi-branched cedar tree is preserved and showcased. Minimal furnishings, including granite boulders and standard Parks benches will allow easy maintenance and a wide variety of park uses. The sidewalk and parking strip fronting this tiny park will be reclaimed from parked cars.

Public Involvement Process

Two community meetings were held in December 2003 and January 2004 to generate plans, budgets, and community enthusiasm for fundraising efforts in 2004. Parks staff met quarterly with the York Park Task Force as they raised development funding for this project. A final community meeting in November 2004 reviewed site design details and celebrated a successful fundraising effort. A name for this new park will soon be selected by the Park Naming Committee.

Project Schedule

The project will go out to bid in April and construction will be completed by the end of 2005.

Project Budget

The Pro Parks Levy provides \$109,070 for project planning, design and construction. The community's York Park Task Force raised an additional \$52,000 from the Miller Foundation, Safeco Foundation, Seattle Foundation, Department of Neighborhoods and King County. The Seattle Parks Foundation is acting as fiscal agent for this community fundraising effort.

The Goat and Other Educational Events

Some of the money raised by the York Park Task Force will be used for educational programs and special events. One unique event is a scheduled goat clearing of invasive shrubs. A goat wrangler will control a goat as it forages in early spring on invasive emerging shrubs including blackberry and locust. Events including a goat parade and school visits are planned. The community is also busy identifying school and community groups to help with site preparation and planting.

Additional Information

Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, 684-7033; or cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/york.htm>

Verbal Briefing

Cathy displayed aerial photos of this small, 11,000 square feet substation located in a residential area. The property was acquired by Parks from City Light two years ago. The Pro Parks Levy provided \$109,000, and the community raised an additional \$52,000 from several sources. The community has requested a loop path for walking and simple furnishings. Their plan is a simple one that will be easy to implement and includes three benches, one table, and no lights. A goat will be used to clear the brush and weeds this spring.

Board Questions & Answers

Jack asked if City Light removed the PCBs from the soil. Cathy answered that most were removed by City Light and Parks did additional removal. Ken commented that this additional work was done as part of the negotiated gift from City Light.

Terry asked if there are plans to add play equipment later. Cathy answered that this is a very small park and zoning requires a 30' setback in residential areas for play equipment. A small portion of the park could be used for play equipment. Terry visited the site this afternoon and commented on nearby condos and buffers.

Cathy stated that the landscape design was prepared by Parks staff landscaper, Karen Galt. The Board again complimented the plan and thanked Cathy for the briefing.

Park Board Business

The Park Board's retreat is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, February 2. The Board expressed concerns on the ongoing vacant Park Board position. If a new member has been nominated by the retreat — even if they aren't yet confirmed — the Board would like the nominee to attend the retreat. Kate was asked by the rest of the Board to write the Mayor urging that this position be quickly filled.

New/Old Business

(1) Ken gave the Board a brief background on the proposal from Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to transfer to Parks a portion of Alaskan Way from Bay Street to Broad Street to create a park boulevard. He pointed out the property location on a large map. This proposal goes before City Council next week for consideration. Parks staff were notified this week that, in its review of the proposal, the Law Department found that the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) requires approval from the Board of Park Commissioners when property is transferred to Parks for this type of use.

Kate asked if there are any issues in taking ownership. Ken answered that Parks would be taking on additional liability. Debbie asked for a definition of a park boulevard and Ken explained that SDOT would continue taking care of the pavement, while Parks would assume care for the trees, landscaping, curbs, and guttering. One advantage is that on a Park boulevard (unlike on City streets) no posters/flyers may be posted on utility poles. However, in this instance the land donation is more for management purposes. Seattle Art Museum owns the land on both side of the property, which includes the tidelands on the west side and the lower yard on the east side.

Jack moved that a portion of Alaskan Way (from Bay Street to Broad Street) be transferred from the Seattle Department of Transportation to the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation and designating this portion of Alaskan Way as a park boulevard. Terry seconded.

Discussion continued. Terry asked if this would be the shortest park boulevard in Seattle and Ken thinks that it will. Ken stated that this transfer of ownership allows the Seattle Art Museum, which is building the Olympic Sculpture Park adjacent to this property, to deal with one Department (Parks), rather than two. Joanna asked if City Council is in support of this transfer; Ken has had no indication of Council opposition. Angela asked if there had been any discussion on liability issues. Ken answered that SAM will rebuild the seawall in the future and will be liable for it.

There being no further discussion, the vote was taken and was unanimous in favor.

(2) Jack noted that this is the 100-year anniversary of the National Forestry Service, with a motto of the three W's = Wood, Water, and Wecreation.

(3) Jack stated that he is impressed with how quickly the Superintendent's office has been answering citizen correspondence. He was particularly impressed with the thoughtful and detailed January 5 response to a letter written on January 3. Ken recognized Laurie Dunlap, his correspondence assistant, as doing a great job.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

DATE _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair