

Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
May 25, 2006

***Board of Park Commissioners:***

Present:

Jack Collins  
Terry Holme  
Debbie Jackson  
Kate Pflaumer, Chair  
Jackie Ramels  
Amit Ranade

Excused:

Angela Belbeck

***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:***

Ken Bounds, Superintendent  
B.J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent  
Paula Hoff, Coordinator

Commission Chair Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Holme moved approval of the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, the May 25 agenda, and the May 11 minutes. Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken and motion passed.**

**Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience**

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business.

One person, Ben Schroeder, signed up to testify. His testimony was in regards to his desire to see Parks use SEPA more to help address environmental impacts in advance of a public process.

**Update Briefing: Seattle Parks Foundation**

Kimberley Bowen, Seattle Parks Foundation Development Director, presented the Foundation's semi-annual briefing to the Commissioners.

***Written Briefing***

**Seattle Parks Foundation Overview**

The Seattle Parks Foundation is an independent private nonprofit organization with a mission to improve and expand Seattle's parks and green spaces through private donations, advocacy, and community engagement. The Parks Foundation's vision is to create a safe and accessible park within walking distance of every home in the city.

Founded in 2001 to bring new resources to Seattle's park system, the Seattle Parks Foundation has secured more than \$4 million to improve nineteen neighborhood parks, build three new parks, and restore three historic park features. In addition, the Parks Foundation has raised over \$13 million in private donations for Lake Union Park with gifts from more than 850 donors.

At the end of 2003, Seattle Parks Foundation assumed management of the Park Furnishings Donation Program in collaboration with Seattle Parks and Recreation. Through this program, the Parks Foundation coordinates the donation of benches, picnic tables, and other furnishings to parks throughout the city. In two and a half years, 69 furnishings have been donated to 24 parks through the program, 66 of which were benches.

#### South Lake Union Park

Campaign momentum builds for the new park in the heart of our city, with a grant of \$1 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation! This brings the total raised for the Parks Foundation's private fundraising campaign up to \$3.2 million, including almost \$2 million from the Parks Foundation Board of Directors and the Campaign Steering Committee toward the \$10 million goal.

Early corporate campaign supporters include Puget Sound Energy, Salmon Bay Yacht Maintenance, and HomeStreet Bank. City Investors (Vulcan) is the campaign's lead contributor with \$5 million contributed for Phase I construction, scheduled for later this summer. They contribute another \$5 million once the middle \$10 million is raised by the Parks Foundation over the next year. Pro Parks Levy funds contributed the first \$5 million to the Lake Union Park project.

The Seattle City Council voted in April to fund \$4.2 million to replace the failing seawalls along the north edge of the park, insuring that the park will be built on a solid foundation that will support docking of large ships. Thank you to Superintendent Bounds and Parks staff for your work in getting this through City Council.

#### Neighborhood Parks

**Bailey Gatzert Playground:** Construction of the new welcoming gates will be installed in June. Funded by a Safeco grant, the gates will allow increased access by the community of the playground after school hours, while improving student safety and security during school hours. The new play structure will be installed in June as well.

**Homer Harris Park:** \$40,000 fundraising for final artwork and installation for this project is done. Artwork includes artist Monad Elohim's African American Cultural Heritage Tree and two whimsical animal sculptures for the Children's Play area along with two tasteful Park Pal animal play structures. Installation in June with a dedication later this summer or fall.

**Lake People Park:** Stewardship continues, including monthly workparties by neighbors, businesses, schools, and organizations and an Earthday event with Boeing employees. Erosion problems have been stabilized for the time being, and the park looks very good – especially with the recently planted vegetation beginning to take root, and spring blossoms much in evidence.

**Woodland Park Rose Garden Fountain & Art Restoration:** Restoration is completed in May. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Parks Foundation is hosting an event to dedicate the newly restored bas relief sculpture and fountains at the Rose Garden. We encourage all Parks Board members to join us as we celebrate this historically significant restoration project that is being completed on time and within budget!

Seattle Parks Foundation received a \$100,000 legacy gift from neighbors Gary and Vicki Glant for Lakewood Triangle Park in Mt. Baker. The dedication of its newly landscaped grounds and renovated stone masonry is scheduled for June 14 at 5:00.

From another park neighbor, we received a quarter million dollar gift for “Counterbalance Park: an Urban Oasis.” The name incorporates the two leading recommendations made by the community and the project’s top donor. The Parks Foundation continues to advise the neighborhood fundraising effort.

#### Green Connections

The Bands of Green final written report by Cedar River Associates was completed in April. The Parks Foundation is developing a roll out plan and considering advocating for one of the projects.

#### Focus for Next Year

Over the next year the Parks Foundation will focus on raising the balance of funds for South Lake Union Park, including a groundbreaking event later this summer with corporate and major gifts campaigns followed by a community campaign in 2007.

The Parks Foundation Board held a retreat in April which will result in refined priorities for neighborhood and green connections projects over the next two years. These include improving and building parks in underserved areas and could include advocacy for bicycle and pedestrian trails. The Board votes in June to adopt the new agenda.

#### Special Thanks

We want to especially thank Commissioner Jackie Ramels for serving as our new board member representing the Park Board. And thank you to Superintendent Ken Bounds for his consistent support and wisdom and to all Parks Department staff for making Seattle’s parks better and better for us all.

### ***Verbal Briefing/Discussion***

Ms. Bowen reviewed the information in the written briefing and passed out a map that shows 16 of 19 Park Foundation projects. Commissioner Pflaumer asked what the timeframe was on the fundraising for the South Lake Union Park Project and Ms. Bowen responded that June 2008 is the goal for completion of the fundraising goals.

Commissioner Holme thanked the Seattle Parks Foundation for their great work. He mentioned that he was interested in Lakewood Triangle Park and had questions about the public process. He indicated that it was important for the Board to be aware of these projects in the design and development process and that he wanted to know about the public outreach process. Ms. Bowen stated that the neighborhood was involved in the design process. A neighbor stepped up with a gift of the whole amount of the park budget rather than having to rely on fundraising. The park plan was revisited and there were follow-up meetings to reengage the community.

Erin Devoto added that a public meeting was held, fliers went out and there was a meeting about the schematics of the project.

Commissioner Jackson wanted to know what criteria is used in accepting gifts of donations. She is concerned about an appearance that the design could be determined by a particular donor. Ms. Bowen stated that the donation was given after Lakewood Triangle Park was designed. She stated that for all of our neighborhood parks we go through a public involvement process. She talked about Homer Harris Park and the public process for the development of that park. She also mentioned that all projects that the Foundation has been involved in are either Seattle Parks land or Seattle Public Schools land.

Commissioner Ramels had a question about Bailey Gatzert and how that project is working. Ms. Bowen mentioned that since Bailey Gatzert doesn’t have a PTA, the Foundation is acting as project stewards. Foundation community engagement staff has been spending time at the school working with staff, students and parents to bring more involvement into the school and the project.

Commissioner Collins inquired as to whether Parks has a process for accepting large donations. Dewey Potter said that she will send the commissioners information on how parks handles and recognizes gifts. Erin Devoto said that we have a public process for all of our existing projects, where the Foundation is coming in as a partner. The funding and partnership follow along with our public review processes internally and externally and projects must coincide with our park standards. Ms. Bowen mentioned that all of the projects either have Department of Neighborhood grants or Pro Parks funding and they require public involvement.

Commissioner Holme would like the Board to get a written briefing on Foundation projects that come up sooner rather than later. He mentioned that the Commissioners received a briefing on the gift policy. Ms. Potter also said that our Enterprise Division staff may be bringing proposed revisions to this policy back to the Board in the future.

### *Discussion/Recommendation*

#### **Discussion/Recommendation: Seattle Parks Public Involvement Policy Review**

Dewey Potter, Seattle Parks' Communication Manager, briefed the Board on this policy review at its May 11 meeting. Those minutes are available at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/05-11-06.pdf>. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing.

### *Discussion/Recommendation*

Commissioner Pflaumer started off the discussion and recommendation for the Public Involvement Policy. Ms. Potter is here to answer any questions on the Policy, but she is not going to give a report. Commissioner Pflaumer asked the Board's pleasure as to timing. We have received a short draft report from other jurisdictions but it is my understanding that we are going to get more reports from other jurisdictions. The auditor is still conducting interviews with individuals in the department and will be meeting with commissioners in the future. Do we want to wait on those two processes and then schedule a discussion?

Commissioner Collins stated that he would like to wait for additional reports to come in and for discussions with the Auditor.

Commissioner Pflaumer queried the board on a couple of issues: We have overall planning efforts that have a variety of community input. Then there is a lag time, such as there was with the Pro Parks Levy, and two years later when we start to do the work on a specific project the community has forgotten about the earlier process. How do we coordinate the overall planning effort with the specific impact? The speakers said that they would like to have additional public input before a project is funded. That would be a fairly monumental task because of the number of projects out there.

Dewey Potter said that it would require notifying everyone out there of everything that might happen one day in the parks. It would be that big. Commissioner Pflaumer mentioned that one way to do this might be a newspaper notice. It is a huge expense.

Commissioner Ramels wondered whether notifying the public before a project is funded would make a difference. On many of these issues there is never any question as to what the community wants. Would it answer any of these questions to open up the input prior to the funding?

Dewey Potter said that usually the course of our capital projects is a process that has occurred and agreed upon before, such as the Parks Comp Plan or a Master Plan and it would be very cumbersome to think about doing this citywide and to reach everyone citywide and include them in a meaningful way. Commissioner Collins felt that it is worth a bigger effort than we put in before. When you do a big Citywide planning process, people don't identify

with that, but we could do enough of an effort to notify people from paid advertising and then we could point to our outreach efforts. We should make efforts to get folks more involved in our comp plans.

Commissioner Pflaumer sat through very lengthy Joint Athletic Field Development Program (JAFDP) hearings and many people spoke, but less about specific projects.

Commissioner Jackson said that she hears a lot about neighborhood projects. She doesn't feel more advertising is the answer; it seems like a waste of money for a project that doesn't have an impact for four or five years. We need to remind people of what the public process was and how we got to this point.

Commissioner Pflaumer mentioned that we need to spell out the public process at the first public meeting. Discuss the history of the project or proposal and whatever public input has led to the current point (e.g., a park master plan, a neighborhood plan, a citywide plan such as the JAFDP), the outreach efforts for the current meeting, the project budget and how it may limit the scope of the project, the timeline for the process, the points at which comment is invited, and the elements that are open to comment. These are a given that we all agree with. I still feel that there might be a benefit to a regular public notice in the paper

Commissioner Holme said that planning draws a different group of activists than neighborhood projects do. We need to do a better job of communicating with the right people with the community and the community Councils. It seems that we have gotten some letters from the Community Councils saying that they did not know of public meetings in their community.

Commissioner Ranade would like to know what the cost would be of an annual newsletter that talks about different plans that impact parks in their areas. Tell people what is slated for development in their specific area of town.

Ken Bounds said that for a number of years at Magnuson Park we did send out a newsletter 2 – 4 times a year to keep people informed when lots of changes were taking place. Some community papers do a great job getting information out and are eager to do so. Getting information widely disseminated is the bigger challenge.

Commissioner Ramels would like to know the cost of putting out a publication. It probably wouldn't help with public comments. If it is very expensive, it may not be what we are aiming for.

There was a discussion on the cost of publications and Ms. Potter said that she will price out some options and present them to the Board.

Superintendent Bounds asked if the Park Board ultimately had the information and input from the public you needed to make an informed decision and recommendation on these issues. We are getting people involved so they can give input to you on these issues. This is an issue that we haven't talked about that needs to be raised.

Commissioner Pflaumer said that if people feel they have not been heard, by the time they come to the Park Board to speak, that is what they focus on instead of useful input. We had a public hearing on Occidental that was pretty uniformly business interests and the housing groups in Pioneer Square about changing Occidental Park. It turned out that there was significant public input that hadn't come before us. We made a decision on what information we had. People that are hostile and feel they haven't been heard don't give helpful input. Gasworks got hijacked by the dog park issue and no one noticed that a lot of trees were getting cut down. No one noticed until after the public process. We would like more ownership earlier in these processes.

Commissioner Ramels feels that this type of publication would not have helped with many of the issues that have been before the Board. She would like to know if discussion on this issue would be easier after the Audit report comes out. Commissioner Pflaumer just thought that we should open up the issue and start thinking about it.

Commissioner Holme would like an electronic portfolio on this topic. That way the commissioners can edit the discussion on the ideas that have come up without losing thoughts on issues along the way. Ms. Potter will look into a running bulletin on this issue. Commissioner Collins feels that project staff may have valuable input on how much opportunity they have to explain projects to neighborhoods, what impediments they may have. It would be nice if they could have anonymous input into the audit review. We ought to hear from all of the voices involved in this process.

Commissioner Pflaumer mentioned the specific suggestions in Ms. Christine Fuller's letter to the Board. Generally I think that she is suggesting that Park neighbors have a clearer role, including park neighbors within 1500 ft. of a park. Ms. Potter states that this would be a huge undertaking. Ms. Fuller is indicating that Supt. Bounds has too much responsibility and that she would like to relieve him of some of that responsibility. Commissioner Collins feels that this is the Superintendent's job and by law the care of the Park is in the Superintendent's hands. By law the community can't make the decisions.

Ms. Potter stated that Parks err on the conservative side of what is the breadth and depth of public involvement. The policy was drafted to anticipate and accommodate a customized plan for each project that responds directly to its potential impact.

Commissioner Ramels would like a statement of intent in the beginning of the public involvement policies stating what the use and purpose of the public comments are and a disclaimer stating that there are many different views in the City and there is a large contingency of people who never speak and need to be considered. Commissioner Holme would like to look at why responses are low in certain situations on certain projects. Occidental Park is a good example of this situation that then puts us in a defensive mode. We need a self-evaluation.

Commissioner Pflaumer stated that we will keep all of this under advisement and we will revisit it at some point. Superintendent Bounds said that we may make some tweaks and revisions in our public involvement policy that may make sense and we won't necessarily wait until the audit is done. Dave Jones, City Auditor, said that he will want to talk to the Park Board.

Ms. Potter will send the gifts and donations policy, cost out options for broad outreach, create a webpage with all of the ideas that you have so far and invite more comments.

#### **Update Briefing/Discussion/Recommendation: Jefferson Park Athletic Field Lighting**

Randy Robinson, Seattle Parks' project planner, presented information on costs for lighting the athletic fields at Jefferson Park, as part of the presentation on the Jefferson Park Expansion Plan Schematic Design. The Board heard a briefing on the Schematic Design, followed by a public hearing, at its February 23 meeting. Minutes of that meeting are available at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/02-23-06.pdf> Tonight's briefing included both a written and verbal briefing; the Board plans to make a recommendation to the Superintendent on the lighting only at this meeting.

#### ***Written Briefing***

##### **Purpose of Briefing:**

This briefing paper is in response to questions that came up during the March 9<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Seattle Park Board meetings about the technical aspects of lighting the athletic fields on top of the buried Beacon Reservoir at Jefferson Park. The attached preliminary lighting design was compiled by Sparling Electrical Engineers and includes a plan that shows the number and height of poles and the number of flood lights for the potential athletic field lighting. Also included with this memo is a color photo montage showing the potential visual impacts of the lighting poles at that location.

##### **Project Description and Background**

See February 13, 2006 briefing paper (Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting)

### Athletic Field Lighting Information

1. The Jefferson Park Sports Plateau ball fields over the reservoir can be lighted to Class IV levels but with light distribution that would be somewhat irregular due to site constraints. See attached Jefferson Park Athletic Field Illumination Design Issues paper.
2. Because of the central location within the park, spillover light can be controlled.
3. Eleven poles are proposed ranging in height from 70 feet to 100 feet (4 poles are 100 feet, 4 poles are 80 feet, and 3 poles are 70 feet) with a total of 130 flood lights. See attached Field Lighting Plan.
4. The number of poles and fixtures will have a relative impact to views from the Lawn Bowling area (in the vicinity of poles #E4 and #S3) toward the northwest. See attached drawing and perspective view. Night views from the Lawn Bowling area were not shown on the perspective view but can be easily imagined.
5. Aiming angles and distances will preclude the use of larger fixture shields that are available in the electrical lighting industry today.
6. Resultant on-site glare from the new fixtures will be a significant impact due to the height of poles and shallow aiming angles of the fixtures.
7. Pole heights, aiming angles, and location (on top of a prominent hill) will increase off-site visibility. Currently the Jefferson Golf Driving Range net poles are visible from West Seattle.
8. The option of lighting the soccer field and not the baseball field at the Jefferson Park Sports Plateau would result in light levels on the soccer field that would not meet Class IV levels. Because site conditions prohibit lighting all four sides of the soccer field, only poles on the north, west and south sides could be utilized. Fixture aiming angles would need to be adjusted, further aggravating the glare problems.
9. Permitting issues include Department of Planning and Development (DPD), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) review due to Boeing Field approach routes.

### Costs

Regarding costs for a potential ball field lighting system at this location, I am including a segment from my March 1, 2006 memo on this issue: *The unusual circumstances surrounding the lighting of the reservoir (no poles on the reservoir lid) make cost estimating for this feature difficult. Therefore the estimate of about \$885,000.00 is a rough cost for a complete lighting system for the reservoir area (including soccer and baseball) in the year 2008.*

### Summary

Lighting the Sports Plateau athletic fields over the buried reservoir in Jefferson Park is technically feasible. However, the system would not be ideal. Many of the best lighting design techniques available in the industry today (sharp aiming angles, large shields, poles close to the playing surface, lower poles) would be compromised by the site conditions at the Sports Plateau. The compromised design may create a public relations problem that would limit Seattle Parks Department's ability to implement athletic field lighting elsewhere.

### *Verbal Briefing*

Randy Robinson refers in the briefing paper to the Sports Plateau, which is the area in question that we describe as over the reservoir, in the center of the Park. It is where the ballfields are going.

Commissioner Jackson wanted to know for a point of comparison what the height is for the driving range. Mr. Robinson stated that the poles are about 115ft. Typical sports field lights are about 80ft. Mr. Robinson pointed out where these poles are in the pictures that he presented. The main issues are the height of the poles, the number of poles and the aiming angles of the light fixtures. Because of the poles, the aiming angles need to be a little less than what is optimal. Typically we would try to get that aiming angle more in the downward direction. The angles here are necessary to reach the long distance to the center of the field. The field lights would be adequate for soccer, baseball and little league. There are some less than ideal conditions for lighting here: glare, the height of the poles and the fact that you are on top of Beacon Hill and it is very prominent. There will be onsite and offsite glare. Most of the poles will be at the higher pitch to get the angles that we need. There are 130 light fixtures all together.

Commissioner Ranade questioned whether the cost is more it is because of the lid. Mr. Robinson mentioned that the costs have not gone up because of this; the poles go in the ground, not on the lid.

Commissioner Ramels wanted to know how spillover light will be controlled and if the lights are shielded. Mr. Robinson noted that there are no residential areas adjacent. The lights are shielded but cannot utilize the most advanced shielding technology.

Commissioner Ranade wanted to know if you could see the lights from West Seattle when they are on. Mr. Robinson indicated that you would, but he didn't know whether they would be visible from Capital Hill. Commissioner Ranade wanted to know what it would really take to make a decision based on other agency reviews. Mr. Robinson indicated that we would have to go to the FAA with a specific proposal. We would need to work agency reviews into the project review schedule. Erin Devoto answered that the driving range poles don't need FAA review because they do not have lights on them.

Commissioner Holme wanted to know whether the Sports Advisory Council has taken a position on this issue. Mr. Robinson said that it went to the Sports Field Review Committee and they wanted to keep their options open for lighting. He didn't talk to the Sports Advisory Council. Commissioner Holme wanted to know about the feasibility of a track around the soccer field at Jefferson Playfield. Mr. Robinson stated that it wouldn't accommodate a 400 meter track. It couldn't be used for competition, but the soccer field would be full size.

Commissioner Collins said that we had very little negative input on the lights at the Playfield portion of the project. Is the recommendation of the Department to approve it? Randy Robinson said that it was consistent with the plan generated in 2002. The Jefferson Playfield, by Mercer Middle School, would be the field to have an illuminated multi-purpose field with a more conventional lighting system. There would be a less visible impact here than on the plateau, but there will be some neighbors on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South that will be impacted from spillover light. It meets the requirements for spillover; we can apply the most current technology here. Randy Robinson indicated that we have not heard comments from the immediate neighbors.

Commissioner Holme inquired about the pole heights at the existing Jefferson Playfield. Mr. Robinson said that the pole heights would be slightly lower for Jefferson Park Playfield, but would be less visible here than the plateau. This was the plan in the 2002 Jefferson Park Master Plan, the Environmental Impact Statement and the Joint Athletic Field Development Program. It has been shown in most plans over the last five or six years.

**Commissioner Collins moved that the Board recommend lighting as proposed by staff at the Jefferson Park Playfield. It adds additional year round opportunities for play and is less expensive than lighting the plateau. The lights don't create as much visual pollution as they would on the plateau. We haven't had a lot of negative input for the neighborhood on lighting the playfield, whereas we have had negative input on lighting the plateau.**

**Commissioner Ranade seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Holme stated that when you compare the two opportunities you will benefit more from lighting the lidded field. There are a lot of tradeoffs here. He feels that there will be opposition from the neighbors from lighting the Jefferson Playfield by virtue of it's proximity to homes. There is an opportunity for having a lighted track on the lid will create more of a year round opportunity and the impact on the immediate neighborhood would be less for lighting a field in the center. Commissioner Holme feels that the Jefferson Playfield improvements are very far down the list in funding and opposition to playfield lighting will come later.

Mr. Robinson said that there have been 7 public meetings and this shouldn't be a surprise.



Superintendent Bounds said that this project isn't funded. There has been a real effort to try and build a new park as opposed to resurfacing the playfield. Lights on the lid wouldn't come any sooner, but we would need to design for the infrastructure now if this is the direction we want to go.

**Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Pflaumer, Commissioner Ramels and Commissioner Ranade voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Holme opposed.**

**Commissioner Collins moved a motion for recommending the Department's recommendation for no field lighting for the sports plateau area. Commissioner Ranade seconded.**

Commissioner Collins stated that although in this case there has been planning for 10 years for this area; lights violate all of the plans. There is a huge expense for this and the money could be used for other aspects of the project. All of the light pollution issues that the neighbors have stressed have been compelling. The view would be obscured and violated by poles in the daytime and poles with lights in the evening. It doesn't add kids playing soccer, except in the winter months. I feel very strongly that there should not be these big lights on the reservoir.

Commissioner Ranade added that there would be a significant cost and visual impact on not only the neighborhood, but other parts of the City.

Commissioner Jackson would like to add that there are too many uncertainties about lights to risk the gamble of putting in the infrastructure.

Commissioner Ramels feels that this is very interesting that this is coming up at the same meeting when we are talking about public input. There was so much input against lighting on Beacon Hill. The most compelling testimony was from Felipe, a soccer coach who coached many non-English speaking kids and it reminded me that there are so many people in the City who don't know who we are, who the Parks Dept. is, have no idea who Ken Bounds is and don't know who our City Council members are. We have to be mindful of these people. This is a very hard decision for me. I walked the site and it seems unconscionable that we would put lights up there. The playfield will have lights and it doesn't seem right to change the plans at this stage. Cost also plays a role in my decision.

**Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Pflaumer, Commissioner Ramels and Commissioner Ranade voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Holme opposed.**

Commissioner Holme would appreciate staff to follow-up on the demand for lighted fields for kids and adults of Beacon Hill to have access to lighted fields. This is down on the list of priorities. SYSA is the biggest user of playfields and their season goes August to mid-December. In early October, they need to play in the evening. It is not fair to say that this and other lighting projects in the City are not for kids. We need to try to do what we can for Beacon Hill.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Bounds reported on the following:

Northgate. The City Council approved acquisition of the Northgate Park and Ride this week. Groundbreaking for the project is in June. The Community Center and Library are opening in July.

NRPA. We had a great trip to Chicago and learned a lot from other cities at the NRPA Conference. We will be briefing the Board on this soon.

Powell Barnett Park. While we were away, we missed the grand opening of Powell Barnett. If you get a chance stop by and see all of the kids enjoying this wonderful new playground.

Coleman School Parking Lot. The City Council adopted a Resolution requesting that we name the Coleman School Parking lot after Jimi Hendrix.

Magnuson Park Master Plan. We are working with Council staff on an ordinance being drafted concerning the Magnuson Park Master Plan. The ordinance would among other things, give Council support to the construction of phase 2 as proposed. It will be before the Council soon.

Pier 59 façade re-installed. The re-installation of the Pier 59 façade is complete. We are working with SEAS on a development plan to move into the exhibit construction.

Race and Social Justice. B.J. Brooks, Christopher Williams and Brenda Kramer gave a presentation to more than 60 supervisors from Washington State Parks and Recreation and their Park Commissioners on the Initiative. The presentation included an overview of why the initiative is important, how it is structured in Seattle Parks, and specific program examples.

South Lake Union Wharf. Two World War II era Coast Guard cutters will be moored at the wharf the weekend of June 2. These are the last of the surviving wooden Coast Guard cutters in original military condition. Special veterans' commemorations and memorial services featuring both cutters are planned for June 5 and 6. The D-Day participation of Coast Guard Rescue Flotilla 1 will be recognized at 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary ceremonies scheduled for June 6 at the Historic Ships Wharf.

African American Film Festival. Langston Hughes African American Film Festival was a sterling success. 40 films, 9 days and 1 theatre brought in over 1,300 people. 14 local filmmakers had their movies shown and Langston now envisions an "In Your Own Backyard" as an important aspect of future festivals.

Auditions complete at Langston Hughes. Summer Musical auditions have come and gone and 65 youth will once again participate in the always much-anticipated Summer Musical. This year's play will be a ten-year celebration written by the Teen Development Leader, Isiah Anderson. We'll let you know when the performances are.

Annual Friends of Parks Gathering. Representatives from 45 South end Friends Groups participated in the annual event to honor volunteers for their service, energy, and talent they give to enhance their local park. This year's event was held at Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling center with a focus on gardening.

Yes Program. The YES Program currently has 75 applicants with more expected by the end of this week. This summer, the YES Program will be partnering with the American Lung Association, Center for Wooden Boats and Rainier Valley Cultural Center Theatre Camp.

Senior Games. The Greater Seattle Senior Games will be held on June 2-4 at SWCC and Sealth HS. More than 200 senior athletes are expected to participate in more than ten competitive sports and attend the banquet on Saturday night. I hope some of you can drop by.

Starbucks Adopts 14 Seattle Parks. Starbucks' stores in the "Seattle District" have banded together to adopt 14 Seattle Parks as part of their new "Adopt-A-Park" program. Stores will work jointly to plan, sponsor, and host work parties and other events which will improve park appearance and functionality and attract new visitors. Most of the 14 adopted parks have no previous or current on-going community stewardship activity. Starbucks will match each hour of employee volunteer service with a \$10 donation towards each project.

Outstanding Community Partner. Garfield Teen Life Center Coordinator, Mazvita Maraire was honored on Thursday May 24 at a Breakfast with the Outstanding Community Partner Award from the Willie Austin Foundation, for his work at the Teen Life Center.

New/Old Business

- Lake Wash Blvd: Commissioner Holme wants Parks to look at some Blackberries starting to reinvade by Seward Park from a maintenance project.
- Volunteer Park: Commissioner Pflaumer would like the Volunteer Park tennis court signs cleaned.
- West Queen Anne Playfield: Commissioner Ranade mentioned that 2<sup>nd</sup> base has popped out.
- Roberts Rules: There was a brief Commissioner discussion on how to implement the modern interpretation of Robert's Rules that was e-mailed out to the Board.
- 520 widening project: Commissioner Collins gave an update on the Stakeholder's meeting of which he is a member.
- Schmitz Park: Commissioner Ramels wanted to pass on how beautiful the park is and to publicly thank Ken Shaw.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Kate Pflaumer, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_