

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2006

***Board of Park Commissioners:***

Present:

Jack Collins  
Terry Holme, Acting Chair  
Jackie Ramels  
Amit Ranade

Excused:

Angela Belbeck  
Debbie Jackson  
Kate Pflaumer, Chair

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

Erin Devoto, Director, Seattle Parks' Planning and Development  
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commissioner Holme called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Ramels moved and Commissioner Collins seconded approval of the October 12 agenda, and the August 28, September 14, and September 28 minutes, as corrected.**

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Bounds and Deputy Superintendent Brooks were at the National Recreation and Park Association Conference, held this year in Seattle. Nearly 10,000 people from all across the United States registered for the conference.

Ms. Devoto reported on the following items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, please visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

**South Lake Union Park:** The large ship's saw in the boatyard area south of the Armory will be relocated to the North Lake Union Metro Dock site. This results from collaboration between Northwest Seaport and the Northwest Schooner Society, which is the tenant at the Metro Dock. Longer term plans are also to relocate the shed that covered the saw, but for now that covered area will be used for display purposes. Center for Wooden Boats is also working with NW Seaport, using the workshop for CWB projects and classes. In addition, the Pro Parks Levy

Oversight Committee voted to apply \$300,000 out of the Pro Parks large project category fund balance to the South Lake Union project to help fund the pedestrian bridge. This week Parks gave an update to South Lake Union Friends and Neighbors (SLUFAN) regarding the overall progress of the Park. Parks also bid the first phase of the project, which will begin soon.

Freeway Park: At its September meeting, the Freeway Park Neighborhood Association voted to advocate for the park rangers proposed in Mayor Nickel's budget. Programming ideas to augment what has already been put in place include possibly providing a subsidy for a food vendor to be in the park during the weekday lunch period in the summer. The Association is very appreciative of all the attention and funding the park has been receiving. In addition, Freeway Park has been nominated as an historic landmark; Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board will consider this nomination at their October 18 meeting.

Discovery Park Settlement Funds: Parks held the first meeting of the Discovery Park Project Oversight Committee, comprised of five different stakeholder groups. The committee will monitor the progress of the six major projects paid for by the \$5.4 million settlement funds from King County. The first project, a series of building demolitions, will begin in first quarter 2007.

Powell Barnett Park Improvements: Starbucks installed a huge rock at the entrance to Powell Barnett Park this week to honor those organizations that helped to bring about the extreme makeover at this park. Over 800 volunteers helped to make these improvements in two weeks time. Board members and the audience were invited to visit this park soon. Parks staff have observed a substantial increase of visitors to the play area since the installation of the new playground equipment.

High Point Late Night: Parks received a citizen complaint regarding increasing illegal behavior of participants and other unknown perpetrators before and after program hours, including, property damage, and confrontations with neighbors. Parks staff is working with SPD to address concerns about our ability to staff the program to the expected safe levels and to monitor the increase in negative activities occurring outside the building during and after the program hours. It is hoped that with the increase in SPD drive by and attention that it will help to move this activity away from the park

Green Lake Rowers Win Medals: The Green Lake Masters and Junior crew teams attended regattas over the weekend. The Masters rowers' team won several gold medals in the Bull Trout Regatta at Lake Stevens, while the Junior crew team won almost every event they entered at the Tail of the Lake event. Coaches and participants were extremely happy with these outcomes.

## **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. Three people testified. A very brief summary of their testimony follows.

Mary Keeler: She stated that she attended to testify during the off-leash area public hearing, but after accidentally signing the Oral Requests and Communications sheet, she spoke to what she considers Seattle Parks' poor communication system. She is a retired professor of communications and stated she would volunteer her time to assist the Department in developing more effective public communications.

Ken Schubert: He spoke in support of the Pacific Interchange alternative for the Washington State Department of Transportation's State Route 520 Widening Project. Mr. Schubert stated that recent depictions of this alternative are inaccurate and that \$5,000 had been spent on these drawings to disparage this alternative. He lives on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and, if he thought the Pacific Interchange would make the area look as horrible as the depictions show, he would not support it. He believes that this is the best option.

**Jonathan (no last name recorded):** He also wanted to speak on the SR 520 project. Commissioner Collins stated that the Board would consider a resolution on the project under Old Business, later in the meeting. The speaker was given a copy of the resolution and reminded that City Council is taking comments on the project through October 13.

### **Briefing: Magnolia/Queen Anne Off-leash Areas**

Lana Krisman, Seattle Parks Planner, presented a briefing on the Magnolia/Queen Anne Off-leash Areas. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing; both are included in these minutes. Site maps were also included in the written briefing.

#### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

The Board is asked to review and consider the staff evaluation and recommendation for off leash areas in the Queen Anne and Magnolia neighborhoods. Following a briefing and public hearing, the Board will be asked to make a recommendation to the Superintendent at their next meeting as to whether to proceed with establishing a pilot off leash area for dogs within the following parks: Magnolia Manor Park, David Rodgers Park, and Lower Kinnear Park.

Pending approval by the Superintendent, pilot off leash areas could be established within the above parks. A pilot site remains a temporary site for 18 months during which time Parks evaluates and monitors the site. Following the 18 month period, the site by City ordinance becomes a permanent site.

#### **Background**

The off leash areas program established in 1996 has been very successful in Seattle, and we now have 11 off leash areas around the city. One of the goals of the program established by the City Council in Resolution 29628 is to provide an off leash area in every sector of the city; Queen Anne and Magnolia comprise the only sector that does not now have one.

Based on numerous requests from the Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA), Parks staff met with representatives of the Queen Anne Community Council, Magnolia Community Club, and COLA in March of 2006 to identify possible sites for one or two off leash areas. This working committee recommended a number of park sites, five (Magnolia Park, Magnolia Manor, Thorndyke Park, David Rodgers Park, and lower Kinnear Park) underwent further staff evaluation and were presented as possible sites at community meetings in June.

Parks mailed more than 11,000 notices to neighborhoods surrounding the five possible sites. The meetings were well attended with more than 100 people at the Magnolia meeting and 80-100 people at the Queen Anne meeting. Parks staff and a facilitator provided information on the decision making process and on the site selection criteria included in City Council Resolution 29628. Parks staff advised that currently there is no funding to develop off leash areas.

#### **Site Selection Factors**

To identify sites, the committee and Parks staff used the criteria included in Resolution 29628 that established the off leash area program. They are:

- Avoid interference with other established uses or department sponsored activities.
- Avoid directly abutting residences.
- Assure availability of close parking.
- Avoid locating near children's play areas.
- Locate where there are minimal impacts upon the total visual character of a park.
- Locate where there is low potential for spillover into areas not designated for off-leash use.
- Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes.

The following additional factors were considered in the evaluation of each site.

- Size: Locations within parks that are smaller than .25 acres in size were not considered. Two of our existing off leash areas are similar in size to the proposed sites in Queen Anne: Regrade Park is .25 acres and Plymouth Pillars is .5 acres.
- Topography: Flat sites are preferable because surfacing stays in place and erosion is reduced, so sites with known slide issues or within natural areas of a park were not considered.
- Parking: A few sites have parking lots, but the majority of parks have limited on street parking. Sites are intended for use by local residents. Based on experience at other modestly-sized sites, staff believe that smaller OLAs would not require additional parking.

### **Evaluation of Sites**

Using the site selection criteria, Parks staff evaluated a total of five sites in Queen Anne and Magnolia, the sites identified by the working committee.

#### **Scoring:**

Sites within a park were scored against each criterion; the sites with the highest scores were identified as possible sites. Sites with the highest scores included Discovery Park, Smith Cove, Magnolia Manor, Magnolia Park, Thorndyke Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W., and David Rodgers Park. The following scoring system was used:

- 1 – Poor, does not meet criteria
- 3 – Average, meets most of criteria but not all
- 5 - Good, meets criteria

### **Recommended Sites**

The following is a short evaluation of the three recommended sites.

#### **Magnolia Manor Park – 3500 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. W**

- *Total park acres/location:* 5 acres, recommended location is .25 acres near the far fence dividing the park from SPU property.
- *Criteria met/not met:* The site is not immediately adjacent to homes, does not interfere with other uses, and would allow other park users to enjoy other areas of the park.
- *Public opinion:* A few immediate neighbors of the park are concerned about noise and how an off leash area would affect the overall character of the park. The majority who attended the Magnolia community meeting were opposed to off leash areas in Thorndyke Park, Magnolia Park., or Magnolia Manor, stating that Discovery Park was an appropriate location (total of 48 opposed, 21 support.) A few neighbors of these parks supported the idea but the majority of supporters are OLA supporters who do not live in the immediate neighborhoods of these parks.

#### **David Rodgers Park – 2800 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. W**

- *Total park acres/OLA location:* 8.5 acres, recommended location is .25 acres next to the tennis courts.
- *Criteria met/not met:* The site is not adjacent to homes and is a good distance from the play area. It is a very small area, one of the few flat areas in the park. The site located in the center of the park does have potential for spillover into areas not designated for off leash use.
- *Public opinion:* Neighbors are concerned about parking, noise, and continuing problems with off leash dogs in the park if an off leash area is developed in the park. They are also concerned that off-leash areas are unattractive and that the program creates “destination” sites. There is support for locating more than one small off leash area in Queen Anne so that sites are not heavily impacted. As with Magnolia Manor Park, there is strong opposition from immediate neighbors to developing an off leash area in David Rodgers Park. Parks received a petition from neighbors in opposition with more than 50 signatures. COLA and the Queen Anne Community Council support this site if it is not the only site on Queen Anne.

#### **Lower Kinnear Park – 899 W Olympic Pl.**

- *Total park acres/OLA location:* 14 acres, recommended location is .5 acres in lower Kinnear adjacent to the tennis courts.

- *Criteria met/not met:* This area is not heavily used and is buffered from neighboring houses. The maintenance road cuts through this area so there are some design issues that can be addressed. Access would be from the W Roy St. east entrance to lower Kinnear or from the upper park to the lower park via the path. Parking is limited on this street. Upper Kinnear is not under consideration because of slide issues.
- *Public opinion:* There are concerns that this is a designated Seattle landmark and an Olmsted park, and that an off leash area would impact the visual character of the park. There is support for identifying a location in lower Kinnear Park. Of those who attended the community meeting, 22 supported this site and 10 opposed it. Members of the community and Parks are currently planning restoration of the park to encourage citizens to use the park for positive activities. Parks crews expect to remove non-native vegetation and trim trees for views in lower Kinnear. An off leash area could work into the community's plan for lower Kinnear. COLA has said that they will support lower Kinnear but this location will not serve upper Queen Anne.

**Additional Sites:**

The following additional sites were strongly suggested at the two community meetings. The sites include locations that are not park property or that would require lengthy planning processes, so they were not among sites included for consideration at the public meetings.

**Discovery Park – 3801 W Government Way**

- *Total park acres/OLA location:* 527 acres, a potential location, approx. 2 acres, is near the north parking lot on Bay Terrace Rd.
- *Criteria met/not met:* This area is at the NE boundary of the park, not immediately adjacent to residences, would not displace other users, and has ample parking. This area was not included in the City Council 1986 approval of the Discovery Park Master Plan.
- *Public opinion:* At the Magnolia meeting, there was strong support for forming a coalition to amend the master plan and establish an OLA at Discovery Park. Any effort to revise the master plan would be protracted and contentious.

**Smith Cove-Lower Playfield**

- *Total park acres/OLA location:* 4.4 acres, potential location is at the southern and northern perimeter of the playfield.
- *Criteria met/not met:* While this site meets all criteria, this park area was recently acquired and has not undergone a planning process. Staff recommends that this site be considered during the master planning process.
- *Public opinion:* This site is supported by COLA and the Queen Anne Community Council as it is a large site and away from residences.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W/W Ewing St. Park**

- *Total acres/location:* .4 acres, potential location is within SDOT street right of way and King County property.
- *Criteria met/not met:* Site is away from residences and in green space with no established uses other than passive use. This area was created to provide shoreline access as a condition of the shoreline permit for the Metro Water Quality Lab. The area is within 15 feet of the Lake Washington Ship Canal.
- *Public opinion:* This site is supported by COLA and the Queen Anne Community Council. Staff recommends that Parks approach King County and SDOT regarding the feasibility of using this site.

**Budget**

There is currently no funding to develop off leash areas. Funds could be sought from the Neighborhood Matching Fund or other outside funding sources. This project is a planning process only.

### **Schedule**

Parks staff met with representatives of the community in March, 2006 and held two public meetings in June, 2006. Following a public hearing with Board of Park Commissioners and Superintendent's recommendation, a pilot site could be established in late 2007 and by Council ordinance become a permanent site following an 18 month evaluation period.

### **Staff Recommendation**

The next steps in the process are the preparation of an environmental checklist to evaluate the potential impacts at each site and a public hearing before the Park Board. Staff recommend that we proceed with a Park Board briefing and public hearing to consider Magnolia Manor Park, David Rodgers Park, and Lower Kinnear Park as pilot off-leash areas.

### **Additional Information**

Parks Planner: Lana Krisman, Seattle Parks & Recreation, Major Projects and Planning, (206) 684-7047  
[ana.krisman@seattle.gov](mailto:ana.krisman@seattle.gov). Off Leash Areas - Parks web site, <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/OLA.htm>

### ***Verbal Briefing***

Ms. Krisman introduced herself, and Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks Manager of Major Projects & Planning, and Charles Sablan, Seattle Parks' Manager of Off-leash Areas. Many other cities look to Seattle as an example for planning their off-leash areas. Regrade (in Belltown) is the smallest Seattle off-leash area, with the Magnuson Park and Genesee Park sites the two largest. The 1996 City Council off-leash area states that an off-leash shall be established in every sector of the city. Magnolia and Queen Anne do not yet have one. Citizens from those areas contacted the Department requesting off-leash area(s) and that started this process.

Ms. Krisman then described the public meetings and the process used to narrow the list of potential sites to the three being presented tonight: Lower Kinnear and David Rodgers Park on Queen Anne and Magnolia Manor on Magnolia. In September, the Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was completed and staff asked the Superintendent whether to proceed with requesting the 18-month pilot sites.

Ms. Krisman next described how various sites were identified and evaluated. There is no consensus from the neighbors on the sites, but staff did receive good comments, both for and against, each of the sites. She next pointed out the three sites on large maps, described siting criteria, and listed neighbors' concerns with each potential site.

### ***Board Questions & Answers***

Commissioner Collins complimented Ms. Krisman's written briefing paper and stated he is sympathetic that siting off-leash areas is a difficult task. He asked if staff considered Discovery Park as a possible site, as several Magnolia residents have suggested in e-mailed testimony. He also referred to testimony from a citizen opposed to an OLA in Discovery Park. Ms. Krisman and Mr. Stoops answered that the Discovery Park Master Plan was agreed on prior to the OLA resolution and the Plan will not support an OLA. Commissioner Holme read that Discovery Master Plan pre-dates some subsequent acquisitions to the park and wondered whether those acquisitions could be considered. Ms. Krisman stated that staff had looked at Bay Terrace Road in the northeast corner of Discovery Park.

Commissioner Collins asked about the budget for the proposed sites. Ms. Krisman answered that if a site is selected for the 18-month pilot, staff will seek funding to provide the fencing and other site needs.

Commissioner Ramels commented that one of the OLAs proposed at two of the sites is ¼ acre and the other is ½ acre and questioned if this was small for OLAs. Ms. Krisman answered that the OLA at Magnuson Park is 9 acres and there are other OLAs that are as small as ¼ acre.

Commissioner Ranade asked if, once the pilot program is complete, the issue will be brought back to the Park Board for a recommendation and Ms. Krisman answered yes.

Commissioner Ramels asked if staff considered the Smith Cove sight. Mr. Stoops and Ms. Krisman clarified the location of this property (just south of the Magnolia Bridge) and commented that a Master Plan has yet to be developed for this new park. Staff recommended that, during that planning process, an OLA should be considered. Both COLA and the Magnolia Community Council would support an OLA at this site.

Commissioner Holme asked whether the Magnolia/Queen Anne area is considered to be one sector or two and Mr. Stoops answered one. Commissioner Holme asked about street access into the Lower Kinnear Park area. Ms. Krisman answered that the street there is very narrow, with only a small turnaround at the bottom. She referred to the large map to point out pedestrian access.

### *Public Hearing*

The public hearing began. The Chair reminded speakers that their testimony is limited to three minutes and will be timed. Speakers are called in the order in which they signed in. A total of 32 citizens testified, with a very brief summary of their comments included.

Connie Buhl: She supports OLAs in appropriate sites, but is opposed to an off-leash area in Kinnear. She lives near Kinnear Park and visits it frequently. She is a dog owner, but isn't asking her neighbors to provide her an OLA in the park. She distributed several sets of color photos of existing OLAs, showing their current condition. She commented that it is unfair for Seattle Parks to ask the Landmarks Preservation Board to make a ruling on this site.

Kal Brauner: He opposes an OLA in David Rodgers Park. He described the park as small, peaceful, and tranquil. It is close to homes and there is no off-street parking for people to drive their dogs to the park. He measured the largest flat spot in the proposed OLA site and stated that it is only 1/10 acre – not ¼ acre as reported by staff.

Amy Carlson: She opposes an OLA in David Rodgers Park and agrees with the first speaker, Connie Buhl. This park already has lots of uses that work well together. She urged staff to be proactive and find non-park sites for OLAs. She was with Kal today when he searched for the ¼ acre flat area and the only area that large is next to the tennis courts.

Nicole Rinauro: She opposes an OLA in David Rodgers Park. She lives across from the playground and her young daughter has been knocked down three times by dogs off leash in the park. She referred to the SEPA and stated there was no DNS appeal. She looked at the Department of Ecology website for SEPA and stated that Parks didn't include all the required items. Why does the City entertain the idea of new projects when it cannot maintain those it already has? No dogs are dying because they don't have an OLA. She requested that staff slow down this process.

Peggy Hawkins: She is on the COLA Board and is responding to requests to investigate Discovery Park as a possible OLA. COLA is very interested in this.

Mary Keeler: She is also a COLA Board member and questioned why there are so many dog owners and lovers in Seattle, yet it is so difficult to find off-leash sites for the dogs.

Diana Dearmen: She supports an OLA, but not at the three proposed sites. She lives in Magnolia and has two dogs. Tonight is the first time she has heard that the Department has money for the OLAs. Before making a decision, look at Discovery and Smith Cove Parks for possible sites.

Paul Fogarty: He supports an OLA for the Magnolia area, but not at the three proposed sites. He doesn't live near any of the sites. He commented that Ms. Krisman has done a great job on this project; however, he requested that this process be slowed down and both Discovery Park and Smith Cove be investigated as potential sites.

Deb Artis: She opposes an OLA in David Rodgers Park and believes the decisions made to select these three sites were not well thought out. She suggested Interbay property as a potential OLA or lease space from a private or not-

for-profit agency. There is good parking at Interbay, it is located between Queen Anne and Magnolia and there is no one in Interbay to object to an OLA.

Carl Pitts: He recommended that staff review the Parks Department's mission statement.

Michele Farris: She is the vice-chair of COLA and supports two off-leash sites in Magnolia and two in Queen Anne, with all four being small ones that are spread around these densely populated neighborhoods. COLA is committed to working with Parks and being a good neighbor. OLA's can help make good neighbors because neighbors meet each other at the OLAs. She recommended that those present visit the off leash area and trails at Northacres Park.

Commissioner Ranade asked if COLA supports an OLA at Discovery Park and Smith Cove. Ms. Farris answered that they would love an OLA at Discovery Park; however, it would take a long time to get that through the master plan process. At this time, COLA would like to see four small OLAs.

Linda Adams: She opposes an OLA at David Rodgers Park. Dog owners that currently use the park do not clean up after their animals. Neighborhood kids play in the park and dog get feces on their shoes. She also believes it is inappropriate to place an OLA near the tennis court, as it is very distracting to the tennis players.

Commissioner Collins commented that he visited this park the previous Sunday and observed seven of twelve dogs that were off their leash. He approached them and met a variety of reactions. He recommended community pressure to help put dogs back on their leashes if they aren't in an approved OLA.

Jeff Fink: He supports the pilot sites for David Rodgers and Lower Kinnear Parks. He is a Queen Anne resident and stated that dogs are already off-leash in both these areas because there are no OLAs anywhere in the area. He asked that action be taken to approve the pilot program and move forward.

Steve Gilbertson: He opposes an OLA at David Rodgers Park. It is misleading to say that the proposed site is not close to homes. Parking is already very crowded in this area. She has a dog and believes the Interbay area is a sensible OLA site. There are already plenty of dogs in the area around David Rodgers Park — don't make it a destination for other dogs.

D. Austin: She opposes an OLA at David Rodgers Park. She has two kids and uses the park every single day. There are dogs at the park now that are off-leash. The neighbors and kids know the neighborhood dogs and aren't concerned with them. However, aggressive, non-neighborhood dogs could come into the park and won't be familiar with the kids, which could cause problems.

Frank Spacklin: He lives near Magnolia Manor Park and opposed an OLA at this site. He has a dog and walks the neighborhood. Most neighbors don't want the OLA, as it would be too close to the reservoir. He bought his house because it was located near a passive park and the park has value just as it is. People who are pushing this site already abuse the area by having their dogs there off leash. He also believes dog walkers and dog sitters would abuse the site. He believes the illegal off-leash of dogs is a huge revenue source for Animal Control. He is confounded as to why the Parks Department would spend its funds on dogs and urged that citizens curb their appetites on what they are allowed to do in the city.

Duncan Chalmers: He supports an off-leash site, if it is located in one area and that the rest of the park be dog free. His fear, however, is that non-neighborhood dogs will come in and overwhelm the current dog population. He also suggested that staff look at Smith Cove, Discovery Park, and Port of Seattle property.

Karen Bonnevie: She has dogs and supports an OLA in Queen Anne, but requests that staff look at the Smith Cove property. She came before the Park Board on the Betty Bowen Viewpoint public hearing and stated that this system really works and thanked the Board for its good work!

Deb Finken: She supports an OLA in Queen Anne; however, he thinks that David Rodgers Park is too small for one and that Lower Kinnear is a frightening area for females to go alone to walk their dogs because of the number of homeless people who live there. She has a dog and drives to the Greenlake OLA, in order to follow off-leash laws and allow her dog to exercise.

Amy Cunningham: Opposes, and is shocked at the thought, of an OLA at David Rodgers Park. She stated that she concurs with testimony by Steve Gilbertson.

D. R. Berg: She presented a petition with 50% names opposing David Rodgers Park as an OLA. She stated that the park is tiny and that the OLA would be very small.

Don Harper: He supports Lower Kinnear for an OLA. He is the Queen Anne Community Councils' Park Committee chair. He believes it is unfair to ticket dog owners for having their animals off-leash if no legal off-leash areas are provided. His committee has worked for two years to find appropriate sites and none so far work very well. He believes an OLA at Lower Kinnear would help with the homeless issue there.

Chris Grekoff: She believes David Rodgers Park is too small for an OLA. She is on the Queen Anne Community Council board, but is speaking as a private citizen. She has three active young dogs that she runs around Queen Anne on a leash during the week. On weekends she drives them to Magnuson Park to the OLA there. She believes the best suggestions heard tonight are Smith Cove and Discovery Parks and the Interbay area. She recommended one OLA in Magnolia, one in Queen Anne, and one at Interbay.

Coarriel Keeble: She agrees with Chris Grekoff. Don't rush into this decision that will impact neighbors. Look at other sites, including those already mentioned and West Ewing Park. Make the sites a local destination and not a regional one.

Sharon Levine: She presented two petitions calling for OLAs in the Magnolia & Queen Anne areas. She collected 77 signatures in Magnolia in just a three hour period. Parks was urged to consider the Ship Canal area and property behind Seattle Pacific University, but wouldn't do so. She has been working on getting more OLAs for 10 years. Parks was unfair and wouldn't consider many sites.

Jerry Littlefield: He would prefer an OLA at David Rodgers Park, if it is the only site available. He lives nearby and would walk his dog there. Parks are public property — not a gated community. Neighbors must look at the equity of uses for the parks.

Tony Imfeld: He supports a pilot OLA at Magnolia Manor Park and also suggested Interbay and Port of Seattle property be looked at as potential OLAs.

Jennifer Lekisch: She opposes an OLA at David Rodgers Park. It is a natural oasis and already heavily populated park. Dogs cause pollution and are a detriment to the tennis players.

Susan Harshfield: She supports all three proposed sites. She lives on Queen Anne and stated that although she doesn't play tennis or soccer or use play areas or boat ramps, she helps pay taxes to support all these uses. She wants equity for her dog.

Ashley Knapp: She opposed an OLA at David Rodgers Park. It is not right to give dogs the only level area in the park. Dogs don't have rights. Also, the proposed area is not large enough to exercise dogs and it is too near the play area. Aggressive dogs are now the fashion and she wants statistics on dog attacks in parks. Parks are for people; don't push people out for the sake of dogs. Queen Anne Community Council is an invalid group and doesn't represent the neighborhood. She favors an OLA at Myrtle Edwards or the Smith Cove area.

Ruth Schaefer: She favors a pilot OLA at all three sites. She has lived in the Magnolia area for 13 years and believes this is an equity issue. There are more dogs in Seattle than children. She doesn't feel this is a "rushed" process. She has been waiting years for an OLA and is tired of driving her dogs to other parts of the city for exercise. There are 6,000 acres in Seattle's parks, with 33 acres dedicated to dogs.

Steve Cellini: He opposes an OLA at Magnolia Manor Park and listed the OLA criteria that this site does not meet. He suggested if the park is approved as a pilot program that Seattle Parks build a play structure, that Parks make clear how this park met the criteria, and that the neighbors and COLA make the decision.

The public hearing closed at 7:50 p.m. The Board plans to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 26 meeting. Written testimony will be accepted through Wednesday, October 26.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Krisman for the briefing and the public for attending.

### **Briefing: Urban Forest Management Plan**

Mark Mead, Seattle Parks' Senior Urban Forester, gave a briefing on this plan. The Board received a written and verbal briefing.

#### *Written Briefing*

### **Requested Board Action**

This is a briefing for the Board on the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). No specific action is required by the Board. To view the UFMP online, see [http://www.seattle.gov/environment/documents/Draft\\_Forest\\_Plan-Final.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/environment/documents/Draft_Forest_Plan-Final.pdf). Comments are being accepted through October 28, 2006.

### **Project Description and Background**

The City's Urban Forest coalition (UFC) has completed work on the draft UFMP and the document is now out for public review and comment. The UFMP identifies the benefits and values associated with a healthy urban forest. The document is framed around an Urban Forest Sustainability Model. The 'state' of Seattle's urban forest is assessed within the context of three primary sustainability elements: Tree/Vegetation Resource, Management of the Resource, and Community Framework. From this assessment and associated analysis, general goals and recommendations have been developed. The UFMP also looks at the urban forest at the land-use planning level with the City's land use planning categories becoming 'Management Units'. A related but separate set of goals and recommendations have also been developed for each of the designated Management Units. Using nationally accepted modeling, the costs/benefits of the urban forest have also been estimated. Costs include planting and long-term care. Benefits include the dollar values of stormwater retention, air cleaning, and other less tangible benefits. Most importantly, the UFMP identifies the current amount of tree canopy coverage across the city and includes recommendations for canopy enhancement by Management Unit.

The UFMP is intended to serve as a roadmap to guide the management of tree resources in Seattle for decades to come. Implementation of the UFMP will be based upon the availability of resources, both dollars and people. For that reason, while it is referred to as a 30-year plan, full implementation within that timeframe is not guaranteed.

### **Public Involvement Process**

The public involvement process for the UFMP began in 2000 with the development of an urban forest strategic plan. The Cascadia Consulting Group and the University of Washington were contracted to provide the UFC with a general assessment of Seattle's urban forest as a starting point for determining long-term planning needs. This process involved two community stakeholder workshops and phone survey contact with over 600 registered voters. Development of the UFMP is a follow-up step to completion of the Strategic Plan in 2001. The development of the UFMP has included a technical stakeholder workshop and two very recently-completed public workshops. The technical stakeholder workshop was attended by 14 urban forestry professionals from throughout the region, while the recent public workshops were attended by 23 and 30 participants respectively.

### **Issues**

The primary concerns raised at these meetings were:

- The City's perceived inability to adequately preserve both public and private trees, particularly large trees
- The City's lack of adequate tree maintenance resources
- The perception that so many City Departments involved in tree management makes it difficult for the public to know who to contact first
- A general lack of resources devoted to tree management

### **Budget**

Implementing all the recommendations in the UFMP would cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Funding over time will likely come from a variety of resources from inside and outside of city government.

### **Schedule**

As mentioned earlier, the UFMP has no specific schedule or timeline. However, the actions/recommendation are prioritized by short, medium, and long-term, with short term equaling 0-5 years, medium equaling 5-10 years, and long being post 10 years.

### **Additional Information**

The entire draft UFMP is available for viewing on the Public Access Network and copies can be found at all Seattle libraries and community centers.

### ***Verbal Briefing***

Mr. Mead stated that currently eight City departments have control of trees in the city and this plan seeks to incorporate the same guidelines for all the departments. [For more information on trees in Seattle, see <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/trees/>]

He next reviewed written information to the Board, as follows:

### **Eight City departments comprise the Urban Forest Coalition with the following roles:**

- Parks – manages trees in developed parks, along park owned boulevards and forested areas of parks
- Seattle Department of Transportation – plants and maintains street trees
- City Light – prunes trees to maintain electrical line safety
- Department of Planning and Development – regulates tree preservation and planting during design and construction and protects special trees and critical areas
- Office of Sustainability and Environment – leads the City's Urban Forest Coalition and manages the Mayor's Environmental Action Agenda
- Seattle Public Utilities – restores forests along creeks I the City to maintain healthy riparian and fish habitat
- Seattle Center – manages trees in a campus-like setting
- Department of Neighborhoods – manages the City's tree fund

### **Historical context:**

- Urban Forest Coalition established to foster interdepartmental coordination and consistency (1994)
- A Sustainability Model (1997)
- American Forests ecosystem analysis (1999)
- Strategic Plan envisions by Cascadia Consulting and University of Washington, United States Forest Service grant
- Review of other cities – interviews, etc.
- Citizen phone survey – 616 registered voters
- Citizen/stakeholder workshop (2001)
- Strategic Plan completed (2001), with major recommendation for a comprehensive management plan

### **Vision for Seattle's Urban Forest**

- Healthy
- Composed of diverse species & ages
- Valued and cared for by the City & community

### **Problem**

- Seattle's urban forest is in decline
- Tree canopy cover has decreased 40% since 1972 to current level of 18% cover
- Existing trees are declining
  - Impacts from development over time
  - Inadequate maintenance cycles
  - Impacts from invasive species like ivy
  - Issue not well understood by public

### **Proposal: Develop Urban Forest Management Plan as Recommended**

- 30-year plan
- Proposes goals and actions to improve the extent and condition of the urban forest
- Organized around a nationally recognized 'Urban Forest Sustainability Model':
  - Tree Resource
  - Management Framework
  - Community Framework

### **Structure of Draft Urban Forest Management Plan**

- Section 1: Introduction to Seattle's Urban Forest
  - History
  - Forest composition
  - General values/benefits
- Section 2: Determine the 'State of the forest'
  - Tree Resource
  - Management Framework
  - Community Framework
- Section 3: General Goals and Recommendations
- Section 4: 'Management Unit' Goals and Recommendations

### **Urban Forest Sustainability Model**

Analysis and assessment:

- Tree Resource
  - Inventory and assessment
- Resource Management
  - Staff/Expertise/Tools
  - Policy/Regulatory Framework
- Community Framework
  - Education
  - Citizen involvement
  - Partnerships

### **Goals/Recommendations – Tree Resource**

- Understand the characteristic and complexity of Seattle's urban forest
- Maintain trees to promote health & longevity
- Maximize canopy cover and optimize age and species diversity
- Maximize the ecological and environmental benefits of the urban forest

### **Goals/Recommendations – Management Framework**

- Facilitate interdepartmental communication and cooperation to provide decision makers the information they need to support the UFMP
- Develop and implement resource management tools
- Preserve and protect existing trees, and encourage new tree planting throughout the city by improving management of trees on private property.
- Model good stewardship in City practices

### **Goals/Recommendations – Community Framework**

- Enhance public awareness of the urban forest as a community resource
- Engage the community in active stewardship of the urban forest
- Promote citizen/government/business partnerships

### **Urban Forest Management Units**

- Specific goals/recommendations based on nine existing city land-use types
- Also, Seattle’s urban forest is quantified:
  - Number of trees
  - Ecological services values
    - Stormwater retention
    - Air cleaning, etc.
  - Maintenance costs
  - Existing canopy cover %
  - Recommendations for future canopy cover %
  - Cost to enhance/restore Seattle’s urban forest

Staff determined the value of Seattle’s current trees as +\$30 million. If the value of the trees is improved 30%, that would increase the worth to approximately \$41 million. This has major implications, including:

- Increase tree crew maintenance cycle (now 18 year cycle for visits, with a goal of 5-7 year cycle)
- Urban parts (25% canopy) and natural areas (80% canopy)
- Funding
- Volunteers
- Tree establishment, planting, and follow up (3-5 year program)

### **Urban Forest Management Units – Land Use Mix in Seattle**

- Single family 56%
- Downtown 1%
- Major Institutions 2%
- Manufacturing/Industrial 11%
- Multi-Family 11%
- Neighborhood/Commercial 8%
- Developed Park 4%
- Forests/Watersheds 7%

### **Actions – General**

- Short-, mid-, and long-term actions are proposed
- Examples of short-term actions include:
  - Increase our knowledge of what’s out there
  - Improve maintenance of city-managed trees
  - Improve education and provide incentives & regulations for tree preservation and planting on private property

### **City – Early Actions**

- Mayor’s Fall Tree Planting Challenge
  - Plant 2,000 Trees for Free; 300 remaining and will be given away on October 28
- 240 trees to be planted by City in Rainier Beach & Georgetown neighborhoods
- Emerald City Task Force – developers, designers, community representatives, etc., providing input on incentives and regulations to help encourage tree preservation and planting on private property. This has been a very exciting outcome of this plan.

### **Parks and Recreation – Early Actions**

- Continue forested parklands restoration through the Green Seattle Partnership
- Increase annual volunteer stewardship hours
- Implement Mayor’s Executive Order for 2 for 1 tree replacement in downtown parks
- Continue hazard tree removal/replacement program
- Continue ecosystem mapping with partners

### **Public Comment – Until October 28**

- Draft UFMP available at libraries, community centers, or [www.seattle.gov/environment/trees](http://www.seattle.gov/environment/trees)
- Public meetings held:
  - Saturday, 9/23, Meadowbrook Community Center
  - Tuesday, 9/26, Jefferson Community Center
- E-mail comments to [UFMPcomments@seattle.gov](mailto:UFMPcomments@seattle.gov)
- UFMP c/o SDOT Urban Forestry, PO Box 34996, Seattle, WA, 98124-4996

### **Next Steps**

- Public comment period closes 10/28/06
- Comments collated and share with executive by 11/30/06
- Comments incorporated into final UFMP as directed by the executive by 12/31/06
- UFMP accepted and approved by City by 1/31/07 (or earlier)

### ***Board Discussion***

Commissioner Ramels asked at what point trees generally are considered part of the canopy and Mr. Mead answered within 5-6 years for a 15 foot canopy. She asked if the City has partners for both funding and volunteers and Mr. Mead named Greenseattle.org and Cascade Land Conservancy. She commented that she visits Schmitz Park regularly and commended the staff on the great job there. Mr. Mead stated that volunteers like Ken Shaw work in the park every day.

Commissioner Collins stated that he has heard Cass Turnbull, founder of Plant Amnesty, speak on three different occasions. He believes that previously the City has not had a long-term commitment to manage the trees. He urged that the UFMP include enough staff to go out and talk to the public, including both single family property owners and developers. Mr. Mead stated that the Mayor’s long-term budget does include additional staff for this plan.

Commissioner Holme asked if the City has identified the best tree for the best location. He believes this information, on a website, would be very useful information. Mr. Mead agreed and stated that the Plan isn’t developed to that point yet. Some nursery sites are very helpful with this and allow site visitors to enter the soil type, slope information, etc., and the site will recommend the most appropriate tree(s.) Commissioner Holme suggested that the City add links to these sites.

Commissioner Holme asked about publicity on the remaining 300 free trees in the Mayor’s current tree give-away program. Mr. Mead answered that information has been circulated to the libraries and other public facilities and Parks’ communication manager released a press release.

Commissioner Holme asked about citizen correspondence received by the Board from Cheryl Trivison referring to the Urban Forest Management Manifesto. A copy will be forwarded to Mr. Mead. Mr. Mead commented that many thoughtful comments have been received and will be considered for inclusion in the plan. He will send the Board a copy of the final plan.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Mead for the briefing.

## **Briefing: Red Barn Ranch Request for Proposal**

Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks' Enterprise Division Manager, briefed the Board on a Request for Proposal for Red Barn Ranch, a 40-acre Seattle Parks' property located in South King County. Commissioners received a written briefing, with staff available to answer questions at tonight's meeting.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

This briefing is for informational purposes. The department's policies and procedures call for briefing the Board of Park Commissioners about renewals of long-term concession agreements and to provide opportunity for feedback from the Commissioners (DPR policy & procedure 3.9.1.1).

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

What is being proposed? A public Request for Proposal (RFP) process is being proposed to secure a long-term caretaker and operator for the department's Red Barn Ranch facility. The current agreement with Camp Berachah ends in 3rd quarter 2007. Since 1995, Camp Berachah and Parks have entered into a series of annual agreements. Camp Berachah operates a retreat center approximately 2 miles away and has operated a summer youth equestrian camp at Red Barn. Parks is using this RFP process to select a concessionaire for a long-term agreement that will offer more stability to the operation of the facility and provide opportunities for other potential proposers to participate in the process.

The RFP process is a standard tool that Parks uses to provide open and competitive opportunities to people and businesses who are interested in doing business with us. This RFP process will result in a concession contract with an operator to manage the facility and perform general and routine maintenance and provide stewardship of the site during the term of the contract. The responsibility for specific types of programs, maintenance items, and public access to the facility will be determined as part of the contract negotiations.

What is the project background? In 1970, the City of Seattle purchased a 40-acre property in south King County for \$235,000 for the Seattle Model Cities Program. The developed portion of the property consists of a large two-story bunkhouse dormitory, a smaller bunkhouse with a lounge and sleeping rooms, an activity building with a stage and multi-purpose rooms, paved areas (in poor repair) for basketball and tennis, and a gravel parking lot. The property includes prime open space of almost 40 acres. The site is located 7 miles east of Auburn and approximately 32 miles south of Seattle. From 1971-1972, City, State, and federal resources of over \$700,000 were spent on renovating and developing this site into a "country camp for youths," with a focus on outdoor recreational use. From 1972 through 1982, the facility was operated as a Model Cities Program and staffed by the City. In 1982, the Red Barn Program and staff were eliminated as part of the 1982 budget process. It was closed from 1983-1985 and the City did minimum ground and building maintenance on the site. From 1985-1987 the facility operated as a conference and recreation center under a concession permit and from 1988 to 1991, the City had a use agreement with the Auburn School District for a multi-purpose program to support its kindergarten and first grade classes. From 1991 through 1994, the site was again vacant when the Auburn School District decided not to continue its use of Red Barn Ranch.

Parks utility costs for this facility have ranged from \$17,000 to \$20,000 annually. Utility costs were \$16,624.24 for year 2004. Parks re-roofed some of the buildings in 2002-2003. The maintenance costs from year 2000 through May 2006 were \$63,950, which is an average of \$10,658.00 per year. Since the roofing was a major portion of these costs (\$45,900) and should last at least 20 years, the next years' maintenance costs should be reduced significantly. The only recurring costs to Parks are utility services. There is no major maintenance proposed for the site in the next two years.

The risk and liability of leaving this site vacant have been a concern since the early 1980's, when city staff were removed. As a site that is remote, distant, and difficult to access by city staff, problems that can arise include utility failure, potential break-ins, vandalism, arson, illegal activities, etc. These cannot be adequately addressed without on-site supervision.

### **Public Involvement Process**

Parks does not plan a public involvement process related to the RFP.

### **Other Issues**

Potential sale to other government jurisdiction, i.e. King County Parks, Auburn: 2005 King County Assessment for the site is: Land \$775,200; Buildings \$198,800; Total \$974,000. While other jurisdictions have been approached in past years, there has been no substantive interest in purchasing the property. Also, the deed and grant agreements that helped purchase and develop the site have restrictions to selling the property. Deed restrictions include those that come with Forward Thrust Bond expenditures (King County Resolution #34571 Section 7). If we convert or sell the site then the City needs to replace it with equivalent land and facilities.

Annexation possibility: The property is in unincorporated King County and not in an area currently slated for annexation.

Zoning: The King County zoning designation for the site is RA5SO, defined as Rural Area 1 dwelling units per five acres/Special overlay--site dependent. There is the potential to develop the site for active recreation and perhaps a golf course but that would require significant resources.

### **Budget**

Existing staff time and nominal printing/advertising costs are involved to implement the RFP process.

### **Tentative Schedule**

Parks' proposed schedule for the Red Barn RFP is as follows:

- October 12, 2006                      Briefing to Park Board
- November 8, 2006                    Advertisement begins
- January 10, 2007                    RFP submittal deadline
- February 7, 2007                    Review panel recommendation to Superintendent
- February 15, 2007                  Superintendent decision, agreement award announcement
- April 2-30, 2007                    Negotiations with awarded proposer
- June 30, 2007                        Proposed Contract approved by City Council

### **Additional Information**

Charles Ng [charles.ng@seattle.gov](mailto:charles.ng@seattle.gov) 684-8001

### ***Board Discussion & Recommendation***

Mr. Friedli commented that Seattle Parks has four principles for managing Red Barn Ranch:

- (1) Public access. The facility is now managed by Camp Berachah. Seattle Parks can bring kids periodically to use the facilities, but it is a long distance from Seattle.
- (2) Reliable management. The site is 40 miles from Seattle and the Camp staff have been reliable managers.
- (3) Asset preservation. These are old buildings and having the Camp monitor them deters vandalism.
- (4) Safety and security of the site. Camp Berachah gives reliable eyes on the site, which saves Parks staff time and costs.

Commissioner Holme very recently had a conversation with the former Park Board chair, who had some exciting ideas to get city kids out to use this property.

Commissioner Collins asked why Parks doesn't sell this property since it is used by such a small number of people. The income from this sale could be used to benefit the parks community. Mr. Friedli answered that the property was assessed at \$974,000 value and it has deed restrictions. If it is sold, the Department must replace the 40 acres with like property.

Commissioner Ranade asked if the current leaseholder is a religious agency. Mr. Friedli answered yes; however, the agency uses Red Barn Ranch for equestrian uses and is restricted from using it for religious purposes. Commissioner Ranade asked if the Camp is likely to bid on this RFP and Mr. Friedli answered yes. Mr. Ranade stated he was troubled by a religious group managing a park facility.

Commissioner Ramels asked if it could be used for conventions or conferences. Mr. Friedli answered that it isn't feasible for Parks to do this; however, the RFP will be sent to conventioners, businesses, and others who might want to use Red Barn for this purpose. Commissioner Ramels asked if it could be utilized by the Department's summer day camps. Mr. Friedli answered that when the property was offered to the community centers, there was little interest.

**Commissioner Collins moved that the Superintendent delay the RFP process until further consideration is given to ameliorating the deed restriction and selling the property. Commissioner Ranade seconded and made a friendly amendment that the words "ameliorating the deed restriction" be removed from the motion. The amendment was accepted and the motion read "the Superintendent delay the RFP process until further consideration is given to selling the property."**

Discussion of motion: Commissioner Collins commented that the property is far away from Seattle and is not used by the Department. It was a nice idea in the 1960's for inner city kids to go to the "country." Since then the City has built 26 community centers and other facilities for youth and the Red Barn is just continuing to deteriorate. This is a real opportunity for the Department.

Commissioner Ramels spoke against the motion for two reasons:

- (1) There might be possible uses of this property. She does not think the property is well advertised, as she is very active in the community and has never heard of the property before.
- (2) It could be difficult to meet the deed restriction if, to sell the site, Parks would have to buy 40 acres of like property — Seattle Parks does not have funds to pay for open space in a like site.

Commissioner Collins commented that Parks may be able to substitute projects that are already being purchased to satisfy the deed restriction. Commissioner Ranade commented that it is a strange situation to have this property 40 miles away, which is difficult for the Department to manage. He urged that the Department consider selling the property and bringing these funds back to Seattle.

Commissioner Holme commented that the RFP could be delayed, and then a public hearing held on whether to sell the property. Commissioner Collins requested that staff first analyze the option of selling the property and report back to the Board. Staff agreed to do so.

**The vote was taken with two yes votes (Collins and Ranade); one opposed (Ramels); and one abstention (the Chair only votes to make or break a tie.) The motion carried. Commissioner Ramels went on record as objecting to two votes enabling the potential sale of this property.**

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Friedli for the briefing.

## Old Business/New Business

SR 520 Resolution: Commissioner Collins, the Board's representative to the Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee, introduced a resolution on the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)'s State Route 520 Widening Project. The Board discussed the resolution and made one change. **Commissioner Collins moved approval of the resolution and submittal, after being signed by the Chair, promptly to Seattle City Council and WSDOT. Commissioner Ranade seconded. The vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.**

Motion was approved as follows:

### RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION expressing the position of the Board of Park Commissioners regarding the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project.

WHEREAS, the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners has been in continuous existence since 1887 and acts in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, Seattle of Parks and Recreation, and other City departments; and

WHEREAS, State Route 520 has been, since its completion in 1963, and continues to be to this day, a blight on the Washington Park Arboretum; creating noise and visual intrusions into the park; encouraging cut-through traffic along Lake Washington Boulevard in much higher volumes than was originally intended for the boulevard, disturbing the serenity of the Japanese Garden, and affecting the passage of people and wildlife between Marsh and Foster Islands and the remainder of the Arboretum; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Park Arboretum is Washington State's official State Arboretum and contains internationally recognized woody plant collections and North America's largest collection of *Sorbus* and Maple, the second largest collection of species Hollies and significant collections of oaks, conifers and camellias; and

WHEREAS, a new Master Plan for the Arboretum was adopted in 2001 that was the culmination of five years of planning work undertaken by Seattle Parks and Recreation, the University of Washington, the Arboretum Foundation, community groups and members of the general public; and that will guide improvements to the Arboretum for the next 20 years, including many specific projects to enhance the physical and natural characteristics of the Arboretum such as increasing habitat diversity by restoring the natural function of Arboretum Creek and the northern shoreline; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Park Arboretum contains the largest freshwater wetland complex of its type in the Seattle region, and the Master Plan, in conjunction with the existing wetlands, includes the restoration, enhancement, and creation of new wetlands by restoring the ecological and wildlife function of the former garbage dump surrounding existing SR Route 520 ramps, and creating a Pacific Northwest Marshland collection along the shoreline of Union Bay; and

WHEREAS, implementation the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project, as currently proposed, will forever compromise the aesthetic setting, biological diversity, educational opportunities, and physical connections for people and wildlife within the Washington Park Arboretum:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEATTLE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS THAT:**

The Board cannot endorse any of the alternatives identified in the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) due to the profound negative environmental impacts the project would have on the Washington Park Arboretum.

The preferred alternative chosen must be consistent with the following:

- The structure should minimize the impacts on the Washington Park Arboretum, especially including the Japanese Garden and Foster and Marsh Islands, and other adjacent and nearby parks such as East Montlake and McCurdy parks;
- The structure should have the least number of travel lanes possible;
- The structure width should be the minimum necessary for safe passage;
- Any structure should be designed to have the least amount of coverage and shadow impacts on park land below;
- Clear, open, and safe access for people and wildlife under the structure must be provided to reconnect severed components of the Arboretum; and,
- Any required wetland mitigation must occur within the Arboretum first; if the area within the Arboretum is insufficient to accommodate the required mitigation, Park sites within Seattle on or adjacent to Lake Washington must be considered.

Mitigation of the continuing highway and future project impacts must be considered, regardless of the alternative/option chosen, to re-establish the Arboretum experience. As a starting point, the following should be considered in any mitigation package:

- Completely fund the Arboretum Master Plan, including wetland and shoreline restoration and planting (approximately \$60 million);
- Develop the stormwater pond in East Montlake Park for educational use;
- Provide a park-like lid at Montlake (depending on the option, the lid should extend as far as possible given the geography) which will create a strong connection between the neighborhood and the Arboretum;
- Replace (at WSDOT's expense) all of the functions served by the MOHAI building;
- Design and provide access and parking at East Montlake Park for access to the Arboretum Waterfront Trail and for hand-launched boats; and
- Install sound walls along the eastern and portions of the northern and southern edges of the Japanese Garden.
- Address the traffic impacts to the Arboretum caused by increased traffic along Lake Washington Boulevard (LWB) including prohibiting access to SR 520 from LWB or alternatively, allowing east bound traffic on LWB to access SR 520 via a round about at the intersection of LWB and the SR 520 on/off ramp; repaving LWB with "quiet" pavement; incorporating other traffic calming measures in LWB south of the Arboretum interchange to discourage through traffic movements, e.g., a traffic island at the intersection of Boyer Avenue E and LWB; and tolling the Arboretum ramps.

Adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners the \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2006 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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

Terry Holme, Acting Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_