



## Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2008  
Meeting Held at 100 Dexter Avenue North

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>  
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present, and  
Seattle Channel tapes of meetings from June 12, 2008)

### ***Board of Park Commissioners:***

Present:

John Barber  
Terry Holme  
Donna Kostka  
Christine Larsen  
Jackie Ramels, Vice-Chair  
Amit Ranade, Chair

Excused:

Neal Adams

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

Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Commissioner Kostka moved, and Commissioner Barber seconded, approval of the agenda and the minutes as amended. The motion was approved.**

Commissioner Ramels also reviewed the correspondence the Board has received since its September 11 meeting, including written testimony on park issues, announcements, meeting notices, press releases, etc.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Gallagher was out of town and Deputy Superintendent Williams reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

2009-10 Budget Proposal: Mayor Nickels presented his 2009-2010 budget proposal to City Council on Monday, September 22. Parks staff will brief the Board on the proposed Park Department budget at the October 9 meeting. For more information on the City Council's budget process, see <http://www.seattle.gov/council/default.htm>.

Pro Parks Levy Funds: To date, the Levy has earned approximately \$4.4 million more in interest earnings than was planned. Parks is now working with the Law Department to determine what guidelines it should follow to use the interest earnings and will review some options for projects for these funds with the Pro Parks Oversight Committee on Monday, September 28. The acquisition of the Crown Hill property is one of the projects being considered.

Commissioner Barber had previously understood that some projects that were not funded could go back later and apply. He now understands that there will not be further opportunities for the unfunded projects to reapply for funding and Deputy Superintendent Williams agreed.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the Crown Hill acquisition will use all of the \$4.4 million interest and Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that it will use most of it. The Belltown Community Center has an estimated cost of \$1.8 million and could also be considered. However, the future of 100 Dexter (Seattle Parks headquarters) must first be determined. For more information on the Pro Parks Levy, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/>.

Magnuson Park Leases: The Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee moved the leases for Building 11 and 27 out of committee this week. They will be before the Full Council in the next week or two.

Commissioners asked that a summary of the changes in the contracts be sent to them that describe the changes in the contracts from what the Board voted on at the 2006 public hearing for these two contracts. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>.

Waterfront Park Planning: Superintendent Gallagher and other Parks staff met with representatives of Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to discuss the planning effort to focus urban design visions for the Central Waterfront in consort with the Alaskan Way project. While DPD will draft the scope of work for the effort, Parks will be a major player relative to the park spaces at Waterfront Park and Piers 62/63 as well as on the potential linear park along the length of the street and seawall.

SDOT Director Grace Crunican will brief the Park Board on this planning effort, tentatively scheduled for the January 22, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Holme asked about the status of the citizen committee that previously worked on this planning effort. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that the committee completed its work and prepared a report for the Mayor and the report is now being reviewed by staff from Washington State Department of Transportation. Commissioner Holme asked about future Park Board involvement. Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that the Board may assist with the public involvement as specific plans emerge.

Commissioner Barber asked if there are any plans to expand the Aquarium's footprint during this project. Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that there isn't, but a waterfront park may be incorporated into the plan. Commissioner Barber asked that any new versions of the planning effort be posted to the web site and Superintendent Williams agreed. For more information on the Waterfront Planning, see [http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Central Waterfront/Overview/](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Central_Waterfront/Overview/).

Jimi Hendrix Park: The Park Board, along with parks staff, have been approached by a person who would like to raise \$12 million for a foundation that would create a donor brick plaza and fountain in the shape of a Fender Stratocaster guitar and would create a setting for the Mike Malone-owned statue of Jimi Hendrix. The proposed site is at the NW African American museum, adjacent to Jimi Hendrix Park. For more information on Jimi Hendrix Park, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park\\_detail.asp?ID=3121](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=3121).

West Seattle Stadium: The Park Board will hear a briefing and hold a public hearing on the future of West Seattle Stadium at its October 23 meeting. Commissioners will be asked to make a recommendation to the Superintendent at their November 13 meeting. Several community meetings have been scheduled in West Seattle and the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent are meeting with the Southwest District Council, Admiral Community Council, and West Seattle High School Alumni prior to the public hearing. For more information on West Seattle Stadium, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park\\_detail.asp?ID=472](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=472).

LEED Standards for Park Design: One of Seattle's parks may be the site of a LEEDS grounds maintenance project. Commissioner Barber asked if a process has been developed to nominate particular parks for this project. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the discussion hasn't yet progressed to site selection; however, it is a good discussion topic. [Sustainable Sites is a partnership between American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the U.S. Botanic Garden to create a green rating system for sustainable landscape design in all types of projects. For more information on the green rating system, see <http://www.sustainablesites.org/FAQ.html>.]

Pacific Connections Garden Opening: Despite heavy rainfall, there was a good turnout for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Arboretum's Pacific Connections Garden on Saturday, September 20. This new garden is now an outdoor classroom of plants from all over the world. The Arboretum Foundation and University of Washington held a very successful fundraising effort, resulting in \$18 million dollars in donations for the Gardens. Commissioner Holme attended the event. For more information on the Arboretum and Pacific Connections Garden, see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/>.

Community Health and Wellness Fair Held at Delridge Community Center: As part of the Department's Healthy Parks Initiative, a community health and wellness fair was held on Saturday at Delridge Community Center. Mayor Nickels attended the event, which included health screenings, acupuncture, healthy snacks, and more. The next Health and Wellness Fair will be held on Saturday, October 20, at Rainier Community Center. For more information on the Healthy Parks Initiative, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/healthyparks/default.htm>

Successes over the Past Year: Deputy Superintendent Williams reviewed a number of successes for the Department during the last year: park rangers are now assigned to downtown parks, cameras were installed at Cal Anderson Park, car-free days were held in three parks, the new Urban I-5 bike trail opened, work progressed on the Magnuson Park ball fields, rental revenue increased 23% during the first six months of 2008 as compared to the same time period in 2007; and over 70 Strategic Action Plan public meetings were held.

## **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 two 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. No one signed up to testify.

## **Public Hearing: Wildlife Sanctuary Policy**

At its September 11 meeting, Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks Partnership Director, briefed the Board on the Department's draft Wildlife Sanctuary Policy. To read the minutes from that meeting, including the briefing paper, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-11-08.pdf>. Tonight the Board is holding a public hearing; at its October 9 meeting it plans to discuss the policy and make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Ms. Salinas introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the policy, and the public hearing began. Commissioner Ranade reminded speakers that they have up to two minutes to speak and will be timed. Speakers will be called in the order on the sign-in sheet.

### *Public Hearing*

Matt Mega: Mr. Mega is the Director of the Seattle Audubon Society, which has 5,500 members. He believes this sanctuary policy is a great idea and is pleased to support it. He recognized Heron Habitat Helpers for bringing this idea forth and praised Seattle Parks for taking the idea and “running with it.” He believes the policy will help elevate the importance of green spaces in the city.

Hooper Havekotte: Mr. Havekotte is a member of the Board of Heron Habitat Helpers, which has a primary focus on habitat restoration and maintenance and supports the policy. The Helpers are sensitive to the Mayor’s urban planning and maintaining quality of wildlife habitat. He stated that the Heron Habitat Helpers’ efforts have been undermined by some neighbors around the Kiwanis Ravine [located near Discovery Park.] He was walking there recently and discovered large household appliances discarded into the ravine. He was also dismayed that the Helpers had planted vegetation for the wildlife, which was mowed down by Parks staff this past summer after a neighbor voiced concerns that the vegetation would be a fire danger.

The public hearing concluded.

### *Board Discussion*

Commissioner Holme referred to section 4.2 of the draft policy and recommended that (c), (d), and (e) be consolidated. He stated that he is in favor of the policy but will be more apt to vote in favor of it if language is added that allows retraction of a wildlife designation. He asked Ms. Salinas to include these changes and send the Board a new draft prior to the Board’s discussion and recommendation at the October 9 meeting.

Commissioner Barber referred to testimony from the Friends of Discovery asking for even broader protection. Ms. Salinas did further research in response to their request and Parks is moving forward with protecting both wildlife and habitat. This is called for in the Department’s Strategic Action Plan and the two can occur simultaneously.

Commissioner Ramels asked Ms. Salinas to report any downsides of the policy before the Board makes a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 9 meeting and Ms. Salinas agreed to do so. Commissioners thanked the public for testifying and Ms. Salinas for answering the Board’s questions.

### **Public Hearing: Waterski Events at Green Lake Park**

At its September 11 meeting, Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, briefed the Board on Waterski Events at Green Lake Park. To read the minutes from that meeting, including the briefing paper, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-11-08.pdf>. Tonight the Board is holding a public hearing. At its October 9 meeting, the Board will discuss whether two annual days that water skiing is allowed on Green Lake should continue and make a recommendation to Parks Superintendent Gallagher.

Ms. Hoff gave a brief review of this issue and the public hearing began. Speakers were reminded by the Chair that they have up to two minutes to testify and will be timed.

Commissioner Ramels asked about the nesting months for the grebes [water fowl that live and nest on Green Lake] and Ms. Hoff and Seattle Audubon Society president Matt Mega answered that the grebes can nest from April on into October.

## *Public Hearing*

Gayle Garman: She is the Chair of Friends of Green Lake Park and gave a brief history of the organization, which was organized in 2003 in response to concerns about the algae bloom in the lake. She thanked the Department for including watershed management in the Strategic Action Plan. She stated that the Friends of Green Lake Park oppose water skiing on Green Lake and have also submitted written testimony to that effect.

Brian DeLuca: He is also a member of Friends of Green Lake Park and has lived near Green Lake for 30 years. He asked that the Board considered whether water skiing is a compatible use of this lake with its other uses. It can take weeks for the shoreline to recover from the events. Previous events that were held at Green Lake, such as the mini-hydroplane races and Bite of Seattle, were moved to other locations. He asked that Green Lake be used for passive uses and wildlife habitat.

Richard Fleming: Mr. Fleming is also a member of Friends of Green Lake Park and has observed the grebes frequently. Last year there were four breeding pair and this year there were three-four. There has been a marked loss of success this year in the number of hatchlings due to the eggs floating out of the nests from storm waves and boat waves. Grebes are not a protected species; however, the Washington State Fish & Wildlife Commission protects grebe's nesting areas.

Joe Clare: He lives in the Bryant neighborhood and has water skied at Green Lake for many years. Green Lake is the only opportunity where people can ski and observers can watch from the shore. He referred to Melbourne, Australia's "Moomba Masters", a waterski tournament held there every year. Lake Washington Ski Club only holds two events each year at Green Lake and the event is open to anyone who wants to participate.

John Pollock: He is a Seattle resident and not a member of Friends of Green Lake or the Audubon Society. However, he has walked around Green Lake nearly every day for the past ten years and closely observes the grebes' nests and it is a real challenge for the birds to nest. He has nothing against waterskiing and has watched the competitions. However, he goes to Green Lake for quiet. He talked to many others and none of them think that waterskiing should be allowed on Green Lake.

Karl House: He is a Seattle resident and uses Green Lake regularly. He was appalled on Memorial Day weekend. He could barely get around the lake and he had never saw such waves as he saw that day. He asked why this exception is being made for anyone. The only other motors allowed on the lake are the small ones in the boats for the rowers.

Ginger Edwards-Bueton: Ms. Edwards-Bueton is a Seattle resident and member of the Lake Sammamish Waterski Club. She is an attorney and is helping the Waterski Club with this effort, pro bono. She distributed a blue notebook of information to each Commissioner. She referred to the environmental concerns of waterskiing at Green Lake Park and briefly described the history and tradition of this world-renowned water ski event. She believes that the worst case would be a decision that stops this tradition. She agreed to send the Park Board a breakdown of how many members of the Lake Sammamish Waterski Club are Seattle residents.

Kia Roberts-Thane: She is president of the Lake Sammamish Waterski Club, a Seattle resident, and regularly jogs around Green Lake. She has attended all the Green Lake water ski days since 2000. The non-profit group leaves the site clean and neat.

Hardy Kramer: Mr. Kramer gave a history of water skiing in the Northwest, referred to SeaFair and the two-day ski event on Green Lake, and brought a water ski to show the Commissioners.

Rod Thornley: He is a Seattle resident and past president of the Waterski Club, which was formed in 1959. In the 1980's the Club went to the Green Lake Community Council, which agreed with allowing the water ski events to be held on two days each year. Subsequently, the policy was changed so that the water skiing does not happen after Memorial Day or before Labor Day. If any problems developed members of the Club worked with the Community Council and George Long of Seattle Parks Department.

Bill Bonney: He is a Seattle resident and Ballard High School math teacher. His family loves to waterski and has done so for the past 12 years. The best waterskiing is on Green Lake. He stated that there is no fuel spillage from the boats and that the skiers do not want any wakes.

Garry Sondergaard: Mr. Sondergaard read extensive information on three environmental issues: pollution, wave action, and noise. He concluded that there is no detectable pollution to Green Lake from the two days of water skiing. The noise level is 70.2 decibels and the Environmental Protection Act allows up to 75 decibels in a residential area. He stated that there are no environmental reasons not to have water skiing at Green Lake.

Tara Coffland: Ms. Coffland referred to the traditions that these events have set and stated that for many, it is a family tradition. She began skiing at Green Lake Park when she was eight years old and she is now 26. She is hooked on this outdoor sport and has developed many friendships because of it. She asked the Board to recommend continuation of the two days of water skiing at Green Lake.

Darlene Sandergaard: She has lived in Seattle for 22 years and her family are all Ski Club members. Her son has a learning disability and waterskiing is the only sport that has helped him. Many competitive sports exclude children with disabilities. She has met many families at the Ski Club who share her love of water skiing.

Alan Pickrell: He has lived near Green Lake since 1975 and uses the park and attends events held there. A few years ago, he watched one of the water ski events and was inspired by a skier in his 70's. He began skiing and has found that the events at Green Lake are great traditions. It is important to have variety in the park.

Kathleen Bonney: She thanked the Board for the opportunity to testify and read Seattle Parks and Recreation's mission statement. She believes that these two waterski events ties in with the mission statement. Studies show that the waterskiing doesn't affect the shoreline and the birds. In addition, people need more exercise and this is a good way to get it. She doesn't believe it is right to stop a valuable tradition in response to unsubstantiated claims.

Brad Wilkens: He lives across from Green Lake and asked that a common sense approach be taken. He sees that the ducks are still breeding on the lake and if there is a decline in their numbers, there could be other reasons besides the water skiing. He commented that also make a lot of noise and wake him up nearly every morning. He has been competing in this event since he was ten years old and asked that the policy not be changed.

Randy Watson: He is a former president of Lake Washington Waterski Club and noted that its members come from all walks of life. The organization sponsors inner-city competitions and has held many competitions to raise funds for cancer research. The Club has a mission and he believes the Green Lake ski competitions are wonderful events. He asked for suggestions on how the Club could improve the events and noted that the boats are 300' from shore when they are at their fastest speeds. He does not believe the pied bill grebes are threatened by this activity.

The public hearing concluded.

### ***Board Discussion***

Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that the policy change is requested as a value decision instead of being based on cold facts or studies. The Department's values include protecting the environment; balancing habitat with active uses; noise impacts; impacts on neighborhood; and the changing needs and wants of the community. The Department also values recreation and is asking for the Board's help in guiding and directing this process.

The Commissioners asked Ms. Hoff a number of questions, listed below. She will respond to these questions in writing prior to the October 9 discussion and recommendation.

#### *Commissioner Ranade:*

- How many Seattle residents participate in the waterski events?
- Other motorized uses of Green Lake were banned in 1987. Was there an environmental study at that time?
- What is the history behind the two-day exemption?
- What were the nature and number of the complaints that initiated this requested policy change?
- He wants to better understand the current policy and why there is this one exception. What led to its creation and why change it now?

#### *Commissioner Ramels*

- How many months do the grebes nest and are they affected by the rowing shells that also use Green Lake?
- Do the ducks live/nest all around the lake?
- How long is the course? 850 feet
- Where do the waterski boats launch?
- How many complaints were received by Seattle Parks?

#### *Commissioner Barber*

- Has Seattle Parks collected information from a wave action study, perhaps from the University of Washington? (A sub study was included in the @ UW or somewhere else (sub study in the notebook?)
- What type of transportation do Waterski Club members use to get to the Green Lake competitions?
- Are these competitions open to the public or Club members?
- Is there a device to protect the grebe nests? Ms. Hoff responded that they do not all nest in the same area.

#### *Commissioner Larsen*

- If the competition is not allowed at Green Lake, where would it be held?
- Why doesn't the Club use Lake Washington?

#### *Commissioner Kostka*

- Is there any mitigation for nesting birds?

#### *Commissioner Holme*

- Do waterskis or wake boards create additional turbulence?
- How long is Green Lake? The audience responded that the ski course is 800' long and the path of the boats is 2,000' long.

The Chair stated that the Board will discuss the policy change and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 9 meeting and those who are interested in this policy will be notified of their

recommendation. [Note: the Board is advisory to the Superintendent, who will make the final decision.] If Commissioners have additional questions, please submit them directly to Ms. Hoff.

## **Briefing: Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop**

David Graves, Seattle Parks' Planning Manager, briefed the Board on progress on the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop Trail. Commissioners also received a written briefing, included in the minutes. The Board will hold a public hearing on the direction the Department is taking on the Trail at its October 9 meeting and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 23 meeting.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

This is the second briefing on the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop project. The Board of Park Commissioners was last briefed on the project on April 24, 2008. No action is requested at this time. [Note: the attachments referenced in the briefing paper are not included in the minutes.]

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

The Mayor included \$1 million in Parks' 2008 CIP for the Lake Union Loop. The vision for the loop is a seamless urban loop experience that affords pedestrians and cyclists the opportunity to circumnavigate Lake Union and take advantage of associated parks, street ends, other natural features, and the neighborhoods that abut the lake. The original idea for the loop came from the Seattle Parks Foundation's Bands of Green report. The original 1990 Bands of Green report was inspired in part by the 1903 Olmsted Plan for an emerald necklace of parks, boulevards, and trails throughout the City of Seattle. In February 2007, the Parks Foundation published the new Bands of Green, a plan for the continuing development of trails, boulevards, and linear parks in Seattle.

One of the ideas to come out of this updated report was the concept for a loop around Lake Union to connect Lake Union and Gas Works Parks, and the many pocket parks, street ends, and waterways that ring the lake. The loop currently exists today – it is a conglomeration of distinct segments such as the widened sidewalk along the businesses on Westlake Avenue on the west side of lake Union; the Burke-Gilman Trail across the north of Lake Union; and Fairview Avenues East and North along the east side of the lake.

There are two significant construction projects associated with the loop:

- Improvement of the approach to the south end of the Fremont Bridge from Westlake being done by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) as part of their sidewalk program; and
- A new sidewalk connection to get from the Burke-Gilman Trail up to Peace Park and the University Bridge being done by Parks as part of the Peace Park project.

Both projects are currently under construction.

SDOT has installed wayfinding signs around Lake Union directing people along the loop and to points of interest and services around the loop (See attached signage photo). Signage is based on the City's Center City Wayfinding project and is similar to what has been installed in Freeway Park. In addition, there will be a small hand out size map that is currently in the final phase of design and will be available to the public later this fall. (Draft sample attached)

The City is taking a four-pronged approach to making the loop a reality. First, the loop corridor was determined based on existing identified routes on the City Bicycle Map, which includes pedestrian routes where bicycles are allowed, and using public rights of way. The Westlake Avenue, Burke-Gilman and Fairview Avenue corridors are all identified routes on the City's map. Second, wayfinding signage has been installed throughout the corridor to identify not only the loop itself but also parks, waterways and street ends around the lake. Third, spot improvements and two larger construction projects at the approaches to the Fremont and University Bridges are

being undertaken. Finally, the remaining significant component of the project for 2008 is the preparation of a Master Plan for the loop. The focus of the Master Plan is to give the loop an overall element of consistency while maintaining the integrity and unique nature of each distinct segment. This Master Plan will be subject to review by the Design Commission and review and recommendation by the Board of Park Commissioners. The Master Plan will provide recommendations and direction for capital projects in 2009 and beyond that will further improve and enhance the loop.

### **Public Involvement Process**

There have been two public open houses/workshops to date. The first meeting was held on June 17 and was attended by over 100 people. This meeting provided an opportunity for staff to present the overall project (See attached fact sheet) and afforded members of the public the opportunity to highlight areas of the loop that presented challenges and opportunities. Based on the comments collected at the June meeting, our consultant, MacLeod Reckord, began the preparation of the draft master plan for the loop. The second meeting was held on September 11. At this second meeting, MacLeod Reckord presented alternate concepts for segments of the loop where there is more than one option. (See attached graphics). We also presented a comprehensive wayfinding system and means of identifying the loop as a unique element of the City's pedestrian and bicycle network.

We have also been working with an ad hoc advisory group composed of representatives from the Eastlake, Wallingford, Fremont and South Lake Union neighborhoods, marine business, the floating homes community and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Boards. The purpose of this advisory group will be to assist City staff and the consultant in working through issues and encouraging public participation.

Meetings are advertised using a variety of print and electronic media; comments have been received throughout the process and are incorporated into the master plan. The second presentation to the Design Commission is scheduled for October 2. The final public meeting will be held in late November or early December to present the final master plan.

### **Issues**

Overall, the public is generally very supportive of the project. The public meetings are the opportunity for the public to understand how the loop will work and what any potential impacts might be. There will be issues associated with the loop alignment along portions of Fairview Avenue, pedestrian/bicycle/business conflicts along Westlake and any potential loss of parking.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

The Master Plan will identify opportunities for natural drainage. The loop itself affords people a new opportunity for recreation and portions may serve as a slow speed bicycle commute option for less experienced cyclists.

### **Budget**

The 2008 CIP provides \$1 million for Phase 1 of the project which includes the Master Plan, signage and wayfinding and other improvements such as the Fremont bridge approach and the connection to Peace Park. Recommendations from the Master Plan will be undertaken in subsequent phases, likely funded as future CIP projects

### **Schedule**

Signage has been installed; some improvements are under construction and will be completed by fall 2008. The draft Master Plan will be ready for review by September 2008 and the Final by December 2008.

### **Additional Information**

David Graves; ph.: 206.684.7048; e-mail: david.graves@seattle.gov. There is a project website: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/LakeUnionLoop/>

### ***Verbal Briefing***

Mr. Graves introduced himself and Terry Reckord, of MacLeod Reckord, consultants for this project and gave an update of the work on this project since the Board's last briefing on April 24, 2008. Commissioners were shown a number of large maps of the trail route and Mr. Reckord and Mr. Graves pointed out and explained various sites to the Commissioners and reviewed information in the written briefing paper.

They reported that the wayfinding signs have been installed, the Westlake sidewalk is under construction and the Peace Park connection is being developed. A second workshop was held two weeks ago, with 70 people in attendance and a number of good comments received. The draft design will go before Seattle Design Commission next week, followed by a public hearing by the Park Board on October 9.

### ***Board Discussion***

Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber on whether Edwards Street is included in the project review, Mr. Reckord answered that it is. Edwards Street ends at a small area that isn't public property. There was some discussion about the permits that are currently issued to the property owner. If an agreement cannot be worked out with him for the Trail to cross the property, one alternative is to build a floating walkway around the private property.

Commissioner Ramels asked when Phase I of the project is scheduled for completion and whether the scope of work has been developed for Phase II. Mr. Graves answered that Phase I, which has \$1 million in funding, is scheduled to end this year. Work completed during this phase has included the wayfinding signs by Seattle Department of Transportation and construction of two sidewalk pontoons. Phase II is scheduled for 2009-2010 and its scope of work will be developed from the approved Cheshiahud Trail Master Plan.

Commissioner Larsen asked if the project will include any public art and Mr. Graves answered that the project qualifies for 1% for Art funds, but those funds had been re-directed to South Lake Union Park. Mr. Reckord noted that the Eastlake Community's public art design is walking fish. Commissioner Larsen suggested that staff work with the communities on a public art solution that will tie the Trail and communities all together and do this before the Master Plan is completed. Mr. Graves agreed and stated that this is a great idea.

Commissioner Holme asked if traffic studies are being used in the Trail design. He referred to site #2, Minor Avenue, on the maps and voiced concerns with pedestrians and vehicles sharing space in that area. He has worked on construction projects near that site and it has very heavy vehicle use. Mr. Reckord responded that previous traffic counts are being used. However, one thought is to make Minor Avenue the primary street and use the streets nearest to it for traffic calming. Commissioner Holme asked if new traffic studies will be performed when the Master Plan becomes more site specific and Mr. Reckord agreed.

Commissioner Kostka asked if staff will design the Trail to make it easy for people in downtown Seattle to get to it. Mr. Graves answered that this is being included in the Master Plan in the way of bike lanes, the Trolley, boardwalks on the shoreline, and other means of accessing the Cheshiahud Trail and Lake Union.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Graves and Mr. Reckord for the briefing. The Board will hold a public hearing on the project at its October 9 meeting.

**Old/New Business**

Park Naming Policy: Commissioners are currently reviewing the policy. Commissioners Ranade and Barber will bring suggested changes to the October 23 meeting for discussion. Commissioner Ranade stated that they are recommending little change to the policy.

Committee Reports: Board members serve on a number of committees. Commissioner Ramels is the Board's representative to the Associated Recreation Council. She will forward a report to the Commissioners via e-mail. Commissioner Holme represents the Board on the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee and noted that its next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 29.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Holme, Acting Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_