

Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners Meeting Minutes March 11, 2010

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Neal Adams, Vice-chair
John Barber
Terry Holme
Jourdan Keith
Diana Kincaid
Donna Kostka
Jackie Ramels, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

This meeting was held at Jefferson Community Center. Prior to the meeting, Parks staff led Commissioners on a tour of the new park facility.

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda topics.

Commissioner Holme moved approval of the agenda as presented. Commissioner Keith seconded the motion. The vote was taken, with all in favor. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Deputy Superintendent Williams reported on the following items. To learn more about Seattle Parks, see the website at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Budget Update: Earlier today the Mayor's office announced new City budget deficits of additional amounts of \$5 million each for 2009 and 2010. The projected deficit for 2011 is \$50 million. Mayor McGinn and Budget Director Beth Goldberg have asked Parks' staff to develop an issue paper on the Department's structure.

SR 520 Project and Arboretum: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) issued the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) on the SR 520 project on January 22. Parks staff is now reviewing the SDEIS and will provide comments as part of a larger City response. Staff will attend the Board's March 25 meeting to discuss the SDEIS with the Board and answer any questions.

Donald Harris, Parks' Property Manager, is currently appraising the value of Lake Washington Boulevard, which is owned by Parks/the City to evaluate charging WSDOT/the State a rental fee for use of the park boulevard to access/exit SR 520. Councilmember Bagshaw is supportive of this evaluation.

Commissioner Kostka asked if Parks has made it clear to WSDOT that Lake Washington Boulevard is a park boulevard. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that it has. The Department has asked that revenue

from the rental fee for use of Lake Washington Boulevard be directed to the Parks Department. WSDOT's initial response was negative. The Department will continue exploring this option.

Washington Park Arboretum: The Pacific Connections Phase II is funded in part by the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. The project will go into construction in the summer of 2010 and primarily focuses on the "Gateway to Chile" situated at the southern intersection of Arboretum Drive and Lake Washington Boulevard. The garden will restore the now-overgrown Holmdahl Rockery and create an eye-catching display of colorful Chilean plant species. The Arboretum Foundation is contributing approximately \$290,000 toward the \$450,000 construction cost. Prior to construction of this project, roughly 34 mature trees that do not contribute to the horticultural collection will be removed as a management tool and will be replaced with 72 Chilean Trees. The tree removal will be done in advance of the construction contract. A press tour and public tour have been held, and a public meeting set for next week to explain the tree removal. A public meeting to discuss progress on the Arboretum's Master Plan is scheduled for March 16.

Commissioner Kostka noted that some of the native trees to be removed are as much as two feet in diameter and the replacement trees will be young and much smaller. She suggested removing some of the natives now and others later. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the tree removal is part of the Master Plan, which was approved in the early 1990's. As often happens with Master Plans for parks, many of the volunteers who helped develop the Master Plan are no longer involved when some elements of the plan are implemented and current community members are unaware of the adopted plan. Seattle Parks, the University of Washington, and Arboretum Foundation are working to spread the word prior to the tree removal. He noted that, while Parks owns the Arboretum land, the University owns and manages all the plant collections. Commissioner Holme referred to the public outcry several years ago when mature trees were removed at Occidental Park. He urged the Department to err on the side of distributing too much information.

Commissioner Keith asked if there is an inventory of the City's trees. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the Department closely tracks all trees removed in parks. The City's tree replacement policy is that two trees must be planted for each one removed. Mark Mead, Seattle Parks' Senior Urban Forester, is scheduled to address the Board at the March 25 meeting and will include information about the tree replacement policy. Commissioner Holme believes more trees are removed in the Arboretum than other parks for the benefit of the horticultural collection.

Arboretum Encroachments: Parks' Property Management section is working to remove encroachments from private property onto park property. They have previously focused on Lake Washington Boulevard and Volunteer Park and are now evaluating the Arboretum for any encroachments. The Mayor and City Council are supportive of the Department's efforts to remove the encroachments.

Overtime Pay Reduced: The Department set a goal of using less than 15,000 hours of overtime in 2009 – a 40% decrease from 2008 overtime hours. The goal was exceeded by over 1,000 hours. Assuming an average employee salary of \$20/hour working at a time-and-a-half overtime rate (\$30/hour), the Department saved over \$320,000 in 2009 from these efforts alone.

Magnolia Manor Park OLA: This site, along with Lower Kinnear, was designated for an off-leash area (OLA) in 2006. In February, Parks staff met with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Department of Neighborhoods (DON) staff to discuss the parameters of siting an OLA at Magnolia Manor Park, which is an underground water supply reservoir. DON was included in the meeting, as there has been recent interest in the site by Sustainable Magnolia and the DON Community Gardens program as a community garden. SPU provided information about water quality requirements which preclude putting either use on top or within 50 feet of the underground reservoir. As the eastern third of the site is steep slope, the area which can accommodate an OLA or garden is somewhat limited. Parks will continue working with SPU on planning the OLA location, which all parties have recognized has priority.

Seven Hills Park Development: On March 8, the Department's Contracting Services awarded the contract for development of Seven Hill Park (aka Capitol Hills Park Development). Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks' Director of Planning and Development, noted that the award will go to the second lowest bidder. This project develops a former parking lot into a park with lawn, concrete and gravel plazas, site furnishings, an art feature representing the seven hills of Seattle, and a community garden.

Community Garden Update: Parks is sharing its garden inventory findings with the City's Urban Agriculture Inter-department Team (IDT), City Councilmember Bagshaw, and the Mayor's Office and has recommended:

- that the City's Urban Agriculture Inter-department Team (IDT) conduct its own citywide urban food system inventory using Parks and Recreation's matrix and standards
- Parks work with its community partners to craft a Parks and Recreation urban food system strategy to maximize outreach and provision of services and programs to diverse constituencies.

Ron Harris-White, Seattle Parks' Special Projects Manager, was present and gave additional information on the community gardens. He met with Councilmember Bagshaw earlier today and will brief the Park Board at its April 22 meeting. Parks has a large role in Seattle's residents who want to grow some of their own food.

Commissioner Holme recently watched the Academy Award-nominated film "The Garden", (available for rental) and recommended it for viewing. For more information on the documentary, see the web site <http://www.thegardenmovie.com/>, which includes the following description. *"The fourteen-acre community garden at 41st and Alameda in South Central Los Angeles is the largest of its kind in the United States. Started as a form of healing after the devastating Los Angeles riots in 1992, the South Central Farmers have since created a miracle in one of the country's most blighted neighborhoods. Growing their own food. Feeding their families. Creating a community. But now, bulldozers are poised to level their 14-acre oasis. The Garden follows the plight of the farmers, from the tilled soil of this urban farm to the polished marble of City Hall. Mostly immigrants from Latin America, from countries where they feared for their lives if they were to speak out, we watch them organize, fight back, and demand answers..."*

Seattle Parks and Recreation Third Annual All-Staff Retreat: For the past three years, Seattle Parks and Recreation has held an All-Staff Retreat for its regular employees. The most recent retreat was held on April 1 at Seattle Center, with approximately 850 employees present. The morning's agenda included speakers: Beth Goldberg, City Budget Director; Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw who chairs Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee (PASC); and Mayor McGinn, who spoke on his priorities for the City and the role he sees for Seattle's parks, open space, and recreation. Commissioner Kostka was there for much of the day's events.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on Mayor McGinn's support of the Department, Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that he is a strong parks supporter; however, at the retreat he told Parks staff that the City must tighten its belt considerably due to budget concerns. Councilmember Bagshaw discussed her strong support of a lake-to-lake pedestrian trail (South Lake Union to Seattle Center to Olympic Park and the waterfront) at the retreat and is also a strong parks supporter.

Smoking Ban in Seattle's Parks: The Department's new policy on smoking in parks reads "smoking, chewing, or other tobacco use within 25 feet of other park patrons and in play areas, beaches, playgrounds, or picnic areas" is prohibited. Parks staff is working to install signage in parks where children are likely to congregate. There will also be a memo going out to staff clarifying where they can and cannot smoke. Parks is working with labor unions on the language of this memo. It was noted that staff already cannot smoke in buildings or City vehicles.

Magnuson Park Artists: Parks staff continues to explore possible space at Magnuson for relocation of 17 artists. Building 2 may be more costly than expected due to roof failure and severe water damage. Also, the Navy will be investigating possible hazardous material contamination in the building. This could interfere with artists' space if the Navy determines abatement work is necessary. The un-renovated portion of the community center,

Building 47, looks like a good possibility for artist space. It will need some work and will accommodate about 8 artists. Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks' Partnerships Manager, is meeting with the artists tonight to keep them updated and to hear about their visits to view other potential sites, located outside of the Parks Department.

Commissioner Kincaid asked if the artists can return to Building 2 in a couple years, after the Navy has completed its hazardous material cleanup. Mr. Stoop's project staff is inspecting the building for structural issues and stability and must determine if the building is safe for people to use. Commissioner Kincaid asked about long-range plans for housing the artists. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that Building 30 is the best site, but there is no funding to make it available to the artists.

Dodgeball Update Requested: Commissioner Holme noted a sign on Jefferson Community Center, site of tonight's meeting, advertising dodge ball. He asked for an update on this sport. Deputy Superintendent Williams referred to the Board's public hearing process for allowing dodge ball to be played outdoors on the Cal Anderson tennis courts. Parks received complaints from tennis players and Seattle Police and decided not to allow dodge ball at the courts. It instead offered indoor sites, which are run by Associated Recreation Council. Parks will schedule Dennis Cook, the Department's Citywide Athletics Manager, to brief the Park Board on how the indoor program is going. Commissioner Ramels has observed that dodge ball play has continued at Cal Anderson Park, and she thinks it is a prime illustration of the best use of park property, fulfilling Park's mission of Healthy Parks, Healthy You. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that this is unsanctioned and the Department encourages dodge ball players to come inside its facilities to play.

Leadership Reception: Commissioners were reminded of the March 24 leadership reception for Seattle's Parks at South Lake Union Armory. The reception begins at 5:30 pm. All nine City Councilmembers plan to attend and Park Board commissioners are encouraged to be there.

Volunteer Park Road Closures: Commissioner Barber referred to testimony from a citizen that the permanent road closure of the Volunteer Park Loop Road has resulted in less use of the park. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the Department has received positive feedback about the road closure. He will arrange for Parks staff to attend a future Park Board meeting for an update briefing on the closure.

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, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. The Board's usual process is for 10 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 testified.

Briefing: 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy and Opportunity Fund

Rick Nishi, Seattle Parks' Manager of the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, briefed the Board on the Levy and Opportunity Fund. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, included below, and posted to the Board's web page for public review.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This is an informational update on the status and progress of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy including the current Opportunity Fund. No Board action is required at this time.

Project Description and Background

The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy is a six-year, \$146 million levy for acquisition and development with project categories for Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds, Cultural Facilities, Playfields, Major Neighborhood Parks, Trails, and Environment (Forest and Stream Restoration and community gardens). Fifteen of the \$146 million has also been identified for the Opportunity Fund which will be distributed over two cycles for both

acquisition and development projects submitted by the public. A summary spreadsheet for all Parks and Green Spaces Levy projects is attached.

In 2009, the first year of the levy, there were eight projects planned, designed and constructed including:

- Atlantic Street Playground Play Area
- Bayview Playground Play Area
- Bhy Kracke Playground Play Area
- Brighton Playground Play Area
- Lower Woodland Field #2 turf replacement
- Lower Woodland Field #7 turf replacement
- Magnuson Park improvements
- Chinook Beach Park renovation

Projects under construction in 2010 are:

- Seattle Children's Play Garden (Colman Playground) – scheduled to be completed in June 2010
- Hubbard Homestead (Northgate) – scheduled to be completed in June 2010
- Camp Long Renovation – scheduled to be completed in May 2010
- John C. Little Play Area – scheduled to be completed in June 2010
- Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements - scheduled to be completed in February 2010
- Jefferson Park Expansion – various dates, but overall scheduled to be completed in 2011

2009 Acquisitions

- Me-Kwa-Mooks Natural Area acquisition – restores land to green hillside
- Admiral Way property – adds green buffer along arterial
- Thornton Creek parcel – completes acquisitions in a section along NE 105th Street and adds to valuable urban creek

Strategic Action Plan

Implementation of the Parks and Green Spaces Levy program touches upon three of the SAP goals including:

- Goal 1 – Steward Seattle's park and open spaces for long term sustainability;
- Goal 3 – Actively engage and build relationships with Seattle diverse populations; and
- Goal 4 - Maintain Parks and Recreation's land and facilities.

Public Involvement Process

The 16-person Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee, including Board of Park Commissioner Holme, ensures successful implementation of the overall program. The Oversight Committee typically meets monthly and individual members also attend public meetings to review specific projects and hear public comment.

In addition to the Oversight Committee, each development project follows a public involvement process which typically includes three public meetings as the project begins to take shape through to the development of schematic plans. With the different kinds of projects in the levy, attendance has varied greatly from small numbers for play area projects, to 120 people attending the Bell Street meeting on January 13, 130 people (almost half representing disc golf) attending the West Seattle Reservoir meeting on February 6, and 140 people attending the Maple Leaf Reservoir meeting on February 9.

Public participation in the Opportunity Fund has been very successful with four meetings held in January throughout various parts of the city that attracted 20-40 people at each meeting. The result was over 150 proposal letters submitted by the February 1 deadline. Staff is scheduling individual appointments with project proponents, if requested, before the April 2 full application deadline.

A Few Project Highlights

- **Bell Street** – development of four blocks of Bell Street from First to Fifth avenues to increase the green connections in downtown Seattle; developed in partnership with other city departments with the intent to develop active and positive park and recreation uses and events.
- **West Seattle and Maple Leaf reservoirs** – working with Seattle Public Utilities to provide parks on and around reservoir lids much like Cal Andersen Park and the Jefferson Park expansion; projects will be great additions to the park system and their respective neighborhoods.
- **Jefferson Park** – further development of the Jefferson Park Master Plan and design that takes advantage of fantastic views and large new park space, construction of a play area, redevelopment of Jefferson Playfield south of the reservoir site and construction of a skateboard park.

Issues - Consistent Themes from Public Involvement

Typical project discussions, no matter the size of the project, seems to include pedestrian access, traffic, parking, safety (safety often prompts discussions about lighting), and overall maintenance. Several trends seem to be emerging through the public comment including: marking ballfields for Ultimate Frisbee; requests for the development of disc golf courses in several more natural treed parks to provide designated courses and to displace other less desirable activity; and more requests for urban agriculture and urban sustainability opportunities through permaculture (creating self-sufficient communities), community gardening, and further patch development.

Budget

The program overall has enjoyed significant savings. A good bid climate allowed the first group of projects to be built for less than the construction estimates. Several projects to be bid in early 2010 should also experience savings compared to the project estimates. However, we are only going into the second year of a six-year levy, so it is a little hard to predict how long the favorable bid climate will last.

Schedule

The overall program is staying on schedule. A few schedules were altered from original goals in order to accommodate other schedules/issues such as a play area near a school (Lawton Playground) or summer beaches (Matthews Beach Play Area construction tentatively scheduled to begin after the summer beach season).

Additional Information

Contact: Rick Nishi. 206-733-9319 or rick.nishi@seattle.gov

Web pages: Parks and Green Spaces Levy information <http://seattle.gov/parks/levy/default.htm>

Individual project web pages <http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/default.htm>

Verbal Briefing & Discussion

Mr. Nishi introduced himself and reviewed information in the written briefing paper. Commissioner Adams asked if the Levy implementation is going well and Mr. Nishi responded yes. Commissioner Adams asked for the most challenging aspect to get the Levy up and going. Mr. Nishi answered that the Department started with smaller projects that it would accomplish quickly. Now it is moving to the bigger Levy projects, such as the Bell Street project. Some issues that come up are competing interests, such as groups wanting community gardens or off-leash areas in the same area. Deputy Superintendent Williams added that this Levy did not include any operating and maintenance funds and a difficulty is that Parks is building these new projects without any funding for maintaining and operating them.

Commissioner Adams asked if the Levy project's public involvement has been successful and, if so, what has been done to ensure that success. Mr. Nishi responded that it is very successful. He worked for Seattle Parks from 1995-2002 and what has changed since then is that the Department's public involvement policy is really followed. The Planning and Development Division has a public information officer, Karen O'Conner, who

efficiently handles the public outreach, staff members are trained to engage with and involve the public while constructively steering the process, and Mr. Stoops has assembled a really good project team with good training. He also credited the Department's communication manager, Dewey Potter. The Levy's Opportunity Fund is an especially popular program with the public.

Mr. Stoops stated that three public meetings are held for each project, with the first one to discuss possibilities, the second one to develop a design, and the third to present a design to the community. Mr. Nishi added that staff is holding extensive dialogue with community groups for the Levy project at Othello Park.

Commissioner Barber noted that in-house architects are used for the smaller Levy projects and asked when architects outside the Department are utilized. Mr. Stoops responded they are used on bigger projects where consultants are hired and a team approach that might include architects, geo-techs, and others is needed. Commissioner Barber asked how the Department selects play equipment providers. Mr. Nishi responded that it depends on the type of equipment used at each project.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kostka on who handles the environmental oversight of the projects, Mr. Nishi answered that it is handled by Mark Mead, Seattle Parks Senior Urban Forester, and the Department of Neighborhoods. Commissioner Kostka responded that she is a member of the Kiwanis Ravine project and to date there hasn't been a project sign posted or any public meetings scheduled. Mr. Nishi responded that he will work with Mark Mead and the public information officer on this. Commissioner Holme is a member of the Levy's Oversight Committee and hasn't heard this concern about any other projects. He added that the Oversight Committee holds a public meeting on the first Monday evening of each month and the public is welcome to attend and give public testimony at each meeting.

Commissioner Holme stated that the Department made a very concerted effort to get some projects out early, especially those that had no need for cash bonding. Responding to a question on whether the funding for Seattle Children's Playground (Colman Park) is resolved, Mr. Nishi responded that it has been.

Commissioner Holme referred to some community discussion regarding the 1% for Arts. He noted that this requirement applies to new development is but not required for renovations or remodeling. (For more information on Seattle's 1% for Art program, and locations of these art projects in parks and community centers, see <http://www.seattle.gov/arts/publicart/default.asp>.)

Commissioner Holme noted that the monies included for acquisitions in the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy functions differently than the previous Pro Parks Levy. He and Mr. Stoops discussed this in more detail. Commissioner Holme noted that this Levy is running leaner than the previous levy and is operating more smoothly and efficiently, due to lessons learned in the first levy implementation.

Commissioner Kincaid asked what method staff is using to reach the community councils about the projects. Mr. Nishi and Mr. Stoops responded that the Department has a mailing list for various areas of the city and the public is notified via mail. The project web pages are also kept up to date and provide a great deal of information. All groups in a particular area are invited to attend the public meetings, including the community councils and district councils, rather than staff going to their meetings.

The discussion turned to community involvement efforts at Othello Park. Mr. Harris-White noted that last year the City issued an Executive Order for departments to provide "inclusive outreach" and Seattle Parks is a large part of that effort.

Commissioner Ramels referred to lighting in these new park projects. She believes that lighting increases a *perception* of safety, but doesn't necessarily make a person safer. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the Department works closely with Seattle Police on these projects to follow the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED.) To read more about CPTED, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_prevention_through_environmental_design.

Commissioner Kincaid agreed with Commissioner Ramels' comment about lighting creating a perception of safety. She asked how future maintenance costs are affecting project design. Counterbalance Park is mostly concrete and she wondered if that was done for cost savings. Mr. Stoops responded that it was a Pro Parks Levy project and the concrete is part of the artistic design statement and not driven by a desire for low maintenance. He added that the lights at that location have proven to be high maintenance and Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that the project unintentionally created a wall for graffiti murals.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Nishi for the briefing.

Quarterly Briefing: Parks Project and Development Division

Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks Planning and Development Division Director, presented a briefing on the Department's projects. He distributed a written briefing, included below.

Written Briefing

Acquisitions-ProParks Levy

- First Hill Park-offers made on two parcels

Acquisitions –Parks and Green Spaces Levy

- Bell Street Boulevard
- Capitol Hill Park site at Federal and Republican-offer made
- Lake City site on 33rd NE-offer made
- Other levy funded acquisitions underway in Phinney –Greenwood area
- Other open spaces in MeKwa Mooks Natual Area, Duwamish Head Greenbelt, adjacent Thornton Creek Park #6 and others

Planning

- CIP Planning
- Maple Leaf Reservoir Master Plan'
- West Seattle Reservoir Master Plan
- 9th Avenue NW Site Master Plan
- West Seattle Golf Driving Range
- PSG Levy Opportunity Fund Reviews
- SR 520 Issues
- King County CSO issues-Lowman Beach Park to be affected
- Seattle Public Utility CSO issues-Seward park to be affected

In Design-ProParks Levy and others

- "Bellevue Substation" Park (John and Summit)
- Junction Plaza
- Myrtle Reservoir
- Meadowbrook Playfield field #1 renovation
- Crown Hill Open Space park development
- Discovery Park Capehart Site Restoration
- Rainier Beach Community Center and Swimming Pool
- Aquarium pumps and filter controls
- Colman Pool structural rehabilitation and pool discharge revisions
- Madison Pool plaster liner replacement
- Queen Anne CC boiler replacement
- Queen Anne CC electrical system upgrades
- Volunteer Park Conservatory renovation (on hold)
- Riverview Playfield shelterhouse (on hold)

- Magnuson Park picnic shelter (on hold)
- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum (on hold)
- Yesler CC building envelope corrections
- South Park CC building siding corrections
- Lincoln Park beach renourishment (with ACOE)

In Design- Parks and Green Spaces Levy

- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center seismic and other renovations
- Delridge Playfield field conversion
- Genessee Playfield field conversion
- Delridge Playfield skatepark
- Georgetown Playground spray feature
- Highland Park Playground spray feature
- Northacres Park play area and spray feature
- Beacon Hill Playground play area
- Fairmount Park Playground play area
- Golden Gardens play area
- International Children's Park renovation
- Lawton Park play area
- Matthews Beach play area
- Ross Playground play area
- Sandel Playground play area
- Seward Park Play Area
- Jefferson Park skatepark
- Jefferson Park playfield
- Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections Ph 2

In Construction-ProParks Levy and Others

- Seven Hills Park (Capitol Hill)
- Jefferson Park-Beacon Reservoir
- Jefferson Park Tennis Courts
- Jefferson Park-Play Area
- Lake Union Park Phase 2
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields
- Magnuson Park Beach Comfort Station
- Freeway Park Renovation (fountains, lighting)
- Hiawatha Playfield field conversion and lighting
- Rainier Playfield lighting replacement
- Small Ballfield work at Garfield Playfield field #1 (incl. donation)
- Leschi Moorage renovations
- Burke Gilman Trail renovations
- Queen Anne CC seismic upgrades

In Construction-Parks and Green Spaces Levy

- Camp Long lodge renovations
- Hubbard Homestead Park (Northgate Urban Center)
- John C. Little Park play area
- Queen Anne Boulevard
- Seattle Childrens Play Garden

Completion ProParks Levy and Others

- Amy Yee Tennis Center
- Ballard Corner Park
- Green Lake Shade Garden
- Japanese Garden Entry Structure
- Morgan Junction
- Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements
- Martha Washington Shoreline Habitat (KCD)
- Beach Nourishment along Lake Washington Boulevard
- Atlantic City Boat Ramp Comfort Station
- Cascade People Center Roof and HVAC
- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center (windows)
- Pavement restoration at Don Armeni Boat Ramp
- Miller Playfield
- Small Ballfield work at Brighton and West Queen Anne
- Irrigation Upgrades: EC Hughes, Salmon Bay, Lincoln, Volunteer Parks
- Discovery Park Building 653 removal
- Discovery Park Nike building demolition
- Discovery Park north roadway removal*

Completion Parks and Green Spaces Levy

- Chinook Beach habitat improvements
- Atlantic Street Park play area
- Bayview Playground play area
- Bhy Kracke Park play area
- Brighton Playfield play area
- Lower Woodland Playfield field #2 conversion
- Lower Woodland Playfield 37 field conversion and lighting
- Magnuson Park NE 65th Street Trail Entry

Other

- Seacrest Park dock replacement with King County
- Virginia-Graham Baker Act swimming & wading pool compliance
- Jefferson CC Seismic Upgrade grant application
- "Yellow Swings" installations

POSSIBLE PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE 2011-12 BIENNIUM

Continued payment on bonded indebtedness for Northgate (Hubbard Homestead) acquisition

Continued payment on bonded indebtedness for Westbridge shops purchase

Continued payment on bonded indebtedness for Pier 59 structural renovation

Continued funding for various capital programs

Ballfield Lighting Replacement

Ballfield Minor Capital Improvements

Boiler Replacement

Electrical system upgrades

Environmental Remediation

HVAC Cleaning

Irrigation Replacement

Pavement Restoration

Tennis Court Renovations

Utility Conservation

Urban Forestry- Forest Restoration

Urban Forestry-Green Seattle Partnership

Urban Forestry-Tree Replacement
Landscape Renovation
Trails Renovation
Preliminary Engineering
Neighborhood Response
Aquarium Pier 60 piling and corrosion renovation
Waterfront Park replacement or maintenance plan update
Riverview Playfield shelterhouse replacement (previously designed)
Magnuson Park picnic shelter replacement (previously designed)
Colman Pool discharge revisions
Volunteer Park stormwater corrections
Garfield CC roof repair
South Park CC siding repair
Yesler CC building envelope repair
Queen Anne Pool plaster repair
Seward Park water main replacements
And, other individual projects

UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION

School-Park Property Issue Review and Recommendation

- Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool

Park Plan Review and Recommendation

- Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs Planning

Policy Review and Recommendation

- Non Park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement

Status Reports/Briefings

- Parks and Green Spaces Levy Implementation
- Central Waterfront and Alaskan Landing Master Plan
- SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks

Verbal Briefing/Discussion and Recommendation

Mr. Stoops reviewed information in the written handout. Commissioner Adams asked him to address the combined sewer outlets (CSO.) Mr. Stoops responded that in the 1970's the City separated the storm drains from its sewers; however, many roofs still drain into the sewers and during especially heavy rains may contribute to sewers' overflowing. Both the City and King County must work to control sewer overflow. Commissioner Kincaid noted that when the sewage treatment plant was installed at Discovery Park, there was assurance from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) that there would be no smell; however, there is odor from overflows. What assurance is there that there won't be sewer smells in Seattle's parks (Seward and Lowman) where these large tanks are installed. Mr. Stoops responded that this is a good question and one that Parks staff has been asking SPU. Their response is that odors are more likely to occur in winter when it is cooler, there is more rain in the winter thereby diluting the sewage, and more wind to blow away any odors.

Commissioner Barber has received inquiries from the public when some of the closed wading pools will re-open. Mr. Stoops gave background information on the Virginia Graeme Act (for more information, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Graeme_Baker_Pool_And_Spa_Safety_Act), which became federal law in 2008 and requires that all pools have a new and safer type drain installed. Parks installed the new drains in approximately half of its 27 wading pools in 2009 and the remaining ones cannot be re-opened until the new drain has been installed. The Department has also been replacing the drains at all its indoor and outdoor swimming pools. He noted that three of the remaining wading pools will be converted to spray features and will not require the new drain. He will forward information to the Board on when the other wading pools will re-open.

Commissioner Holme asked Mr. Stoops to include an update report on funding to replace comfort stations in his quarterly reports and Mr. Stoops agreed to so. Responding to a question from Commissioner Keith about the seismic retrofit at Queen Anne Community Center, Mr. Stoops responded that staff started this work last fall and it is nearly complete.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Stoops for the briefing.

Old/New Business

Seattle Parks and Recreation Budget: One of the Park Board’s responsibilities is to advise the Department on its budget and Commissioners spent the remainder of the meeting discussing how the Board can best do that, given the current economic downturn. The Chair commented that this is a good opportunity for the Board to help the Department.

Commissioner Adams added that these are critical times and the Department wants the Board’s advice. Commissioner Holme recalled that the Park Commissioners controlled the Department’s budget until the late 1960’s, then City Council designated that the Board become advisory and that the Superintendent develop the budget. He would like to understand the philosophy of that change and why the Board was removed from budget oversight, before the current Board moves too far ahead in budget discussions.

Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that the Department may take some of the biggest budget cuts ever and it would like the Board’s input on how to determine what lines of business to cut and what to preserve. Perhaps the Board could recommend guiding principles. Commissioner Holme agreed with this suggestion; the Board could assist the Department with looking at an overall philosophy of where Parks and Recreation should/shouldn’t be going in the future, rather than looking at particular programs to cut.

Commissioner Ramels noted that the Board, after preliminary discussion, may decide that this isn’t its role. However, it is politically independent and can make recommendations that staff sometimes cannot. The Chair asked Board members to consider its role in this process. She would also like to consider another breakfast meeting with previous Park Board chairs to discuss the budget cuts. She believes the previous meeting was very informative and worthwhile.

Commissioner Keith commented that social media is a good tool for the Board to solicit public input on the Department’s budget.

The Department’s Finance Director, Carol Everson, will attend the March 25 meeting to answer questions from the Board. The Chair asked each Commissioner to send their questions to the Board’s Coordinator, who will incorporate the questions into one list and forward to Ms. Everson. The Board will continue this discussion at that meeting.

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

APPROVED: _____

Jackie Ramels, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____