

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2010

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<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

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

Excused:

Terry Holme

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Board members introduced themselves. She welcomed the audience to the meeting, and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Adams moved and Commissioner Barber seconded approved of the September 9 agenda.**

Superintendent's Report

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following topics. To listen to the Superintendent's report, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591071> and move cursor to position 3.24.

Lake Union Park Grand Opening Event: This community celebration will be held from Sunrise to Sunset on Saturday, September 25, 2010. This free event is expected to draw large crowds of neighbors and families from around Seattle and the region for an unforgettable event. The festivities will kick off with a Family Fun Run and Sunrise Yoga on the Fitness Field, and continue all day with family activities on land and water including: musical performances on two stages, model boat races in the new model boat pond, Native American canoe displays, paddle songs, a traditional salmon barbeque, a root beer garden, a farmer's market, environmental education and history trail tours, paddling and sailing demonstrations, a parade of Seattle mascots, children's activities and much more!

Milfoil Harvesting: Access to high use recreation areas on Lake Washington is being improved through the use of the Parks-owned milfoil harvesting machine. Growth has been reduced on Green Lake but is a bumper crop on Lake Washington, so the harvester has been working at

Matthews Beach, Magnuson, and Madison Beach. Next week it will move south to Sayres and Andrews Bay before going into storage for the winter. This is a great partnership between maintenance shops, park resource crews, and aquatics that is resulting in saving dollars. KOMO TV 4 highlighted the harvesting last week at Matthews and Seattle channel Q13 will go on the water with the harvester next week. Crews repaired the machinery over this past winter. For more information on milfoil, see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/milfoil.html>.

Healthy Parks, Healthy You "Big Day of Play" The Third Annual event was very successful, with more than 3,500 people attending. Tracy Taylor, KING TV's morning traffic personality emceed the Healthy Parks, Healthy You "Big Day of Play" opening ceremonies at Magnuson Park on Saturday, August 28, 2010, and posted pictures of the event on the KING TV blog. KJR morning radio personality Dave "Softy" Mahler had a booth at the event and interviewed six Parks and Recreation staff about the activities at the event and what programs the department offers. These interviews were aired on the radio throughout the day on KJR. This was the first time a Seattle Parks and Recreation event has been advertised on television and radio! Other local dignitaries and celebrities participating in the event included Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin and former NBA player James Donaldson. The event provided a day of activities that brought families together to play. The goal of the event was to expose families to Seattle Parks and Recreation programs, show families fun active things to do together, and to highlight youth talents. The event was a huge success because of the 175 employees that planned and worked the event, and the 82 volunteers that helped at the event. In addition, Seattle Children's Hospital and several other sponsors, helped financially support the event. This support helped us bring in some very good entertainment and to enhance the event with free food and giveaways. Over \$15,000 in cash and in kind donations came from sponsors.

Magnuson Park Wetlands Phase II. This project will be funded by a \$500,000 federal Environment Protection Agency and a State Recreation and Conservation grant that will be matched with Pro Parks funding. The project focuses on extending the newly-created wetlands across the swim beach road toward Lake Washington. The first public meeting was held on Tuesday, August 25, was well attended, and the project was very well received. The schematic design was reviewed by Parks on September 7 and Design Development drawings will be submitted in October.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kostka how the public will access the beach area, Acting Superintendent Friedli responded that a large culvert will be installed beneath the road.

Arena Sports at Magnuson Park: The new indoor soccer fields will open within the month and other elements are scheduled to open in November. For more information, see <http://www.arenasports.net/index>.

41 Years Without a Drowning at a Lifeguarded Beach: This summer Parks had a total of 102 rescues at lifeguarded beaches which is an all-time record and substantially higher than the four most recent year average of 83 rescues. Approximately 85% of the rescues were males and 15% being female. Of the males involved in rescues slightly more than 50% were adults. This is due largely to children needing to pass a swim test before going to the deep end of pools. If swim tests were not administered there would be far more youth involved in rescues. Despite a cooler summer than usual, attendance was above the four year average of 206,032. Citizens were complimentary of the efforts of the young professional lifeguards. One adult who swims regularly at Matthews Beach enthusiastically shared his observations about the lifeguards... "Always a good crew but this year was extra outstanding".

Central Waterfront: Parks staff is working closely with Department of Planning and Development and Seattle Department of Transportation on the selection of the design and engineering firms who will design the nine acres of public waterfront space and the new surface street on Alaskan Way.

Parks was part of the process that shortlisted the four design firms and will participate in the interviews next week. The four firms will present at Benaroya Hall on September 15 at 6:00 pm, with the public urged to attend and ask questions.

Golf Agreement: The legislation will be before the City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee next week. Some key highlights/changes of the new contract are as follows:

1. Continuation of same financial model where the City reviews and approves and issues payments for all golf operating expenses, including the management fee and the Operator's proposed operating budget.
2. An initial annual Management fee of \$285,000.
3. A term of ten years.
4. City will continue to maintain the golf courses.
5. Operator will expand access to golf programs to low income and diverse population.
6. Incentives for the operator are 10 percent of the revenue growth target set by the Superintendent.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Adams, Acting Deputy Superintendent responded that this is a new agreement with the same operator, Premier Golf.

Museum of History and Industry Update: Next Thursday the Council will consider the MOHAI legislation that accepts funds from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to acquire the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) building at McCurdy Park for \$40 million, and assigns it to MOHAI. The price tag of \$40 million was a big surprise to the City. MOHAI officials successfully argued that the facility is a State Museum and the replacement value should increase. This legislation also authorizes the Superintendent of Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to make changes to the timeline in the Project Development Agreement and the lease agreements between MOHAI and the City for the former Naval Reserve Armory in Lake Union Park ("Armory").

The recent controversy involves the allocation of future land proceeds between the City and MOHAI. The Council will discuss assigning MOHAI 40% of all compensation paid by WSDOT to the City for the real property interest of the land, to a maximum of \$7 million. The Mayor believes that this amount is excessive given that MOHAI will receive \$40 million from the value of the building. Originally, the City agreed to assign MOHAI compensation the City received from WSDOT for any temporary use of the "MOHAI Use Area" at McCurdy Park and preserved the value of the underlying land for the City. WSDOT now intends to purchase the entire MOHAI Use Area. It is anticipated that the property interest negotiations with WSDOT will begin in 2011. MOHAI hopes to start construction in January 2011 if all goes well with contract.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kincaid on the cost for MOHAI to move, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded it will cost \$85 million total, with \$50-60 million to renovate the Armory and accommodate other space needs.

Update on Park Land Encroachments: Several years ago, Parks staff learned that a homeowner had encroached on approximately 3,500 square feet of park property along Lake Washington Boulevard. As part of its efforts to remove encroachments from park land, the Department is working with the property owner to remove the encroachment. The homeowner is being cooperative. Commissioner Barber commented that Parks should not enforce the removal of encroachments unless it can maintain the property. Acting Superintendent Friedli responded that this is a grassy area and staff will maintain it by mowing.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained 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-to-three minutes each, 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 Old/New Business. Three people testified, with a brief summary of their testimony included below. To hear the full testimony, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591071> and move cursor to position 19.08.

Linnea Mattson: Ms. Mattson is a member of the Lifelong Recreation Advisory Council and has been a volunteer for ten years. Earlier this year, she presented a promotional DVD to the Board on the benefits of this program and asked them to pass it along to others. She related stories of several participants in the Lifelong Recreation program, as follows:

- Kay, who is 93, entered a competitive swim meet and won a gold medal;
- John's father died and he became depressed. He discovered Lifelong Recreation's hiking group and after joining, has made a number of new friends. He also met a dog owner from Citizen's Off-Leash Areas (COLA) and is now the proud owner of a dog;
- Doris is in her 90's and is a line dancer with Lifelong Recreation. She has been diagnosed with lung cancer, but has continued her line dancing with her friends;
- Jean moved to the Seattle area because her adult children live here. She discovered Lifelong Recreation and after having neck surgery, received meals and support from Lifelong Recreation members.
- Ms. Mattson stated that she is learning to age well because of Lifelong Recreation.

Carol Fisher: Ms. Fisher is also a strong supporter of the Lifelong Recreation Program and urged the Board to testify in support of it at the City Council's public hearings and to also hold its own public hearings in regards to the Department's budget. She has been listening to the Board's discussion on its Guiding Principles and noted they are heavy on "parks" and not on "recreation". She asked the Board to look at the balance. She noted that Lifelong Learning Programs often fill quickly, while programs for youth are cancelled due to low attendance. She agrees with the stories related by Ms. Mattson. She e-mailed testimony to the Board earlier today.

Commissioner Ramels thanked Ms. Fisher for her input on the Board's Guiding Principles. Ms. Fisher asked that the Board spend some time during its Old/New Business segment to discuss its Guiding Principles. [Commissioners will have this discussion at the October 18 retreat.]

Nick Dolan: He testified to the Board earlier this year on the need for places for unorganized sports, such as dodge ball, to play. He believes that the Parks Department focuses on who shows up to testify and those who aren't vocal or organized are discriminated against. He asked that the Department and Board pay attention to these unorganized sports groups and reach out to them. Be proactive and not reactive to address the needs of emerging sports.

Commissioner Ramels commented that people attend public meetings and hearings who have a vested interest in topics. The Board tries to consider those who aren't present whose voice they aren't hearing during the hearings.

Commissioner Ramels thanked audience members for taking the time to attend tonight's meeting and for testifying.

Discussion/Recommendation: Atlantic City Nursery Site Use

At the Board's July 8 meeting, Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks' Planning and Development Division Deputy Director, and project manager Emily Fuller presented a briefing on the site use of the former Atlantic City Nursery. The Board held a public hearing at its August 12 meeting and tonight discussed the proposal and voted on a recommendation to the Superintendent. To read the briefing paper from the July 8 meeting, please see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2010/07-08-10.pdf>. To hear the discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591059> and move cursor to position 51.25. To hear the public hearing, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591065> and move the cursor to position 25.00.

To hear tonight's discussion, including the Board's recommendation to the Superintendent, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591071> and move cursor to position 32.20.

To aid the Board in its discussion, Parks staff prepared a decision agenda as follows:

Decision Agenda

Requested Board Action

On July 8, Parks staff provided a briefing on the proposed change of use for the Atlantic City Nursery site to make it available for public use and enjoyment. A Concept Use Plan was presented that indicated the proposed general areas for urban agriculture, wetland enhancement and pedestrian and vehicle access. The Concept Use Plan is general in nature and is not a specific site plan or development plan.

Until such time as Parks has a site development/management partner on board with a solid "development" proposal, the department will not know the specific needs and layout of site uses, access, circulation and fencing. A future public review process will be undertaken to address details of those elements when funding is available. Parks is not proposing removal of existing fences between the park and adjacent private residences.

The Park Board is asked to make a recommendation to the Superintendent on the use of this unique property.

1. Urban Agriculture Use

Urban agricultural uses are being proposed for portions of the 10.9 acre site. A "Friends of" group, the Friends of the Atlantic City Nursery, has come forward in this planning process and would like to convert the site from Parks nursery to public urban agriculture along with renovating the existing wetlands (see decision item #2). The group has applied for funds through the Parks and Greenspaces Levy Opportunity Fund.

Although a specific proposal has not been approved by Parks, the current proposal for urban agriculture would include the reuse of existing buildings and may include in-ground farming. The existing lath houses would be converted into greenhouses and would be used to grow produce. The produce harvested from this agricultural effort would then be donated to different local food banks. A small market or 'starts' sales may be held on-site for profit.

The vast majority of feedback from the public has been in support of urban agricultural uses at the site.

Should the primary use of the general areas shown as 'farm' on the attached graphic be designated Urban Agriculture?

YES, future planning and programmatic development of these portions of the park should focus on activities, developing partnerships, and programs that support urban agriculture.
NO, leave site as is for other future use(s).

Staff recommendation: YES.

2. Wetlands Enhancement

Wetland enhancement areas are shown on the attached Concept Plan. The wetlands enhancement areas include the actual wetlands and the buffer areas surrounding them. These wetland areas are not developable for other uses and will need to be managed whether the areas are enhanced or not. Wetland enhancement may be required as part of regulatory permitting for any future redevelopment of the site.

The majority of the feedback has been in support of wetland enhancement, although concerns have been raised about the perceived lack of maintenance of the enhanced wetlands areas to the north (Pritchard Beach) and south (Sound Transit mitigation project).

Should the primary use of the general areas shown as 'wetland' on the attached graphic be designated as wetland enhancement areas?

YES, future planning and programmatic development of these portions of the park should focus on wetlands enhancement projects.
NO, leave site as is for other future use(s).

Staff recommendation: YES

Board Discussion

Commissioner Ramels stated that the Board is only asked tonight to consider the change of use from a plant nursery to an urban farm concept. It is not being asked to consider the fencing or other elements. Commissioner Adams disagreed and believes the Board cannot consider the change of use without considering how that affects the park neighbors and their concerns regarding the fence removal, safety, and other issues. He supports the urban farm effort; however, he wants Parks to remain aware of the other issues.

Commissioner Ramels responded that if the change of use is approved and a partner/funding is found to develop the site, the Department will hold three public meetings to gather public input, develop and present options, and present a proposed option and final design. The proposed option and design would then be brought back to the Board for review.

Mr. Shiosaki reviewed the information in the decision agenda and reiterated that the Board is not being asked to vote on the fencing at this time. Acting Superintendent Friedli added that the Department requests the Board to focus on the elements needed to move forward, which is approval of a change of use for the site. The Department has no funding for the trails, fencing, or other elements. If the funding is secured, then it will hold the series of public meetings on the design.

Following the public hearing and the Board's request, Mr. Shiosaki and Ms. Fuller met with Mark Solomon of the Seattle Police Department on August 31. Officer Solomon completed a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) process on the site and recommended the following:

- trim/remove vegetation along Cloverdale to allow sightlines into the area
- clear vegetation so neighbors of the site can see into it

- retain the vehicle gate and keep it closed at night so vehicles cannot enter the facility after hours
- following a meeting with the Pritchard Island Block Watch, recommended to keep one point of access on Cloverdale and not create a new east-west trail
- ensure trails are at least 3' wide and have a 2' clear buffer on either side
- do not include benches or tables on the trail to ensure it is a pass-through area only
- involve as many neighbors and park users as possible

Commissioners Barber and Ramels commented that possible removal of the fencing is a big issue with many of the site's neighbors. Commissioner Keith lives near the site and drove around its perimeter to see the various blind spots. She questioned why the Parks Department wants to connect the three parks (Beer Sheva, Pritchard Beach, and the Atlantic City Nursery site.) Mr. Shiosaki responded that pedestrian access is generally desirable and providing the public with non-separated trails is usually viewed as a positive action.

Discussion returned to whether the Board can recommend a change of use tonight and exclude the fencing, safety and other elements. Commissioner Keith believes they are tied together and agrees with Commissioner Adams' earlier statements. It is over-simplifying to approve a change of use and not know the changes to the site. She understands that Seattle Tilth is hopeful it will be awarded the Request for Proposals. Mr. Shiosaki stated that the Department cannot move forward with a Request for Proposals unless the change of use is approved. Mr. Shiosaki again stated that the Board is being asked for a change of use from a nursery that grows plants to an urban farm growing plants. A detailed site plan will not be developed until a partner is found. Commissioner Kostka recommended only approving the change of use and not approving any changes to the pathway at this time. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that Parks staff will brief the Board on the RFP process and include one of the Commissioners on the selection group.

Commissioner Ramels next read written comments from Commissioner Holme, who is out of town.

"Please read the following email into the record at the September 9 meeting, during the discussion:

I'm sorry I won't be attending the September 9 meeting, including the discussion and recommendation for the Atlantic City Nursery.

I enthusiastically endorse the proposal to utilize this site for an Urban Farm, with a non-profit organization as a partner.

There are concerns expressed by the neighbors that the plan, as proposed, may be executed without future opportunities for public input. Accordingly, I believe the Board's recommendation should be to proceed with the proposed change of use, and to specifically include language assuring the public that there will be opportunities for future input on plans regarding parking, paths, fencing, vegetation management, hours of operation, lighting, etc.

I would also ask staff for a clarification of the public and Board's roles regarding the selection of the NGO partner that will be operating the facility."

Commissioner Kincaid's perception from testimony received by the Board is that there is a great deal of support and excitement from the community about the urban agriculture concept. However, several neighbors voiced concerns at additional vegetation being added to the wetland

area, which is already a source of crimes, and of an overall concern with safety at the site. She urged that the Board be involved with a vegetation management plan for this site. Mr. Shiosaki responded that the wetland site includes dense growth and may always be controversial. The Department is striving to reach a happy medium with the vegetation needed for a wetland.

Commissioner Adams is bothered by the Department's response. The Parks Department is a wetlands expert and he expects it will do right in enhancing the wetland. However, he is disappointed that staff are not addressing the park neighbors' concerns with crime at the site. He wants Parks to really commit to looking at the concerns and responding to them. He believes many other City staff and Departments can help with this, including the Department of Neighborhoods. He wants to vote on a collaborative effort of Parks and other City Departments that includes addressing the crime concerns. This effort won't solve the problems, but it will make neighbors feel safer with the project.

Commissioner Kostka recommended the Atlantic City Nursery change of use be linked to Beer Sheva and Pritchard Parks and not considered individually. Commissioner Barber concurred with Commissioner Holme. The Atlantic City Nursery site is currently unused. It is critical to move ahead with urban farming and the wetland enhancement — and the sooner the better. It is clear that the design and funding will be a lengthy process and the fencing does not need to be removed at this time. He urged that the process move forward step by step and that the Department open the areas for visibility as recommended in the CPTED.

Commissioner Keith responded that she agrees with the change of use, but she also wants to see a concept plan that addresses the neighborhoods' safety concerns. She remains very concerned that Parks will issue the RFP without guidelines to address these concerns. The Department is missing something critical here, as all these issues will just come up later if they aren't addressed now.

Mr. Shiosaki stated that if a change of use is approved, the Department can use some Levy Opportunity Funds to move forward. Commissioner Ramels repeated that the Department's design process is very well defined. The question before the Board tonight is should it recommend to the Superintendent to approve a change of use for the Atlantic City Nursery. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli agreed that public safety will be front and center in the design phase.

Commissioner Adams moved approval of a five-part motion as follows:

- 1. The Board of Park Commissioners recommends the Superintendent approve changing part of the site from plant nursery to urban farm;**
- 2. Approve changing part of the site to wetland;**
- 3. During the design process, coordinate safety plans with people in immediate area and surrounding community – and report the results of this effort back to the Board. This should have a very strong focus on this as the Board heard many concerns;**
- 4. Include language assuring the public that there will be opportunities for future input on the concept and design plan; and**
- 5. Bring the schematic design to the Board for review and discussion.**

Commissioner Kincaid seconded. Six commissioners were present. 4 voted in favor; Commissioner Kostka abstained as she missed the last meeting; the chair doesn't vote except in cases of a tie. Motion carried. Commissioner Kostka stated that she would have voted in favor of the motion if she were eligible to vote on this topic.

Following the motion, Commissioners made additional comments and Parks staff responded:

- Commissioner Adams asked how the Board can be assured of the third portion of the motion; Acting Deputy Superintendent responded that this will be done in the design phase three-step public process;
- Commissioner Kincaid asked when the schematic design would be brought back to the Board. Mr. Shiosaki responded that it is typical to develop the schematic design at the end of the three-step public meetings and would then be presented to the Board.
- Commissioner Barber noted that neighbors may not get everything they want from the design. Be clear that Parks ultimately must incorporate other park principles. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stressed the importance of remembering this is a park plan with attention to public safety and is not a public safety plan that includes a park.
- Commissioner Kincaid recommended the project include programs and community participation.
- Commissioner Keith agreed with Commissioner Kincaid and urged Parks staff to involve the community to help with safety issues.
- Commissioner Keith does not want the public to have a negative perception of native plants and asked the Department to include a long-term maintenance plan in the RFP.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels whether any of Seattle's parks are fenced, Parks staff responded that tennis courts and off-leash areas are fenced [as is the Children's Play Garden located in Colman Playground.] Commissioner Barber noted that during the Master Plan public process for the Arboretum, the public opposed any efforts to fence portions of the Arboretum. A more recent effort to install fencing at City Hall Park also failed.

Commissioners thanked Parks staff for the briefings and the public for their interest in this proposal. Commissioners look forward to being involved in any RFP and design plan.

Briefing: Concept of Allowing Other Uses at Seattle Parks' Low-Use Tennis Courts

Dennis Cook, Seattle Parks Citywide Athletic Manager, briefed the Board on the Concept of Allowing Other Uses at Seattle Parks' Low-Use Tennis Courts. The Park Board will hold a public hearing on this at its September 23 meeting, followed by a discussion and recommendation at its October 28 meeting. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, which was posted to the Board's web page for the public.

To hear the briefing and initial Board discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591071> and move the cursor to position 84.20. The Board will hold a public hearing on this concept at its September 23 meeting and will discuss and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 28 meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This is a briefing on the proposed change of use for Seattle Parks' low use tennis courts to allow non tennis activity. A public hearing is scheduled for September 23rd and the Board will be asked to discuss and make a recommendation to the Superintendent on October 28th.

Project Description and Background

We propose allowing non tennis court activities on certain parks tennis courts that are determined to have low use for tennis. Parks and Recreation staff would identify tennis courts currently in the Seattle Parks inventory that would qualify as low use tennis courts. Currently, over 140 outdoor

tennis courts are listed throughout the city of Seattle's Parks and Recreation inventory. Staff will establish a process to consider converting a current tennis court to a non tennis activity venue.

Generally the proposed process will be:

1. **Non tennis user group approaches parks requesting permission for an alternative use,**
2. **Staff determination that courts meet definition of low use and suitability for alternative use,**
3. **Parks post a sign at the facility or a mailing to surrounding neighbors identifying the proposed change to the courts,**
4. **Allow 30 days for comments,**
5. **Review of comments and decision made by the Superintendent, and**
6. **Implement an evaluation process to determine effects of change of use.**

In identifying the low use tennis court the following is proposed as criteria:

- **The geographic dispersal of the court locations throughout the city**
- **Proximity to other tennis courts**
- **Maintenance history and general condition of the court**
- **The court surface material**
- **Frequency of use by tennis players**
- **Demonstrated high demand for alternative uses**

Public Involvement Process

Public hearing September 23, 2010. Public comments accepted until October 26, 2010.

Rationale for this Recommendation

Over the last year and half, a number of groups have been established to provide activities for youth and adults in Dodge Ball, Bike Polo, In-line Skating and Street Hockey. New and emerging sports are growing in the greater Seattle area. Providing space and time will potentially eliminate conflicts with tennis players and non tennis players vying for time at a venue.

Issues

- There may be complaints from neighbors or tennis players. We would mitigate this by signing the court with the permitted non-tennis uses in an effort to provide communication and let them know about change of use and evaluation.
- Identifying the days and times of the week the low used tennis courts would be available for the non tennis court activity groups. The parks department will have to set up a fee to permit the venue along with developing rules and regulations for drop in use.

Citizen Concern/Opposition: The availability of tennis courts is a concern of tennis users. Also, complaints have been sent to the Superintendent's Office regarding activity at the Bobby Morris Tennis Courts. The complaints received in the Citywide Athletics Office have been related to the Bobby Morris and Hiawatha Tennis Courts.

Schedule

NA

Additional Information:

- Bike Polo, Dodge Ball, In-Line and Street Hockey have contacted the Citywide Athletics Manager to discuss possible venues for their activities.

dennis.cook@seattle.gov

Commissioners thanked Mr. Cook for the briefing and look forward to the September 23 public hearing.

Briefing: West Seattle Reservoir Schematic Design

Susanne Rockwell, Seattle Parks project planner, introduced herself and presented a briefing on the schematic design of the West Seattle Reservoir. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, which was also posted on the Board's web page for the public's information. To hear the briefing and Board's discussion, see

<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4636> and move cursor to position 17.29.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

Staff will provide a briefing on the Preferred Schematic Design for the West Seattle Reservoir Park Development. No formal Board Action is requested at this time.

Project Description and Background

The project site is located in the southern most part of West Seattle, adjacent to Westcrest Park in the Westwood-Highland Park neighborhood and is surrounded by densely developed single-family residential areas.

The project address deficiencies in this Urban Village where only half of the Urban Village is served by 'Usable Open Space' as defined in the Seattle Parks and Recreation 2006 GAP Report Update. Per Parks Classification Plan, this park will provide both community park amenities along with those of a natural area, and a larger recreational area for the neighborhood and the city at large.

Up until now, the 20 acre site has been fenced off from public access. With the lidding of the reservoir and future park development:

- Open space is greatly expanded,
- Recreational needs of the increasing population with this urban village are addressed, and
- The surrounding densely developed single-family residential neighborhood gets expanded recreational opportunities.



Looking North from Westcrest Park across to the reservoir lid area.

The existing Westcrest Park is an 80-acre park that contains one of the most pristine and contained conifer forests and understory in West Seattle. The existing park also provides one of the largest dog off-leash areas for the city along with connecting to the natural areas of the Duwamish Greenbelt. With the addition of the new 20 acres of lidded reservoir great panoramic views of the city skyline, Mount Rainier and Boeing Field are possible.

Site Workshop was selected by Parks as the project consultant team and has been working closely with Parks and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) on all aspects of the design and public involvement. David Boyer has been selected to create an artwork for West Seattle Reservoir Park. Boyer has been working with Parks, SPU, project designers and city staff to develop site-specific artwork for the new park. Boyer creates kinetic sculptures that move and spin in the wind. He has completed commissions for the city of Reno, Nev., and Clackamas County, Or. His work has been in outdoor sculpture exhibitions in San Diego, Calif., and at the Burning Man festival.



An example of David Boyer's kinetic sculptures.

A panel of artists, community representatives and members of the design team selected Boyer from a pool of more than 200 national applicants. The artwork is commissioned with 2008 Parks & Green Spaces Levy and SPU 1% for Art funds and administered by the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.

Parks has worked closely with SPU and Seattle's Arts and Cultural Affairs departments to ensure that all project components respond to structural load limits and other design constraints. The site allows for the integration of low-impact, non-consumptive park uses and active recreation. The park will consist of a variety of areas for children's play and diverse physical, social, active and passive recreation for all ages.

The park design incorporates recreational elements and ideas suggested by the community members, Parks staff, SPU and the Seattle Design Commission. The design includes an open grass field on top of the lidded reservoir for informal play with a pathway circling the field and ADA accessible pathways.

The new park plan for the lid will provide opportunities for:

- integrated open space
- playareas
- multi-generational spaces
- paths and walkways
- community gardens
- picnic areas
- rain gardens
- unstructured playfields
- environmentally sustainable design
- green infrastructure
- native plants

Public Involvement Process

In keeping with Parks Public Involvement Policy, we have conducted 4 public meetings to date with over 400 community members in attendance. Public meetings were held on Saturday mornings at the South West Community Center. The next public meeting will be an Open House, and will be conducted prior to the start of construction.



Second public meeting,

approximately 120 community members in attendance.

In addition to citywide approval of the project through the Levy, the site has garnered a lot of support from local community groups, such as:

- Highland Park Action Committee
- Highland Park Improvement Club
- Coalition for Dog Off-leash-areas
- Green Seattle Partnerships
- Audubon Society
- Parks Volunteers

Issues

The majority of issues brought up at the public meetings centered around areas other than the new project space, for example – lack of sidewalks in the neighborhood or lack of on-street parking. Other key issues from the community included a desire for overall safety, views, passive open space and no net loss of space at the dog-park.

From a design perspective the biggest challenge has been to create a dynamic design that is in compliance with SPU's regulations surrounding the reservoir structure, structural load limits on the surface, restrictions on vegetation and root growth, and protection of the contained water.



Inside the reservoir, prior to its being filled with water.

Budget

This project is a named project in the 2008 Parks & Green Spaces Levy and was allocated \$3 million for planning, design and construction. In addition the project is the recipient of Seattle's 1% for Arts program, and has received \$150,000 for an art installation in the park.

Schedule

- September 9th - Park Board Briefing on the Preferred Schematic Design
- Design – Present till March 2011
- Construction – March 2012

Additional Information

- Project Web link: http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/west_seattle_reservoir/
- Susanne K. Rockwell
800 Maynard Ave S, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98134
206.684.0902
susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov

References

- **Ordinance #: 122749**

Commissioners thanked Ms. Rockwell for the informative briefing.

Old/New Business:

Parks Department Budget: Mayor McGinn will present his proposed 2011 budget to the City Council on Monday, September 27, with a speech planned for 2:00 pm. Significant impacts to the Parks Department are anticipated. Parks management staff does not want its employees to hear the budget news from media sources and are working on how to communicate the information. On the morning of the Mayor's budget presentation, all Parks staff will be called together and given a letter regarding their position in 2011. Some will receive good news and others won't. The Human Resources staff will work with staff whose positions are impacted by the cuts to determine their options. The Department is also working on how best to relay the proposed cuts to the public, while not interfering with the City Council's budget deliberations that begin on September 27. Some of the proposed cuts could be changed when Council announces the final budget in November.

The Board has scheduled its entire October 14 meeting, as well as a portion of its October 18 retreat, to discuss the proposed budget's impacts to the Department and will send a letter to the City Council.

Commissioner Barber has three questions on the Mayor's proposed budget: (1) will the cuts make people less likely to use community centers and parks?; (2) will the Park Department cuts result in the park users being the biggest losers? (3) how can the City attract new residents while cutting services and amenities? Commissioner Kostka added that, during difficult economic times, the public needs parks and recreation facilities more than ever.

Commissioner Kincaid understands there will be a \$67 million shortfall in the City's 2011 budget and as much as an additional \$75 million in 2012. These are very serious shortfalls. Commissioner Ramels noted that the Special Population and Lifelong Recreation programs are lobbying the Park Board for its support.

Letter of Support for Park Ranger Program: Commissioner Ramels noted that the Board agreed to write a letter of support for the Ranger program and asked staff for a draft. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli added that the Department presented a briefing on the program to the Mayor and has not yet received word of any action.

Several Commissioners have scheduled "ride-alongs" with the rangers to observe their work. Commissioner Kostka is scheduled on September 10, from 6-8:00 pm. Commissioner Ramels encouraged all the Commissioners to schedule with the rangers, as it is a very interesting experience.

Combined Sewer Overflow on Park Land: Commissioner Keith asked for an update on Seattle Public Utilities' efforts to find sites for several combined sewer outflow systems. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that as SPU narrows its site selections, Parks staff will bring the information back to the Park Board. Parks has notified SPU that park land should not be the #1 or #2 choices for the CSOs. Responding to a question from Commissioner Keith whether SPU has explored using alternatives, such as bioswales and plantings, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that the CSO requirements are larger than these alternatives can accommodate. SPU looked at other options and the solution must be hard, manufactured solutions.

Commissioner Kincaid visited the Madison CSO system being installed underneath Washington Park and believes SPU went through the path of least resistance when it selected park land for this installation. Commissioner Ramels noted that the Board can take a stand and oppose this use of Seattle's park lands. Acting Superintendent Friedli agreed that it would be helpful for the Board to do so.

October 18 Retreat: Commissioner Adams, as he has done so in past years, agreed to help formulate the Board's retreat agenda; Parks strategic advisor, Susan Golub, will facilitate. Commissioners agreed to send any suggestions for retreat topics to the Coordinator by Friday, October 1, to be incorporated into the agenda. Councilmember Bagshaw will attend a portion of the retreat.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Jackie Ramels, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____