

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2012

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
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<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

John Barber
Megan Heahlke
Jourdan Keith, Vice-chair
Brice Maryman
Caitlin McKee
Yazmin Mehdi
Barbara Wright

Excused:

Antoinette Angulo
Diana Kincaid, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Vice-chair Jourdan Keith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed members of the audience, and asked commissioners and Parks staff to introduce themselves. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the consent items including the meeting agenda, acknowledgment of correspondence received by the Board, and the minutes from the August 9 and October 11 meetings as presented. Commissioner Maryman seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Keith recommended the order of the agenda be changed so the Seattle Parks Department's Vision, Mission, and Values be the first item discussed, with the Board's Guiding Principles and Sub-Committees moved to later on the agenda.

To hear and view the full meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591260>.

Superintendent's Report

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following.

Green Lake Algae: Earlier this month Seattle Parks Department was notified of possible toxic algae scum along the shores of Green Lake. King County scientists tested the scum and discovered that it is a toxic cyanobacterial blue-green algae. The lake was closed to all activities in which a person may come in contact with the water (swimming, paddle boarding). King County has been testing the scum weekly. This week when scientists went out to collect the scum for testing, little was found. They tested what they could find, and the tests came back within acceptable ranges for recreation. The algae may be dying off; however, the lake will

not re-open to all uses until three consecutive tests results are within acceptable ranges. The latest status of the lake algae can be viewed at www.nwtoxicalgae.org.

Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS): PSKS recently announced it may have to close its doors, after 18 years of serving homeless youth on Capitol Hill, if it did not immediately raise \$75,000. PSKS provides support and services to Seattle area homeless youth and young adults up to 26 years old, including daily drop-in hours where kids can get dry and warm, and have a hot meal. PSKS offers access to services, such as education, and individual case management. The Mayor and Acting Superintendent Williams identified a source of grant funding within Parks' Youth Development Fund to support PSKS. For every dollar the Seattle community donates to PSKS, the City will match it – up to \$20,000. Parks will soon meet with PSKS to determine if there are other ways the Department can help. For more information on PSKS, see <http://www.psk.org/>.

Tree of Life at Victor Steinbrueck Park: The Tree of Life sculpture installation was completed at Victor Steinbrueck Park. This is a Department of Neighborhoods project led by partnering non-profit organizations who advocate for King County's homeless, and has been eight years in the making. For more information and photos of the sculpture, see: http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/victor_steinbrueck/remembrance.htm.

Dakota Place Park Building:



Funded by the Parks and Greenspaces Levy, this new facility in West Seattle, a former City Light substation, opened last weekend. A large crowd attended the grand opening and community response has been very positive to this new community gathering site. For more information on the project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/DakotaPlacePhase2.htm>.

Green Lake Pathway of Lights: A favorite Seattle holiday tradition, the Green Lake Pathway of Lights, is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 8. The event includes luminaria and holiday music on the 2.8 mile path around the lake.

Magnuson Park's Building 2 Update: This is the larger hangar at the park and houses the Seattle Conservation Corp. Extensive new roof leaks have recently occurred and require repairs. Estimates to completely re-roof the building are \$8-10 million. This may be an unexpected big ticket item.

Thornton Creek Elementary Playfield: The Department has been contacted by a number of people about the Seattle School District's proposal to expand its Thornton Creek Elementary School to house 500-600 students. The expansion would be built over the playground, which is used by the community as open space and athletic fields. The school is located at 7711 43rd Avenue NE.

The school's neighbors have asked Seattle Parks Department to buy the property, which has an estimated value of \$5-7 million, and develop it as a park. However, the Department does not have the funds to do so, and the area wouldn't necessarily be the top acquisition site. Seattle School District has stated it may be able to save one of the soccer fields at Thornton Creek Elementary. It also has funds to renovate the fields at nearby View Ridge Elementary School at 7047 50th Avenue Northeast.



NRPA Magazine Features Mayor McGinn: The October edition of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) magazine features Seattle's Mayor McGinn on its cover. The article states "Parks help drive Michael McGinn's urban vision. Perhaps it's the unique geo-political sociological-economic soup that makes this city of 621,000 so progressive. From smart growth to the arts, Seattle has always been comfortable in being out there ahead of much of the country. So, it was with some surprise that Seattleites got an even more progressive mayor when Michael McGinn took office in 2009. They should not have been surprised, considering his deep and abiding roots in community improvement.....'Parks are a crucial part of the mix of uses that create great urban places,' McGinn says. 'In a great urban place, you have the walkability and access to transit that helps to reduce our reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. You have stores, restaurants and businesses nearby. You have vibrant, busy streets full of people and activity. And you have parks and open spaces for people to gather, or to simply be quiet and enjoy our city's incredible natural beauty. You have to have all the elements in place to create great spaces, and parks are essential to that. That's what makes our city so special and attractive to people, our vibrant and beautiful urban spaces.'" To read more, see <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2012/October/Green-Giants--Mayors-Who-Make-Parks-a-Priority/>.

Maple Leaf Park Tree: Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli read a touching letter from a 14-year old, left on a tree at Maple Leaf Park. The letter eloquently described what the park and the tree has meant to her.

Parks Budget Update: Acting Deputy Superintendent distributed two budget documents Parks received today at 9:00 am and reviewed them with the Commissioners. "Overview and Initial Issues Identification – Department of Parks and Recreation" and pages 93-120 of the City of Seattle's budget pages, for the Department of Parks and Recreation. He reviewed budget items in the documents and stated there is no particular order in the options. Commissioner Mehdi stated this information would have been very helpful to commissioners earlier today while they were meeting with several of the Councilmembers. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli apologized for the delay.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber whether Councilmember Bagshaw mentioned the adds the Board requested in its budget letter to City Council, he stated she did not. Commissioners Wright and McKee met today with Councilmember Bagshaw and reviewed the budget letter, point by point. Commissioner Maryman asked several questions regarding the budget spreadsheets. Responding to a question about the transfer of donations, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated the amount was from donations at the Volunteer Park Conservatory. The donations have been replaced with an entry fee.

Commissioner Barber noted that Seattle Parks Foundation did a great deal of analysis on the level of funding for parks maintenance and found that Seattle Parks Department needs \$20 million each year for operating expenses and has a backlog of \$280 million in major maintenance.

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 Old/New Business. No one testified.

Briefing: Seattle Parks Vision, Mission, Values

Susan Golub, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, presented a briefing on the Department's Vision, Mission, Values for Commissioner's input. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing paper, included below in these minutes, and available to the public on both the Board's web page and as handouts at this meeting.

Written Briefing

Creating Vision, Mission and Values Statements

One aspect of Parks strategic planning process is to develop the Vision, Mission and Values statements that will inspire future decision-making. At the same time as we are developing Vision, Mission and Values, staff are working on plan Outcomes/Goals; these will be presented separately at a later date.

Helpful to the development of Vision, Mission and Values statements is an understanding of the meaning of the three statements. Wikipedia provides these definitions:

- **Vision:** outlines what the organization wants to be, or how it wants the world in which it operates to be (an "idealized" view of the world). It is a long-term view and concentrates on the future. It can be emotive and is a source of inspiration. For example, a charity working with the poor might have a vision statement which reads "A World without Poverty."
- **Mission:** Defines the fundamental purpose of an organization or an enterprise, succinctly describing why it exists and what it does to achieve its vision. For example, the charity above might have a mission statement as "providing jobs for the homeless and unemployed".
- **Values:** Beliefs that are shared among the stakeholders of an organization. Values drive an organization's culture and priorities and provide a framework in which decisions are made. For example, "Knowledge and skills are the keys to success" or "give a man bread and feed him for a day, but teach him to farm and feed him for life". These example values may set the priorities of self sufficiency over shelter.

In developing the recommendations presented in this paper, Parks staff reviewed Vision, Mission and Values statements from a number of other jurisdictions; these statements are collected in Appendix A.

VISION

Parks current Vision Statement is:

Creating Community through People, Parks, and Programs

This Vision Statement is the same as other jurisdictions (State of California; Trenton, New Jersey; Shenandoah County) and was included in the 2009 Parks Strategic Action Plan by the staff team working on the Plan – there was limited community, Park Board, or broad staff involvement in its development. Therefore, staff recommend developing a Vision Statement unique to Seattle Parks and one that establishes an ideal vision.

Recommendation

Building on the Love Parks! campaign of the Foundation, and borrowing from the San Francisco Vision Statement, staff recommend:

Seattle Parks and Recreation; the world's best loved parks, joyous and inspirational, safe and clean, built on sustainable foundations.

MISSION

Parks current Mission Statement is:

Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, and build community.

Developed in consultation with the Park Board in the late 1990's Parks reviewed this Mission Statement during the development of the 2009 Strategic Action Plan, and concluded that it best exemplified the department's

multi-faceted mission and no changes were made. In order to be all-inclusive, staff is recommending the minor change: refer to "people" instead of "citizens."

Recommendation

Parks staff recommend retaining the current Mission Statement with the minor change from citizen to people.

VALUES

Parks included Service Delivery Values in the 2009 Strategic Action Plan. These values are:

People

Strengthen relationships and sense of community
Provide accessible, safe, and welcoming spaces to all people and communities
Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion
Deliver outstanding customer service

Parks

Enhance ecological preservation and environmental sustainability
Continue the preservation of the Olmsted legacy

Programs

Encourage health and fitness for individuals and families
Provide opportunities for lifelong play, creativity, learning, and discovery for individuals and families
Strengthen accountability for projects and programs

These Service Delivery Values provide a good foundation for the development of Plan Outcomes; for example, "Encourage health and fitness for individuals and families" could translate to an Outcome that states "Parks will provide opportunities for active recreation at community centers and pools" with a measurement component such as hours of programs or number of people served.

However, for Legacy Plan Values Statements, staff are recommending the values voiced by the Superintendent through the past two years of decision-making: Access, Opportunity and Sustainability. (The following descriptions of the Values are taken from the Superintendent's budget message to staff.)

- **Access** is about making our parks, our facilities and our programs accessible to everyone. We need to keep them open, safe, clean, and welcoming. Surveys show that more than 90% of the people in Seattle visit parks and more than 40% visit our community centers.
- **Opportunity** is about ensuring a diverse range of recreation choices. We need to offer these in a way that makes them accessible to everyone who may want to participate. They need to be affordable and well marketed. It's important that we understand what recreational activities are important to people, and provide them ourselves or help out others who may be better positioned to offer them. To keep us relevant, a broad range of offerings is critical - from traditional activities like tennis to new activities like high ropes courses; from hip-hop to senior line dancing; from tot play time to wheelchair basketball; and from jogging to just sitting and thinking.
- **Sustainability** is about making sure we are sustainable in all of these areas: our finances, our physical assets, the environment we care for, and the communities we serve. Sufficient financial resources are necessary to continue operating the parks and recreation system in a way that keeps it accessible and offers opportunities. Our physical assets represent significant investments by the community and require maintenance and upkeep so they are useable throughout their expected life. Environmental sustainability means following the most up-to-date standards for stewardship of our assets and programs that affect the environment. By bringing people together, Parks has a unique responsibility and opportunity to encourage sustainable communities. Through our teen programs, out-of-school time programs, lifelong recreation and

special populations programs, volunteer program and more, Parks connects people with each other and demonstrates how connecting individuals builds sustainable communities.

Recommendation

Adopt Access, Opportunity and Sustainability as Seattle Parks and Recreation Values.

Attachment A

Mission/Vision/Values Statements: Examples from around the Country

VISION

Seattle Parks and Recreation (also Trenton, New Jersey; State of California; Shenandoah County)
Creating Community through People, Parks, and Programs.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: Vision 2030 Strategic Plan – June 2011

An enjoyable, accessible, safe, and green park system that promotes a strong sense of community through shared spaces and experiences and is treasured by the people it serves.

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department – 2011-2012 Efficiency Plan

To build a world class park system that is safe, clean, joyous, and inspirational, and that is built on sustainable financial, environmental, programmatic, administrative, and community foundations.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Comprehensive Plan: 2007-2020

In 2020, the Minneapolis park system is a premier destination that welcomes and captivates residents and visitors. The park system and its beauty are part of daily life and shape the character of Minneapolis. Natural, cultural, artistic, historical, and recreational resources cultivate outstanding experiences, health, enjoyment, fun, and learning for all people. The park system is sustainable, well-maintained, and safe. It meets the needs of individuals, families, and communities. The focus on preserving land continues, with a strong emphasis on connecting people to the land and each other. Aware of its value to their lives, residents are proud stewards and supporters of an extraordinary park and recreation system.

Tacoma – Green Vision 2030

Metro Parks Tacoma envisions a vibrant, active and engaged community.

San Jose – GreenPrint Update 2009

National leader of Parks and Recreation in cultivating healthy communities through quality programs and Dynamic public spaces

Henderson, Nevada

To be the national leader in promoting community health and well-being through fun, progressive and memorable parks and recreation experiences and activities for everyone.

St. Paul, Minnesota

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will make Saint Paul the most livable city in America by:

- Responding creatively to change
- Innovating with every decision
- Connecting the entire city

MISSION

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, and build community.

Seattle Parks Foundation

Seattle Parks Foundation improves, expands, and connects parks and green spaces, building a more vibrant community.

Associated Recreation Council (ARC)

Building Communities Together: The Associated Recreation Council, and its 38 Advisory Councils, partner with Seattle Parks and Recreation to provide recreation and lifelong learning opportunities across the city.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: Vision 2030 Strategic Plan – June 2011

Protect and interpret our valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities.

Montgomery County Department of Recreation

The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation is to provide high quality, diverse, and accessible programs, services, and facilities that enhance the quality of life for all ages, cultures, and abilities.

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department – 2011-2012 Efficiency Plan

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's mission is to provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of our diverse community.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Comprehensive Plan: 2007-2020

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

Tacoma – Green Vision 2030

Creating healthy opportunities to play, learn and grow.

San Jose – GreenPrint Update 2009

To build healthy communities through people, parks and programs

St. Paul, Minnesota

To help make Saint Paul the most livable city in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places, and a vital environment.

VALUES

Seattle Parks and Recreation

People

- Strengthen relationships and sense of community
- Provide accessible, safe, and welcoming spaces to all people and communities
- Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Deliver outstanding customer service

Parks

- Enhance ecological preservation and environmental sustainability
- Continue the preservation of the Olmsted legacy

Programs

- Encourage health and fitness for individuals and families
- Provide opportunities for lifelong play, creativity, learning, and discovery for individuals and families
- Strengthen accountability for projects and programs

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: Vision 2030 Strategic Plan – June 2011

- **Stewardship** – Manage the county park system so it best meets the needs of current and future generations.
- **Recreation** – Offer a range of leisure activities that strengthen the body, sharpen the mind, and renew the spirit.
- **Excellence** – Deliver the highest quality product, service, and experience possible.
- **Integrity** – Operate with an objective, honest, and balanced perspective.
- **Service** – Be courteous, helpful, and accessible to each other and the public we serve.
- **Education** – promote opportunities for continuous learning among staff and the public we serve.
- **Collaborations** – Work in cooperation with all stakeholders including residents, communities, public and private organizations, and policymakers, as well as interdepartmentally.
- **Diversity** – Support and embrace the differences among our employees and the public we serve, and offer suitable programs, activities, and services.
- **Dedication** – Commit to getting the job done the right way, no matter what it takes.

Montgomery County Department of Recreation

- Children Prepared to Live and Learn
- Healthy and Sustainable Communities
- Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods
- A strong and Vibrant Economy
- Vital Living for All of Our Residents

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department – 2011-2012 Efficiency Plan

Accountability, Caring, Communication, Education, Excellence, Facilitation, Health, Innovation, Partnership, Respect, Teamwork, Trust

Goals to implement the mission:

- 1) Improve the quality of parks.
- 2) Improve healthy recreational choices.
- 3) Improve financial capacity.
- 4) Improve environmental stewardship.
- 5) Improve community loyalty.
- 6) Improve capital infrastructure.
- 7) Improve administrative efficiency.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Comprehensive Plan: 2007-2020

- **Sustainability** Meet current park and recreation needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by balancing environmental, economic, and equity concerns.
- **Environment** Sustain and enhance parklands, waters, and urban forests.
- **Economic** Develop short-term and long-term financial stability of the park system.
- **Equity** Provide residents with the opportunity to improve their quality of life and well-being through outstanding parks and recreation services that are suited to their respective needs.
- **Visionary Leadership** Respect the vision and leadership that built the park and recreation system and recognize the need for ongoing leadership in achieving excellence.
- **Safety** Work safely to support a thriving work environment and an outstanding park experience for visitors.

Tacoma – Green Vision 2030

The eight core values will guide future decisions, business and operations, and the manner in which MPT treats staff, customers and the community:

- Innovation
- Excellence
- Equity
- Inclusiveness
- Sustainability

- Accountability
- Safety
- Fun

Discussion

Ms. Golub reviewed the document and Commissioners spent a short amount of time discussing the document, with several suggestions made. Commissioners will send Ms. Golub any further suggestions for the Department's consideration. The goal is to have these in place in January.

Park Board Guiding Principles & Sub-Committees

Following the Park Board's September 25 retreat, Commissioners Kincaid, Maryman, and Wright developed a draft set of Guiding Principles for the Park Board, as well as several new committees. Tonight the Commissioners discussed the draft Guiding Principles and made a number of suggestions. The revised version is included below.

Guiding Principles and Sub-Committee Ideas Board of Park Commissioners Revised Draft – 10/26/12

General Introduction:

Seattle's world-class parks, recreation and green space system is essential civic infrastructure, contributing to the physiological, ecological, social and aesthetic quality of our city. Recent research confirms that Seattle's parks, recreation and green spaces are vital to our community's public health, economic competitiveness, sense of community, environmental stewardship and social cohesion.

To continue these indispensable services into the next century, Seattle's Board of Parks Commissioners should steward a long-term, comprehensive parks, recreation and open space vision for our City. Transcending Parks department-owned and managed properties, this long-range plan will need to be implemented through strong, strategic partnerships throughout the community, including other public agencies, non-profits, the private sector and volunteers.

The Board of Park Commissioners is an advisory body that provides a City-wide, long-term perspective, grounded in the Board values listed below:

Actively Participate in Core Functions

- Guide, oversee and steward a long-term parks, recreation and open space vision for the City,
- Conduct Park Board business in an open and transparent manner,
- Actively seek out and engage the public regarding the management of the parks, recreation and open space system,
- Understand how the parks, recreation and open space network links to other critical city initiatives and goals,
- Work collaboratively with appropriate City agencies and entities to create and maintain a world-class parks, recreation and open space system,
- Cross-pollinate with national and international park, recreation and open space leaders to bring emerging best practices and innovations to Seattle's parks, recreation and open space system,
- Undergo training and orientation of the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative framework and apply its principles and tools in every policy, procedure, and budget consideration to the park, recreation and open space system,
- Respect differing viewpoints and conduct discussion in a respectful manner,
- Offer well reasoned and fully considered recommendations to the Mayor and Council that are rooted in the long-term vision for Seattle's parks, recreation and open spaces,
- Educate the public, elected officials and other entities on the multiplicity of benefits that are afforded by Seattle's parks, recreation and green spaces system, and the opportunities and threats to this system that require widespread support,

- Advocate for all aspects of the park, recreation and open space system,
- Protect park and open space assets for long-term, public parks, recreation and open space uses, and
- Share the Parks and Recreation Department mission, vision and values.

Develop Creative Funding and Programming Partnerships

- Strengthen existing partnerships with the Associated Recreation Council, the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Green Seattle Partnership, and others,
- Advocate for stable system-wide city funding, augmented by creative funding partnerships, and
- Seek partnerships with other agencies, non-profits and citizens groups that create, manage and maintain green infrastructure spaces throughout the city, or that provide access to our existing parks and recreation assets.

Commissioner Wright made the revisions and sent the new draft to Commissioners. Tentative plans are for the values to be adopted at the November 8 meeting.

Commissioners next discussed the Sub-Committees and made several changes, as reflected below:

Sub-Committee and Work Group Recommendations:

Purpose: The sub-committees will offer opportunities for small groups of Park Board members to meet and discuss draft ideas to be considered by the full Board. Each sub-committee is responsible for developing a work plan and timeline to be approved by the Full board. Each sub-committee will select a chair to call, organize and conduct meetings. The sub-committees can be short-term or long-term in their existence. The following are sub-committees for 2012-2013 to be used to move forward the work of the Board:

Sub-Committee	Work assignment
Executive Committee Includes Chair, Vice-chair, and two other commissioners. Meets monthly at set date and time.	Full Board agenda development; strategizing draft board work plan, recommends Committee assignments for ratification by the board
Funding Work Group	Review pros and cons of funding options and recommending board action
Principles Work Group (ad hoc committee and work is nearly complete)	Develop draft value statement for board review; recommend sub-committee structure
Strategic Planning Committee	Help establish board role in development of the Park Legacy Plan and recommend how the board can actively be involved in the final plan
Partnerships Committee	Review best practices to develop guidelines and criteria for quality Parks Board partnerships.

Several commissioners volunteered for the sub-committees. The Chair will make the appointments, each sub-committee will select a chair, and set its meeting times. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that Parks staff will assist the Executive Team in establishing a set monthly meeting time.

Old/New Business

City Council Budget Meetings: Commissioners have met with City Councilmembers, in groups of two-three, during the past few weeks in support of Seattle Parks Department's 2013 budget, as proposed by Mayor McGinn. In addition, they wrote a letter to Councilmembers, and included several "adds."

Commissioners will next write thank you notes to the Councilmembers they met with and attach the budget letter, to ensure all Councilmembers have received it. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli recommended that,

after Commissioners review the budget documents he distributed tonight, Commissioners call the Councilmembers to discuss the items, if they feel the Council is going in the wrong direction.

The Park Board will stay on the "high level" and urge Councilmembers to support the process and decisions made. That process is what ought to carry the day, and not a large group of people rallying around a specific issue (the full-time gardener position at Volunteer Park was used as an example.) The Park Board is the main overall lobbying group for the Department's budget and should repeat the message that the Department is short of funds and needs additional budget funding to re-build.

Commissioners requested that, for the next budget cycle, Parks staff provide them critical budget documents as soon as they are available. The documents they received at the beginning of tonight's meeting would have been very helpful during the meetings with Councilmembers. Commissioners also suggested that, after this budget cycle is complete, Parks staff meet with the Commissioners and review what worked and what didn't and ways for improving the Board's increased role in the budget process.

Coal Trains in Seattle: Commissioner Maryman referred to a controversial proposal to ship additional uncovered trainloads of coal from a proposed terminal in Bellingham to the Longview area, to be loaded onto ships to China. The trains would run on the tracks along the waterfront and through/adjacent to Carkeek, Golden Gardens, and Myrtle Edwards Parks. He believes the Park Board should be well informed about this and requested Parks staff schedule a briefing from City staff for the November 8 meeting. The briefing would focus on the health, safety and other possible impacts the in coal trains – as many as 20 per day – could have on Seattle's parks. Following the briefing, the Park Board will prepare a letter. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that Parks staff will also prepare a map and graphics showing the proximity of the affected parks and the railroad tracks.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

APPROVED: _____
Diana Jourdan, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____