

## Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2013

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:

Antoinette Angulo

John Barber

Jourdan Keith, Vice-chair

Diana Kincaid, Chair

Brice Maryman

Caitlin McKee

Yazmin Mehdi

Excused:

Megan Heahlke

Barbara Wright

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

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent

Michele Daly, Acting Park Board Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Chair Diana Kincaid called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

To hear and view the full meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591311>.

**Approval of Consent Items:** Commissioner Barber moved approval of the consent items including the March 14, 2013 meeting agenda and acknowledgement of correspondence, motion seconded and carried.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following:

A new division, Regional Parks, Strategic Outreach and Support, has been created in the Department of Parks and Recreation. The new division will provide executive level oversight for major parks and our ongoing relationship with the people who have an interest in them. The division will also include some related Parks functions, including Center City Parks, the Outdoor Parks Activation position, Event Scheduling, Athletics, the Amy Yee Tennis Center and Golf. The Division will also work on issues for regional parks, including Magnuson Gas Works, Lincoln, Discovery, Seward, Green Lake, Alki, and Myrtle Edwards. Other parks may be added. This division will not manage the maintenance and programming but will manage the relationships with the communities that are interested in those parks. The Division will also oversee Parks' relationship with various partners, including the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium and Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Cheryl Fraser has been named the Director of the new division. She has a proven track record developing excellent relationships with community and partner organizations. She has strong analytical skills in financial

management and policy development and demonstrates the strong integrity and commitment required of this position.

### **Presentation: John C. Little Award**

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent, noted it was nice to see so many smiling faces in the audience. He wanted to talk about heroes. Heroes are people who are admired for their personal achievements and special qualities, they make a sacrifice for the greater good and the audience is full of heroes today.

Eric Friedli stated this is the 12<sup>th</sup> year of presenting the John C. Little Award. Dave Gilbertson is the epitome of what this award represents and a perfect example of a successful mentor, leader and role model for youth. In addition to his countless hours and volunteer positions, John C. Little served the community as a member of the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners from 1990-1997. In John's seven years on the Park Board, he is most remembered for his gentle judgment of how a proposed policy or new undertaking would be perceived by the people we serve, particularly by the young people. His sensitivity to the needs and the attitudes of youth was extraordinary. John C. Little's motto was, "In order to improve the life of all people, you must improve the life of young people."

In Dave's nomination application, people commented on the reason Dave should receive the award:

- "Quite frankly, I rarely have seen anyone as committed to doing good for the community and the City that he has served. Like Mr. Little, who was known by so many people throughout the City for his good works and dedication, Dave Gilbertson is known throughout the city for his commitment for a better future for our young people. And like Mr. Little, he goes about his work quietly, with no self-promotion and in doing so achieves so much. I can't think of anyone who deserves this recognition more."
- "Dave's work as a Senior Recreation Program Coordinator put him in the role of supervisor, teacher, and mentor to staff and youth. He has shown compassion and passion working with youth and teens to help them find their very own passions and successes. He has worked closely with many organizations to create a variety of learning experiences that give teens new skills and new hope for their own future. The success of these programs is directly related to his commitment to reaching as many youth and teens as possible."
- "Many of the young professionals that now work for the department running youth, development programs had Dave as their mentor...What better testament can there be to Dave Gilbertson's impact on youth than to have so many youth he mentored grow up to want to be just like him and wanting to have the same impact on other young lives, just as Dave had on theirs."
- "Dave has been totally dedicated to the community every waking minute of every day. Whatever is needed, he is willing to help. If he needs to work on weekends to make sure there are sufficient chaperones for a teen event, if he needs to stay late to coach or mentor a young staff person so they can do a better job serving the community – Dave has always made himself available, sometimes to the detriment of time with his family."



- "Dave was instrumental in creating the O2 program, the Northern Stars program, the success of our Youth Job Readiness programs, establishing Teen Advisory Councils and creating a Citywide Youth Board."
- "In addition to all of his work for the City of Seattle, Dave has served on the Lynnwood Parks Board for the past six years and has been extremely involved in ensuring that community is serving its residents in the best way possible." Dave is such a tremendous role model for all of us, and as another nominator said, "I cannot think of anyone in the entire department who works with youth that would be more deserving of this esteemed award. Look up the word "dedicated" in the dictionary, and you will see a picture of Dave. In my working career of 11 years, I have never met someone so genuinely dedicated to anything."

Dave stated he is almost dumbfounded by the love expressed to him and staff over the last several days. "I am honored to be this year's recipient of the John C. Little Spirit Award. I humbly accept this honor and recognition. I do so with the understanding that this award is shared with the many wonderfully talented, dedicated and resilient Seattle Parks and Recreation and ARC employees I have the pleasure of working with. They are an extraordinary group and invaluable asset to our City.

Years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Little, while he was serving on the Board of Park Commissioners. I am reminded of his motto, "In order to improve the life of all people, you must improve the life of young people." Mr. Little was a dedicated advocate for engaging our youth in experiential learning and service to the community. His work with the youth conservation corps and the Seattle 4-H program provided meaningful opportunities for young people to be involved in environmental stewardship and employment. His message rings true today. Perhaps even more importantly, when the economic reality has had a devastating impact on so many families. Parents having to work 2 or 3 part-time jobs to meet the needs of their family. Minimum wages not keeping up with the bills. Education budgets being reduced to where many vulnerable students are left behind - we **must not** turn our back on them.

As members of our Seattle Board of Park Commissioners you have a special role and voice in advocating for the needs of our community's young people. We **must invest** in our young people's future. This must be done with intentionality, and with a steadfast commitment to nurture them, mentor them, and create opportunities for them to learn and grow. We are their stewards; we must cultivate their spirits and help them find their gifts. Seattle Parks and Recreation has a long history of cultivating the spirits of young people. We are in a unique department that can positively impact the lives of many young people. We connect young people to the land through environmental service projects, through outdoor recreation opportunities, through learning job skills and responsibilities - like lifeguarding, scoring and timing basketball games, ballfield prep for games, conservation projects, helping community center front desk staff, learning camp counselor skills, learning computer technology skills, supporting our environmental education efforts through junior naturalist training, and the list goes on.

Mr. Little knew that investing in Seattle Parks and Recreation meant investing in our community's young people. He dedicated his life to this effort. He understood, it's devoting yourself to your community around you and devoting yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning in life. This is our mission. I am truly honored to be associated with John C. Little and other past recipients of this award. My sincere thanks!"

Jamila Thompson, John C. Little's grand-daughter, introduced her grandmother, Mr. Little's wife. She congratulated Dave and noted his remarks sound like the way her grandfather spoke, especially about community and the service to the community.



### **Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience:**

Liz Trautman, serves on the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) for the City of Seattle and will act as liaison with SPAB and the Park Board. She noted there is an overlap of what the SPAB and Park Board and other commissions/boards related to health and pedestrian access to all the amazing amenities will do have in the community. If there are ever things coming before the Park Board that have pedestrian impacts to park facilities, she is hopeful that information can be shared with SPAB. The SPAB gives input on project designs, most recently the Seattle Waterfront Project. The SPAB has a relatively new pedestrian master plan and a number of new members. She invited Park Board members to attend their Board meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at City Hall, 6 pm.

### **Superintendent's Report** (continued)

Acting Deputy Superintendent Eric Friedli gave a report to the Board on the March 8 shooting incident that occurred at the Parks facility at 82<sup>nd</sup> & Densmore and what occurred at the Bitter Lake Community Center. He informed the Board what the Department has done since March 8 and what is being planned for the future.

### **Recognition of Commissioner John Barber's Service:**

The commissioners each expressed appreciation to John and cited some of their personal experiences working alongside him while serving on the Board.

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent, presented Commissioner Barber with a certificate of gratitude, a plaque and read a letter acknowledging John's service on behalf of Superintendent Christopher Williams: "This is to express my sincere appreciation for your service on the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners. In your nearly six years of dedicated service, you have provided thoughtful comments on a number of issues the Board has considered, including the Dexter Pit Project, Off-leash area pilot projects, Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop, Wildlife Sanctuary Policy, Waterski Events at Green Lake Park, Lake Washington Boulevard Vegetation Management Plan, Park Naming Proposals, Non-tennis Use of Tennis Courts, Parks Strategic Action Plan, New Partnership Development, Fees & Charges Policy, Park Classifications System Proposal, Synthetic Turf Policy, Park Operating Hours, Native Plant Policy, Golf Master Plan, Elliott Bay Water Taxi, "Summer Streets," Code of Conduct, Madison Park Shoreline Fence Removal and Use Guidelines for Downtown Parks.

Citizen volunteers like you provide an invaluable benefit to the city through your work on boards and commissions. During your time on the board you have been tireless in your support of Parks and Recreation's activities. Besides attending dozens of Park Board meetings, you have read thousands of pieces of correspondence from citizens, briefing papers from staff and have made many site visits to Seattle parks.

Thank you again, John, for your many contributions to Seattle Parks and Recreation. I hope our paths cross again in the future."

### **Briefing & Panel Discussion: Parks Safety/Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).** <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591311>; move cursor to 66.20

Acting Deputy Superintendent Eric Friedli referenced the briefing paper that Susan Golub, Strategic Advisor, prepared. On page 3, the Parks Legacy Plan Safety Phone Survey Results are noted. 88% of the women and 90% of the men feel safe in the parks. 9% of both men and women disagree with the statement that the parks are safe.

The panel was comprised of Corby Christensen, Acting Supervisor, Seattle Parks Security-Park Rangers, David Graves, Senior Parks Planner and Francisco Tello, Seattle Police Department, West Precinct.

### **Written Briefing**

This memo provides you with some background material for the safety panel discussion:



1. Questions provided to the panel by Jourdan and Yazmin;
2. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design notes from Planning and Development Division staff; and
3. Parks Legacy Plan safety survey information.

#### 1. Board Member questions

- Commissioner Jourdan Keith:
- Where and when (time of day, etc.) are attacks on women occurring?
- Have women been separately surveyed or polled about CPTED issues?
- What methods are used to collect info?
- How is that applied retroactively and also going forward?
- What examples?
- What women's organizations are partners with us to examine women's issues of safety in our parks?

Commissioner Mehdi:

- What are the current practices around CPTED: does current park design (for new parks) include a CPTED review? What about for existing parks? Do our current maintenance practices take CPTED into account?
- What are the primary barriers to employing more CPTED? Is it simply money or is there an education element we can do something about?
- Could you give us examples of successful CPTED parks? What seems to make the difference? What are unsuccessful examples?

Jourdan's questions about how park users actually feel in successful CPTED parks are particularly pertinent.

- If we're not measuring that, what would it cost to do that?
- What can we do to help the community when a hotspot of crime/attacks arises?
- Is there anything we can specifically do in the parks themselves?

#### 2. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Staff Notes

**CPTED Definitions:**

- An approach to reducing crime or security incidents through the strategic design of the built environment, typically employing organizational, mechanical, and natural methods to control access, enhance natural surveillance and territoriality, and support legitimate activities.
- Formulating a solution to deterring crime compatible with the designed use of a space and incorporating appropriate crime prevention strategies that enhance the effective use of the space – making the site less desirable for illegitimate activities.

#### Design of Parks

And how we employ CPTED principle in design

- balancing aesthetics/environmental priorities and ecological benefits with principles of CPTED.

The goals for each are not mutually exclusive, but must be considered together when designing safe places.

#### 3 classifications to CPTED Strategies

- **Mechanical** – use of hardware and technology – locks security screens on windows, key systems close circuit TV
- **Organizational**- teaching individuals and groups steps to protect themselves or the space they occupy.- including security and law enforcement
- **Natural or Architectural** – designing space to ensure the overall environment works more effectively for intended users, while deterring crime.

## Strategies

- **Natural access control** -employing barriers (real or symbolic) or visual cues (fences, shrubs) to guide people to and from a space. –e.g. - plant thorny shrubs in certain area to discourage access or hanging out in a certain area.
- **Natural surveillance** – the placement of features, activities and people in a way that maximizes visibility -thus increasing visibility by occupants and observers –especially surveillance of who enters and exits a building or site.
- **Natural Territorial reinforcement** – an expression of ownership that tells visitors that someone cares about the site.  
–Establish a sense of “Psychological ownership”.  
e.g. -allow hedge or edging along pedestrian walkways to define territory that discourages trespassers from cutting through an area.
- **Management and maintenance** – maintaining spaces to look well-tended and crime free - careful maintenance says someone cares about a space and potentially reduces criminal activity.  
e.g. -‘Broken Window’ theory – that says an abandoned car or building can remain unmolested indefinitely but once the first window is broken, the building or vehicle is quickly vandalized.
- **Support legitimate activities** – have the area claimed by positive activities, programming.

## 3. Parks Legacy Plan Safety Phone Survey Results

Parks Legacy Plan Phone Survey Results		
	Women	Men
"Parks are Safe"		
Total Agree	88%	90%
Strongly Agree	26%	39%
Somewhat Agree	62%	52%
Total Disagree	9%	9%
Somewhat Disagree	9%	7%
Strongly Disagree		2%

## Oral Briefing

**David Graves, Senior Parks Planner**, informed the Board that crime prevention through environmental design is something that is looked at for each project as it goes through design. It is not a science but more of an art. It is really a time, place and neighborhood specific response to what makes someone feel safe in an area. There are three classifications of CPTED strategy: mechanical, organizational and natural architectural. Parks Planning and Development Division deals more with natural architectural – lighting, activation and visibility. CPTED is something that the Division looks at as parks are designed and work with community groups and the police to find out what the issues are on the ground, particularly at a new site, what have they seen in the neighborhood. There really is not a one size fits all solution – it is more of a context driven design.

**O'Francisco Tello, SPD, West Precinct** informed the Board of the availability the City of Seattle web site <http://www.seattle.gov/police/crime/onlinecrimemaps.htm> which tracks crime statistics: Making the majority



of these reports available online is a service the Department is providing to the public to promote easier access and greater transparency. This is at SPD discretion and is beyond the requirements of the Public Records Act. To balance the needs of public access vs. personal privacy, all reports are redacted and some types of crimes are not made available as part of this system. There are three My Neighborhood Maps that display police information, two icon-based maps - the 9-1-1 Incident Response Map, the Police Report Map - and the geographically based Statistics Map.

The 9-1-1 Incident Response Map, is a snapshot of the last 48 hours of Police and Fire dispatches throughout the city. As soon as an incident is considered safe to close, it will be entered into the system. This depends on officer and citizen safety issues, scene security and the sensitive nature of ongoing investigations. In some cases it may be a few hours before a scene can be considered closed, and in other cases it may be nearly real-time. The information for this map comes directly through the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This map is the quickest option for finding out about sirens you may have heard, or an incident going on nearby within a short timeframe.

The Police Report Map is based on initial police reports taken by officers when responding to incidents around the city. The information enters our Records Management System (RMS) and is then transmitted out to the map. This information and its corresponding map icons will populate the map within 6 to 12 hours after the report is filed into the system. Within 2-3 days some of the narratives (Homicides, Assaults, Robberies and Burglaries) will include additional detail. The data for this map are archived and can be searched across months and weeks. It is a great way to get an idea of the ongoing event patterns in your neighborhood in a way that is more searchable.

The Statistics Map is based on monthly crime statistics. It does not display icons. Instead it shows you geographical police beats. This map will tell you about the police beat your neighborhood is located in and how it compares to the rest of the city on certain crime patterns. Because it only covers major crimes (also called Part I Crimes) this map will not show other crime types (like narcotic activities) or non-crime incidents (like disturbances). Rape data are available in monthly crime statistics, because this information is not geographically pin-pointed linked to a specific crime report on the Statistics Map. The crimes displayed on the Statistics map have been vetted and reflect what are reported as the official crime statistics to the FBI. Because of this, they are the most accurate source to compare major crime patterns, and trends over time.

Unfortunately people can be seen jogging in a park with ear buds on while listening to their favorite music which makes them oblivious to what is happening around them and creates a crime opportunity. SPD has been involved in reviewing designs of parks. Officer Tello was involved in design review for Children's Play Garden and Counterbalance Park. He distributed a Planning Commissioners Journal, Number 16, Fall 1994 article *Understanding "CPTED"*, a Magnolia Manor Park Landscape Architecture Site Workshop Meeting Minutes regarding CPTED security review dated November 21, 2011 and copies of an outline narrative.

"Understanding CPTED article states the concept of "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design has emerged worldwide as one of the most promising and currently effective approaches to reducing the opportunity for crime. Dramatic results have been achieved in every imaginable environmental setting...Using design to foster security has its origins in the early history of the development of communities...Contemporary research generally supports the notion that space that is widely shared by people, and poorly identified will result in low morale, reduced productivity and greater tolerance for misbehavior.

Magnolia Manor security review meeting minutes, handed out as an example, include recommendations such as maintaining the perimeter fence as proposed, keeping the park clean, free of graffiti, wide paths allow people to look up while walking making them more aware of their surroundings and also allow police vehicles access should it be necessary, keeping the understory of tree areas clear with open views into the plantings is important to deter camping in dense vegetated areas, wide thresholds or entries so people can know what to expect as they move through space, lighting, use hostile shrubbery to keep people away from fences (SPD has



a list, most of which are 24" and lower), park hours should be posted so that SPD has the authority to remove people after hours, make the potential trouble areas uncomfortable to be in such as making it steep or difficult to stand or sit on.

The outline provided by Officer Tello includes: Proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life. CPTED Emphasis includes physical environment, behavior of people, productive use of space, crime/loss prevention. Key CPTED concepts include natural surveillance, natural access control and territorial behavior. CPTED Designation Questions: What is the designated purpose of this space? For what purpose was it originally intended? How well does the space support its current use or its intended use? Is there conflict? Definition Questions include: How is space defined? Is it clear who owns it? Where are its borders? Are there social or cultural definitions that affect how space is used? Are the legal or administrative rules clearly set out and reinforced in policy? Are there signs? Is there conflict or confusion between the designated purpose and definition? Design: How well does the physical design support the intended function? How well does the physical design support the desired or accepted behaviors? Does the physical design conflict with or impede the productive use of the space or the proper functioning of the intended human activity? Is there confusion or conflict in the manner in which the physical design is intended to control behavior? CPTED Strategies: Provide clear border definition of controlled space. Provide clearly marked transitional zones that indicate movement from public to semipublic to private space. Relocate gathering areas to locations where natural surveillance and access control or to locations away from the view of would-be offenders. Place safe activities in unsafe locations to promote the natural surveillance of these activities to increase the perception of safety for normal users and risk for offenders. Place unsafe activities in safe spots to overcome vulnerability of these activities with the natural surveillance and access control of the safe area. Redesignate the use of space to provide natural barriers to conflicting activities. Improve the scheduling of space to allow for effective use, appropriate "critical intensity," and temporal definition of accepted behaviors. Redesign or revamp space to increase the perception of reality of natural surveillance. Overcome distance and isolation through improved communication and design efficiencies.

**Corby Christensen, Acting Parks Security Supervisor**, stated he sees people doing things in the parks that he would not consider safe such as using headphones, jogging alone or in isolated areas. The park rangers try to educate people so they do operate in parks safely and don't put themselves at risk. The rangers are out early in the morning, not at night. Corby comes from Boise, Idaho where there is a large greenbelt and emergency phones were installed which go directly to 911 and for the most part that is a pretty successful system.

### **Board Discussion/Recommendation**

Commissioner Mehdi inquired about the interactivity between Parks and Police. When the police see a lot of activity in a park, for example Green Lake Park, is there consulting between the two departments? Officer Tello said uniformed officers are increased in the area and also undercover police work the area as well depending on what is happening. The police communicates with Parks Security/Rangers. David pointed out that Green Lake has good visibility around the paths and park perimeter. Officer Tello pointed out that people are wearing ear buds and not aware of their surroundings and are unable to give a description when someone has committed a crime.

Commissioner Maryman inquired if there was an internal auditing system, not at the development stage but for the maintenance phase; is the environment safe? What do you do in those instances where there is tension between what the community desires when a park is intended to be natural, such as Seward Park; what does the department do to mitigate this tension? David replied that the Department does go back to review parks with the crews, park rangers and community folks. Most recently a review was done at Othello and Cal Anderson Parks. David said there is a lot that can be done in natural areas such as keeping the overhanging vegetation out of the trail proper so there is more visibility. There is a way to open up a trail so that people can see around a corner, such as moving a bush to open up an area.



Commissioner Kincaid noted the four large parks (Seward, Lincoln, Discovery, Magnuson) in the city that are natural, heavily wooded and in talking with women they select not to go to those parks because they do not feel safe. Is there a way to open areas along the paths in the four large parks where there can be walking for both genders where they feel safe? We are missing an important health piece providing more areas for walking and running in the large parks. Officer Tello also suggested walking in groups or buddy system as that does work for safety.

Commissioner Keith inquired how can you get more women's opinions about what they need to feel safe in a park. There are certain things that are different walking in a wilderness environment than walking in an urban wilderness environment. It would be good to have information available of where the trail goes. She has thought of many women's organizations, including the Women's Commission, where they could be asked what it would take for women to feel safe in parks. David said this is a great suggestion. How do you tap into finding out how people in general feel about their comfort in a particular area and how can we make them feel more comfortable.

Commissioner Mehdi suggested having a telephone system similar to university campuses that goes to emergency line. She does not usually run alone. She referenced not feeling safe walking from the Bathhouse Theater to a parking lot at night.

Commissioner McKee noted there can be a mixed message when police are present -- does that mean the park is safer because they are there, or unsafe. Corby stated people don't look at the park rangers as enforcement figure as they do police. The closure hours posted educate people about the park; there is a reason that the park is closed.

Commissioner Kincaid was attacked at gun point in one of our parks a number of years ago at 2pm. She decided to defy him; fortunately he ran away. She started looking at the parks differently. After that it took her a long time to go back. The first park she went to was Green Lake because it has the sight lines. She did not feel she could go to her nearby park because it was too overgrown and did not feel comfortable going to the other natural parks. She was advised to carry pepper spray and she wondered if she would have to do that to feel safe in the parks. As she spoke to more women, she learned they had incidents as well. She questioned if we are missing something; what can be done to make the parks safer? Diana spoke with Kathleen Wolfe, University of Washington, who is doing research on park safety and learned the gender issues has not been fully explored. Diana thinks it is time to really look at it.

Commissioner Keith noted when you go into a national park there is information available of how you stay safe in the park. The information may be different for various parts of the national park. It occurred to her that maybe we could be site specific instead of a blanket approach. We really need to talk to women. Men have different issues and perceptions about safety. How can the Board facilitate that conversation?

Commissioner Maryman stated this is an important time to be having this conversation. It is partially a resource question and prioritization question. We are about to discuss how we are going to fund maintenance for parks. He thinks having some focus group discussion with some of the Park Board, some of the panel, Women's Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Board, perhaps Bicycle Advisory Board to talk about these issues and develop a set of concrete recommendations is good. We may not have the resources now but need resources to implement these ideas and those can be brought to the levy/funding steering committee as a package. It does start a conversation which is critically important as well as gets a new constituency engaged in parks which is a good thing.

Officer Tello suggested some women could get together and walk through specific parks noting what makes them feel uncomfortable, unsafe. That information could be compiled and reviewed.



Commissioner Barber works with habitat restoration and they have had some heartbreaking experiences where park crews have cut shrubbery that the restoration groups have planted and nurtured along for 15 years; it has been cut down to the ground to create sight lines. The volunteers would rather maintain the shrubs themselves; it is a balancing act. John further stated we are urban residents and all vulnerable; always bring a pal or dog, cell phone pocket alarm, pepper spray and use street smarts. You have to be aware of where you should go or not go. Gunpoint does not argue depending on your gender.

Commissioner Angulo stated several questions come to mind. Are the ranger services marketed? Corby stated the rangers started being used as a downtown program. The rangers have done some work in Discovery Park and Green Lake. The rangers have developed strong partnerships with the police. A website is being developed so there could be some blogging opportunities; for example "Ask a Ranger." Hopefully you will see more ranger activity.

Commissioner Angulo asked if there are opportunities for our volunteers to get involved in the park ranger system? Corby noted there is a safety issue to consider. The rangers put themselves in harm's way. Corby distributed copies of a ranger brochure that was recently developed.

Commissioner McKee related it would be interesting to look at park incidents in comparison to other incidents in the city. David said it is not something that has been done.

David Graves stated the Department has not done targeted research with women's groups and maybe that is the piece that is missing and we could discuss how we engage those women's groups and get feedback. Commissioner Kincaid noted it certainly seems a lot of the incidents in parks have involved women. There have been attacks reported at Seward, Lincoln, Interlaken, Carkeek and Magnuson. It draws concern that we are missing that piece.

Commissioner Keith thinks asking for some women volunteers to walk in some parks and ask them how safe they felt afterwards is a good suggestion. It would not cost much money to ask for volunteers via a press release. In addition, it would advertise that the Department cares about women.

Commissioner McKee noted that in the context of resources and the Legacy Plan and funding pieces, that is a wonderful public angle to go at with the maintenance funding source that Parks needs.

Katie Gray, North Parks Manager, supervises Parks Security/Rangers, wanted to share with the Board that she and some of her crew meet with community groups on a regular basis. When there are crime hot spots they have strategized with the community of what needed to be changed in a particular park, whether it is CPTED or having more programming. Getting the community involved in what is going on is probably the most important step. There has been good success at many parks. When the community provides eyes and ears in parks, less illegal things happen. If there is a particular park that is of concern, let's go out as soon as possible as there could be things that the crews could do almost immediately.

Commissioner Keith suggested that instead of volunteer rangers perhaps there could be ambassadors; their presence signals the park is welcoming. Corby noted that the downtown parks have a concierge program and it really does impact the behaviors in the parks.

Commissioner Keith would like to initiate a conversation, with permission, with some of the women's organizations she has been working with on anti-violence and violence prevention – informing them that the Park Board and department is talking about park safety and asking if they have any suggestions of who we can talk to. Acting Deputy Superintendent Eric Friedli stated if any of the Board members wants to pull together a group like that the Department could make arrangements for Corby, David or Katie to join in the discussion.



Commissioner Mehdi suggested before we open up a broad discussion about women's safety in the parks, especially when we don't have resources to be responsive, it would be great for the Department to come up with a pilot project that would give the Board an opportunity to test out how to approach the women's safety issues. Perhaps pamphlets could be developed, conduct an educational campaign, of how to be safe in that one park. Do it by involving the neighbors and community groups that are particularly tied to that park. Her worry is that if we open up a large discussion she is sure we would get a lot of responses and we have absolutely no way to be responsive. Maybe Seward Park could be the pilot project.

Acting Deputy Superintendent Eric Friedli reviewed what was discussed at the meeting: ranger staffing issues, women's concerns/focus group, joint meetings with the Women's Commission, SPAB, and other groups, doing the mapping concerns approach looking at certain site locations and volunteer rangers/ambassadors. He thinks there are a number of things that the Department can do and will develop a schedule or work program. Some of the suggestions may be easy and can be done with existing resources and some may need to be pushed out until we get the resources to do them.

**Because of time constraints, the agenda item Discussion/Recommendation: Parks Legacy Plan – Vision & Mission was not addressed this evening.**

Commissioner Barber moved the meeting be adjourned; Commissioner Maryman seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

APPROVED: Diana Kincaid  
Diana Kincaid, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE April 14, 2013