

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014

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Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Lydia Albert
Antoinette Angulo
Diana Kincaid
Brice Maryman
Yazmin Mehdi, Vice Chair
Tom Tierney, Chair
Barbara Wright

Excused:

Bob Edmiston

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator

This meeting is held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Tierney calls the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Commissioner Tierney asks for approval of the Agenda, November 13 and October 23 Minutes, and the Acknowledgement of Correspondence. Commissioner Wright moves to approve the Consent Items and Commissioner Maryman seconds; the Consent Items are approved.

Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

No oral requests from the audience.

Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent Williams recognizes the 3 Park Board members who were part of the Legacy Committee and Denny Award winners: Commissioners Maryman, Wright and Kincaid; honored for the work they did contributing hours, making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. Denny Awards recognizes the contributions Parks volunteers make. They are the lifeblood of Seattle Parks and Recreation; the department uses 30,000 volunteers across the department per year.

Other winners were:

- Parker Design House – pro bono design work; they created the brochure for the Denny Awards
- Mt Baker Advisory Council – raised \$300,000 dollars for Rowing and Sailing Center
- Homeless Remembrance Project - fundraised for sculpture in Victor Steinbreuck
- Clarke Gray – Green Lake Park historian; runs concessions at Green Lake
- Children's Orthopedic hospital – epidemiologist approach to youth drowning; worked with Seattle Parks and Recreation to teach young people to swim and provide a lot of subsidy.
- Samuel Bradley – teen, contributed over 300 hours volunteer time with special populations; gives back to the community and his parents have instilled that value in him.
- Rich Appleton – his work at Roanoke Park
- Ken Bounds - possesses a huge ethic around public service, community building; chaired the committee for Proposition 1 that was responsible for getting the Initiative passed by the voters. His wife accepted the award on his behalf.

A beautiful night at the zoo!

Commissioner Tierney says it is clear that Acting Superintendent Williams appreciates his volunteers, it comes out in his speaking, and he thanks Acting Superintendent Williams for his authenticity.

Park District Oversight Committee – The interview panel are in the process of interviewing 5 of 7 districts candidates the top candidates will be referred to the Councilmembers. Several members of the Park Board expressed an interest to join and this will be discussed during Old/New Business.

Natural areas/greenbelt guidelines – planning work to tee up effort by 1st quarter 2015. Parks will hold public meetings and find ways to engage the public; Parks staff met with Seattle Greenspace Coalition – continue having discussions over time to establish a formal relationship with them. Parks staff will work with the partnership committee to engage this group.

Downtown Disorder – This time of year there are many tourists and shoppers; sometimes they are surprised by behaviors they see down there. The City and the Parks Department are trying new innovative creative things to address civility and disorder in downtown. Parks is developing a set of administrative rules just for downtown. Parks acknowledges downtown parks are different from the rest of the park system and the need to address behaviors and challenges, such as: nesting – bring belongings and spread them out for the day; camping – sleeping in parks during the day. When Parks do not have specific rules documented and codified then they cannot be enforced. The rules will be written by 1st quarter 2015 and will include: Westlake, Occidental, City Hall, and Victor Steinbreuck.

Commissioner Angulo asks if there will be citizen review. Yes, there will be a Board of Park Commissioners public hearing, based on the commissioners recommendation the Superintendent will make a decision. Commissioner Maryman suggests incorporating social

services into the planning process – Acting Superintendent Williams responds that they are involved.

Voluntary Park Conservatory grand opening – The project to renovate the conservatory cost approximately \$3million – \$1million was raised by Seattle Parks Foundation. 2011-2012 Parks was faced with having to close the conservatory because there was no capital funding; Parks delayed some projects to get \$2million to get this project done. Acting Superintendent Williams encourages the Commissioners to go and check it out.

Green Lake Luminaria is December 13 – 1000s of people show up to take in the event.

Smoking Ban – Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Parks are on the same page about being ready to go. Parks staff will return to the Mayor's office to discuss enforcement issues and how the smoking ban will relate to marijuana. The Mayor wanted a more comprehensive strategy for how to address a range of behaviors downtown. The smoking ban would be citywide but due to the density of downtown parks – people are more likely to be offended.

Presentation, Public Hearing, Discussion: Change in Hours Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area, Leschi Park, and Frink Park

Presented by Robert Stowers, Parks Resources Manager

Written Briefing on Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 17, 2014

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Robert Stowers

Subject: Change in Hours at Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area

Requested Board Action

Parks recently completed an 18-month pilot project in the Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area to permanently reduce the open hours of the park. (A separate briefing paper addresses the pilot in the adjacent Leschi and Frink parks.)

Based on Seattle Municipal Code Section 18.12.245, the Board of Park Commissioners makes a recommendation on whether to make the change in hours permanent based on the staff evaluation and public testimony. The vote can occur the same day as the presentation of the evaluation or at a later date should the Commissioners require additional information to make a decision.

Staff Recommendation

The Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area meets all the criteria to permanently change the hours from 4:00 a.m. -11:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. Staff recommend the permanent change in hours in order to continue the progress made during the pilot to reduce negative behavior and improve the peace and tranquility of the Leschi community that has been realized during the pilot period.

Park Description and location

Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area is located at 3525 E Terrace Street in the Leschi neighborhood. It is categorized as a Natural Area, and the maintenance is split between Parks' natural area crew, volunteers through the Green Seattle Partnership, and the Central East maintenance crew which does routine maintenance and litter control.

The Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area was acquired with funds from the Pro Parks Levy and the assistance of Cascade Land Conservancy in September 2001. Friends of Leschi Natural Area host volunteer work parties to care for and restore the natural area on the first Saturday of each month to keep this area beautiful for the entire community. Local neighbors, bird watchers, and walkers delight in the views and visiting the natural forested areas.

Issues

There have been numerous complaints from the neighboring community about noise, drinking and drug use occurring at Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area. The police are aware of the area as a place where people congregate to party and they encourage the neighbors to call 911 because of the noise and the activities, which often continue late into the evenings and early mornings.

During their daily maintenance of the park, the stewards find the area riddled with drug paraphernalia and empty alcohol bottles. Seattle Parks maintenance crews have a long history of collecting empty drug baggies, broken liquor bottles, empty beer cans, broken bongos, used condoms tampons. There is also a long history of graffiti at this site.

The late night park users make noise, which disturbs the neighborhood and take up the limited neighborhood parking. Police patrol the area four to five times a day but it has not been enough to temper these activities. Neighbors and Parks staff cite four specific reasons for requesting the change in hours:

- 1) Actions of the people visiting the Natural Area after the hours of 10 p.m. have unusually compromised the peace and tranquility of the Leschi-Lake Dell community.
- 2) The rise of negative activity in the Natural Area and on the street outside the entrance is causing after-hour noise and parking issues for the community.
- 3) There has been a continued increase in the number of reported unsavory characters drinking and taking drugs in the park close to closure time, or after hours.
- 4) Community members do not feel safe confronting those who loiter in the park after hours.

Additional Information

Robert Stowers: Robert.Stowers@Seattle.gov

Attachment

Map of Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area

Presentation

Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area

Parks staff were approached by the community to discuss issues they were facing at Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area. Parks staff held a meeting with the community and SPD and talked about what was happening there: Green Seattle Partnership stewards found drug paraphernalia, alcohol bottles; they also complained about late night noise from revelers; they discussed ways to to combat it. The Police were not addressing the low-level crimes that were happening. Parks is now finished with an 18-month pilot project reducing park hours from 4:30am-11:30pm to 6am-10pm.

Parks staff reviewed the police data, and spoke with the community and found a great change in behavior when we changed the hours – from over 200+ calls to 50 incidences. The community acknowledges that the pilot has been successful in reducing the amount of negative activity in the area.

Written Briefing for Leschi Park, Frink Park and Parking Lot

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 17, 2014
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Robert Stowers, Manager, South Region Park Resources
Subject: Change in Park Hours for Leschi Park, Frink Park and Parking Lot

Requested Board Action

Parks recently completed an 18-month pilot project in Leschi Park, Frink Park and the adjacent parking lot to reduce permanently the open hours of these areas. (A separate briefing paper addresses the pilot in the adjacent Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area.)

Based on Seattle Municipal Code Section 18.12.245, the Board of Park Commissioners makes a recommendation on whether to make the change in hours permanent based on the staff evaluation and public testimony. The Board’s vote can occur the same day as the presentation of the evaluation or at a later date should the Commissioners require additional information to make a decision.

Staff Recommendation

Leschi and Frink Parks and the adjacent parking lot meet all the criteria to permanently change the hours from 4:00 a.m. -11:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. Staff recommend the permanent change in hours in order to continue the progress made during the pilot to reduce negative behavior and improve the peace and tranquility of the Leschi community that has been realized during the pilot period.

Park Description and location

Leschi Park, located at 201 Lakeside Ave S., and Frink Park, located at 398 Lake Washington Blvd S., are categorized as Neighborhood Parks; maintenance is accomplished by our Central East park crews who do the routine maintenance and litter control for the parks.

Since 1906 Frink Park has served as one of Seattle's treasured natural woodland parks, where people can enjoy amazing mountain and sound views. Leschi Park's rolling hillside of trees and roses was a camp site for Chief Leschi, of the Nisqually tribe. These outstanding parks are primarily used by visitors to Lake Washington Blvd., neighbors, bird watchers and walkers.

Issues

There have been continuous complaints about illegal behavior occurring at these parks and in the small parking lot in Leschi Park. Drinking and drug use occur around the clock and young people congregate at all hours. Neighbors and Parks staff cite four specific reasons for requesting the change in hours:

- 1) Maintenance workers are burdened with cleaning drug baggies, beer cans, broken glass laden trash and bio waste (condoms) from the parking lot area.
- 2) Extensive graffiti clean-up is a pattern after nights of cars remaining in the lot until or after the current closing time.
- 3) Neighbors frequently call 911 because of the late night activities which include loud and boisterous behavior. Neighbors recall an incident where a stolen car was set on fire around 1:00 a.m. A former Park Board member watched the perpetrators roar away in another car.
- 4) The community members do not feel safe confronting those who loiter in the park after hours.

Additional Information

Robert Stowers: Robert.Stowers@Seattle.gov

Attachments

Maps of Leschi and Frink Parks

Presentation

Leschi Park, Frink Park and Parking Lot

The same community group came to talk with Parks about changing hours for the above-mentioned parks for many of the same reasons. The community members did not feel safe confronting those hanging out late at night. Park staff and volunteers found much drug paraphernalia and other illicit objects in the park and parking lot.

Parks suggested park activation because many of these late night revelers are young kids in the summer time.

Acting Superintendent Williams jumps in and says changing the hours allows SPD to have something enforceable; without officers having to get into what types of behaviors are transpiring.

The penalty for being found in a park after hours is a \$50 ticket up to revocation of rights to be in the park for a period. These penalties are administrative when enforced by rangers; judicial when enforced by SPD.

Public Hearing

Francis Wood – lives next to Leschi Natural area – territory at the top of terrace stairs. She was very active in getting the park created and expanded. She feels that the time change on the park has cut down the noise but did not do a lot for the illegal activities and socializing. There are still large amounts of alcohol related trash littered and there are no trash cans for proper collection.

John Barber, Leschi Community Council – He is proud of and loves the parks in his neighborhood. He feels parks should be good neighbors and should avoid untoward nightly behaviors. The noise has been reduced since the pilot. The nighttime activities can be threatening and people feel unsafe. There is graffiti – it is an annoyance and an expense to Seattle Parks and Recreation; all of these activities are an expense to the department. He feels Robert wrote a couple of excellent papers for the Park Board to review. July 4, 2014 vandals blew up comfort station; required hazmat intervention – destroyed it and they had to be rebuilt. There was a death in Frink park – woman camping there and died by fire. Volunteer went in and cleaned it up. The graffiti on the cable car bridge – very visible; police encouraged us to ask for the change in hours – to make it more enforceable.

We ask that you make this change permanent because it makes our parks more lovable.

Joe Orlando – married with twin daughters – 3440 East Yesler – overlooks tennis courts and bridge; uses the park quite a bit and 50 yards from the parking lot. Witnessed the graffiti; dark cars next to each other doing what looked like illegal activity – felt dangerous and he felt vulnerable especially with his young daughters. Calling 911 was a common activity; felt it was

a brilliant intervention with lights and change in hours. The difference has been noticeable. He does not see this type of activity. It was a great magnet for illicit behavior before, and the Parks department has made it a park again.

Discussion

Commissioner Wright thinks it is great that Parks has worked so proactively with the community. She cannot think of a reason why one would not want to make the change in hours permanent. She encourages more interaction and vigilance to do there and at other parks. Commissioner Tierney asks if there is more they can do to bring in activation. Acting Superintendent Williams says Friends of Leschi does a great job activating the park and SPR should work with them to create more. Commissioner Angulo says it feels low impact; they are not fencing the park. She also loves the collaboration.

Commissioner Wright moves to make the hours permanent; Commissioner Kincaid seconds – everyone votes to approve the change in hours for Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area, Frink Park and Leschi Park.

Public Hearing, Discussion and Possible Vote: Parks Classification Policy

Presented by Susanne Rockwell, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Written Briefing

MEMORANDUM

Date: 11/05/2014
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Susanne Rockwell
Subject: Parks Classification Policy Update

Requested Board Action

Recommend to the Superintendent adoption of the updated Park Classification System Policy.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the updated Park Classification System Policy (Policy 060 P5.11.1), to better align with the Parks Legacy Plan, use definitions and inclusion of property acquired since the Policy was adopted in 2009.

Proposed classification categories to replace the existing system are as follows:

Existing Categories

1. Triangles/Circles/Square
2. Pocket Park
3. Neighborhood Park
4. Community Park
5. Downtown Park
6. Recreation Area
7. Natural Area/Greenbelt
8. Boulevards/Green Streets/Trails
9. Special Use Park

Proposed Categories

1. Mini Parks/Pocket Parks
2. Neighborhood Parks
3. Community Parks
4. Downtown Parks
5. Regional Parks
6. Special-Use Parks/Specialty Gardens
7. Greenbelts/Natural Areas
8. Boulevards/Green Streets/Greenways

Policy Description and Background (please see attached spreadsheet and redlined policy for more detail)

The purpose of the Park Classification System Policy is to establish a method for classifying the parks in Seattle Parks and Recreation. The categories are driven by park use, purpose, general size, attributes, natural assets, and physical environment. The system provides a general guideline for development options through the desired and optional assets and programmatic opportunities associated with each category.

During the development of the Parks Legacy Plan, Parks determined that some of the parks classifications did not work well for planning and analysis purposes. The categories and parks assigned to them were modified during the plan's development but the Parks Classification Policy was not updated. The proposed changes reflect the consolidation or expansion of certain categories with the park properties as appropriate. Additionally, the park classification categories are also used for reporting purposes in other City policy documents, such as the Comprehensive Plan and in reports generated by the Trust for Public Land.

Key Policy Issues: WHATS NEW/DIFFERENT/CHANGED (please refer to the attached spreadsheet for specific details)

1. The 'Triangles/Circles/Squares' and 'Pocket Park' categories have been consolidated into the new category of 'Mini Parks/Pocket Parks' to reduce the number of categories.
2. Key elements of the Recreation area classification can be found in 'Neighborhood Parks', 'Community Parks' and 'Regional Parks' categories; as a result 'Recreation Area' as a distinct category has been eliminated in the proposed policy and recreation elements have been added into the optional assets section for the Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks categories.
3. The creation of a new 'Regional Parks' category captures some of Parks' largest landholdings, often serving broader citywide recreation needs. Many of these parks have historic or landmarked significance and/or large natural areas of undeveloped land. These parks tend to be destinations, often generate tourism, and have views or water access. Examples include: Gas Works Park, Discovery Park, Warren G. Magnuson Park, Lincoln Park and Green Lake Park. Parks with the attributes described above were reclassified from 'Community Park', 'Downtown Park', 'Natural Area', 'Recreation Area', and 'Special Use' categories.

4. The properties listed in the City’s 1993 Greenspaces Policy (Resolution 28653) remain in the ‘Greenbelts/Natural Area’ category, along with an additional 17 new properties. While the ‘Greenbelts/Natural Area’ definition has not changed from the 2009 Parks Classification Policy, 14 properties were reclassified from Greenbelts to other categories better align their uses and attributes:
 1. 3001 E Madison - Mini Parks/Pocket Parks
 2. Bellevue Place – Boulevards/Green Streets/Greenways
 3. Camp Long - Special-Use Parks/Specialty Gardens
 4. Carkeek Park - Community Parks
 5. Crown Hill Glen - Mini Parks/Pocket Parks
 6. Discovery Park - Regional Parks
 7. Golden Gardens Park - Regional Parks
 8. Hamilton Viewpoint Park - Neighborhood Parks
 9. Madrona Park - Community Parks
 10. Seward Park - Regional Parks
 11. Sunset Place - Mini Parks/Pocket Parks
 12. Taejon Park – Neighborhood Parks
 13. Washington Park and Arboretum - Special-Use Parks/Specialty Gardens
 14. Westcrest Park - Community Parks

5. ‘Special-Use Parks’ category has been expanded to include ‘Specialty Gardens’. This category refers generally to stand-alone parks that are designed to serve one particular use. Examples include: Camp Long, Woodland Park Zoo, West Seattle Stadium, and Kubota Gardens.

Public involvement process

As the proposed changes are not extensive and the use of this policy is primarily for planning and administrative purposes we have not planned an extensive public involvement process. We will provide a four-week comment period and a public hearing before the Board of Park Commissioners makes its recommendation.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

- November 13 – Park Board briefing
- December 9 - Deadline for written comments
- December 11 - Park Board public hearing, discussion and possible vote
- Mid-December - Parks Superintendent makes decision on proposed policy changes

Additional Information

Susanne Rockwell
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susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov

Attachments

Park Classification Policy showing proposed changes (Policy 060-P 5.11.1)
Spreadsheet showing park classifications

Website

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/policy/parks_classification_policy.pdf

Update

Susanne reiterates a few points from last month's briefing and proposes one small change. The Parks Classification Policy is an administrative management tool and an operational tool to assist staff deployment and maintenance needed. This keeps Parks aligned with the Parks Legacy Plan and includes property acquired since 2009. This is not intended to silo, it is meant to be flexible in nature; allow Parks staff to use it as a tool. There will be adjustments made moving forward.

Susanne proposes one change; she received a letter from the Carkeek Advisory Council requesting a change in classification to regional instead of community park – she feels it could fit in either category; she asks the Park Board to move it from community park to regional.

Commissioner Wright is very glad to see Parks made the change to Carkeek's designation and that Parks was so responsive to their letter, which was well reasoned. Commissioner Kincaid adds the new list makes so much more sense, intuitively and logically to the public.

Public Hearing

John Barber – wishes to speak on behalf of his friend Bob Kildal who was active in Discovery Park for most of his life. Whenever questions came up regarding Discovery Park, which has a master plan – there would be intense public involvement and the plan is still effective. John is here to defend the vision of the plan – to provide open space of quiet and tranquility in the city; an outdoor classroom for people to learn about natural world. It is a biological and natural rich area for environmental education. He wishes to keep the integrity of that space. Bob would question changing from Natural Area to Regional Park. John feels very protective about those natural areas especially since they are such a small percentage of parks.

Ester Sandoval questions the reason for changing the category. Is it for developers that are coming in? Discovery Park is a unique situation with private housing there. Acting Superintendent Williams does not anticipate outright development and cautions against it.

Gary Gaffner – pretty focused on Discovery Park – carrying out Park Board and Associated Recreation Council's (ARC) requirements – allocate money; he buys Susanne's argument that regional does not overwrite the master plan. He has been involved in fighting 137 proposals to use Discovery Park; trying to keep it natural area.

Discussion

Commissioner Wright states the description of regional park indicates they have large natural areas; does not feel it threatens the parks in any way. Discovery Park is a draw; people make an effort to go to it. She doesn't see how the designation changes the use.

Susanne – regional parks are in that category because they have existing development plans for their parks; existing pre-dated master plans that govern how they are operated and governed. This classification recognizes they have a draw, are big and have unique features, such as: landmarks

and historic status. Acting Superintendent Williams adds that Seward Park, Lincoln Park are examples where there is much natural area but bring in a regional draw.

Commissioner Kincaid asks whether the regional park designation will help get better transportation to those parks. Acting Superintendent Williams says the whole basis for this is how to allocate resources for regional parks.

Commissioner Mehdi suggests the policy state that if there is a master plan the policy should defer to the master plan. Policy says classification will provide for future development options... Susanne thought that language was in there but they can add it. Commissioner Wright says she would like to see the language. The Commissioners agree to postpone the vote until Commissioner Mehdi's suggestion is in the policy. Susanne will send out a new redlined version of the policy. Commissioner Wright suggests putting it on the agenda early so that the Commissioners can vote on it and Susanne can get home earlier.

Commissioner Tierney thanks Susanne and tells her she did a good job.

Old/New Business

Oversight Committee Selection – The Oversight Committee will have 1 representing each City Council district; 4 from other City Boards/Commissions and 4 Park Board members. 5 Park Board Commissioners expressed desire to participate in the Legacy Oversight – please draft an email to Acting Superintendent Williams that explains your interest. Council has yet to decide their members; would like to see what the geographic/demographic of the other members and then decide based on that. Selection will occur toward the end of January. Commissioner Tierney clarifies that this is a separate process from the council.

Commissioner Maryman requests the Board of Park Commissioners pen a letter to the City Council – he feels there were unintended consequences from the constraints put on the bike path through the Opportunity Fund grant. The pilot project will not be as affective because council constrained it to be a loop perimeter trail. Best practice is to have multiple loops for different skill levels; this perimeter trail makes it difficult for smaller kids. It would be blocking access for populations that are not as comfortable in natural areas. He feels if he was a mountain biker he would want to take on the steep hills; it may be a consequence of not building the trails there, which would make the pilot project fail. Commissioner Maryman offers to draft up a letter to the Council since it was the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners. Acting Superintendent Williams says it's a good idea; he says they should have a face-to face meeting with Councilmembers Clarke or Bagshaw. Commissioner Wright agrees that a conversation is a good idea before they receive a letter.

Acting Superintendent Williams says they have time because Parks is still in the environmental review process. They had a focus group with Rainier Vista last week and hope to have completed schematic design by the end of January. Getting in by the end of January is crucial; Commissioner Tierney says having a letter that can be copied to the Project Advisory Team (PAT) is important. He suggests concentrating some on the PAT schedule so they can take into consideration the unintended consequences as expressed in the letter. Commissioner Mehdi wonders if the Park Board would be adding fuel to a fire. Council significantly altered idea with the loop trail but that was in response to

the public. She questions the wisdom of doing that and opening up another hailstorm. Acting Superintendent Williams says that is an insightful observation; PATs are a transparent, community process – marching orders are the ones Council offered. Timing is important; people will show up at the Park Committee hearing. Time it closer to when recommendation is being made so it doesn't give impression that rug is being yanked from underneath them.

Commissioner Maryman agrees that it could be perceived this way; he has empathy as a designer – can achieve the goals but cannot use the best tools. Trust PAT to have collective intelligence but they cannot even have that thought right now because of the Council's criteria. Commissioner Tierney feels the controversy is still out there but not in front of the Park Board's sphere. There is a segment of the community that expected to have a fuller pilot program under discussion. There are not many voices that could put it back on the table; compelling to take the risk.

Planning Commission – coming to the Park Board meeting on January 22nd.

New Superintendent – interviews on Saturday; 3 names went to the Mayor. Mayor will be interviewing next week. Commissioner Tierney says the new Superintendent will have big shoes to fill.

Commissioner Albert gives an update on the Unsheltered Homelessness Taskforce; they had their 5th meeting today. They wrestled through 25 proposals – honed down to 8 based on what met criteria set out by the Mayor that was feasible. The group will be presenting proposals to the Mayor on Monday – a couple of them will have direct impact on Parks' work and try some new things; sheltering people on public land in public places.

Commissioner Wright states the Partnership committee meets on January 6 with an expanded agenda to include Thatcher Bailey from Seattle Parks Foundation and Bill Keller from ARC. They will be working on an agenda for a first quarter meeting with major partners and the new Superintendent. Thatcher is organizing a social gathering to welcome the new Superintendent that will be co-sponsored by the Park Board.

Seattle Times called Commissioner Wright to discuss conservancy issue with City of Seattle. Barbara reviewed Parks partnerships and leveraging funds and benefits; she states she is not sure where story is going.

Commissioner Wright mentions that Acting Superintendent Williams was honored at the Arboretum Foundation meeting by surprise. She feels it is a model partnership! They said amazing things about him and value his partnership. Acting Superintendent Williams says it was very humbling!

Commissioner Kincaid finished her volunteer time at Magnuson Park Advisory Council (MPAC). The relationship between Parks and MPAC is very positive. She encourages someone to step up. Commissioner Tierney thanks her for her work on that committee.

Commissioner Kincaid plans to start the communications committee in January; Barbara has volunteered to be on that committee. No date has been set yet.

Commissioner Maryman moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Wright seconds the motion and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:10 pm.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Tom Tierney, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners