

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2015

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

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

***Board of Park Commissioners***

Present:

Antoinette Angulo  
Tom Byers  
Diana Kincaid  
William Lowe  
Michael Padilla  
Tom Tierney, Chair  
Barbara Wright, Vice Chair

Excused:

Marty Bluewater  
Bob Edmiston

***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff***

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent  
Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent  
Susan Golub, Policy Unity Manager  
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 6:30pm.

Tom introduces the new Get Engaged Commissioner, Michael Padilla. Commissioner Padilla is excited to be on the board and hopes to live up to the big shoes filled by Commissioner Albert. The Park Board is glad to have him and offer a warm welcome.

Commissioner Tierney requests changing the order on the Agenda and approval of the Consent Items; which consists of the July 23 meeting minutes, the Acknowledgment of Correspondence and the modified Agenda. Commissioner Kincaid moves, Commissioner Byers seconds and the Consent Items are approved.

**Superintendent's Report**

- **A Snapshot of 2015 Summer Programming Accomplishments**

**Aquatics**

<b>Beach Attendance</b>	249,013 (up from 237,388 last year)
<b>Beach Rescues</b>	99 (up from 86 last year)
<b>Free Swim Lessons</b>	1244 (up from 936 last year)

**Pools** 328,480 General Admission, and almost 270,000 swim lessons  
**Craft Center Programs** 11,000+ participants  
**Boat Ramp Usage** 13,430 drop-in (up from 11,729 last summer)  
 \*In 2015 there has been a major effort to recruit, train and develop youth for employment in aquatics.  
 34% of current employees are youth and 29% are people of color.

**Community Center Programming**

**Instructional Programs** Almost 3,000  
**Camps Participants** 23,706  
**Fitness Programs** Almost 2,000

**Other Fun Facts**

**Picnics Booked** 4,234  
**Weddings** 257  
**Langston Hughes** 92 teen musical participants, 6 SYEP Youth Support, 30 Artist-in-training stipends for teens  
**Golden Gardens** 125  
**Bathhouse rentals**

**Othello Park International Music and Arts Festival** Over 1,500 attendees

SPR held a great staff appreciation event at Lower Woodland that included a kickball tournament, DJ, karaoke, and great food.

Seattle teachers are on strike – Recreation stepped up to provide relief for parents who could not care for their children during regular school hours. SPR is gearing up to expand service if the strike continues. Lori Chisholm, Kelly Guy and Associated Recreation Council have really stepped up. Superintendent Aguirre really appreciates their efforts.

Snow White, Each One Teach One– This is a high quality program with 92 8-18 year olds. They practiced for 10 weeks, Monday through Friday. It was quite an accomplishment and the show was great!

**Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience**

Gary Gaffner - Numbers should be statistically significant; brought the Commissioners snacks on account of Discovery Park winning best Park by a Seattle Times poll.

**Old/New Business**

Magnolia Manor Vote: Susan Golub recapitulates the public process and the history of the Magnolia Manor Off-Leash Area. All Off-Leash Areas (OLAs) start as an 18-month pilot. The Park Board approved going forward with a permanent off-leash area with three conditions; those conditions were met. The conditions were shorter hours for the park, clear signage, and a Stewards Agreement.

Leah Tivoli came last meeting and presented the changes requested by the Park Board, but there was no quorum. Commissioner Wright moves to approve the OLA, Commissioner Kincaid seconds, no discussion and it is approved unanimously.

King County Metro Letter: The Board of Park Commissioners received a draft letter to King County Metro to expand service to Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) facilities written by Commissioners Kincaid and Edmiston. The letter is in response to the new Capitol Hill and University District stations. These Sound Transit stations will expand service towards SPR facilities and the Park Board letter asks them to approve the plans, improve services to a number of parks and community centers.

Commissioner Wright thinks the letter is great and thanks Commissioner Kincaid for being so persistent about getting transportation to regional parks. Hopefully, they will respond positively. Commissioner Wright moves to approve the letter and send it out. Commissioner Angulo seconds and thanks Commissioner Kincaid for her leadership. Letter is approved unanimously.

Executive Committee: Update on what transpires during the Executive Committee – there are 4 members from the Park Board: the Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioners Edmiston and Kincaid. The main intent of the meeting is to set the agenda. Commissioner Tierney reviews the future agenda for the remainder of 2015. The Natural Areas and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines are not scheduled because the Park Board intends to discuss that at this meeting.

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee: Jesús attended the Magnuson Park Advisory Council meeting and everyone was thrilled he was there. Jesús adds that it is a great group and their issues at Magnuson Park parallel with system-wide issues.

Partnership Committee Update: The Seattle Park and Recreation Alliance spun out of the Partnership Committee. Commissioner Byers is serving on the Steering Committee. Seattle Parks Foundation is hosting another meeting in October. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Alliance is working on a draft charter; looking at expanding membership; and figuring out a work program, which will most likely include Alliance support for a more streamlined contracting arrangement with the City Council. Commissioner Tierney thanks Commissioner Wright for her leadership. Commissioner Byers says there is a huge diversity of partners and they are all up to a great start. There is a subcommittee getting together to create a briefing for the new councilmembers. There is a City Council Candidate Forum at the Center for Urban Horticulture sponsored by TreePlant on September 29. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Alliance submitted questions focused on natural areas.

## **Natural Areas and Greenbelts Supplemental Use Guidelines: Next Steps**

*Presented by Christopher Williams, Seattle Parks and Recreation*

### ***Written Briefing***

#### **MEMORANDUM**

Date: September 3, 2015  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Susanne Rockwell, Strategic Advisor  
Subject: Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines – Revisions II

**Requested Board Action**

This briefing paper recaps the public engagement process and a proposed change to the Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines. No Board action is requested at the September 10 Board meeting; timing for a Board recommendation is expected to be part of the discussion on September 10.

**Proposed Revisions since July 23**

Based on comments received at the Park Board’s July 23 meeting, and written comments, staff have revised the Use Guidelines with one additional revision, a new criterion in the Habitat and Preservation section addressing cumulative impacts:

- 4.2.5 Assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed use on the location where the use is proposed and on the City’s system of greenbelts and natural areas.

(Please note earlier revisions were listed in the July 20, 2015 Park Board briefing memo, included as Attachment 1 to this briefing paper.)

**Public Engagement Recap**

Between February and April, Parks engaged the public in a robust information gathering and discussion effort with the public which consisted of several major components:

1. Media announcements and an Interactive Community Blog
2. Invitational Focus Group sessions
3. Mini-Summit - Panel Discussion and Open House
4. Public Hearing – to date, 90 emails/letters have been received and 34 individuals testified

**Public Engagement Schedule**

- January 21 – June - Media announcements and email notices
- February 6 – April 8 – Interactive Community Blog/survey questions through MindMixer platform
- March 19, 21, 26 – Invitational Focus Group sessions
- April 4 - Mini-Summit - Panel Discussion and Open House
- June 4 – Draft Supplemental Use Guidelines released for public review
- June 25 - Public Hearing
- July – Revisions to the Use Guidelines based upon public comments and extension of the public comment period to September

**Media coverage included the following articles/programs:**

1. My Northwest - [Tension between city, advocates growing over Seattle green space | MyNorthwest.com](#)
2. KIRO Radio - [#FactCheck: The real reason activists are fighting Seattle's Parks Department | Kiro Radio](#)
3. King 5 News - [Seattle parks plan will share natural areas’ futures | King5 News](#)

**Chart of Public Engagement Participation**

Event	Participation	Of note
<b>Interactive Community Blog</b> – The interactive blog launched in early-February and was open to the public through April 8.	272 individuals commented and interacted with other community members in this forum.  The blog consisted of several questions pertaining to priorities	The following neighborhoods contributed the majority of comments in this forum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lake City</li> <li>2. Laurelhurst</li> </ol>

	and use of natural areas and greenbelts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Phinney/Greenwood</li> <li>4. Beacon Hill/Rainier Beach</li> <li>5. West Seattle</li> </ol>
<p><b>Invitational Focus Group Sessions –</b> Groups/organizations were contacted by Parks Consultants and encouraged to send a representative to one of four available dates.</p> <p>Facilitated small group discussions allowed for the identification of overarching priorities and the development of supporting actions items that reflect/incorporate those priorities.</p>	<p>52 groups/organizations participated in the sessions, six of which serve historically underrepresented communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Conservation Association</li> <li>• Immigrant and Refugee Commission</li> <li>• Seattle Goodwill</li> <li>• Neighborhood House</li> <li>• Nature Consortium</li> <li>• Rainier Vista – Cheasty process</li> </ul>	<p>76 organizations were contacted, including 15 that work with historically underrepresented populations.</p> <p>The focus group sessions were listening opportunities for Seattle Parks and Recreation and were not consensus driven.</p>
<p><b>Mini-Summit and Open House –</b> The Mini-Summit included a panel discussion and Q/A. Five guest speakers with varying viewpoints on natural areas and greenbelts participated in a moderated discussion; responding to questions from the audience.</p> <p>The Open House portion of the day included information boards and comments sheets.</p>	<p>100 individuals signed in to participate in the Mini-Summit.</p> <p>31 groups/organizations participated in the Open House portion of the Mini-Summit, showcasing the work that they do in our natural areas and greenbelts.</p>	<p>Guest Speakers for the panel discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Barber</li> <li>• Merica Whitehall</li> <li>• Marty Westerman</li> <li>• Peg Staeheli</li> <li>• Mark Jordan</li> <li>• Charlie Zaragoza (moderator)</li> </ul>

**Additional Information**

[susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov](mailto:susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov)

Project web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/NaturalAreaGreenbeltUse/default.htm>



## MEMORANDUM

Date: July 20, 2015  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Susanne Rockwell, Strategic Advisor  
Subject: Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines – Revisions

### **Requested Board Action**

This briefing paper describes proposed changes to the Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines. No action from the Board is requested at the July 23 meeting; staff will request a recommendation from the Board in September.

### **Project Background**

During the review process for the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail Pilot Project, it became clear that Seattle Parks and Recreation did not have established criteria to evaluate a use proposed for a Natural Area or Greenbelt. In order to have criteria in place for future proposals, Parks and Recreation initiated the process to develop Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines.

The intent of the Guidelines is to evaluate the potential impacts of uses proposed for Natural Areas and Greenbelts. The checklist proposed for this evaluation requests information in the following categories:

1. Habitat
2. Environmental Preservation
3. Education, Access and Public Safety
4. Recreation, and
5. Acquisition

It is the underpinning of the Use Guidelines that a decision whether to move forward with a proposed use must balance all of these factors.

(Additional information, including a review of the public outreach process, was provided in the June 25, 2015 briefing paper, available at: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks-and-recreation/about-us/board-of-park-commissioners>)

### **Proposed Revisions**

Based on comments received at the Park Board's June 25 meeting, and written comments, staff have revised the Use Guidelines.

**Preamble Added:** The City has been blessed by the incredible efforts of thousands of volunteers working to restore the urban forest, with over 700,000 hours spent caring for the land. A preamble has been added to celebrate this effort and make clear that Parks and Recreation's promulgation of the Use Guidelines will not detract from past or future restoration efforts.

**4.0 Policy Section:** This section was revised to state that the Use Guidelines will *not* supersede adopted ordinances or policies. The Use Guidelines add guidance for implementing existing policies/regulations, but do not supersede them.

**Process Illustration Added:** To help explain the process for approving new uses in Natural Areas and Greenbelts, including review by the Park Board, the Guidelines now include a chart showing the path to approval/denial for a proposal.

**Checklist Changes:**

- Clarified the proponent’s responsibility to provide a detailed proposal description and explain how the “yes” responses are supported
- Added Environmental Preservation Section
- Added criteria to Recreation Section
  - asking about community support for the proposal, and
  - asking if alternate locations have been considered, including non-Parks and Recreation property
- Regarding alternate locations, the Guidelines state:
  - If the purpose of the proposed use can be met at an alternate location, then a location in a Natural Area or Greenbelt should be considered only as a last resort.

**What Hasn’t Changed**

A major point of those who oppose the proposed Use Guidelines is that the Guidelines are inconsistent with the City’s 1993 Greenspaces Policy. The 1993 Policy allows “low impact activities” in greenspaces, but does not specify what types of uses qualify as low impact. The proposed Guidelines interpret “low impact” to mean those activities with a low impact on the environment, leaving the decision on which uses will be allowed to individual proposal evaluation pursuant to the criteria.

Keeping the door open to a range of uses with a low impact on habitat and forest preservation remains consistent with the Parks and Recreation position, as stated in the proposed Preamble of the Guidelines, to balance:

- Preserving and enhancing forest habitat, tree canopy and water quality,
- Increasing environmental education and stewardship,
- Getting youth engaged and involved in their environment,
- Providing recreation opportunities for our changing needs,
- Ensuring equitable access to all park land, including Natural Areas and Greenbelts, and
- Enhancing positive use.

**Schedule**

July 23, 2015: Park Board discussion of Natural Area and Greenbelt Use Guidelines

September 10 or 24: Park Board recommendation

**Additional Information**

[susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov](mailto:susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov)

Project web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/NaturalAreaGreenbeltUse/default.htm>

***Presentation***

Deputy Superintendent Williams gives a chronology of how SPR came to the decision to create the Supplemental Use Guidelines in light of the many new commissioners. He recommends tabling the Supplemental Use Guidelines with no compelling reason to move forward at this time. He suggests SPR work to modify the Guidelines to be more responsive to the feedback from the public. SPR staff

believe an assessment tool is necessary but, question if the current approach is the right approach? There will always be challenges and tensions; and having the right tool will be important going forward. SPR staff will gather more information; allow the Cheasty pilot to go forward and assess the pilot and have that inform the assessment tool. Keep the public comment period open for a long time and use this time to digest and analyze the ideas that have been presented.

Deputy Superintendent Williams gives a comprehensive overview of how SPR arrived at this point. Cheasty and these Guidelines are inextricably linked, because these Guidelines came out of the Cheasty experience. Parks staff have been talking about Cheasty with the Park Board since 2013. A grant was denied because the proposed mountain bike trail was against the SPR Bicycle Use policy. In October 2013, SPR initiated bike policy change to allow mountain biking in natural areas; in January 2014, the Board of Park Commissioners approved a pilot project for a bike trail.

SPR staff committed to establishing a Project Advisory Team (PAT) and Use Guidelines to the City Council at the meeting for the grant funds.

From September 2014 to March 2015, SPR staff held 6 PAT meetings. The Board of Park Commissioners voted to recommend the pilot project at Cheasty on May 28. The Supplemental Use Guidelines were developed to protect natural areas and greenbelts, intended to serve as a filter for transparent decision-making. They were to serve as a tool to help us reject/approve projects that would serve the public.

Deputy Superintendent Williams goes over outreach table listed in the briefing paper. He says they can use this time to gain more experience with the Cheasty pilot project, listen to the public further. SPR staff maintain an assessment tool is necessary, but want to ensure that it is the right approach and the right tool?

### *Discussion*

Commissioner Wright thanks the department for being flexible. The last draft was great for incorporating all the comments that people have made. She feels strongly the need to see the results of the pilot. She suggests a category more focused on people than habitat. Preamble of the environmental movement was to avoid impacts on the population and the environment. This does not take into account the health benefit to people. There is a conflict of users, it is important to make sure to balance those, and there is a way to discuss that.

She feels the Preamble needs to talk about the same kind of uses and highlight that there is increased pressure for quiet places to go and enjoy nature. All the people who work in the natural areas and who volunteer and write in to us, appreciate SPR putting the brakes on this.

Commissioner Wright moves the Board delay any further discussion until SPR has evaluated the Cheasty pilot, Commissioner Kincaid seconds.

Deputy Superintendent Williams says the evaluation will start during construction and SPR will put together a steering committee. Commissioner Lowe wonders if we're moving too slowly on this? He feels the neighbors have come out in a wonderful way – wants to make sure that this process does

not get too bureaucratic. Deputy Superintendent Williams says SPR is moving forward with the Cheasty pilot but holding off on the Use Guidelines until after evaluating the Cheasty project.

Cheasty is moving forward with fundraising. Commissioner Kincaid says thank you for giving this more time. The Park Board approved a pilot and she wants to stay true to that and feels this shows follow through. She has some ideas for possible language for the Supplemental Use Guidelines.

Superintendent Aguirre thanks Deputy Superintendent Williams for the summary. He thanks the community for being so active on both sides of this issue. He emphasizes that there needs to be filters as moving forward. He is comfortable with putting a pause for now, especially since there is not another use at the door right now. SPR staff need a mechanism to inform their decisions when there is a new use. He recommends not giving a timeline. Superintendent Aguirre wants to know what SPR should do when receiving the next use request and at what point will there be enough data to move forward with the Guidelines.

Commissioner Byers agrees saying that Cheasty will examine mountain bike impacts, but it won't be definitive for all the questions that will come up. He feels the department did a good job incorporating feedback from the community; there are some important philosophical departures in there: Part 4.4.5 to look at parks and non-parks properties, natural areas as a last resort. He feels the Supplemental Use Guidelines feels like a good starting place and agrees with Commissioner Wright's suggestions. He encourages the community to stick with it too.

Commissioner Tierney suggests SPR give thought to where SPR will be at certain mileposts of the Cheasty pilot about whether to wait until the end of the evaluation or at what point during the Cheasty pilot. Superintendent Aguirre suggests encouraging further drafting and moving forward with crafting it. Commissioner Wright withdraws her Motion and asks the department to come back with a new timeline about a future process. Commissioners Angulo and Wright volunteer to work toward a public health piece. Commissioner Angulo agrees there needs to be a way to talk about and filter future uses. Deputy Superintendent Williams suggests SPR return to the Park Board with a timeline and new modified approach. Commissioner Tierney says he's comfortable with that but feels SPR needs to have something definitive on website that states the current guidelines are not moving forward at this time and are working on next steps.

Unless another use is brought up the Natural Areas and Greenbelts Supplemental Use Guidelines will be tabled until 2016.

## **Presentation: Green Seattle Partnership 20-year Plan Update**

*Presented by Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Juliet Vong, HBB Consulting*

### ***Written Briefing***

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners  
FROM: Green Seattle Partnership  
DATE: September 10, 2015  
SUBJECT: 10 Year Update to the Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan

#### **Information Only**

No formal action is requested. This is an opportunity for the Commissioners to be informed of the progress on the 10-year update to the Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan.

#### **Background**

Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) was formed in 2004 by a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Seattle and Forterra (formerly the Cascade Land Conservancy) as a one-time, 20-year investment in the restoration of our forested parklands. Seattle's forested parklands were in danger of disappearing because of invasive plants dominating the understory, aging and dying forest canopies, and a diminished seedbank for regeneration of a native conifer forest. 2015 marks the program's half way point with an opportunity to update the plan, celebrate our accomplishments, and plan for the future.

Green Seattle Partnership's vision is to promote a livable city by re-establishing and maintaining healthy urban forests. By including a heavy reliance on community support to achieve this goal, GSP facilitates tens of thousands of volunteer hours per year, fostering a sense of ownership and community among volunteers. These volunteers become stewards of Seattle's forested parklands, ensuring a legacy of preservation.

The 10-year update will cover a broad range of topics including:

- Describing GSP's vision, goals and objectives
- Highlighting GSP's accomplishments to date
- Explanation of GSP's restoration strategies and how they have been refined over 10 years of implementation
- Updating the organization as a result of Seattle Park District funding
- Tracking and reporting of restoration activities
- Analysis of what is left to meet GSP's vision
- Identifying opportunities for improvements and considering limitations to the program
- Addressing the Race and Social Justice Initiative goals within the program
- Establishing the six year capital improvement plan (CIP) as well as long-term funding for maintaining restored sites

## **Public Process**

Seattle Parks and Recreation has hired HBB Landscape Architecture to assist with the process of public involvement. To date, a number of workshops have been conducted with GSP oversight and advisory committees. Two surveys were also conducted for the advisory committees and the GSP Forest Stewards. An additional public survey is currently in progress. The public survey will be advertised through partner email lists, at City Neighborhood District Council meetings, and outreach to specific stakeholder groups or target audiences, such as youth organizations. Presentations will also be made to the Urban Forestry Commission, Seattle Park District Oversight Committee and at all the City Neighborhood District Councils to provide additional input into the plan update.

## **Funding**

Funding will be from the Seattle Park District beginning in 2016 for the capital improvement portion of restoration. CIP portions include actively removing invasive plants, planting native plants, and establishing new plantings. Long term funding of on-going maintenance for GSP sites already in restoration has currently not been established.

## **Schedule**

The 10 year update is anticipated to be completed during the first quarter of 2016. It is currently in the draft stage, and community participation will be ongoing through October.

## **Additional information**

Jon Jainga

Email: [Jon.Jainga@seattle.gov](mailto:Jon.Jainga@seattle.gov) 206.233.5019

<http://greenseattle.org/about-us/20-year-strategic-plan/>

## ***Presentation***

Jesús introduces Jon Jainga. He feels this is good follow up to show our commitment to the environmental side of our Mission. Forests play a critical role in our vibrant city; Seattle Parks and Recreation is leading the country. Jon is presenting at NRPA on this program. The 10-year update is an exciting opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to restoring natural areas.

Jon Jainga, out-of-class Manager at the Natural Resources Unit. He manages the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) program. They are a small unit out of the Jefferson facilities – 3 plant ecologists and a natural area crew that supports 170 forest stewards. This program is the largest in the nation for restoration.

Background: In 2004 Forterra (formerly, Cascade Land Conservancy) and Seattle Parks and Recreation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – an investment to maintain the forested parkland. The purpose of this was to promote a livable city. This partnership included SPR, the Office of Sustainability, and the Cascade Land Conservancy; currently, it includes various non-profits to manage all of the volunteers, such as, Earthcorps and Nature Consortium.

There is the Executive, the management team and 3 committees: field, education and training, and public engagement committee. The forest stewards are the boots and gloves on the ground making this program successful.

GSP developed a 20-year plan – so far there have been over 500,000 volunteer hours. SPR has launched a 10-year update to evaluate the state of forested parkland. The GSP are working to achieve their 3 main goals:

1. Establish a finance and volunteer resource;
2. Ensure sustainability of parkland
3. Galvanize an active community around forest restoration and stewardship.

In 2005, when the partnership was created, the program had no money. Forterra helped fund the program. SPU has contributed \$100,000 in riparian areas; SPR has funded nearly \$370,000 in 2005 and 2006; \$1.2million in 2008, and \$2.2million each year from 2008 to 2015. Initiative 1.2 of the Seattle Park District "Saving The Forests" will help fund GSP annually at about \$2.6million. For the remainder of the year, the GSP and SPR will perform surveys, talk with volunteers and forest stewards, and engage with managers.

Juliet Vong with HPV Landscape Architecture – She is updating the 20-year Strategic Plan for GSP. GSP is taking a high level approach that will include the goals and strategies.

When GSP was created the forests were declining as there was only limited maintenance; forests covered in ivy lacks the ability to regenerate, which creates monoculture. This is still the problem. Increasing urban density and the need to maintain the program's success has become part of the 10-year update. They are also working to increase public awareness.

The plan will include:

- Where we are at today: GSP is an integral part of the effort to improve Seattle's urban forests.
- Complimenting organizations that support GSP;
- Creating a vision that promotes a livable city by reestablishing and maintaining healthy forested parklands throughout Seattle;
- 3 goals: 2500 acres by 2025, community, and resources;
- Celebrate the accomplishments: National recognition, restored 1232 acres, 700,000+volunteer hours and active in 80 parks.

Engagement process – transparent, inclusive and tangible; using media, website, and surveys.

Stakeholders – voice the values and generate the ideas; ascertaining what elements of the vision they need to communicate the most; support feedback and celebrate!

Timeline: Create a rough draft of the plan and move through with staff to make sure it makes sense to the staff using it.

Introduce the Seattle Park District to the plan, advisory committees, mission, and roles; activate and engage youth; forest stewards want a more active voice in the program; reporting, transparency and assessments built into the update.

Plan always had maps - neighborhood focus so people can see it for their neighborhood.

Field element – bring resources and cutting-edge science – applying forest science into urban conditions. Want to make sure that its working and use metrics. The updated plan will shows acres improved from original baseline through the timeline. 925 acres have improved; evaluating why and shifting best practices so they are successful. 1332 acres left – more challenging sites; cost variability and efficiencies – refine prioritization and review best management practices.

Restoration needs to go beyond park boundary – engaging partners to do that work long-term. Communicate better and engage youth.

Forest stewards beyond 2025 – They will use passion and resources in what new ways? Phase 4 is long-term maintenance – fundamental logistic to track and metrics for that.

### *Discussion*

Commissioner Kincaid asks if they are adjusting the plantings for climate change. Juliette responds that WSU and UW programs to see how to change plant palette to address climate change. Jon mentions they have modified the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for drought conditions. This is the year of the mulch; putting down 4-6 inches of mulch to better retain moisture. Hand-watering is being used more. 174 forest stewards every day are hand-watering their plants.

Jon Jainga, says many species they use are drought tolerant - Salal, Oregon Grape. Planting more Douglas Firs and avoiding Cedars. It takes much effort to look at habitat for changes in critters after an area is planted. Magnuson site – looked at the project before restoration and after 10 years – more birds seen with more frequency. The restored areas have been really successful. Seattle Conservation Corps is an active partner – fill up majority of cisterns for forest stewards that do the hand watering. Commissioner Byers says an increase of the Conservation Corp staff would help with them meeting their goals.

Commissioner Tierney thanks Juliet and Jon for their presentation. Jon says they will bring a completed draft of plan at the end of the year.

**Commissioner Angulo moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Kincaid seconds the motion and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:00 pm.**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Tierney, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners