

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2017

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
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Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Andréa Akita
Tom Byers, Chair
Dennis Cook
Marlon Herrera
Evan Hundley
Kelly McCaffrey
Rachel Anne Williams
Barbara Wright

Excused:

William Lowe, Vice Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator

The meeting is held at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Byers calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Commissioner Byers calls for approval of the Consent Items: the December 14 agenda, October 26 meeting minutes and the Acknowledgment of Correspondence; Commissioner Hundley moves, Commissioner Akita seconds and the Consent Items are approved unanimously.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Cole Eckerman – Executive Director for Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) asks the Board to recommend making Denny Park Off-Leash Area a permanent fixture; this park sees dozens of dog owners every day and produces positive activation in the neighborhood, including community building and preventing undesirable activity.

Jonathan Mark – Protect Volunteer Park – Mr. Mark comments he has enjoyed getting to know Superintendent Aguirre during his time in the department. He tells the Board that on December 1 the public saw the proposed Lease and Development Agreement

for the Seattle Asian Art Museum. The Lease Agreement term is 55 years with no rent and with SPR paying operating and support payments, with SPR providing the capital for all major maintenance.

Bill Farmer – Friends of Athletic Fields; 70% playfields are scheduled as youth only. 90% grass fields are youth only; 65% grass fields are ranked mediocre to poor; all fields are 51% mediocre to poor condition. Youth did not used to have to pay to play. 2019 Real Estate Excise Tax funding goes to zero! Funding sources for playfields are to be determined. The Joint Athletic Field Development Policy should be revisited and the priority lists need to be updated.

Lisa Dutton – Magnuson Park – She and her husband proposed to run a photography studio in Building 11. They have been waiting four years to move in, and the lease terms are constantly being renegotiated; those willing to pay market rent are accommodated. It is becoming unaffordable for artists to have space there. Public input is not being incorporated into who wants a space. There is a lack of oversight.

Ken Risty – He uses the off-leash area at Denny Park. He lives across the street from the park and he loves the park and the people in his building love that park. He doesn't have time to go all the way to Minor for the dog park there.

Sharon LeVine – Denny Park off-leash area is the best! Amazon financed the park and believes in this park. Many of their employees live and work in this area. More companies allow dogs at work around this park. It helped decrease problematic behavior that was occurring in the park before it was established. There is a need for dog parks down here.

Julian Schrenzel – Riverview Park – He lives in the Riverview Park community in Seattle. It is a lightless park that is open at night; scheduled closure changed to 10pm. This doesn't make a difference when it gets dark at 5pm. Either light the park or allow gates to be closed from dusk to dawn.

Update: Denny Park Off-Leash Area

Presented by Holly Miller, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Written Briefing

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 11, 2017
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Holly Miller
Subject: Denny Park Off-Leash Area

Introduction

Denny Park is the Seattle's oldest park. Pioneer David Denny gave the land to the city, first as a cemetery in 1861, and then as a park in 1884. By 1904, the area had become residential and the park was improved with formally designed planting beds, swings and other play equipment, a sand lot and a playfield. Denny Park's design is an example of the classical formalism seen in the late-19th-early-20th Century in urban squares.

In March 2012, the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (SPR) opened the Denny Park Off Leash Area (OLA). At one-tenth acre in size, the Denny Park OLA was intended to help provide services to the estimated 900 dogs in the vicinity. Many of these dogs were running off leash in Denny Park, causing concerns for non-dog users and children in the park, not to mention hygiene issues. The OLA has been a success and is constantly in use by workers and residents who walk their dogs.

The Denny Park OLA was intended to be temporary until construction of the South Lake Union Substation was completed. The Denny Park Substation, located at 1250 Denny Way, includes a 6,000 square foot OLA in its design.

Denny Park and the OLA are wheel chair accessible. A four-foot tall fence encloses the Denny Park OLA with double gates to ensure safe entrance and egress from the OLA. Surfacing is gravel. Funding for the Denny Park OLA included \$50,000 from Vulcan Inc. and \$45,000 from Amazon.com. The OLA was constructed by the Seattle Conservation Corps.

In 2017, SPR re-opened Denny Park, including the OLA, after substantial renovation and replanting. The presence of the OLA has allowed SPR staff, including Enforcement, to direct dog owners to the OLA rather than running their dogs in the park where damage to newly planted vegetation is a danger. More visitors are using the Park and the presence of an OLA in small Denny Park helps to avoid dog-people conflicts.

Since 2012, dog registration at Amazon alone has increased from 300 to 4000 dogs. While Amazon has installed dog-appropriate landscaping and has built a small dog play area, the demand generated by Amazon and other dog-friendly businesses in South Lake Union, is obviously large. Seattle City Light is building another small off leash area as part of the construction of the South Lake Union (SLU) Substation due to be completed in 2018. That OLA will be located some five blocks to the east and up a steep hill on Denny Avenue. That will help serve businesses and residents in east South Lake Union, but it is unlikely that many people will trudge up the steep hill from west South Lake Union during lunch breaks to walk their dogs. If Denny Park OLA is closed when the SLU substation OLA opens, old conflicts related to dogs running off leash in Denny Park would likely recur.

This memorandum provides some background and context for a recommendation to the Board of Park Commissioners that the current temporary OLA at Denny Park be made permanent.

Background

Addition of a Children's Play area

A restoration plan for Denny Park was inspired in 2005 and 2006 by the Friends of Denny Park (FODP), a diverse neighborhood coalition of churches, businesses, school groups, representatives of low income housing and others. FODP was the convener, advocate and organizer for a children's play area for Denny Park. The City Council appropriated \$100,000 for the play area in the SPR Capital Improvement Plan and instructed FODP to use funds from the Neighborhood Matching Fund for design.

The resulting site analysis required looking at the whole park to determine the best site for the play area. The concept plan emerging from the site plan consisted of a new play area, safety improvements such as vegetation management and lighting, an expanded central area, a history plaza, improved irrigation and planting, restroom renovation and curb bulbs. A site for the play area was identified in the northeast part of the park. A history plaza was designated for the current site of the Denny Park OLA. The history plaza was not defined but there were ideas from public input including showing how the park looked before the regrade, stories of the early Native people and the Denny family.

The public process included three well-attended public meetings, three in-park open houses, children's workshops, and partnerships with Real Change Newspaper vendors and other community groups.

The restoration plan was presented to the Board of Park Commissioners as a briefing in February, 2007 and construction of the children's play area followed in 2007-2008 as the only funded element of the restoration plan.

Development of Denny Park Temporary Off Leash Area

In 2011, responding to community requests and concerns, SPR considered locations for a temporary OLA in the South Lake Union neighborhood. Three sites were analyzed: Denny Park, Cascade Park and South Lake Union Park. Both Cascade and Denny Parks were proposed as small fenced OLA's and South Lake Union Park was proposed as an unfenced OLA available for unleashed dogs before 7:00 am and after 7:00 pm.

These options were presented to the Board of Park Commissioners in October, 2011 without a staff recommendation. The Board held a well-attended public hearing at the same meeting. Most speakers favored an OLA in the South Lake Union neighborhood or at Denny Park. Those in opposition to Denny Park were concerned about siting an OLA in an Olmsted – influenced park. At their November, 2011 meeting the Board of Park Commissioners voted to approve the use of Denny Park as a temporary off leash area with several conditions including:

- Cost of construction, operation and maintenance must come from outside public funds;

- Establish evaluation criteria and remove the OLA after the three years of maintenance funding has expired;
- This must be a firm pilot with a designated timeframe. A permanent site must be located and, when it is, the temporary one removed.
- The cost of restoration should be paid for from non-Park budget sources. The rest of Denny Park must be protected and dog owners respect the rest of the park.
- COLA should provide stewardship of the new off leash area at Denny Park.

The Denny Park temporary off leash area was constructed by the Seattle Conservation Corps in 2012 using \$95,000 in funding from Vulcan, Inc. and Amazon Corporation. It opened for public use in March, 2012 and has remained open with constant use by the public except during the period when Denny Park was restored in 2017.

Restoration of Denny Park

The 2006 plans to restore Denny Park, apart from installation of the children's play area were never implemented because funding was not available. In 2016, building on the 2006 park restoration plans, SPR held public meetings to present project options and gain community feedback. By combining funding from three separate major maintenance improvement projects including pavement replacement and enhancement, drainage and sanitary sewer replacement and irrigation system replacement and upgrade, SPR identified several opportunities to make improvements to the park. The attached plan was developed after a community survey and community meetings to reviewed the proposed improvements. The attached plan identifies the temporary Denny Park OLA.

Construction was completed in 2017 and the park was reopened in May, 2017.

Discussion

SPR has been considering whether to recommend that the Denny Park OLA be made permanent. Several key factors argue both for permanent retention of the OLA in Denny Park and for its retention at its current location in the Park.

The Denny Park temporary OLA has been in use steadily since 2012 except for the closure period for Park restoration in 2017. During that closure period, the children's play area located next to the OLA was open for public use and SPR saw a big increase in dog feces in and around the play area. Once the OLA reopened, the problem was resolved.

The Denny Park OLA receives steady use throughout the day and evening and appears to be used mostly by individual dog owners rather than by dog walkers. It is rare to see large packs of dogs in the OLA's limited space. Recent efforts to activate the park with food trucks, music and café tables and chairs tends to influence behavioral norms towards keeping dogs on leash and under control except when they are in the OLA.

SPR staff report a dramatic reduction in conflicts between dogs and people when the OLA is available. The increase in dogs registered at Amazon, the increase in development in South Lake Union, the increase in people and dogs in the neighborhood and accessibility challenges of the City Light Substation OLA (when it opens in 2018) to people and businesses on the west side of south Lake Union argue for making the OLA permanent.

As noted above, some object to an OLA in an Olmsted – influenced park and others have argued for moving the OLA to another location in the park. No funding currently exists to pay for the OLA to be moved.

Options

Options to retaining the OLA include **closing it permanently, moving it to another location in the park, or retaining its temporary status until the OLA at the City Light Substation opens in 2018.**

Closing the OLA

Cons:

- Would likely increase the numbers of dogs off leash in the park.
- Would likely result in an increase in dog-human and dog-dog negative interactions, particularly given Denny Park activation and the increase in numbers of dogs and humans.
- The presence of dog owners in the early morning and evenings activates the park during these hours when other active uses are gone.
- Having positive activities occurring in the park throughout the day discourages illicit behaviors that have been challenging to manage in Denny Park over the years.

Pros:

- Consistent with Board of Park Commissioner’s previous direction.
- Would allow other uses of this area of the park.

Moving OLA to Another Location in the Park

Cons:

- There is currently no funding to reconstruct the OLA at another location within the Park.
- It co-exists peaceably with adjacent uses now, including the children’s play area and the food trucks and café tables in the center of the park.
- The OLA activates a portion of the park which traditionally has been more difficult to monitor, darker and more subject to criminal activities.

Pros:

- Some neighborhood interests would like to retain the OLA but in another location in the Park.

Retaining the Denny Park OLA temporary status until the City Light Substation OLA opens and then removing it is

Cons:

- Would probably result in a return to an increase in conflicts in Denny Park and problems with park hygiene.
- Improbable that dog owners in west South Lake Union will walk the distance to the Substation, including up the steep hill east of Westlake Avenue on Denny Avenue resulting in more dogs off leash in Denny Park.
- Absence of an OLA may challenge some of the recent Park activation success.

Pros:

- Consistent with the original Board of Park Commissioner's recommendation for this facility.
- Would allow other uses of this area of the Park.

Recommendation

As indicated above, SPR recommends retention of the OLA in Denny Park as a permanent facility in its current location and current dimensions.

Presentation and Discussion

Denny park is Seattle's first park and has seen its share of illicit activities. It was welcome news when Friends of Denny Park worked with SPR to construct a play area, with considerable public input. In 2011, a temporary off-leash area for Denny Park and 2 other areas. Denny substation OLA is expected to open in 2018. COLA asked SPR to consider making the off-leash area permanent. Amazon has 4000 registered dogs; talking with maintenance staff they have noticed a decrease in hostility between park users and dog owners.

Friends of Denny Park is asking us not to make it permanent pending a master planning process for Denny Park. Holly modifies the recommendation to suggest some type of OLA be retained in Denny Park and continue in current location until a new one is open.

She asks the Board to recommend a permanent off-leash area at Denny Park pending a master plan process.

Amazon should have more responsibility to accommodate more dogs if they allow them at work; everything should be considered when master plan is done; amazon's needs cannot drive this decision. Amazon has a small off leash area and a small one by the domes which is not sufficient for the number of dogs their employees have.

SPR cannot possible absorb all the dogs that are around.

Commissioner Wright cannot support a permanent feature in a park as activities and uses change.

Motion – The Board supports the off-leash area remaining at Denny Park until a future master plan is completed.

Commissioner Cook seconds; Commissioner Akita asks for a point of clarification regarding the timeline of master plan. Holly responds that it may happen in the future; the park was renovated recently.

The Motion passes unanimously, Commissioner Herrera recuses himself due to conflict.

Superintendent's Report

Presented by Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Superintendent Aguirre says the Board of Park Commissioners were awarded the Superintendent's Award at this years' Denny Awards ceremony at the Museum of History and Industry. The Denny Awards is the departments way of honoring volunteers for their great work. Some past and present Commissioners attended the award ceremony. He passes out a little thank you gift to the Commissioners who were unable to attend.

Presentation: Capital Projects Update

Presented by Michael Shiosaki, Planning and Development Division Director

Denny Park renovation – Michael notes the location of the off-leash area was decided to avoid impacting the many old trees in the park. The renovation was very successful and funded by park district.

Michael introduces the Planning and Development Division –

- Property and Acquisition Services
 - Max Jacobs
 - Chip Nevins
- Planning Group
 - Kathleen Conner
- Project Management and Public information
 - Kim Baldwin/Chris Mueller
- Engineering, Design and Technical Services
 - Becky Ruffin
- Seattle Conservation Corps.
 - Ruth Blaw
- Human Resources/Finance – Joan Hirata/Laura Monsey
- Special Projects - David Graves

2017 Work Plan – Accomplishments

2017 Parks and Open Space Plan – This plan ensures SPR eligibility for grant funding; looks at demographic changes and needs in the park system.

Levy Development Projects –

- Expansion of Hing Hay Park – final arch way is still being fabricated; done in January.
- Jimi Hendrix Park – opportunity fund project – adjacent to nw African American museum
- Virgil Flaim Skate Park – opportunity fund project
- Yesler Terrace Park – community center is adjacent and soccer court will be built there. SPR is partnering with RAVE Foundation, the charitable arm of the Seattle Sounders, they will be bringing out Seattle Sounders players to play with the kids. It is scheduled to open next summer.

Major Maintenance Projects – replacing infrastructure

- New play areas
- New bathrooms
- Non-porous flooring
- Paving patched road in Golden Gardens

Renovating community centers – There were 7 identified for stabilization projects. Green Lake is getting a new roof and updated plumbing. The other centers are Hiawatha, Queen Anne, Magnolia, Loyal Heights and Lake City.

Develop landbanked sites - Greenwood Avenue – park construction will start this year. 10 sites are in planning/design phase.

P-patch rejuvenation – Received Park District money; SPR staff working to make P-Patches more ADA accessible and improving sightlines.

Seattle Conservation Corps is participating in many of these projects.

The Park District allots \$2million a year for property acquisitions. This year SPR staff purchased a parcel adjacent to Kiwanis ravine and an in-holding at Genesee Park.

Encroachment removals – Park District Funding – SPR staff have worked with community to remove 26 encroachments – many on the West edge of the Arboretum. SPR will work to document to City Council regarding approach and priorities. SPR has over 1000 encroachments.

Major Projects Challenge Fund – These are community initiated partnership projects. The project needs to be on park property and facility related. Recipients of this last year included: expansion of Green Lake Small Craft Center; major maintenance at Daybreak Star; Kubota Garden wall and fencing has been bid and will start construction soon.

Smith Cove Park Development – located between Magnolia and Queen Anne. This is a large park project and there will be something for everyone. The athletic fields will be grass.

Asset Management Work Order system –AMWO will help SPR prioritize and budget for maintenance needs shifting the work from reactive to proactive.

E-builder – Project control center – this program will allow SPR staff to build and budget with consultants online. It will change the way staff and consultants communicate in planning, designing and constructing parks.

Lake Union Park – The bridge is in place and reopened since Friday; lawn needs to grow back. Surface soils have been replaced by a lightweight foam.

Sr520 mitigation projects

Arboretum Loop Trail – This is a new paved loop trail in the Washington Park Arboretum. The trail opened 3 months early.

Portage Bay Park site – This site was purchased with mitigation dollars and will allow for new water access. This project is about to go out to bid.

Park upgrade projects – These projects are taken on by the Conservation Corps, which is SPR's homeless adult skill-building program. They do projects such as replanting; trail building; invasive plant removal.

The Commissioners ask about the updates to Amy Yee Tennis Center. Michael responds it is a major maintenance project for heating, lighting, and bathroom renovations. They are also doing a feasibility study to consider enclosing the outside courts.

Majority of landbanked sites have some sort of demolition needed; most acquisitions are adjacent to sites existing park land.

The Commissioner congratulate Michael and his team on the work and his dedication to race and social justice.

Thank you for your dedication to race and social justice

Update: Asset Management Work Order System

Presented by Kathleen O'Connor, Planning Services Manager, and Sean Barker, AMWO Analyst

Written Briefing

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2017
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Mike Linn and Kathleen Conner
Subject: Asset Management Work Order (AMWO) System Update

Requested Board Action

This is an informational briefing to give you an update on the AMWO system. No decisions are requested.

Project or Policy Description and Background

The Asset Management Work Order system, also known as AMWO, originated from a 2012 business plan to address the non-integrated systems that were used to manage asset management and capital improvement planning. The department did not have a business processes that easily tied asset data to decisions regarding asset development, maintenance, and decommissioning. There was no central repository of asset data for analysis or asset condition assessments. The lack of asset condition assessments made developing maintenance plans challenging. In addition, the current timekeeping and work order systems were not used to analyze maintenance and operating costs for specific assets.

A competitive software procurement process resulted in the selection of AssetWorks. The project implemented their Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) solution for SPR users in the Shops (i.e., skilled trades) and the grounds crews. The solution was also rolled out to the natural area/turf maintenance crew, the tree crew, the heavy equipment crew, and the park rangers. There is also a capital planning component, that includes condition assessment data and the Asset Management Plan and individual projects. The AMWO project will officially close in mid-December 2017.

Highlights of the AMWO System

- The staff is using it in the field and in the office. Over 16,000 work orders have been created year-to-date.
- There has been a shift to prioritize preventative maintenance work over demand work orders.
- Significant progress has been made with asset inventory and condition assessments.
- The Asset Management Plan has been moved to the new system.
- The system is more transparent, and more SPR users have direct access to the system, data, and plans.
- We will have better data to do more lifecycle planning, rather than “run to failure.”
- Timesheets are integrated for some staff which is increasing efficiency.
- The project implementation was successful on the first try! One of the important keys to that success was having a dedicated project manager and project team.

Public Involvement Process

AMWO is still an internal system, so most of the outreach was on internal users. We also modified our approach on some items after meeting with the Race and Equity Change Team. For

example, making the system as simple as possible for folks who do not read English was a priority. We presented to the Board of Park Commissioners twice on this project.

Environmental Sustainability

There are potential environmental impacts/benefits of the project. There will be better data associated with our assets and how they are maintained. For example, historic buildings may be able to be maintained, rather than demolished, which saves demolition costs. Also, we are doing an inventory of our trees and mapping all of our sewer lines as part of the project, which will provide more targeted data and enable us to utilize a systematic and proactive approach to caring for our assets.

Budget

The budget for the project is \$2.1 million. To date the project is under budget and successfully implemented. There is also \$400,000 in the CIP to do condition assessment work.

Schedule

The project is nearing formal completion, and it is currently in use by several divisions.

Additional Information

For more information, contact Mike Linn 206-684-8995.

Presentation

There are more than 30,000 assets in the system and this will stand as the system of record. Eventually, certain staff time will be captured into the AMWO system.

16,000 work orders have been done. Most work orders being done are demand work orders; SPR is working towards being proactive and performing preventative maintenance.

Tracking life cycle to assist with budget and extending the life of things.

This project came in under budget, now SPR has the budget to do condition assessments.

During this project they have consulted with the RSJI change team to make it more user friendly for non-English speakers;

AMWO will be doing payroll for approximately 350 staff.

Formerly, SPR used a PLANT system for staff to write in their details about work performed; this new system has increased efficiencies. For example, any SPR grounds crew can create work orders for themselves while in the field. The new AMWO system will allow SPR staff to map out work orders to see if there is other work nearby in order to save time.

Crew Chiefs delegate work to the appropriate crew members.

Limit the amount of work orders for each staff to keep it more legible

Hands-on training for grounds crews to make the system easier to learn.

Finished work orders allow the crew chief to see what their team has accomplished.

Find It, Fix It App is integrated into the AMWO system.

SPR will look at trends from the data and develop projects from the list.

\$267 million maintenance backlog when the Park District was formed. The cost estimates have gone up and new regulations for ADA and others have created more need for capital dollars. As the new system is implemented, staff are generating new needs.

Public Hearing: Baker Park Change in Hours

Presented by Patrick Merriam, Parks Resources Manager

Written Briefing

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 13, 2017
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Patrick Merriam, Manager, Park Resources
Subject: Change in Park Hours for Baker Park

Requested Board Action

Parks completed a nine-month pilot project in Baker Park on Crown Hill, that changed the operating hours from 4:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. This was done to respond to concerns regarding illegal behaviors occurring in the park.

Based on Seattle Municipal Code Section 18.12.245, the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Board of Park Commissioners, holds a public hearing and the Board makes a recommendation on whether to make the change in hours permanent. This decision is based on 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

Baker Park on Crown Hill meets the established criteria to permanently change the operating hours. Staff recommend approval of changing the operating hours to 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. in order to continue the progress made during this pilot. This

adjustment in hours, over the 9-month pilot period, reduced the illegal behaviors and reduced the number of complaints and negative impacts on the Crown Hill neighborhood.

Park Description and location

Baker Park, located at 8347 14th Ave NW, Seattle, WA, 98117 is categorized as a Neighborhood Park. Baker Park has a small "natural play" area - no play equipment, only wood chips and two large rocks - with a pedestrian path that meanders through it, and a Totem Pole made from a monkey puzzle tree. In 2013, Parks and Recreation bought the property southeast of the park, expanding it by .23 acres, and demolished the house that had been on the property. Planning is underway for the "Baker Park Addition."

Issues

At this site, there have been continuous complaints about illegal behavior occurring at the park. Drinking and vandalism occur in the evening hours and 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 beer cans, broken glass, and laden trash. The park benches were often found damaged.
- 2) Tagging is pervasive especially late at night and after the park has closed. At sites with similar issues, changing the closing time to 10:00 p.m. enabled SPD to do a sweep through the park and enforce the closure time.
- 3) Neighbors frequently call 911 because of the late night activities which often include loud and boisterous behavior, in addition to illegal activity.
- 4) Community members do not feel safe confronting those who loiter in the park after hours and the earlier closure time enables the police to enforce the rules.

Additional Information

Patrick Merriam: Patrick.Merriam@Seattle.gov

Discussion

SPR did a pilot project to reduce hours from 4am -11:30pm to 6am – 10pm at Baker Park. The Park is situated in a residential area. There were many complaints about late night noise. SPR recently acquired an adjacent site. The community feels more comfortable being able to call the police at 10:30pm.

The pilot has resulted in a reduction in calls from the neighborhood and there are less maintenance needs at the park.

Summit Slope and Haller Lake Mini Park are also in a pilot to reduce the hours. Patrick thinks it may be good idea to do a broad brush approach to the park hours.

Patrick does a great job working with all of the city departments on the encampments issue.

Commissioner Wright makes a motion to approve the recommendation to change the park hours based on a successful pilot program.

Commissioner McCaffrey seconds; the motion is approved.

Superintendent's Report Cont'd

Presented by Superintendent Aguirre

Superintendent Aguirre reviews all of the great work SPR has done over the past year.

Healthy People

Elimination of drop in fees has resulted in more recreation program attendance.

Streamlining scholarships has allowed more participation.

Staff had to triple activities for seniors, demonstrating that when you make it accessible people come.

Trained African American men to be peer mental health educators; helping them develop resiliency.

Growing the Lifelong Recreation programs through Park District funding. There is an increase in participation for those with dementia and their caregivers.

Increased enforcement of off-leash dogs has resulted in a decrease in citations.

Healthy Environments

Launch the Healthy Environment Action Team to look internally to see actions the department is already doing. SPR staff committed to be great stewards.

Identified things SPR is doing and will start to measure that data.

Department installed electric vehicle charging stations for our fleet at administrative facilities.

Completed NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) requirements of cleaning and inspecting drainage structures across the city's parks and recreation facilities. SPR staff completed, tested, and repaired over 600 double check valve assemblies to protect against cross contamination of the domestic water supply.

Tree inventory – Establishing knowledge base about trees on SPR property. There have been 580 tree failures and SPR staff and volunteers have planted over 25,000 native plants resulting in over 63,000 hours of volunteer time and 1300 events.

Strong community

Partnerships Division enables us to do more with the resources we have:

- Internal audit partnerships and of public benefits
- Renewed JUA enabled 200 metro league games at SPR fields and increased revenue from scheduling of SPS fields
- Interdepartmental team stood up to redefine how we engage partners and hold them accountable; making sure partners are aligning with the mission and supporting departmental efforts.

Recreation reaches out to serve ALL of Seattle's residents:

- Arts in Parks - Funded 45 Art performances, events, and installations
- Rec for All - supported 26 partners in providing recreation opportunities across the city
- Greenways - activated 4 new parks with a variety of partners

2017 SPR hosted 700 special events – celebrations, protests, festivals, marathons, etc...

Over 25,000 volunteers and over 145,000 hours besides Green Seattle Partnership.

Center City Parks – Activate downtown parks through partnership with Downtown Services Association

Operations

New budget system – Summit Reimplementation Team working hard to reinvent the budget system and how the whole accounting system works.

Asset Management Work Order system – creating efficiencies to make SPR work smarter and easier. Department goal is to go from performing 16% preventative work orders to 40% preventative.

Citywide employee performance review pilot – resulted in robust data.

Centralize custodial groups to facilities division. Pool operators will be in facilities also.

Budget update: SPR didn't fare so well in the budget; big impact – depleted general fund balance for rainy day/emergency funds.

Lost \$961,000 to other agencies.

Lost a couple of positions – Strategic Advisor position in the Superintendent’s Office; lost a key position in the Natural Resources Unit to manage the work with trees.

No funds for the p-patch program to transfer to SPR.

NRPA Accreditation is still on the work plan.

Budget changes should be brought to the Park District Oversight Committee. This should sting voters since the City Council found a way to take money from SPR without taking general fund.

Summit, the new accounting software, will assist the department in analyzing process/operations.

The general fund is still above the minimum. The commissioners feel the challenge is that these funds are being directed to new measures and they will be hard to fund in 2018.

Commissioner Hundley mentions that Karen Galt came out to his school and they have 36 8th graders doing a study on water filtration.

The Commissioners thank SPR for all the tree work they are doing.

Magnuson Park – There are many different types of leases at Magnuson including private use of public buildings. These private companies make significant investment in those facilities, but there still needs to be a public benefit. Organizations are incredibly varied. Challenge is there are many buildings/spaces and Council requested market rate tenants.

Old/New Business

Park inspection program launching January 8 at Powell Barnett Park – they would like 1 Park Board member to attend.

Paula sent out a public engagement memo regarding outreach strategies – she would like commissioner feedback on that memo.

Superintendent Aguirre is leaving Seattle Parks and Recreation. The Commissioners feel very badly about it. The Commissioners thank Superintendent Aguirre for how quietly, gently and firmly he has improved this organization. The Commissioners present Superintendent Aguirre with a gift of the Olmsted book.

Superintendent Aguirre feels grateful to be here and says Seattle has one of the best parks and recreation systems in the country. SPR is full of incredible staff who work to improve the lives of the residence and it’s inspiring. He credits the volunteers who come daily and work to make the system fantastic.

He leaves this message for the Commissioners to consider: to ensure parks and recreation focuses on doing what they do for their neediest communities. The importance of Healthy, Healthy, Strong especially for folks who live in trauma. Be unapologetic about ensuring equity.

Park District Oversight Committee membership – Commissioner Wright serves on this board and her tenure is done at the end of March. Someone will need to take her position on PDOC. PDOC is having a retreat in January and it would be great for the new member to attend.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 7:55pm.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____
Tom Byers, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners