



Minutes

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Via WebEx

Thursday, December 9, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Akita calls the meeting to order at 6:35pm. The Board members and SPR staff introduce themselves.

Public Comment

Tim Motzer – Lake City resident to follow-up on park district funding cycle. The Park District property tax should be increased. Please review the materials he provided to inform your work moving forward.

Superintendent's Report and Response to public comment

Christmas Ships are back: One great way to celebrate the season is with the Argosy Christmas ships that will parade from Puget Sound to Lake Union and out to Lake Washington. The annual cruises have become a holiday tradition but were cancelled last year due to the pandemic. The boats stop at pre-planned locations along the route and an onboard chorus sings Christmas carols for neighbors and community to watch from shore. Check our website for dates and locations.

Thank you Jesús: As Board members have heard, our leader, Superintendent Jesús Aguirre, announced last week that he will be stepping down, effective Jan. 18. Although Mayor Durkan has not named an interim Superintendent, we anticipate that incoming Mayor Harrell will select at an interim before he departs in January. Jesús' family has made the decision to move back to Texas to be closer to his extended family.

Under Jesús' leadership, the department, along with our community and City partners, have accomplished so much in the last 6 years. Highlights include:

- COVID response and recovery (2020 MEF and ramping up programs and services)
- Seattle Park District, first six-year cycle of funding
- Park development and community center improvement projects
- Equity and anti-racist work
- Organizational development (mission focus, Healthy-Healthy-Strong, accountability, efficiencies)
- Strategic Plan completion
- CAPRA Accreditation Launch

- Ballard Commons Park Encampment removal: This week, we removed the tent encampment at Ballard Commons Park earlier this week. We posted park closure signs over the weekend. There were 23 tents onsite. The park will be closed for at least 60 days for cleanup activities. The Seattle Human Services Department contracted with outreach workers to offer housing or shelter to campers. SPR crews removed approximately 14,000 lbs. of debris and picked up 150 needles. The park has been fenced and SPR staff will monitor for any re-camping. The encampment at Bitter Lake Park will be removed this week.
- City Hall Park: We are still working with all stakeholders on legislation authorizing the transfer of City Hall Park from the City to King County along with acceptance of multiple properties from King County. We expect to resume this effort early next year. The work will include completion of a SEPA checklist environmental review.
- Winter Weather readiness: SPR divisions and its coordinating emergency management team began to meet this week to prepare for potential severe weather this winter. Our operating divisions are updating their winter response plans –e.g., snow and ice removal, shelter staffing and operation, emergency generators for facilities. Our winter response team will begin meeting weekly beginning in January.
- Seattle Management Association Awards: Seattle Parks and Recreation staff teams were the recipients of two awards in this year’s Seattle Management Association (SMA) Excellence in Leadership Awards. SMA members are all City of Seattle employees. In the Environmental Stewardship category, the Green Seattle Partnership and Natural Resources Unit Trails teams won for their work in developing and fostering collaborative partnerships with BIPOC originations and community groups, particularly those from indigenous populations. The teams worked with the United Indians of All Tribes and the Na’ah Illahee to support restoration efforts over the last couple years at park green spaces and trail systems. In the Planning and Project Management category SPR’s Activity Camps were awarded for successfully running summer camps during the pandemic while focusing on equity and a fun and healthful programs for kids.

Parks and Recreation

- Kinnear Park volunteer project: We continue to value the great work of volunteers in our parks and facilities and I wanted to highlight a recent project by about a dozen volunteers in late October at Kinnear Park in the Queen Anne neighborhood. The volunteers worked hard for several hours clearing a trail leading into the park. The work involved removing blackberries and ivy and the result is shown in the three photos on the left (before, during and after). Thanks to the Kinnear Park volunteers and to people who volunteer throughout our parks and recreation system!
- 7th Annual Turkey Bowl Week: Over on the Recreation side, SPR recreation staff supported the 7th Annual Turkey Bowl Week last month at Rainier Beach Community Center. The event kicked off with youth and adults having the opportunity to get tested for COVID and to get vaccinated. Staff and volunteers helped serve over 3,000 turkey sandwich lunches and over 2,000 hygiene kits to tiny home villages and shelters across our community. The community dinner fed over 150 people on Thanksgiving morning, and more than 100 players and spectators showed up to take part in flag football.

Planning, Development and Maintenance Division

- Construction begins for new Lake City park: We are happy to announce we have awarded the construction contract for the new Lake City park at 12510 33rd Ave. NE to Ohno Construction. Construction has begun and we expect the park opening to the public by summer 2022.
- Carkeek Park play area project: We've also started the public engagement process to renovate Carkeek Park play area in northwest Seattle and we are encouraging community input through a short survey and online public meetings. See our website and click on Current Projects.

Finance, Administration, Policy

- Zoo agreement: The City Council's Public Assets and Native Communities Committee met on Dec. 7 to consider renewal of the 20-year operations agreement between the City and the Woodland Park Zoological Society. The committee passed the Zoo Agreement with a dozen amendments from various councilmembers. The amendments focused on a range of issues including neighborhood inclusion on the Zoo's Board, the Zoo's conservation commitment, Long-Range (capital) Plan oversight and community involvement, agreement term, and admissions pricing and public benefits. [If Commissioners have questions, Paula can answer them.]
- RCO grants: The City Council committee also approved a resolution authorizing the submittal of grant applications to the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for 2 park improvement projects –at Be'er Sheva Park in SE Seattle and "Garfield Super Block in Central Area.
- Vaccine Executive Order: Staff sent out notification in late November to all SPR contractors to comply with Mayor Durkan's Vaccine Executive Order. Indoor volunteers are currently required to show proof of vaccine or negative COVID test results upon entering any SPR public facility.
- Lake Washington Moorages: Thanks to our moorage partner, Marina Management, Lakewood and South Leschi Moorage have received much needed renovations over the past few months. After a long permitting process, Lakewood Moorage was transformed with new concrete floats during the short fish window this summer. Earlier this fall, the old docks, many that have been uninhabitable for years, were hauled out of S Leschi Moorage. New concrete floats installed.
- Park District Board Meeting: The Park District Board (City Council) met for the final time this year on Nov. 22 to discuss and vote on the 2022 Park District budget and the property tax rate for 2022. The Board also heard updates including the recent publication of the Cycle-End Report summarizing the accomplishments and lessons learned during the first six-year cycle of the Seattle Park District, from 2015 through 2020.

Magnuson Park Update

Brian shares the location and the History of the Park. Magnuson Park is located on part of the Sand Point Peninsula.

Partnerships and Activation –

Public-private partnerships are the overall approach to Magnuson Park operations. SPR has 65 tenant contracts, including a restaurant, art gallery, and radio station.

Magnuson Park consists of rental spaces, artist studios, affordable and low-income housing, athletic fields, wetlands, and hiking trails.

Magnuson Community Center -

- Bids received for renovation project and contract award forthcoming. Construction expected to begin Q1 2022.
- 9 – 12 month project
- Includes additional program space and HVAC improvement (A/C)
- Magnuson CC temporarily operating out of Buildings 30 and 406

Activation: Building 2

- RFP Conditional Award: Magnuson Park Center for Excellence
 - Fundraising to develop Building 2 into multi-sports complex
 - Lacrosse, archery, skateboarding
 - Quarterly fundraising and programming reports
 - Deadline: August 1, 2022

Activation: Building 18

- RFP Conditional Award: Outdoors for All Foundation
 - Successfully fundraised \$11 M for renovation
 - Increasing construction costs pose challenges
 - SPR has allocated \$2 M in support of project
 - Project pending final affordability assessment

Activation: Building 47 Theater

- RFP Conditional Award: Broadway Bound Children's Theater
 - Fundraising to bring the space to code compliance
 - Public benefit will directly tie to community center
 - COVID-19 Recovery: Raised \$90K in November 2021
 - November 30, 2022 (Likely to be extended)

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Established in 2009 to encourage stakeholder collaboration.

- Representatives include:
 - UW, Solid Ground, and Mercy Housing
 - Housing residents
 - Magnuson Park business tenants
 - Neighborhood Councils
 - Magnuson CC Advisory Council
 - Sand Point Elementary PTA
- 1 Park Board member seat currently available
- Exploring new operations for 2022

Public Benefit Highlights: Public Benefits are a key component to many of our agreements. Public Benefit can be defined many ways, and primarily focuses on tenants providing its service at a reduced or low cost to folks that qualify.

- Earth Corps
 - Burke Gilman Trail Pollinator Habitat (King Conservation District Grant)
 - Volunteer Events and SPS student education
- Sail Sand Point
 - Life Jacket Program
 - Sailboat and Wind Surf Racing
 - Group Discounts (underserved pops)

Exploring Management Models

- Immense growth of Sand Point peninsula requires exploring new methods of operations and coordination
- SPR often sought out to serve as convener and organizer outside of parks and recreation service scope
- 2022: Consultant engagement to explore alternative approaches to management and capital development

Strategic Plan Engagement Update and Next Steps

Strategic Plan Implementation Activities – The work was organized into 3 phases:

Onboarding and Internal Engagement

- Workgroup formation, activation, training
- Community engagement mapping by LOB
- Strategic Plan
 - SPR SP mapping exercise & strategy prioritization
 - Engagement strategy development, including engagement summits with division leadership
- CAPRA
 - Conduct historical harm research by line of business

Engagement Opportunities and Prioritization

Line of business-led engagement & Superintendent's Office-led engagement

- Strategic Plan
- Ongoing processing of community feedback
- CAPRA
 - P3 team conduct preliminary gap analysis and readiness assessment

Reporting and Accountability

The key messages we have heard and what we are working toward.

- Strategic Plan
 - *Identify SMARTIE goals for 2022-2024*
- CAPRA
 - Integrate standards into SMARTIE goals

Selena shows a slide depicting their engagement through various means and the amount of people they reached through this engagement.

Engagement Prioritization & Audience

- Goals: 50% of engagement resources are focused on BIPOC and other marginalized communities. 51% + percent of that engagement is spent with people who sit at the intersection of two or more marginalized identities -- BIPOC-focused, High Touch Engagement
- Goals: 40% of engagement resources are focused on current and potential SPR participants in programs. Mid/low touch
- Goals: 10% of engagement resources are focused on organized groups that have partnered with SPR for 4 or more years. Priority should be given to groups with a proven record for serving BIPOC and other marginalized communities. High touch

Of 27 organizations reached through listening sessions, 25 prioritized serving historically minoritized communities (92.5%)

Of 6 commissions reached, 5 focus on historically underrepresented groups (83%)

Engagement Reporting & Accountability

To Date:

- Biweekly newsletters
- Raw data on website
- Created mailing list of key stakeholders

On Deck:

- Circulate engagement synthesis
- Create Appendix to Action Plan

What is the Engagement Feedback Loop?

Engagement efforts should be two-sided conversation where SPR takes feedback in, reflects back what we heard, and makes space for contributors to respond to our interpretation of their feedback. The Engagement Feedback Loop will help us do so by ensuring we have intentional steps in place to:

- Intake and document the feedback we receive during the engagement process.
- Validate our understanding of that feedback by communicating what we heard to contributors before we finalize the engagement process.
- Create ways contributors can respond back when we communicate what we heard to what we report before finalizing.
- Respond to the inquiries that we receive during the engagement process in a timely manner.
- Communicate the finalized feedback and how we will apply that feedback to planning and/or decision-making.

Selena shares the feedback they received through this process:

- Increase community engagement staffing and focus on building meaningful relationships with BIPOC community
- Improve wayfinding and signage, including honoring Black and Indigenous history and language access
- Bolster environmental education to build real-world connections to climate and nature
- Address impacts of homelessness in parks
- Reduce barriers to partnering with SPR (e.g., volunteer activities, small/WMBE business permits, event scheduling)
- Increase SPR security presence at parks and in facilities

- Prioritize investments in the urban canopy as a climate change mitigation strategy; think long-range (70-100 years)
- Prioritize recreation services on weekday evenings and weekends
- Improving marketing to increase community awareness of SPR offerings
- Improve recycling and composting infrastructure
- Clarify pathways to implement community-identified priorities; train staff in co-design practices
- Restore and increase access to pools and aquatics programming
- Hire staff from within communities we serve
- Increase access to food and urban agriculture opportunities
- Maximize pedestrian usability of trails and natural spaces

Shanyanika explains the SMARTIE Goal Framework, SPR staff will use to hold themselves accountable to the commitments made. Considerations for SMARTIE Goal Development:

- Responsive to community input received
Does the action respond to the feedback we received through this engagement work?
- Rises to the level of a public commitment
This 2022-2024 Action Plan is a public-facing document. Is this idea something we have confidence we can make progress on, and are comfortable publicly committing and holding ourselves accountable to as a department?
(Really thinking through the parameters of "SMARTIE" can help here, particularly whether the goal is ambitious, realistic, time-bound, and measurable)
- Responsive to one or more of the four parallel crises
Would this goal advance racial equity? Does it contribute to our department's response to climate change? Would it enhance health and well-being of our community? Does it build a pathway to economic recovery?
- Supportive of CAPRA implementation
All divisions and teams will have a critical role to play in pursuing CAPRA accreditation. Is one of your goals responsive to a CAPRA standard that you'd like to highlight for community members?
- Scalability & candidacy for additional Park District resources
Is this idea something the department can begin implementing in 2022 with existing resources, with the possibility of scaling up with a potential additional infusion of resources through the Park District planning process?
- Applicability to lines of business
Guidance for divisions planning to conduct goal-setting in aggregated groups: Ensure that at least one SMARTIE goal is of relevance to each of the lines of business represented in your division. For example, the Parks and Environment team should have goals relating to Emergency Management & Security Services, Green Seattle Partnership, Grounds Maintenance, and Natural Resource Maintenance. One goal can relate to multiple lines of business.

2022-2024 Action Plan will explain why SPR revisited the Strategic Plan – explaining the parallel crisis framework, describe outreach efforts, etc...

The majority of the plan will be organized by Healthy People, Healthy Environment, and Strong Communities, as well as, the short-term priorities and Action steps (SMARTIE goals each division will develop).

Selena talks about the SMARTIE goals in development based on the feedback received from the public.

Shanyanika reminds the Board about the link between the Strategic Plan work and the CAPRA Agency Accreditation.

Improve alignment of Seattle Parks and Recreation's policies and policy management process with our equity values and industry standards. Prepare for CAPRA National Accreditation by satisfying at least 82 of the required accreditation standards (60%) by the end of 2024.

2022 Benchmark

- Design an inclusive policy management process: complete one equity toolkit for each SPR line of business for application in the development of SPR policies, procedures and plans; Clarify and improve policy development and approval procedures; Clarify and communicate policy management process timelines, engagement activities, and participation opportunities; clarify and communicate P3 team role and division SME role in the process; Adopt a record management system that supports inclusivity features of the process; Identify priority policies, procedures, and plans for future revision or development; Launch inclusive policy management process pilot; Identify additional process improvements and apply them in the development of a CAPRA accreditation implementation plan.

2023 Benchmark

- Expand on the inclusive policy management process pilot through CAPRA accreditation action plan implementation. Document evidence of compliance with 43 CAPRA standards and complete 30% of the CAPRA self-assessment. Identify and implement process improvements increase access for staff across the organization.

2024 Benchmark

- Continue CAPRA accreditation action plan implementation. Document evidence of compliance with an additional 39 CAPRA standards and complete 60% of the CAPRA self-assessment. Develop a plan for future NRPA CAPRA review team site visit and prepare for associated CAPRA hearing at a future NRPA annual conference.

Statistically Valid Survey

- Third biennial survey (previous: 2016, 2019)
- Survey available in 7 top languages
- Oversampled in zip codes of high disadvantage on Seattle's Racial and Social Equity Index
- Latest: 1,180 total surveys (827 citywide, 353 oversample tracts)
- Anticipate results in mid-January

Selena reviews the timeline for the Park District Planning:

- SPR internal work on Cycle 2
- BPRC onboarding, public prioritization, and engagement process
- Mayor's office review and refinement
- PD Board reviews 2023-2028 investments
- PD Board Public Hearings

Old/New Business

Andréa Akita lead a discussion on follow-up from the recent Board Retreat.

Focus for the year ahead:

- Rebuilding the Board: SPR is in the process of interviewing candidates for the BPRC. We hope to have most of the positions filled by early February
- Guidelines: Commissioners to develop some guidelines regarding expectations/opportunities for members to engage within their communities. (and ways to identify & serve communities we aren't connecting with)
- Outreach and advocacy/engagement (with elected officials and other boards & commissions): Create task forces to draft letters and share recommendations ahead of budget.
- Build relationships
- Updating Operating Procedures: Commissioners to review operating procedures and send suggested edits to Rachel so we can approve and have those established as new members join. (SPR will send Commissioners operating procedures)
- Additional Items:
 - BPRC has requested SPR to clarify where the Board can be helpful (establish working groups, etc. to help out).
 - The Board would like SPR to look for ways they can engage with our communities in the Park District Cycle 2 planning.

Next meeting: January 13, 2022

There being no other business, Commissioner Akita adjourns at 8:30pm.