

Minutes

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Via WebEx

Thursday, February 24, 2022

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

A recording of the meeting can be found at this [link](#).

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Farmer calls the meeting to order. The Board and staff introduce themselves. Commissioner Farmer asks for a motion to approve the consent items: April 8, December 9, 2021 and February 10, 2022 notes and the February 24, 2022 Agenda. Commissioner Herrera moves, Commissioner Akita seconds and the minutes are approved.

Public Comment

- Tim Gaydos – Founder of Friends of Denny Park, which began in 2016 to respond to nuisance and illegal behaviors in the park. They raise funds for events and activation in the park. Wants to see SPR invest and participate in the activation.
- Tim Motzer – Lake City Neighborhood Alliance and former SPR employee, Tim speaks about the need to increase and/or stabilize Park District Funding. He suggests a line item in the new Park District Financial Plan to replace aging facilities.

Acting Superintendent Williams responds to the public comment.

Thanks Tim Gaydos for his fundraising, stewardship and activation done by their group. He encourages Tim to continue advocating during the financial planning process.

Acting Superintendent Williams thanks Tim Motzer for all his good ideas and persistent active stewardship. SPR staff will work with the Board on the Park District Plan.

Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent Williams welcomes the new members to the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and says he feels the Board is a very rewarding volunteer experience.

Department Updates:

- Alice Ball Park and Black History Month: As we continue to celebrate Black History Month during the month of February, I wanted to highlight one of our newer parks named after an African American. Alice Ball Park opened in June 2019 in Greenwood. The park was named after an African American chemist who developed an oil extract that was the most effective treatment for leprosy in the early 1900s. Born in Seattle in 1892, Alice Ball graduated from the University of Washington first in 1912 with a degree in pharmaceutical chemistry, then a degree in pharmacy in 1914. She also became the first woman, and African American, to graduate with a master's degree from the University of Hawaii. Learn more about the many parks named for Seattle's African American leaders in our blog, parkways.seattle.gov. Search for "Black History Month."
- Vax and Mask Mandates Update: Amid rapidly falling numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, King County announced last week that vaccine mandates for most indoor venues will be lifted on March 1st. Seattle Parks and Recreation staff are working to roll out updates to safety plans and be ready for the 1st. This will impact all sites (pools, community centers, teen life centers, environmental learning centers) as previously SPR required proof of vaccination and health screening. This will enable SPR to unlock the front doors of the facilities and allow people to freely use indoor restrooms and showers. SPR will be asking people to pre-screen for illness prior to coming to our buildings.
- Also last week, Gov. Jay Inslee announced that the state's indoor mask mandate will be ending on March 21, and SPR is in the process of assessing the impact and response as a department, including developing communications with the public. There are many considerations such as:
 - Anxiety about changes among staff and the public
 - Staff riding together in vehicles
 - Whether social distancing measures will still be followed
 - Differing requirements for different programs, e.g. child careSPR asks for patience as they open up facilities and programs in a safe and responsible way.
- Youth Basketball Spectator Update: As part of the lifting restrictions, beginning on Friday, Feb. 25 SPR began allowing two spectators per participant in youth basketball games.
- City Workers Return to Offices: Earlier this month, the Mayor announced that City office workers will return to their offices beginning on March 16. This includes many Seattle Parks and Recreation employees who have been teleworking since the spring of 2020. SPR understands the many efficiencies and technical advances that employees made while working from home and will take into consideration "alternate work arrangements" wherever possible.

Parks & Environment

- Ballfield Prep Work: Parks and Environment crews are busy preparing for spring and for more of our parks and amenities opening to the public. Chief among these amenities are dozens of ballfields including 33 softball and baseball fields. Crews are dragging the infields and pressure washing bleachers and dugouts across the system to get ready for the season.

- Clean Cities: SPR work with SDOT and Seattle Public Utilities continues with the Clean City Initiative to help make parks and public spaces cleaner, safer and more accessible. Mayor Bruce Harrell attended the department's All Staff Meeting yesterday and re-emphasized his administration's commitment to cleaning and restoring parks in the city.
- Alki Beach Statue: Earlier in February at Alki Beach, staff worked to remove the layer of sand that had washed onto the plaza around the mini Statue of Liberty. They placed 80 sandbags along the edge to prevent more sand from washing up during high-tide and rainstorm events.

Recreation

- Scholarship Program: Scholarships are available if people need financial help to attend one of SPR's activities or programs. Discounts are available through the scholarship program for anyone who qualifies based on income and family size. All people, including seniors and people with disabilities, and regardless of citizenship and immigration status, are encouraged to apply. For more information, check out our blog at www.parkways.seattle.gov.
- Rec N' the Streets Receive \$500,000 grant: Rec N' the Streets – Mobile Recreation program recently received a grant for \$500,000 from the Washington Park and Recreation Association (WRPA) to support summer youth employment and program enhancement dollars to support programs for people with disabilities, Big Day of Play, and mobile recreation programming. These funds will be spent throughout 2022.
- Record-setting year for golf: 2021 was a record-setting year for rounds and total overall revenue at Seattle's four municipal golf courses. People viewed golf as a safe, fun and affordable outdoor sport during a time of severe restrictions on indoor activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Total rounds were up 24 percent as compared to 2020 and to 2019. Premier Golf operates the municipal courses at West Seattle, Jefferson Park, Jackson Park and Interbay under a contract with the City of Seattle.

Planning, Development & Maintenance

- Green Lake Outer Loop Proposal: The Seattle Dept. of Transportation has proposed creating dedicated bike/pedestrian lanes on the west and northwest side of Green Lake (along Aurora Ave. N and Green Lake Drive) to provide more travel options for people walking, running, biking, and create better connections to surrounding neighborhoods. SDOT held an online open house on the project earlier this week and with the community feedback they received during their outreach process, they are now moving forward with preferred project designs on both project segments. For more information, please visit www.seattle.gov/transportation/greenlakeouterloop.
- Lake City Floodplain Park planning: SPR and its partners Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), and Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group are seeking community feedback on the design of Lake City Floodplain Park, located adjacent to Thornton Creek off of NE 125th St. in the Lake City neighborhood. The first online planning workshop is on March 3rd. Please visit our blog for more information: www.parkways.seattle.gov.

Introducing new BPRC Board Members

Paula asks the new members to introduce themselves and share their favorite park or recreation facility. You can find out more about the board members on the website [here](#).

Friends of Waterfront Seattle Donor Recognition

Rury Yampolsky – Office of the Waterfront

Steve Pearce – Office of Waterfront

Thatcher Bailey – Friends of Waterfront Seattle

Anna O'Donnell – Friends of Waterfront Seattle

Nichole Fischetti – Designer; creative lead on donor recognition

Waterfront Project Background

Rury provides background of the project to remake the central waterfront and reconstruct the Alaskan Way corridor. There was a lot of public engagement around the waterfront projects.

- The Aquarium is building a new pavilion and WSDOT is building a new ferry dock. Habitat and enviro restoration are key to the waterfront program.
- She shows the east/west connections and the projects along Alaskan Way to improve connection to the waterfront.
- Rury shows some of the indigenous art projects; local tribes have been involved during the entire process.
- Series of terraced plantings along the promenade and a protected bike lane. Overlook walk project leads from Pike Place to the waterfront.
- Pier 62 opened in September 2020. Since its opening, Friends of Waterfront Seattle hosted 280 events and supported 180 artists and performers – over 60% were from BIPOC communities.
- Rebuilding pier 58 for activation and programming, with a very cool jellyfish-shaped play area.
- Rury provides an overview of construction schedule that the project will be complete in 2024.
- Park district funding is being provided to the Waterfront project.

Donor Recognition

Thatcher takes over presenting. He provides an overview of his portion of the presentation.

- The City is building the Park, and Friends of Waterfront Seattle (FoWS) is bringing an unprecedented levels of philanthropic support to the project. They have committed to raising \$110 million to support the construction of the park and another \$90 million to support programming and operations. As of this evening FoWS are just a little shy of having raised \$89 million. There will likely be 1500 or more donors who step up during this campaign and they want to celebrate each of them for being part of this effort. Donor recognition is an important aspect of this work.
- Kudos to the Office of the Waterfront, and Nicole and her team at Studio Matthews who treated donor recognition with so much sensitivity.

- Donor recognition is more inconspicuous than the interpretive design. Nothing is being named for anyone. It is all to a shared scale. Yes, there are certain locations set aside for the recognition of larger gifts, but the actual signage all feels the same regardless of gift size: beautiful, low-key, and modest.
- Signage will be seamlessly integrated while being distinct. It has been thoughtfully done to be integrated into the architecture.
- The interpretive signage is more prominent in size and location and uses higher contrast colors and materials. Interpretive signage elements are etched, wrapped or attached directly to furnishing elements in an effort to avoid adding physical or visual clutter to the landscape.
- Selection of size, material and location of the interpretive signage and donor recognition each are being carefully coordinated in order to differentiate between them, while creating a cohesive family of sign types.
- The donor recognition is muted so that it does not interfere with the beautiful landscape but still acknowledges the impact the gifts had on creating the new park.

Commissioner Farmer asks the Board if they would like to call for a motion to approve the plan. Commissioner McCaffrey moves to approve the donor recognition plan for the Friends of Waterfront Seattle and Commissioner Watts seconds. The Board unanimously approves the donor recognition plan for the Seattle Waterfront.

Old/New Business

SPR staff addressed the changes to the Operating Procedures as requested by the Board at the February 10 meeting and sent them to the Board for review.

Commissioner Akita moves to accept Board's Operating Procedures as of February 24, 2022; Commissioner McCaffrey seconds. The board votes unanimously to approve the Operating Procedures and the motion passes.

Commissioner Thomas asks about the meeting schedule and whether it will be going in-person or stay virtual. SPR staff reply they will stay virtual through the Park District planning process which ends in June.

There being no other business, Commissioner Farmer adjourns at 8:25pm.