



# Minutes

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Via WebEx

Thursday, March 24, 2022

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

Present: Watts, McCaffrey, Akita, Mays, Herrera, Sivarajan, Hundley, Umagat, Faller, Contreras, Farmer

SPR Staff: Williams, Finnegan, Cutler, Takami, McElroy, Judd, Bhang-Barnett, Hoff, Acosta, Burtzos

## Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Herrera calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The board and SPR staff introduce themselves. Commissioner Farmer asks for approval of the consent item: the March 24, 2022, Agenda. Commissioner McCaffrey moves, Commissioner Hundley seconds; the board members approve the agenda. Commissioner Farmer introduces public comment segment.

## Public Comment

- Seth Muir – Executive Director of Sail Sand Point a 20+ year old nonprofit at Magnuson. They offer many programs and summer camps collaborating with other programs. Attendance continues to grow. Facilities are reaching their aging limits. They would like to start a capital campaign to improve and renovate the historic boathouse. Also, they are seeking some grant funding and would like SPR support.
- Trip Allen – Better solutions than banning wheels on the inner path; they need to have a better public engagement/outreach process before making permanent changes. Urges BPRC to consider negative impacts of Outer Loop and requests time for a presentation to the Board.
- Tim Motzer – “33-cent solution.” Raising the tax rate to \$.33 would allow SPR to fulfill many of its development promises and provide a sustainable level of funding. Requests feedback to his proposal.
- Elizabeth Riggs – Green Lake Community Center and Pool serves as regional hygiene center for the homeless. The community that uses the pool and facilities are diverse and the facility serves the entire city.
- Furno West – Little Brook Park neighbor who would like to see the design fully-funded. Use of Little Brook Park has decreased due to safety and cleanliness concerns.
- Peggy Hernandez – Lake City Collective – many people who use Little Brook are low-income and BIPOC, and the neighborhood is densely populated; the community wants a fully-funded park.
- Laura – Little Brook Park – neighbor to the park for 6 years; visited park with 7-year-old and it is lonely and there is excessive dog poop. They support renovating the park as part of the budget.

- Elva - Little Brook Park - Living in Lake City for 21 years; supports the renewal and full renovation of the park. Points out that the bathroom needs renovation or replacement. The Little Brook neighborhood has no mechanism with which to fundraise to finish this park.
- Ricardo Quintero-Perez – 14-year-old; part of Little Brook Park Youth Corps. The park is so dirty they don't like hanging out there.

## **Superintendent's Report and Response to Public Comment**

- Recreation: With the arrival of spring, we are heading into our busy season. Planning is well under way for a full slate of spring and summer recreation programs. Spring programs begin on next Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Summer programs begin June 27<sup>th</sup>. We are actively recruiting for lifeguards, intermittent and temporary staff, and wading pool attendants.
- Workforce returns to office: Beginning on March 16 City workers who had been working at home for the past two years returned to the office, including Seattle Parks and Recreation employees. Of course, many of our staff don't work in offices so many had already returned to work in the field or in public facing buildings like community centers and pools. We are still wearing masks indoors until April 4 per City Personnel guidance.
- Pickleball meeting: SPR is seeking input from tennis and pickleball players on how we can best support the growth of pickleball. Please join us online on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. This online event is part of the 2021-2022 Pickleball Study funded by the Seattle Park District. To register for the meeting visit the link posted on our blog at [parkways.seattle.gov](http://parkways.seattle.gov)
- Department 2022 Work Plan: there are 7 items on the Department Work Plan that I will be submitting to the Mayor's Office:
  - Park District Cycle 2 Plan in Context of Budget Process
  - Park Restoration for Increased Community Access
  - New Superintendent Onboarding
  - Post-Pandemic Recreation Services
  - Race and Social Justice Next Steps
  - Waterfront Ramp Up and Transition
  - SPR Capital Project "Watchlist" including South Park Community Center Site Redevelopment and Community Center Stabilization, North Rainier Landbanked Site Development, Victor Steinbrueck Park Renovation, Green Lake Small Craft Center Redevelopment, and Lake City Community Center Redevelopment.
- Greater & Greener Local Host Committee: In preparation for hosting the 2024 Greater & Greener parks and recreation conference, we are forming a Local Host Committee, which will be comprised of our major partners such as the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, the Associated Recreation Council, the Seattle Parks Foundation, King County, the City of Bellevue, the Office of the Waterfront, the Zoo and Aquarium, the University of Washington, and others. The conference will bring more than 1,000 parks and recreation professionals from around the country to Seattle and our region.

- Green Lake Path: We discussed this at a previous Board meeting: the long-term temporary rule that restricts all bicycles and other wheeled uses from the Green Lake Park inner loop (strollers and mobility devices *are* allowed). This intended to create more space for path users on this high use trail and to provide more time for the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to complete their design process and coordinate the construction timeline for creating a complete outer loop around Green Lake with protected access for bikers and pedestrians. A reminder that this Board will revisit this topic, hear an update on SDOT's work, and provide advice to the Superintendent about potential paths forward at a public meeting this summer, likely in June. Community members can send comments about the inner loop to [PKS\\_Info@seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_Info@seattle.gov). Feedback on SDOT's outer loop project can be directed to [GreenLakeOuterLoop@seattle.gov](mailto:GreenLakeOuterLoop@seattle.gov).

Acting Superintendent Williams responds to the Public Comment:

- Green Lake – Briefing by SDOT in June and he encourages folks to tune in and provide their opinions then.
- Tim Motzer – Williams thanks Tim for his continual presence at the BPRC meetings and previews that the tax rate will be discussed during the meeting.
- Sail Sand Point – Williams reiterates support for fundraising letter.
- Little Brook Park – Williams thanks community members for speaking to Board and reiterates that the timing for this conversation is apt.

Commissioner Farmer opens the floor for questions and comments from the Board.

Commissioner Watts emphasizes those nuances about no ability to fundraise and ensuring that the Board considers this type of barrier to access.

Acting Superintendent Williams introduces Park District Planning and BPRC Prioritization and Orientation processes.

#### SPR's Cycle 2 Planning Approach

Guided by robust engagement; a lot of community engagement done to get to this point.

Debt financing will be part of the strategy for some high capital investments. SPR aims for a proposal to the maximum levy authority that does not require a public vote. Superintendent will take Board recommendations to the mayor. Superintendent Williams reviews the timeline; Board work starts now and ends with a BPRC recommendation.

## **BPRC Cycle 2 Prioritization Process**

Michele Finnegan outlines process. The Board will meet on regular meeting nights. There will be sub-committee meetings interspersed. On April 14 there will be community conversation to obtain their thoughts on potential investments and a public hearing on May 12 on the draft recommendation.

David Takami introduces Subcommittee Charge and Membership, based on poll results and direct contact with subcommittee members

BPRC charge – prioritization of possible new investments, validation of Pre-commitments, and deferred projects from cycle 1

Context of the BPRC considerations introduced within PD budget, including Cycle 1 investments and COVID recovery funds.

Possible cycle 2 investments

Michele reviews the subcommittees charges – the investment strategies each subcommittee will be working within to prioritize funding levels and projects funded. Example strategy walk-through by Michele (improving access to comfort stations).

Equity Score: Possible New Investments introduced by Shanyanika McElroy

Group of staff made recommendations using high/med/low for each proposal based on Equity Filter tool.

Asset management planning process – research, field visits, expert input – use info to develop plans to manage the asset and prioritize capital investment. Also discussed surrounding assets (i.e., pathways/access to a particular comfort station).

Brian Judd revisits subcommittee timeline and key dates.

April 14 Community Check in: Q&A session

April 28 Presentation of recommendation to BPRC

Subject matter experts will participate in the 4/14 meeting. There will also be a website for community members to engage directly.

Video recordings of subcommittee meeting recordings will be on website; Commissioners should push opportunity out to their personal networks.

Proposal Prioritization – introduced by Shanyanika McElroy

Part 1 – Facilitators offer guiding principles to prioritize among proposals

Part 2 – Commissioners recommend distribution of fund across proposals

Kelly asks how they are going to prioritize the projects. Hazel gives some background into the prioritization process and explains that staff started with different points for various guiding principles. However, the decision is fully up to the subcommittees to determine.

Andrea asks about what number of proposals need to be funded. Michele reiterates and clarifies that every priority heard about doesn't have to be funded.

Marlon asks for clarification regarding the designation of some projects that seem to have some funds earmarked already. Michele clarifies. Marlon thanks SPR staff for their support.

Sean requests a "cheat sheet" or comparison to the General Fund. Superintendent Williams clarifies that some recommendations could be referred to funding through the General Fund. Michele explains how to find this information on each proposal form.

Kelly asks how many projects were on offer in total. Hazel responds.

Pasqual asks about level of detail in proposals regarding asset lifecycle. Michele responds that asset lifecycle is determined by budget, and additional funding shortens that lifespan.

Commissioner Farmer asks for clarification regarding this evening's subcommittee meetings.

### **Old/New Business**

Acting Superintendent Williams honors Commissioner Evan Hundley and recognizes Evan's last Board meeting. Evan Hundley came on to the Park Board in 2015 and has been a wonderful steward. He has asked questions that demonstrate care for the community. He has an authentic care for the staff.

Commissioner Hundley thanks the SPR staff and honors Commissioner Williams. Difficult votes come around no matter what hat you are wearing; keep collegial if vote doesn't go your way! "We all stick together as a team at the end."

There being no other business, Commissioner Farmer adjourns at 8:03 p.m.

RA/bmb