

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2002

Present:

Bruce Bentley, Chair
James Fearn
Yale Lewis
Kate Pflaumer
Kathleen Warren

Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The agenda consent items were approved as submitted, including the April 11 agenda, minutes of the March 28 meeting and acknowledgment of correspondence.

Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience: None

Golf Management Alternatives - Board Discussion/Recommendation

The Department's staff recommendations were presented to the Board at its March 14 meeting regarding changes in the management arrangements for the city's major golf facilities. A long-term management arrangement for Interbay needs to be determined. The Family Golf Corporation declared bankruptcy in early 2001 and the Department was the successful bidder to purchase their contract. As a consequence, the Department gained ownership of the facilities that Family Golf developed. A short-term management contract was negotiated with Premier Golf for operation, maintenance and development, which expires December 31, 2002.

The operation and development of the City's three regulation length golf courses is contracted with Seattle Golf (Municipal Golf of Seattle). That contract expires December 31, 2007. Staff recommended Option 1 - Retain Seattle Golf for operations and development; retain the city work force for maintenance; and, modify the current contract to address capital development, financing, return to city and other issues. (Option 2 - All Seattle Golf - Seattle Golf assumes responsibility for golf maintenance and retains responsibility for development and operations. Option 3 - Management Firm - combines management contract for Interbay and three regulation courses into a single Request for Proposals process and select a single management firm for all sites.) The City would be responsible for issuing or backing debt. The revised contract would provide for increased collaboration between Seattle Golf and the Department; require joint preparation of a five year business plan plus a strategic capital investment plan; and, require at least a

\$100,000 per year return to the city. Department employees would continue to maintain the courses under the modified staffing proposal, which achieves a cost reduction of roughly \$200,000 per year. On March 28 the Board heard presentations from Seattle Golf, Local 1239 and the Department of Parks and Recreation Golf Manager. Following those presentations a public hearing was held on the management alternatives.

Board Discussion/Recommendation:

Kate Pflaumer questioned if Seattle Golf would bid on the combined management contract for Interbay and the three regulation courses if Option 3 were selected. Ron Gibbs, Seattle Golf, stated this has not been presented to the Seattle Golf Board for discussion. Kate asked where there has been discussion of the city lending its credit would it be encumbering the courses and not be lending further credit? The Superintendent stated backing the debt gives security to the bond purchasers that if there were to be default the city would step in and make payments. Another way would be the city could sell the debt itself with some analysis done on the extent to which there would be enough revenue generated to pay that debt service. Kate questioned the Option 3 "Cons" which requires more City involvement than facility lease options and minimizes private investment in facilities and she would like to know what is negative about that. There seems to be duplication of management and oversight and Kate questions if that would be simplified by having all of the golf courses under the same system. Fritz Hedges, Director of Citywide Division, explained the Option 3 "Management Firm" would combine the management contract for Interbay and the three regulation courses into a single RFP and a single management firm would be selected for all sites. Seattle seeks a high quality maintenance level. Substantial capital funds can normally be attracted from the private sector for course improvements, with the amount directly related to the length of the lease term. In order to achieve substantial investment the lease term would most likely be 25-30 years. None of the companies would likely bid if the RFP included retaining Department maintenance. The City would likely lose control over capital development and community relations. Staff does not favor consideration of a long-term lease option.

James Fearn moved the Board recommend adoption of the staff recommendation of a management firm arrangement similar to the current arrangement with a term of five years for the Interbay golf facility. Kathleen Warren seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

James Fearn moved the Board recommend adoption of the staff recommendation of Modified Seattle Golf (Option 1) for the three regulation golf complexes. Kathleen Warren seconded the motion. James Fearn noted there have been some problems with Seattle Golf but he thinks it is preferable to continue to work with Seattle Golf and work those problems out. The City has a contract with Seattle Golf through 2007. Breaking the current contract would be a problem. Kathleen Warren related significant progress has been made with Seattle Golf but she is concerned about the rate of expenses going up. The city golf employees' living wage salary needs to be maintained. The Modified Seattle Golf option gives more time to get all the pieces together. Kathleen further stated having a city manager of golf and a Seattle Golf manager invites problems and a way to

streamline the management needs to be sought. Kathleen would like the Seattle Golf Board to be more involved in fund raising for capital improvements. Kate Pflaumer inquired if there would be any changes to the contract length, which expires on December 31, 2007. There would not be any changes to the term of the contract. James Fearn noted there have been a number of improvements and it is in the City's best interest to continue with Seattle Golf. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Ballfield Lighting Design Guidelines/Use and Field Scheduling Policy/Sports Participation Policy - Public Hearing

Background: Alix Ogden stated the Seattle Parks and Recreation is updating the Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program (JAFDP), a physical development program to increase capacity throughout the athletic field system, and is coming back to the Park Board to review related issues raised during the public involvement process. Alix reviewed the public process beginning with the field user survey in November 2000. In May and June of 2001 a JAFDP Working Group was formed. In August of 2001 the review draft of the JAFDP was made available at community centers, neighborhood service centers, the Parks Administration Building and the web. Three open house meetings were conducted. Laminated information signs were posted at all park sites proposed for improvement in the JAFDP. The Park Board held a briefing on August 10 and January 10. The Board held a public hearing on the JAFDP on January 24 followed by a discussion and recommendations at the February 14 meeting. On March 28 the Park Board held a briefing on JAFDP related issues of lighting, participation and scheduling.

Once the JAFDP is transmitted to the City Council, the Council will host a process that is likely to include a public hearing on the updated JAFDP. The Superintendent will adopt revised Department policies and design guidelines once the Park Board makes its recommendations.

Future Public Process: Voter approved measures are likely future funding sources for some of the JAFDP proposed projects. The public is involved in the development of the package and there are significant opportunities to provide opinion leading up to a vote on a measure. Another funding source for JADFP projects is the Department annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. The public can provide feedback on the CIP through the City Council approval process. Once a project receives funding, the Department engages in a public process to obtain input from stakeholders interested in the changes proposed at a particular site. The Department's public involvement process includes mailings, public meetings, potential Park Board briefings and hearings. JAFDP projects may also trigger an analysis of the environmental impacts of a proposal. This process, called SEPA, creates another forum for the interested public to have input in a particular project. The law creating this process requires a public comment period on the impact analysis. Topics that may be covered under SEPA include parking, traffic, impacts to wildlife, pollution, and noise.

Public Hearing

Chair Bruce Bentley reminded the audience of the Board's rules on civil discourse. They include no personal attacks, respect for the opposition and respect for others' time. He also reminded those signed up to speak that it is not necessary to repeat a message; decisions are not based on the number of individuals speaking for or against an issue. It was further suggested all applause be held to save time and if one person would like to speak on behalf of a group it would help save time as over 125 people have signed up to speak.

Jill Watson - community member, soccer player. Lights have been shining in her window from Lower Woodland for years but she supports lights on until 11 p.m. Jill plays soccer, coaches a rec-high school team and is a licensed referee. Fields are in short supply and more lit fields are needed. She has to travel out of the city to play adult soccer. When the Parks initiative came up for more sportsfields and lights in Seattle, it was passed and the citizens have been taxed. The JAFDP policy would negate much of what was in the initiative. Replace the old lights with new lights.

Hillary Watson (13) & Hannah Watson (14)- soccer/lacrosse players. There is no where to practice or play. Hillary's team used to play at John Rogers which was muddy even if it did not rain. They were constantly dodging baseballs during their practices. They moved to upper Summit and compete for field use with baseball or softball games. Hannah plays on Nathan Hale lacrosse team and they have to practice on an area that used to be the bottom of a lake which is muddy causing players to slip. Hannah plays soccer on three different teams. The teams often end up playing on unused baseball fields or on the side of soccer fields.

Aaron Kinion, Co-Rec Soccer league coordinator. Soccer plays on a total of 8 lighted soccer fields in the city while baseball and softball have the opportunity to play on 27 lighted fields spread throughout the city. Seven of the eight lit fields are at mixed-use sites where baseball and soccer share the sites. At the March 28 Park Board meeting the main reasons for proposing to turn off the lights at 10 p.m. were the light glare and noise complaints from residents. If that is the case, does it make any sense at the mixed use sites to turn off the lights at 10 p.m. for soccer, rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse one day a week and leave them on until 10:45 p.m. the next day? At the Lower Woodland site there are four softball fields set in between two soccer fields. The two soccer fields would have their lights out at 10 p.m. with the ballfields going to 10:45 p.m. The lighting proposal will not ease the residents' concerns. He strongly recommends the JAFDP proposal be rejected. If there are any compromises they should be made for all user groups.

Inti Valverde, Co-Rec Soccer league coordinator, referee, soccer player. The proposed revisions would adversely affect the ability of the league to schedule referees for their games. Co-Rec's ability to attract and retain experience and reliable officials for soccer matches would be severely hampered by the proposed 10 p.m. lights shut off time. Scheduling each referee to have two-games back to back on the same field is the most efficient use of Co-Rec's existing staff. This system has been in place for the last 20 years. Turning off the lights at 10 p.m. would eliminate the second game at the city fields

for the entire year. He realizes there are additional lighted fields proposed. Co-Rec Soccer disputes the idea that the late games lost will be replaced when the new fields are in place. Even if there were a game for game exchange it would make game scheduling more difficult and Co-Rec Soccer would have to recruit and train twice the number of people to cover the same amount of games. It would be difficult to keep the referees they currently have as they would have to work more nights to obtain the same amount of money. He urged the Board to keep lights on until 11 p.m.

Jen Sporleder, soccer, rugby and Gaelic football player. The current demand is not being met and it makes no sense to change the policy now. Being able to play at night is a public health issue and not a luxury. Athletics will save taxpayers' dollars in the long run simply by staying healthy. Being active is the single biggest predictor of successful aging. Half of all residents of King County are overweight and schools are distressed about the long-term health impact of obese children. The Seattle area rugby club in the last three years has recruited over 400 young athletes. Where will the kids play when they grow up? Where will they play today? Where will the adults play? Where will the adults who coach the kids play if the fields are not used to their full capacity? We are all neighbors of the city.

Niall King, rugby and soccer player. He has been attending meetings about fields for six years. He feels as a sports player things are going backwards instead of forwards in terms of field use. The standards of the fields have dropped and it is harder to get on to fields. Over the past 35 years there has been a rugby team in Seattle. To this date they still do not have a rugby regulation field. Seattle has players who play on the national team. The group has tried to start other teams but there is no where to play. Parents will not let their children play on unsafe fields. If fields need to be changed they need to be lit and have field turf rather than grass. The fields need to be lit until 11 p.m.

Dana Forfyloh, rugby and soccer player. She has attended numerous meetings regarding fields and lights. Rugby has been in Seattle since 1966 and soccer since 1982. The city's population has grown and along with it sports have grown. Due to the growth it has become increasingly difficult to schedule games for youth and adult user groups. Many teams are forced to play on fields outside the city limits. She currently practices at Delridge on a dirt field at the same time two softball teams play. The rugby team has a small portion of the field (100' x 50') and the softball teams take up the rest of the field. She urges the city look at different lighting options and use modern fixtures, cutting the aiming angles down. The city's parks and roadways were never designed to accommodate today's population. It is necessary to have the lights on until 11 p.m. If they are turned off at 10 p.m. scheduling difficulties are increased and more people will be forced to travel outside the city.

Jodie Ramey, rugby player for 10 years. The athletes are not asking the city to take care of every athletic field. She understands the city cannot meet every field need for every citizen. The athletes want to take advantage of what already exists. The city needs to understand that it has special obligations to women. It is not safe to run alone at night. Teams playing together in lighted areas are the only safe and affordable option. It is a bad

time to talk about turning lights off early or not lighting fields. King County is closing many of its parks.

Susan Lang, rugby player for 7 years. She is concerned about the environmental impacts of fields. Grass fields require fertilizer and pesticides and there is a problem with runoff into marshes, streams and lakes. Artificial turf does not require fertilizer and pesticides and are therefore significantly more environmental friendly and safe. The artificial fields will be significantly cheaper in the long run. Players are starting to have problems from grass fields. An increasing number of youth and adult players are suffering from asthma. Their ability to play is hampered by the dusty fields, which is the hallmark of Seattle's fields. Inhalers are as common as water bottles. The artificial fields will allow increased field access.

Marie Hahler, Captain of Seattle Rugby Club, stated it is silly to spend money for better services and lights then not to use them. 70% majority passed the School Levy a few years ago that included \$4 million for field improvements. The sports community did door-belling, public speaking and helped pass the levy. There are areas in the parks that are not directly subsidized by users such as the dog off-leash areas. They cost millions to build and maintain and are designated for specific users in specific areas. She does not pay a fee to go into the off-leash areas to walk her dog. Sports users do step up and pay their full share and create revenue. In addition to their own league fees they also pay taxes.

Liz Kirk, rugby player for 18 years and played on the U. S. women's national rugby team in 1996. Rugby is one of the most popular recognized sports in the world. Seattle has become a major rugby resource. The Seattle Rugby Club and the Pacific NW Rugby Union recently hosted a camp for the U. S. women's national team in Seattle. The participation of the Seattle coaching staff and players made the event successful and they are looking forward to hosting more camps for other programs. Rugby still struggles for field space for both practices and games. Lighting restrictions will only limit their participation more. Lights until 11 p.m. equates to field availability.

Andrea Stamm, rugby player for 8 years. Parks belong to all of us. Parks, like all land, change in use over time. Demand changes. Seattle residents are more crowded in smaller spaces. Urban villages need more places to play. We are all taxpayers. Responsible land use decisions should include new active playfields and lights from the current limited resources. People from the south end have a right to access Sand Point/Magnuson Park. There are over 200,000 playfield users.

Kris Bush, representing sports field users and in particular over 1,000 rugby players. Since 1998 rugby players have been present at 76 meetings and in a democratic sense have won every one of them and they will win tonight. Each sports field user who attends a meeting represents 1,000's of users meanwhile every resident who opposes playfield use represents only themselves. These meetings are all the same process. The majority want to use the parks, interested in playing games, want to stay healthy and provide an opportunity for all while an extremely vocal minority continues to convince Parks and

Recreation to not provide opportunities despite the fact that they chose to live adjacent to the public facilities. Do you keep holding these public meetings hoping we will all agree? We are never going to agree. How many meetings will it take to get through to all Park officials and all city councilmembers that the massive majority supports active playfields with lights? What is the point in asking healthy, competitive, productive athletic field users to come to this ugly, divisive, stressful environment that attempts to pit them against their neighbors and also other sports field users month after month, year after year? They are not going to play by these rules anymore - they are going to change them. Kris has formed a political action committee called "Citizens for Outdoor Recreation." This group will pave the way for better playfields for children, teenagers and adults. The field users voted for Pro Parks and School District levies. The CFOR will hold all elected officials accountable.

Laura McLendon, President of the Washington State Women's Soccer Association, which is the largest soccer organization in the U.S. One-third of its members reside in Seattle and range in age from 17 - 60 years old. Soccer players sometimes ask Laura why they only get one or two home games during the season. It is a fields issue. For years the women have to travel outside the city. They have voted for and anticipate the new lighted fields and want to play closer to home. Every year youth graduate to play in adult leagues and yet there are no fields provided. Turning off the lights early will affect many people, not just the athletes on the field. Others use the lights to walk the track or throw a Frisbee. Shutting off the lights early will not solve the problem. The Soccer Association agrees with Friends of Fields and strongly recommends that the proposed lighting guidelines not be implemented until the four District complexes are completed and have lights that are operational.

Janet Slauson, Vice President of the Washington State Women's Soccer Association, born and raised in Seattle, and now is being told in her retirement that she can no longer play in Seattle because the field lights are going to be turned off early. Adults cannot get on to the fields until after 8 p.m. There is a need to get two games played a night.

Susan Minoi, 60 years old, played her first soccer game at 32 years old. Soccer provides running, athleticism, and camaraderie. Soccer has changed her life and has influenced how she goes through her personal journey. Her husband developed health problems and three nights a week she would hire someone to stay with him while she played soccer. The friendship support she had with the soccer team sustained her and the fitness she gained from 1-1/2 hours of exercise helped her care for her husband. Susan plays on four teams and is the token "old person." "Don't make me give up my passion."

Mark Bishop, Assistant Manager of the Co-Rec Soccer Association, helps manage over 8,000 soccer games a year. Over 55% of those games are forced out of the city due to the lack of lighted soccer fields. That is not to mention the proposed loss of 809 lighted league games. Only 45% of the week night games are played in Seattle. Because policies last for years the loss will be far more games than the Parks staff model that was published. Youth soccer and adults have waited a long time for fields. The proposal of the 10 p.m. lights shut off would eliminate the second game. This will lead to an eventual

loss of 1,880 games a year at existing fields not 740 games. The revenue loss would be \$76,000 per year, which does not include the late games at the 15 new soccer fields that are slated for lights. 3,390 night games will be lost there along with \$173,000 loss in revenue. A total of 5,270 games are lost to soccer; 0 loss of softball/baseball games per year. The 3,390 early game capacity at 15 new fields is actually less because 601 games are already scheduled there and are currently in use. Accommodating the 1,880 lost from the eight existing lighted fields would allow 909 new games which at 15 fields comes out to 60 games per field or approximately one new game slot each week. Where is the increased capacity? Where is the growth? Parks argument that they can make up for the loss of late games with early slots of new fields would be contrary to what has happened in the past. They have 3,000 games they would like to move back into Seattle. He asked that the lights be kept on until 11 p.m.

Alex Sandoval, Co-Rec Soccer player, representing her four-year-old daughter, stated adult recreation sets a precedent for youth. Her parents were active in sports and she wants her daughter to be able to play throughout her life. The proposal to shut down the lights affects the players and their families and community. When you grandfather in some people and make other people fight tooth and nail for everything you are sending the message that Seattle is being run by the "good old boys" network.

Derek Goldingay, Manager of Co Rec Soccer, praised the Department's fields and the job they are doing. He asked the Board to have the Department take out the conflicting language between priority and historic rights in the policy and procedures. Historic patterns are what all groups are used to and they should not be violated. If cuts of historic fields are made then all leagues should share them equally and not targeted against one league. During the March 28 Park Board briefing, Park staff stated adult fields lost from the late night time would be replaced at the new Genesee fields. The problem is the policy and procedures are vague, confusing and contradictory and do not mention when a historic field is lost. When Co-Rec Soccer lost 500 historic week night fields in the past at Interbay, Bobby Morris and other fields, Parks said the fields would be replaced with weekend fields. Many week night soccer players cannot play on the weekends. When a field is given a new surface the Scheduling Office seems to ignore historic rights. He is not sure Parks knows how it balances the language when it says priority and historic right. The City Auditor noted that the scheduling policy terms like "historic field use," "reasonable amounts" and "some allowance" needs to be clarified. Derek asked the Board not to pass the policy and procedure until it contains language to support the historic rights, clearly define exceptions, has an appeal process and is not open to bureaucratic abuse.

Corey Murata, player and manager of Co-Rec Soccer. Team sports build physical fitness as well as build community. Players also develop self-esteem. He has witnessed this with the people he has played with and himself as well. Reducing the opportunities for playing soccer, rugby and other sports would be doing the citizens a tremendous disservice.

Ray Williamson, referee for 20 years. The refs would not be able to afford to ref single games if the lights are turned out at 10 p.m. The refs want doubles and do not want singles. If there are single games there will not be enough referees. The lights have to stay on until 11 p.m. or later.

Marty Ehlers, Co-Rec Soccer Association Manager. Parks has proposed to turn off the lights for soccer at 10 p.m. and lights off for softball/baseball games at 10:45 p.m. Even though softball games run by the Park Department through Citywide Athletics are 1-1/2 hours long they start at 9 p.m. and run until 10:30 just like the soccer games. The loss of 1,000 late soccer games is drastic. The argument that soccer would still get half of its games in Seattle is incorrect. The proposals would almost eliminate Seattle games for every single week night team. Marty reviewed the single team schedule for the spring season. The new proposal would cut back all the late games they are now given. The softball/baseball players get to play all their team games inside Seattle on nice grass fields. If a compromise must be made regarding the lights issue then all sports should share the burden. "Please do not sacrifice soccer as a peace offering."

Kris Koch asked that the Board look at the merits of new fields, new lights and use of existing resources as separate issues. She is in favor of using the fields that exist equitably giving all sports an equal chance at them. She was 30 years old when she started playing soccer and has been playing for 26 years. Her 26 and 24 year old children play on her team and when they need a sub on their team she plays. Soccer is multigenerational. She urged the Board to give soccer their share of the fields.

Anita Parker, President of the Greater Seattle Soccer League, Friends of Fields Board member and Sports Advisory Council member. She is representing 11,842 players of which 7,500 live in Seattle. The soccer league has paid the city thousands of dollars over the years in field fees and that is in addition to the taxes they pay. She thinks the city needs to take a serious look about cutting back playing time and turning the lights off early for soccer. The concerned neighbors need to share the facilities with the sports users. The players have and will continue to work with the neighbors to reduce the noise and to minimize the glare of lights. Please do not turn off the lights at 10 p.m.

Bernadette Noonan stated the Park Department and School District have shown vision in developing our badly needed sports facilities to allow the citizens to play ball. This is for all of us. We voted millions for this to be accomplished. The biggest growth in women's soccer is in the over 40 and over 50 age group. Two games a night for about three times week is needed for soccer. That is four teams of women. They would play from approximately 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Washington State Women's soccer organization has never received complaints about the women making noise or causing a disturbance in a neighborhood. There are studies showing the benefits that sports have played in the lives of women. She is a neighbor of Genesee and she cannot wait to get the lights on there. It would light up a very dark area.

Celina Bednar plays on two teams and manages one soccer team. People on her team range from 15-55. Parents and children play together. It is not fair to pit softball/baseball

against soccer. Soccer does not have access to fields for practices; softball/baseball does have access. The soccer players have to travel and are spending money in other cities. She would like the Board to think about fairness and apply it to all sports equally.

Denise Trabona plays soccer and is glad to have the opportunity to play. She would like to see all sports treated fairly and equitably. She favors keeping the lights on until 11 p.m.

Andy Benjamin is a parent with children who play youth soccer. For years he has watched them play on fields that are dangerous with holes and are not drained well. He has seen kids injured. We are beginning to rectify that with better field surfaces that are safer. He is very concerned about the explosion in soccer growth. Practices have to be cut down. He has had to double up on fields. He does not think it is possible to find any afternoon or early evening field time for adult soccer because of the growth in youth soccer. He is a Professor at the University of Washington and has compelling research data that if you have youth engaged in athletic activity all the high risk behaviors that we are concerned about for youth go down dramatically. We want our youth on the playing fields of our city. If we do not have the youth on the playing fields we will see significant problems. We need to find more time for youth.

Phoebe Russell, scheduler for Seattle Youth Soccer and Women's soccer, has a child coming into the youth program and step children who have gone through the youth program and are now playing in adult leagues. This city has a policy that they are working towards of an urban village. The place where she can go and exercise outside of her soccer is beside a lighted field. There is no way to account for the neighbors who use the field to walk their dogs, exercise, have their kids out on their bikes with them while an organized sport is using the field. Neighbors are used to having the lights on. That is a resource that is there for us to be able to stay in our communities and do the things we want to there. Please keep the lights on so we can exercise in an organized and on ad hoc basis on the fields in our neighborhoods, which are currently lighted until 11 p.m. with no complaints.

Emily Martin has been playing soccer for a few months. Soccer is important to her health and safety. The team organized sports are important as she does not feel safe running at night for exercise. She would like the health and safety issues considered while thinking about the lights.

Renee Barton, Seattle Residents for Fair Field Lighting, stated the Board's job is to determine how to represent all Seattle taxpayers to make sure the treatment of neighbors is fair. There are no criteria or mechanisms for neighbors to mitigate development plans or to get lights off completely. Neighbors' experience with artificial turf has been round the clock daytime use. If lights are added, neighbors will have no recreation time and no down time in their own neighborhood. The hours of usage should be decided on a site by site basis. Her own Meadowbrook neighborhood would not like to have lights on past 8 or 9 p.m. on more than one field. Many neighbors do not want any lights at all. The neighbors would allow high school football games on lighted fields until 10 p.m. To make the Joint Use agreement fair to neighbors Renee proposes an amendment to the

project advisory team language - to ensure an equitable mix of neighbors and field users, wildlife protectionists, and other stakeholders. No neighbors have been included on the pre-development plans in the past and if they have been included they have been outnumbered. The current plan does not address the need of neighbors to have access to parks. There is an active and passive open space in many neighborhoods. Neighbors need to also have some time on the fields during daylight hours. She suggests "turf more, light less." Use a variable fee structure for adults to get less popular times used more. If you do light the fields, the best technology and the best criteria available needs to be used. California Energy Commission has just passed a law that says all of California is an E2 zone. You are saying all of Seattle is an E3 zone and she thinks we can do better than that.

Elizabeth Harbaugh, Lake City soccer club coach. Desires lights on no later than 10 p.m. She would like to see the lights off at 9 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, at least in the neighborhoods that want that and no later than 10 p.m. at the rest of the fields. The sports community is very organized. Unfortunately neighbors do not have this advantage and she hopes the neighbors are thought of during the lighting decisions that have no idea that their fields are going to be lit. By turning off the lights at 9 p.m. the neighborhood families can have a little bit of time of quiet and dark. Elizabeth's family is amateur star watchers. Neighbors spend their weekends volunteering at the parks planting trees, help raise money to get playfields and it is the neighbors who are going to have to bare the brunt of the unfortunate negative impact that comes with the increased use - the traffic, noise and the visual ugliness of looking at the lights on. She hopes some balance can be given to everybody.

Roger Bennett - the preservation of the environment is of major concern. Noise and bright lights are significant factors. Many studies today are identifying the issue of stress and lack of sleep in both adults and children. We are trying to do too much. "Please turn off the lights on school nights at 9 p.m."

Keith Hoeller, Seattle Residents for Fair Field Lighting. The fields are located in residential neighborhoods and there are kids and elderly people living there. The lights turn the neighborhoods in to almost commercial grade in terms of noise activity, traffic and parking. The neighbors have asked to be involved in the process from the beginning and they haven't been. The sports people are not getting everything they want in this plan. He does not know any neighbors who have said no sports fields but overall they have said, " if you want to come and play in our neighborhood please be good neighbors and good citizens."

Jason Torta, Manager of Wednesday night Co-Rec Soccer team. As a manager he gets a form to choose fields his team desires to play on. When he gets back his schedule he is always disappointed when he sees various games they have to play outside of the city. It is a big inconvenience for a number of the players, including two players on the team that have to travel by bus or arrange for people to come out of their way to pick them up and bring them to the games.

Dave Hayner plays on two soccer teams, a Thursday night and Sunday team, plays with his son on a team and also plays on pickup soccer games. He has been playing for 11 years. There are three sides to the issue - Parks, neighbors and players. There are some delicate issues. Soccer is great for people's health, gives a sense of family values, and community.

Denise Derr - Seattle neighborhoods need a reasonable limit on field development and scheduled use. Reasonable limits of development and scheduled use are required on fields that have the capacity to create unlimited, negative impacts to residential environments. The Parks Department has an obligation to preserve the public integrity of the playfields and character of the neighborhoods which means playfields cannot be developed and managed for an exclusive type of use or a particular group. Public playfields sited in residential neighborhoods cannot be viewed as just capital investments to get exploited. Expansion must occur within the inherent boundaries of a public amenity. Neighbors are not dictating the government. Neighbors are asking for fair guidelines of new and unforeseen development. These guidelines are necessary to preserve something that all citizens are entitled to and that is a reasonable use of residential properties. Playfield siting in residential environments were created to serve those communities. They are integral to sustainability of those neighborhoods. Equitable use and sensitive development are the hallmarks of a public facility. Denise urged the Park Board to uphold their obligation to preserve the public integrity of the city playfields and character of the neighborhoods and not to support the JAFDP and related documents until development and scheduling is tailored to individual neighborhoods.

Andy Haas, representing many neighbors living by Miller Park. Miller Park is the busiest and brightest playfield in the city. Many homes are in very close proximity to the field. He is asking the city and sports teams to show some courtesy to the neighbors of lit ballfields. Constant games, associated noise, litter, traffic and bright lights are a huge burden to the community. It is unfair that neighbors have to wear eyeshades and earplugs to get some sleep at night. It is unfair that neighbors have to drive to the suburbs to play a pickup game of baseball or softball when they live right across from a playfield, which is monopolized by a sports league. Turn off the lights at the fields in residential neighborhoods at 9 p.m. Replace the archaic floodlights with modern lighting technology and schedule time for neighbors.

Peter Lukevich, representing Friends of Athletic Fields, user and neighbor of fields. The public voted on this issue years ago. We do not need to address whether or not the lights are going to be placed anywhere; it is whether or not we are going to leave them on. The JAFDP is proposing the lights be turned off at an earlier hour. Friends of Athletic Fields has participated in this process in every neighborhood community plan, of which there are 39 that have addressed this issue. To suggest there has not been a public process or the opportunity to be heard is not true. "Too much, too soon, too fast - don't go where you are headed. Changing from 11 to 10 p.m. is not good business." Friends of Athletic Fields opposes the proposal as it is written if there is a net decrease in the total hours available for scheduling. The proposal as we know it decreases those hours by 7,000 throughout the city, which produces 350 less two-hour games and 7,000 hours less public access

whether it is scheduled or unscheduled. There should be no change in the current policy until the School District fields are lit and we have the city's "to be lit" playfield at Genesee. The total number of hours can be kept the same without a decrease. There should be a specific agreement with the School District on the use of those new-lighted fields to protect the interest of the field users and access to those lights. A scheduling summit between the users who are characteristically using the fields after 6 p.m. so that 15 and 30 minute increments can be tweaked a bit in order to maximize the hours of play.

Diane Bendix understands in part what the neighbors are saying. The JAFDP as it is written is biased against soccer. Baseball/softball games would go until 11 and soccer until 10 p.m. It causes soccer to have earlier games further away. The games start in Kent, etc. at 6 or 6:30 p.m. and it is difficult to leave work and get to the games on time. If people do not want to have lights shining in their windows maybe they should not move to that area.

Mark Robison, President of Seattle Youth Soccer Association, representing 11,000 kids who play until 8 or 9 p.m. While at dinner this evening his waiter told him they leave the lights on all night in Brazil so people who get off work at 2 a.m. can play soccer. Mike thinks a compromise of 1 am. would be fine.

Matt Almquist does not understand that turning off the lights 45 minutes earlier would really make the neighborhoods happy. Neighbors should not move into neighborhoods near a field if they do not like lights. Also, shades can be pulled down to block out light.

Andrew Taylor, Co-Chair, Miller Park Neighborhood Association. He thinks the problem is we are trying to find a one size fits all solution. Last weekend he visited every lighted sportsfield in the city of Seattle. He paced off the distance of the nearest light pole to the nearest residential property. He presented the Board members with a CD containing pictures of the fields he surveyed. He proposes the lights closer to residents go off at 10 p.m. and the fields further away go off at 11 p.m. In some neighborhoods there are few people that live around the fields and in other neighborhoods there are people living on all sides of the fields. It is clear the city is getting more crowded but he thinks this can be worked out together. The Miller neighborhood is eager to work with sports players and help them find convenient places to park. Miller has a 50-place parking lot so people do not have to park on the street. It is important to work on communication issues. It is their ballfields but it is our neighborhood as well. It would help if the field users would give a little something back. Don't treat all the ballparks the same. Have a look at the pictures and you will see how they are all different.

Bob Robison, Soccer coach for the FC Shoreline Soccer Club, player and team manager in the Greater Seattle Soccer League and soccer fan in general. He installed the lights at the Twin Ponds soccer field in Shoreline. Perhaps sportsfields have reached the point of being a business. If they have there is much more demand for the product - lighted fields - than there is for supply of the product. When the installation of the lights at Twin Ponds was complete families would show up and play pickup games. Once the fields were

turned over to the city they were booked solid for youth practices and adult games. For us to respond to the increasing demand by reducing supply makes very little sense.

Betty Ivie, President of Magnolia Community Club, speaking on behalf of neighbors that reside by the West Magnolia Playfield. Contrary to what the rugby players stated it is more than one neighbor complaining about the lights. Historically the lights have not been on during Saturday and Sunday nights. In the JAFDP appendix B there is a priority to put lights on the North Magnolia Playfield, however, that would make the neighborhood worse without doing anything to benefit the neighbors at the south fields. She would like to see a betterment before something gets made worse. When she voted for the bond issue it said "Parks for All" not athletic fields for sports teams.

Bill Ivie, Magnolia resident, stated communities do not have anything against the sports groups. They encourage the groups, especially youth, but would like the Board to consider there are two sides to the story. Who gets the money from the for-profit group? The neighbors do not get any benefits if they do keep the lights on for longer hours at night. Neighbors do not have a choice when lights are added to fields that do not currently have lights. It is not a reasonable statement to make that neighbors should move if they do not like the lights.

Joel Mulder, Queen Anne resident, soccer player for 17 years. He is hearing it would be useful to increase the number of parks and increase the number of lit parks. The residents who live nearby parks are concerned. He is not sure he agrees with the science behind the quality of lighting that is coming out of the Parks Department. He would like to make sure an appropriate job is done of establishing a science that would help residents understand how lighting impacts can be reduced, how noise can be reduced, and how that trespass can be prevented. As a soccer player he needs some kind of light. Maybe a model park could be established with appropriate mix of representatives from the neighborhood and from various members of all the sports people. The issues raised by the residents are legitimate as are the issues raised by the soccer players. How is the Parks Department going to manage the increase in population? Are we going to have more parks with lights; are we going to take care of our neighborhoods, ourselves? We are players, residents and neighbors.

Bill Murray, Sand Point resident. Once the lights go into Sand Point the natural oasis for silence, solitude will be gone. There is no way to mitigate the sound as it is a natural amphitheater. There is no way to mitigate the light which will condemn the north end of the lake. Wildlife will be completely changed.

Diana Russell - distributed a hand out from the Sand Point Community Housing Association and introduced Bob Rench, Director of Operations. The housing association operates 94 units of transitional housing at Sand Point, with plans to develop additional 106 units. Many of these units are located immediately adjacent - some within 50 yards - of the planned athletic development at SPMP. The Association agrees that Seattle needs better parks. They think the Department can improve the quality of its parks. Many fields are in deplorable condition. Funding should be primarily allocated to the improvement of

existing fields and secondarily to the creation of new fields. There should be community involvement in Parks planning. The Department should engage both local communities and neighborhoods in its planning efforts. This has not occurred and the Association has not been involved in the planned redevelopment of Sand Point in any meaningful way. The Association was notified after the draft EIS was published. Parks should be good neighbors. Parks should make effort to effectively mitigate its adverse impacts on local neighborhoods. Noise, lights, air and water pollution and traffic impacts must be effectively addressed and mitigated in park planning and development. The benefits and liabilities of parks should be shared equitably. Parks should be distributed equitably and evenly throughout a city, both to equitably provide access to its citizens to share in the benefits and in the liabilities. This will not occur at Sand Point where 23% of the lighted, turfed fields will be developed in the city. Good urban planning effectively integrates park planning. Large magnet parks may be economical in some aspects but they frequently impose less easily measured costs, i.e. traffic congestion and impacts on wildlife. Parks should be developed within the established legal and administrative framework. Park departments must plan in conformance with the legislative and administrative processes developed to ensure their responsiveness to overarching community needs not just those of one group.

Bill Farmer, Friends of Athletic Fields and Disc NW. Games for Ultimate Frisbee last 1-1/2 - 2 hours not the one-hour as listed in the draft JAFDP. Athletic fields are for athletics. The athletes do not have anywhere else to go to play. He is glad to see the plan that is proposed to improve what is out there. We all live in the city and know the problems of density, noise, etc. When lights come into his home he pulls the blinds. The JAFDP spells out mitigation plans for noise, traffic, parking and lighting. There is a big public process in Seattle and every body gets a chance to be heard. Neighbors fought the light pole height that would be a change to their benefit, as it would reduce the light spillage into the neighborhoods. The athletes want to have good facilities. The JAFDP is a roadmap and wish list. There is not a lot of funding available. There will be a chance to learn as we go along.

Teri McIntyre, soccer player. Agrees with the rugby people in that she does not know why they all have to keep coming to meetings again and again. She has been coming to meetings for seven years. The lights are a necessity. Some of the people who do not want lights are the same people who did not want the Queen Anne Bowl used during the day. The biggest user of QA Bowl is Ballard Girls Soccer. The neighbors can still use the field when soccer is being played. Dogs cannot run all over the infield anymore but they were not allowed to begin with. When she attended the January 24 meeting she listened to complaints about the transient elements coming into neighborhoods and destroying it. She cannot understand how the Parks Department can say the soccer lights have to be off at 10 p.m. but softball/baseball can go until 10:45 p.m.

Mickey Nilano, coach, umpire, and Board member of Ballard Little League. Thank you for the park system and the hard work done every day. Study after study shows that children who are involved in structured activity such as youth sports perform better in school, have less problems with drugs and alcohol and are more likely to attend college.

Mr. Nilano told a story about two kids he met while coaching - one that stayed in sports and one that did not. What is done on the fields has very little to do with the game that they play. Only 1 in 10,000 goes on to play professional sports. The other 9,999 may get to grow up, become happy, productive citizens. He would like to invite those who oppose improving the fields to join the league for one of their tournaments - let them experience the work that goes into it and the magic that comes out of it.

Rumi Takahashi, soccer player for 25 years, supports lights until 11 p.m. She is a resident of Seattle and does not want to alienate the residents; she understands their concerns. She suggested neighbors as well as the Park Board form soccer teams.

Jean Alexander is concerned about the large number of lights proposed for the sportsfields at Magnuson Park, which will disrupt the wildlife and have a negative impact on the transitional housing and the surrounding neighborhood. Parks are for recreation and while organized sports are bountiful a large number of citizens get their recreation from other ways such as walking, enjoying peaceful surroundings and observing wildlife. It seems reasonable to have sportsfields at Magnuson but the lighting will have a negative impact on wildlife and neighborhood peace. It has been under-estimated by the Impact Statement. "Please let us have fewer fields, no lighting or fully cut off lighting and limited hours of usage."

Marilyn Sandall, Seattle Audubon Society. The Seattle Audubon wants to protect sustainable habitat and preserve diverse wildlife in Seattle. They are concerned about placing intense sportsfield lighting near environmental critical areas such wetlands and streams. Wildlife biologists have documented the affects of lighting on wildlife. Seattle Audubon asks that the Department maintain and improve the existing fields first. This is a win-win approach for everyone. They ask that the Department does not put in new fields or add lights to existing fields near critical wildlife habitat. It is important to protect and restore urban greenspace and natural areas. The last decade has brought a net loss of wildlife habitat and unstructured public open space in Seattle. More public parks plan to be set aside for more structured use for specific user groups. There is no organized lobby that brings together joggers, hikers, bird watchers, walkers and plant enthusiasts to advocate for the protection of unstructured open space. Seattle Audubon does not support lighted fields beyond the natural daylight time.

Steven Fischer, President, Westwood Neighborhood Council. Westwood is located in the southern part of West Seattle. The Westwood Neighborhood Council has not opposed the improvements to athletic fields. Sealth-Denny Field, also known as SW Athletic Complex, is located in the neighborhood. The neighborhood council has been actively following this issue for the last three years. The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes a number of items. They have asked for a fair shake. They have asked for full cut-off lighting yet they do not have full cut off lighting proposed for their fields. There are three fields - football, softball and baseball. There are two light poles that are poorly designed and do not allow full cut off lighting. The light may be aimed at the fields but the glare is not. There are secondary items that they look for in terms of parking, noise, hours of operation. There is a parking lot associated with the complex which does not

provide enough parking for the fields. All fields are not the same. When you put together policies you need to treat each field separately. Sealth-Denny field has a limitation as to the number of spectators and participants for any one time. Mr. Fischer distributed handouts to the Board members.

Susan Harmon, Westwood resident, facilitator for Powerful Partners through Powerful Youth. Sports are great for kids as they develop assets but sports are not the only asset that the children can develop. Some of the fields are mushy -sounds like the children could develop a wetlands. She is very concerned about seven-day use of the fields when the SW Community Center has been reduced to six-day operation and this summer will go to five-day operation due to budget cuts. That community center provides many assets for the youth. In addition to various sports, there are ballet classes, judo, pottery and many other activities. In 1995 a number of public meetings were held about the Sealth-Denny field. When the School District abandoned Sealth field in the 1970's the neighbors worked hard to get funds passed so that something would happen to the field. Community members who are not members of sports teams see the complex as a resource. They wanted to include running and jogging trails around the fields, play areas, community open space. There has to be a use of these facilities for all the people, not just for certain groups. Each location has to be looked at individually. The topography is not the same throughout the city, the neighborhoods are not the same and the needs are not the same. The community worked hard for the athletic complex. They want to share it with youth, with sports and want the neighbors to also be able to use the complex.

Gibran Hashmi, Wallingford/Green Lake area resident. He is concerned about the plans for the Lower Woodland Park. Lighting from the park has a great impact on the dark sky in the surrounding neighborhood areas. He is concerned about increasing problems as a result of lighting, including traffic, noise and the impacts those bring to the neighborhood. Regardless of the type of sport that is played they should be subject to the same rules. He believes a 10 p.m. shut off time is appropriate for all sport lighting in the area. There may be room for exceptions on a limited basis.

Phil Jones, Seattle resident. He thinks the lighting issues can be addressed relative to each park, separately, and there does not need to be a blanket policy applied to all the fields. He asks that consideration be made to not reduce the lighted hours at existing lit fields where lighting patterns have been established.

Ernie Marquez, Woodland Park resident. He is a sport advocate and supports Ultimate Frisbee, soccer and all the other sports that use the city fields. He is a proponent of the net increase in available playing space throughout the city. As a resident of Woodland Park he and his neighbors have some concerns about the increased use and lights. A number of his neighbors have not been notified of some of the things happening with Field 1 and the baseball project. The SEPA process requires public notification at a distance of 300 feet. The city notified the sports teams and notified the community councils with the idea that the community council would notify the community. People do not seem to be very well informed about the project. There should be a better notification process. The concerns are mainly lights and potential traffic. The existing lighting technology has a lot of

escape. Funding is not available to replace existing lights. The Field 1 lights will result in an overall gain in lighting. He suggests funding sources be found to replace all existing lights.

Eric Tognetti, Phinney Ridge resident, Ultimate Frisbee and soccer player and referee. He is disturbed about comments of sportsfield users coming into "my neighborhood." To him Seattle is his neighborhood. People need to recreate. As a referee he travels sometimes 35 miles to a game. With the proposed earlier shut off time that would require him to travel a lot more often than he does now. In order to recruit and retain good referees you need to have attractive jobs and it would probably become unattractive enough that referees would stop. Referees keep the games fair and safe.

Jason Costa, Manager of Co-Rec soccer. One of the things that makes Seattle special is so many people stay active their whole lives. Staying active for a lot of people means playing sports. The only time for a lot of people can play is during the week at night. There is a large shortage of fields. He understands that homeowners face a lot of problems. He is concerned about the reduction of playing hours at the playfields and destroying a fundamental part of what makes this city what it is because of concerns that it is inconvenient for people lucky enough to live by sportsfields who have chosen to live there. "Please leave the lights on."

Sally Cope introduced **Vance Thompson**, speaking for neighbors of Sand Point/Magnuson Park. He is not opposed to soccer, his kids play soccer, he played soccer, but he wants to speak about balance. Sand Point/Magnuson Park currently has four natural fields with no lights. The current proposal includes 11 new synthetic fields to be lit until 11 p.m. or maybe 10 p.m. and 4 new unlit grass fields. This would represent 23% of all lit fields in the city. That is a 375% increase. There are errors in the DEIS and things that are left out. The new JAFDP draft states that new lighting technology often requires poles of a greater height than are currently in use. The advantage of higher poles is their ability to direct light onto the fields at a more precise manner thereby reducing spill and glare into the surrounding residents. Mr. Thompson displayed a photograph of the demonstration showing 22 lights at Magnuson last November. There are 640 lights planned for the fields.

Roger Cecil, Des Moines, soccer player and coach. He lives in the flight path and knew that when he purchased his home. When people buy their homes next to an athletic field knowing lights would be on the fields. Now they want to change the rules. There is a big problem for the athletes in this area. One thing that makes Seattle such an attractive place is the quality of life. Adults do not have the opportunity to play sports on the weekends. Kids play on the weekends and the earlier times go to the kids during the week. The only time adults have to play is weeknights for the most part. If the lights are turned off early, you essentially cut that time in half. He asked the city to reconsider and leave the lights on at least until 11 p.m.

Joel Levey, former medical researcher and as physiologist, Green Lake/Wallingford resident. Prolonged exposure to light at night can compromise hormonal function and it

can compromise development in children. There is noted increase in women's breast cancer. The lights at his house, four blocks away from Green Lake, are bright enough to read a book at night in his house. They moved their bedroom to the back of the house. He is concerned about prolonging the exposure of lights to his neighbors. His recommendation is to request the city to look very carefully at the medical considerations, lawsuit recommendations, and the environmental impacts as policies are considered. There has been very little information about what is going on and he would like to see more effort made to bring the community and neighbors more into the loop. The lack of neighborhood representation at this evening's hearing has perhaps spoken louder than if they had received notice.

Matt Cone, President of U.S. Lacrosse Washington Chapter. There is an epidemic occurring of kids that want to play lacrosse. There have been three consecutive years of growth. He is concerned about playing space. He made a recommendation that when you see "soccer" listed in the JAFDP document, lacrosse be added along side. Lacrosse plays on similar size fields as soccer. Lacrosse is tracking growth to what soccer did 15 years ago. The local sports stores in the area are selling a lot of lacrosse equipment.

Jennifer Westhagen, Ravenna resident, soccer player for 19 years. She has a hard time believing the lights and noise at Sand Point will be worse than when the naval air station was located there. Lighting fields until 11 p.m. is not that late as the news comes on at 11 p.m. It is naturally light in the summer until after 10 p.m. The current proposal of limiting lighting at fields and numbers of games means that once a player turns 19 their Seattle soccer playing life is effectively over. She wants to continue playing soccer. Currently her team is lucky to get to play soccer in Seattle one or two times a year. Lighted fields are needed.

Erik Sund, Capitol Hill resident, soccer player. A large number of his friends are the result of playing soccer. He pays \$200 to Co-Rec a year. Co Rec provides a service, the rates are very modest. For \$200 a year he can look forward to having something to do every weekend. To be able to have social networks and exercise and entertainment for \$200 is very reasonable. Soccer cannot be played without lights. The fields that do have lights and have had lights for years should continue to operate as they have. It is unreasonable to revise what has been an established practice.

Heather Krause, Loyal Heights resident. She urged the Board to keep the areas available for use. The parks need to be used for organized events, for neighbors, for kids, for adults. Once you go down the road of limiting lighting and it is realized it is a mistake it would be very tough to get the lighting back on. She is not asking for a new policy, simply asking that the current 11 p.m. remain in effect for all.

Alicia Gonzalez-Schloredt, soccer player for 25 years. As a youth soccer kept her from doing drugs, using alcohol, smoking cigarettes and becoming a juvenile delinquent. As an adult, soccer has kept her sane while undergoing a very intensive medical school curriculum. "Please consider leaving the lights on until 11 p.m. as a means of keeping the individuals of the community healthy physically, mentally and emotionally."

Pete Juarez, Woodland Park resident, soccer player, parent of soccer kids, referee. He works beyond 7 or 8 p.m. The work he does is stressful. He looks forward to soccer games that he does for relief as well as for physical fitness. He needs the lights on until 11 p.m.

Patricia Day, Green Lake neighbor. Loves sports but opposes the inappropriate lighting time for Lower Woodland ballfields. She would have liked to have known about this plan in November 2000 or June of 2001 instead of January 2002. She has not received any notice of meetings. She has not found any neighbors that received any notices between 50th-57th and Green Lake to Wallingford. The lights across the field that face the neighbors are like looking into a prison yard. The JAFDP states that sites should be selected where impacts on surrounding neighbors can be minimized and mitigation measures can be maximized. There is no mitigation proposed for their project. Mitigation should consider the human impact of lighting. Good mitigation would address the existing as well as proposed lighting. Mitigation would mean a retrofit of all the existing lights into modern, fully shielded technology. The Lower Woodland field is going to be the only baseball field in the city lighted to this extent. It is going to have tournament play and bleachers. This technology is not fully shielded.

Sharon LeVine, Queen Anne resident. The problem with the JAFDP is not just that if it is fair for one sport to have more nighttime access than another sport. The problems are much broader and indicate the failure of the Parks Department to abide by its own Complan 2000 and its 1999 Public Involvement Policy. The major problem with the JAFDP is it is a plan created by organized sports participants for organized sports participants. It involves school and parks sports advocates but fails to include the neighbors who will be most affected by the long term, continually and cumulative impact of activities that occur on the sportsfields. The revisions to the two policies being reviewed (060-7.1.5 and 060-P 7.1.1) need to include neighbors as stakeholders not just the sports entities. The creators of the JAFDP have removed the strong mitigation language that is required by the Parks Plan 2000 and are trying to push through a plan that does not require them to mitigate impacts. Page 58 of Plan 2000, SF12, states "consider improvements to selected fields such as use of synthetic turf and flood lighting to increase scheduling capacity but only where adverse impacts as identified in the public involvement process can be mitigated." Since the JAFDP is controlled by Plan 2000, Parks must mitigate impacts especially noted. The Board is urged to restore the mitigation language from Plan 2000 into the JAFDP. Furthermore, the JAFDP is unfair because the Parks Department commandeers virtually all neighborhood playfields and turns them into full time scheduled regional sports facilities with no provision to guarantee drop-in use for the residents of the neighborhoods. If adopted this policy will negatively impact the quality of life in neighborhoods and preclude the ability of residents to gather for informal sports activities which foster a sense of community. The Parks Department needs to initiate a public involvement process for each proposed project before the JAFDP is sent to the Council for approval and before the projects are funded. Otherwise the public may perceive that outcomes are pre-determined and not dependent upon this public involvement process. The sports organizations sent out notices about this meeting while neighbors are sitting home unaware of the plans for their

specific fields and how their lives and communities will be impacted. While it may currently be policy to light fields until 11 p.m. that was before the installation of surfaces that allow play 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. There must be reasonable limits on the use and soften cumulative impacts of intensity of play on the neighbors.

Dave Krueger, soccer player. Soccer is a great release and great form of exercise. Fellowships are developed on the field. Keep the fields lit until 11 p.m.

Will Harris, Magnolia resident, manager of Monday night league, plays in GSSL. Games presently start at 6:30 or 6:45 p.m. or 8:30 or 8:45 p.m. The lights being prohibited after 10 p.m. would eliminate the second game. The majority of his team players live in Seattle but play the majority of the games outside the city limits. There are only two fields they can use in the city - Miller and Green Lake. Homeowners would be slightly inconvenienced by having the lights on until 11 p.m.

Andrea Slayton, soccer coach in the Beacon Hill neighborhood and soccer player. She coaches mostly immigrant kids. Keeping the kids busy and active and off the street is her main passion. Almost every ethnic group in the world plays soccer. It is important for her team, ages 5-18, to play on lighted fields, especially in the fall. She would like to have some of Sand Point's lights put into the Beacon Hill neighborhood. She understands the resident's concerns.

Heidi Wartelle, Roosevelt neighbor, turned to address the audience. Roosevelt High School is being redeveloped and no one informed the neighborhood that in the current JAFDP the scheduled use of the Roosevelt field would increase from 136 in 2000 to a 1,000 hours plus without lights. The Roughriders have to be off the field before 5 p.m. With the lights the school kids will have less access to their fields. Very few athletic people who spoke at this hearing have said an integral part of their team is the neighbors. The neighbors maintain the neighborhood. They are there 24 hours a day, they pay the property taxes and they create an environment in the neighborhood that makes it possible for the sports participants to come into a safe neighborhood to play. The lights do not create that. She has heard at meetings after meetings what soccer has done for players. She graduated with honors and did ballet; there are lots of other things that people can do. She has never heard a neighbor say there are against athletics. In the future she would like Parks to embrace the neighbors as a stakeholder and part of the team.

Victor Barry, Magnolia Community Club Board member, Chair of the Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council, has 8-year old daughter who plays soccer and he has played sports all his life. No one can be against sports. This is about the Parks Department trying to put some balance into the JAFDP. Seattle cannot provide all the fields that people would like to have. Having lights on until 11 p.m. with the noise, traffic and all the problems that come with that is basically a violation of Constitutional rights and that is the right to have quiet enjoyment of property; if it is not considered, there may be a huge backlash. You could be potentially handing city hall a political time bomb. Fix the old lights first. The lights should be off at 9 p.m. on school nights and 10 p.m. on other nights. There should

be local use. You need to consider each field separately and individually. He would like the Board to continue to review the mission statement of the Parks Department.

Benedict Dugler, Green Lake resident, soccer coach and soccer player. He has been involved in many of these meetings and has heard many arguments. Where is the priority, where is it going to go, how are you going to vote, or how are you going to recommend? What is it based on - the majority? Sports and recreation is what makes this city great. It is what makes this community. If it comes down to a majority do they have to get a 1,000 or 10,000 emails to the City Council? A neighborhood is a community but so is the city. Seattle is a community. Sports and recreation help hold the community together. There is a price to pay. In order to sustain this community he asks the Board to vote accordingly and take lights into the 21st Century and leave the Dark Ages behind.

Robert Goodloe hears noise from children playing during the day, which is fine, and hears the noise from the fields during the night. He lives a block away and wonders what it would be like for the people that live next to the field. He lives next to a pizza restaurant and hears noise late at night.

Terrence McCosh, West Seattle resident, advocate for good lighting, member of Dark Skies. Mr. McCosh gave an example of a movie theater and the audience sits in the dark. The same technology with slight permutations can be applied to sportsfield lighting. It has been around for a hundred years. It is not expensive and is nothing magical - it is commodity lighting. We do not have it anywhere in Seattle. It is no wonder sportsfields neighbors are concerned and upset. There is no example of a properly lighted sportsfield in Seattle. Tennis courts, driving ranges, ballfields, soccer fields. - less than 20% of the radiated light ever hits the target field. The remaining 80% are projected into the neighborhood and into the night sky. In the last 20 years we have gone from incandescent lighting to arch lighting, luminous levels on the fields has increased by order of magnitude. There are lighting designers that can do the job right. Let's get them on the job and have lights that will make everyone happy.

Daniel Lassiter, soccer player, referee, coach and neighbor. There is a sense of discrimination going on - softball can play but soccer and lacrosse players cannot play past 10 p.m. Urged the Board to not use a blanket approach on all the fields. Residents have a reasonable concern. If the policy is going to be changed, it should be the same for all users. Keep the lights on until 11 p.m. at the fields as they were. Maybe a concession can be made to leave the lights on until 10:30 to allow the second game to be played.

Chris Jackins would like to see the city adopt policies which allow athletic field use with smaller impacts otherwise frustrated athletic field users would like to use fields at unscheduled times and there are things neighborhoods can do to make fields less welcoming. One way to put a monetary value on neighborhood impacts for field use would be for the city to reimburse neighbors for impacts. There must be some days off to make areas livable. On the other side of the equation, the city should examine which fields have less impact on neighborhoods: 1) Mariners' baseball field is often dark and not in use, 2) Seahawks' new stadium, 3) Husky stadium, and 4) city gives developers

permission to surpass density limits in exchange for limits on development outside the city. Why not also require acquisition of fields outside the city?

Nicole Ng A Qui soccer player. Desires the lights on until 11 p.m.

Dave Cumming, soccer player for 35+ year, team manager, resident. There is an increased demand for safe, lit and local places to recreate - not for just soccer. Please keep the lights on, continue to improve the technology of the lights used and increase the number of properly chosen locations.

All the speakers were allowed to speak and the hearing was officially closed. The rest of the agenda was postponed until the April 25 Board meeting. The Board is scheduled to discuss the Ballfield Lighting Design Guidelines, Use and Field Scheduling Policy and Sports Participation Policy at the April 25 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Bruce Bentley, Chair