

**Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2004**

Present: Sarah Neilson, Acting Chair
James Fearn
Joanna Grist
Terry Holme
Kate Pflaumer

Staff: Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Note: Archived agendas and minutes from January 2000 to present may be viewed online at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkboard>

Chair Bruce Bentley was out of town on business. Acting Chair Sarah Neilson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. **James moved, and Terry seconded, that the March 25 agenda, March 11 minutes, and acknowledgment of correspondence be approved. An addition was made to the minutes and one change was made to the agenda. The vote was taken and the approval of the minutes as corrected, the agenda as amended, and the acknowledgement of correspondence as presented carried unanimously.**

Superintendent's Report

Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds reported on the following:

Green Lake Alum Treatment: The alum treatment project has begun near the Green Lake Small Craft Center. It will take approximately three weeks to spread the alum across the bottom of the lake. On Saturday, from 10:30 am-noon, Mayor Nickels will join the community in a celebration marking the re-opening of Green Lake to recreation uses.

Cheasty Boulevard: Parks staff members have met individually with property owners along Cheasty Boulevard who have encroachments onto park property. A February 20 letter from the Superintendent offered a general update on efforts to eliminate encroachments and non-park uses and gave a forewarning of another letter that would be sent with specific instructions for neighboring property owners. This second letter was mailed on February 25. Generally, the response has been good, with most property owners agreeing on a schedule for compliance, which can be achieved by removing the encroachments or obtaining a permit until encroachments can be removed. The encroachment removal effort will be coordinated with the current Pro Parks project at this site, which will make significant, visible, and long-lasting improvements to Cheasty Boulevard.

Beach Fires: The Alki Community Council continues to talk with Seattle Police Department (SPD) about beach fires at Alki Park. The Council would like to support SPD by proposing that fires be put out each night by 9 p.m. Parks

staff members explained that the end time for fires cannot be changed without the approval of the Superintendent and Park Board.

Discovery Park and United States Navy Housing: Parks staff members and the Office of Inter-Governmental Relations attended the City Council's Monday work session to hear the Navy's presentation on their proposed divestiture of the Fort Lawton housing at Discovery Park. The Navy has received developers' proposals and is now in the process of evaluating them to select the preferred entity.

Terry asked whether new housing is planned. Ken answered that the Navy is building new housing at its site in Everett. James asked if this item will come back before the Park Board and Ken answered yes.

Parks Sustainability Practices: Parks is working with a reporter from the *Daily Journal of Commerce* on a story promoting Parks' sustainable building practices. The story will focus on our partnership with the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) and Parks' commitment to building green.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Sarah explained that the general public comment portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had or are not scheduled for a public hearing. Testimony is limited to three minutes per speaker. No one signed up to testify.

Briefing/Recommendation: Lake Washington Blvd Encroachment

Don Harris, and MaryLou Whiteford came before the Board to give a briefing and ask for a recommendation on an encroachment at 715 Lake Washington Blvd S. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Both are included in these minutes. The Board also received a copy of the Revocable Use Permit.

Written Briefing

The attached proposed Revocable Use Permit is scheduled for consideration and recommendation by the Board of Parks Commissioners at its March 25, 2004, meeting.

The Permit lays out terms and conditions for removal of private improvements from park property on Lake Washington Boulevard just south of Frink Park. The private improvements, including a large water feature with a waterfall and pond and numerous plantings inconsistent with an Olmsted design, were installed by the current owner of the adjacent private property sometime after October 2000. Property Management staff and others, including the Division Director, have met with and been in frequent contact with the owner since March 2002 attempting to gain his cooperation in removing the encroachments. In August 2003, we requested assistance from the City Attorney's office and a suit was filed against the owner.

This proposed Revocable Use Permit represents a compromise, allowing removal of the encroachments to be extended over a much longer time period than normal or desirable. Under our current Fee Schedule, adopted by City Council ordinance, we have the capacity to issue a Permit requiring removal of encroachments within 90 days at no charge. However, we believe we can achieve compliance under the proposed Permit without further legal action against the private owner.

A portion of the permit follows:

PERMIT PURPOSE

Permit is issued, as allowed by the Policy on Non-Park Uses of Park Lands, "3.2(f) to regulate and control an existing non-park use until it is eliminated" and "3.2(e) to eliminate non-park uses and restore park property." Private landscaping elements, including a waterfall, pond, rocks, plantings, and ancillary improvements (e.g., water and electric lines to serve the water feature) encroach onto park property. Under this Permit, such encroachments are allowed to remain until they are removed and the park property is restored to a condition acceptable to the

Department of Parks and Recreation, within the Permit Period, as defined at #3 below, and in accordance with the time schedule specified in #8 below.

INCREMENTAL REMOVAL of ENCROACHMENTS and RESTORATION

Permittee may accomplish the removal or elimination of encroachments and the restoration of park property to a condition acceptable to the Department on a gradual or incremental schedule, as specified below:

By April 15, 2004

Remove the six (6) easternmost evergreen hedge plantings (3 columnar, 3 globe) on the south side of the driveway to 715. Remove the three (3) large and five (5) small non-Northwest native plants around the pond and waterfall. Fill the holes or depressions left by removal of the plants with topsoil, suitable for other acceptable plants. Plant grass or install adequate erosion control measures. If plant material is installed and later damaged during removal of other elements, the area must be restored again.

Provide a landscaping design, plan, and plant list for site restoration, as desired by Permittee, for review by Department. Kinnickinnic, sword ferns, or salal are recommended as acceptable native plantings, but other natives and non-natives, excluding cultivated ornamentals, may also be acceptable. Alternatively, the Permittee may choose to replant the entire area with grass (seed mix to be specified by the Department) after elimination of encroachments, but not earlier than March 15 or later than October 15, 2004. Landscaping plan may incorporate some rocks on site into the design. NOTE: A four-foot (4') wide level area suitable for walking must be available at or near the street curb for pedestrian use.

By September 1, 2004

Remove all elements of the water feature that extend onto park property (i.e., the pond, the rocks surrounding the pond and edging the water course that becomes the waterfall) EXCEPT any rocks that are to be incorporated into the landscape design, as approved by the Department. Fill the holes or depressions left by removal of the pond, rocks, and other elements with topsoil, suitable for other acceptable plants. Install adequate erosion control measures.

By September 15, 2004

Grade, if necessary, to create a gradual slope, approximately matching the slope of the driveway. Replant the entire area with grass or with some other plant(s) acceptable to the Department, UNLESS an alternative landscaping plan has been approved by the Department. NOTE: A four-foot (4') wide level area suitable for walking must be available at or near the street curb for pedestrian use.

By October 10, 2004

Complete landscaping installation in accordance with plan approved by Department. All landscape elements become the property of the City.
Arrange for inspection to be conducted by Department.

By October 15, 2004

Inspection to be conducted by Department.

By April 15, 2005

Cut back to private property and cap any water supply line to pond.
Cut back to private property and cap electric service line to pond pump and any ancillary elements.

Remove valve and pump vault and any ancillary installation-servicing pond. Fill the holes or depressions left by removal of vault/equipment with topsoil, suitable for other acceptable plants. Install adequate erosion control measures or plant grass.

Verbal Briefing

Don and MaryLou gave a verbal briefing of the permit request and reviewed the history of this particular encroachment. Color photos of the property were distributed to the Board. The Department adopted its encroachment policy in 1996. The landscaping at this site was installed after that date. The homeowner, Mr. Nelson, has asked why his encroachment must be removed from Parks property, as there are other encroachments. Don and MaryLou explained that, because of budgetary and time constraints, the Department's policy is to remove the encroachments during work on other projects in the area or remove the encroachments when a formal complaint is received. In this instance, a neighbor applied for a permit to improve the Park landscaping in front of his home. When his request was denied, he complained that his request was similar to the landscaping addition at Mr. Nelson's home.

During negotiations with Mr. Nelson, who has spent thousands of dollars to keep his landscaping on Park Department property, the Superintendent has visited the site. Erin Devoto, Director of Project Planning, and Don Harris have met Mr. Nelson on site. Eventually, the matter was taken to the City Attorney's office for assistance. Mr. Nelson has now agreed to remove the encroachments, however, he has asked for more time than the usual 90-day permit. MaryLou stated that the Department's goal is to restore Parks property. Ken asked what would happen if Mr. Nelson doesn't follow the removal schedule that is outlined in the permit. MaryLou said that the City's Law Department has filed a suit against Mr. Nelson, which it will only dismiss pending his compliance with the permit.

Questions and Answers

James asked if there are any improvement plans at this location. Staff answered no.

James moved approval of the permit, as requested by Department staff. Kate seconded.

Discussion continued. James asked if the area would look worse after the encroachments are removed. Staff answered that initially it will; however, Mr. Nelson must submit a landscaping plan to the Department, which must be approved. Ken stated that the encroachment policy is to stop new encroachments on the boulevards and remove the existing ones as budget and staff allow.

Joanna asked how the Department tracks when property on the adjacent to the boulevards changes hands and how property owners are made aware of the encroachment policy. Staff answered that there are informational signs posted and the Department has also sent non-threatening letters to realtors describing the policy. There is also an ambitious goal to use the GIS mapping system, in conjunction with Department of Design and Construction and tax records.

Terry asked if Mr. Nelson could choose to plant grass only and staff answered yes. Terry asked what the consequences would be if he doesn't restore the area once the encroachments are removed. Staff answered that the lawsuit would continue and that, not only must Mr. Nelson restore the site, he must also maintain it for three years to establish the plantings.

Sarah called for the vote and it was unanimously in favor.

The Board thanked Don and MaryLou for the presentation.

Briefing: Downtown Park

Deputy Superintendent B.J. Brooks and Central District Parks Manager Kerry Lasko came before the Board to give a briefing on Mayor Nickels' Downtown Parks Initiative. The Board also received a written briefing, portions included below.

Written Briefing

Background and Context

The Downtown Parks Strategy Committee was formed in 2001 to address issues and solution for Seattle's downtown parks. The Committee was composed of representatives from each of the five downtown neighborhoods and profiled 20 parks over the course of a year. They focused on issues and opportunities regarding maintenance, programming, safety/security, and management.

In 2002 the Committee issued a report with four summary recommendations.

- ❖ Downtown parks need greater care because they receive greater wear and tear
- ❖ These parks should serve as the signature of downtown
- ❖ Downtown parks need to be reviewed as a unique system of related public spaces
- ❖ Establish a Downtown Parks and Recreation Advisory Council to improve management, maintenance, security, and programming

Mayor Nickels has made the downtown parks a priority for his administration. A Downtown Parks Initiative Team, chaired by B.J. Brooks, Parks Deputy Superintendent, has convened to facilitate improvements to several downtown parks. This team expanded the definition of downtown parks to include the emerging Denny Triangle, Cascade, and South Lake Union neighborhoods.

Parks is undertaking several projects, in partnership with downtown neighborhood organizations, to improve management, public safety, maintenance, and programming.

- ❖ Downtown Parks and Recreation Advisory Council: Work is proceeding to charter an advisory council by mid-2004. The Council will have representation from each of the downtown neighborhoods as well as "at large" members who will bring a downtown-wide perspective to the Council.
- ❖ Freeway Park: Parks is working with the Freeway Park Neighborhood Association, a volunteer citizen group of neighboring businesses and residences, to improve maintenance and use. Parks is making improvements to the landscape, lighting, walkways, fountains, and seating areas, and is eliminating hiding places during March. A large volunteer event is scheduled for April 3.
- ❖ Regrade Park: This Belltown neighborhood park became Downtown's first off-leash park in March 2004. This change in use was initiated by Belltown residents to bring regular, positive use and to change the image of this small urban space. The off-leash area will be evaluated for 18 months and will become permanent if this pilot program is successful.

Pioneer Square and Occidental Park:

Pro Parks Levy provides \$893,877 for planning, design, and construction of improvements to Pioneer Square Park and Occidental Square Park.

Partnership for Improvements

Parks and Recreation has been working with Pioneer Square community members, the South Downtown Foundation (SDF) and the landscape architect firm Otak to identify and implement community recommendations for improving Pioneer Square's open spaces.

The resulting Pioneer Square Parks Improvement Plan was the product of much creative thought and hard work. It prioritized improvements to Pioneer Square and Occidental Square parks and Occidental Corridor to be completed with Pro Park or SDF grant funds including:

- ❖ Plaza paving repair and replacement
- ❖ Accessibility improvements
- ❖ Lighting
- ❖ Fountain repair
- ❖ Tree maintenance and landscaping

❖ Upgrading and relocating some site furnishings

PSCA received \$240,730 from the SDF to fund a first phase of improvements that include lighting upgrades, furnishings, and tree pruning.

Current activities

At a recent meeting to discuss the Plan, Mayor Nickels expressed concern that the proposed improvements need to go even further – that we need not just to improve Occidental Park but also to transform it. Therefore, Parks has decided to engage the community in a yet larger consideration of Occidental Square Park to ask, “What can we do to transform Occidental Square into an active, vibrant, and neighborhood-enhancing public space so enjoyable that it is sought out by the people who live in, work in, and visit Pioneer Square?”

To accomplish this, Parks will engage community stakeholders in an exercise with the public spaces consultant Project for Public Spaces (PPS.) PPS is internationally renowned for its work improving the design and management of public spaces. It was founded as a nonprofit in 1975 to continue the pioneering work of sociologist William Whyte. PPS has helped over 1,000 communities in 44 states and 12 countries improve their parks, markets, streets, transit stations, libraries, and other public spaces. To read more about PPS’s approach and see examples of projects, you can view its website at <http://pps.org/>. This effort will build on the work of the Pioneer Square Parks Improvement Plan to establish an even stronger strategy to guide short- and long-term programming and physical improvements in Occidental Square. We anticipate that PPS will have a draft “vision” by mid-April.

Note: The Park Board also received 10 additional pages describing the North Downtown Park Plan, a matrix of known issues and key milestones for the downtown parks, and information on the Olympic Sculpture Park, Pier 62/63, Pacific Northwest Aquarium, Improvements to Pier 59, the South Lake Union Wharf, and South Lake Union Park.

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

B.J. displayed a large map of the downtown Seattle area where these parks are located. Twenty open space areas were studied. Parks staff members are working with other Department – Neighborhoods, Police, Construction and Land Use – to determine how to improve the parks and make the improvements sustainable. Goals include enhancing maintenance, making the parks more family friendly, activating the parks, and improving infrastructure.

Kate reflected that this seems to be a new approach – Parks is not starting with existing park land and how to develop it, but instead is assessing the needs of a particular area and planning for those needs. B.J. stated that developers in these areas are asking what they can give to the City in return for developments and this is a good opportunity for park development. Ken said that the Parks Department is being very proactive in stating its needs for parks, rather than waiting for the developers to state what they want to do.

Joanna stated that this is an exciting strategy and asked if one goal of density development is creating public spaces. Ken answered yes, that there are numerous rooftop and inner courtyard public spaces that were developed as density bonuses, but these serve a limited need. Often the public is unaware of these areas. Joanna suggested that the Department of Construction and Land Use identify all these public areas that were gained through mitigation. B.J. will take this suggestion back to the interdepartmental team.

Joanna suggested that the old way of doing things is changing and Ken agreed that that is a goal. He stated that there are several large property owners in these areas and that can make negotiations easier than dealing with numerous small property owners.

Joanna asked if King County has considered changing the entrance of its courthouse (at 3rd and James) back to its original design of having the main entrance open onto the park on its south side. Ken said there has been discussion on this, but so far it has proved too costly.

Terry stated that ongoing maintenance of these parks is his major concern. Environmental degradation and high usage causes higher maintenance. Is Parks acknowledging this need? Ken and Kerry answered yes, that negotiations are underway for various park ambassadors and park partnerships to assist with the maintenance. Kerry stated that, due to the Mayor's Initiative, this is the highest number of partnerships the downtown parks have had for the past 15 years.

A community jamboree is planned for Freeway Park on April 3. Neighbors of the park from the nearby buildings are invited to a large celebration party. Joanna asked if private fundraising is being considered for Freeway Park. Ken answered that staff are working with adjacent neighbors on this. Washington Convention Center owns and maintains a portion of the Park.

Kerry stated that the recent opening of the off-leash area at Regrade Park has been a phenomenal success, with many people now using the park. Word is out all over town about this success story and people are very excited by this positive improvement to the downtown park system. Kate suggested more off-leash areas.

B.J. stated that there is a great deal of planning and community building in these efforts. This is an exciting and very important effort for the City. Prioritizing the projects is a challenge and the Board will hear more in the future on the priorities. The Board will hear a detailed briefing on the South Lake Union Park project at its April 22 meeting. The Board thanked B.J. and Kerry for the presentation.

Update Briefing: Woodland Park Zoo Master Plan

Zoo Director Deborah Jensen and Deputy Director Bruce Bohmke gave an update briefing on the Zoo's Master Plan. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Both are included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Purpose of the Long Range Plan

The Long-Range Physical Development Plan 2002 (LRPDP) is intended to amend the zoo's original Long-Range Plan, approved in 1976 and amended in 1987. The plan provides overall guidance for the physical development of the zoo through the year 2020. The key objectives are to continue the 1976 plan's approach to naturalistic exhibitry and excellent animal care, but update the plan to:

- Improve the animal health, conservation and maintenance facilities and provide new exhibits;
- Provide the community with facilities for social gathering, recreation and interactive learning for visitors of all ages, with a focus on programs that inspire conservation;
- Enhance the zoo's financial stability and stewardship by creating facilities and programs that yield new, year-round revenue streams;
- Improve visitors' experience, particularly for families with young children and during off-peak times in late fall, winter and spring;
- Reduce the neighborhood traffic impact by providing sufficient on-site parking to accommodate current and projected zoo attendance on all but a few days each year, and;
- Provide staff with on-site workspace that enhances efficiency, productivity and collaboration.

Background

The City of Seattle proposes to adopt a new long-range plan for Woodland Park Zoo. Woodland Park Zoo is located on a 92-acre site in the Phinney Ridge neighborhood of Seattle. The LRPDP would amend the existing long-range plan for the zoo to accommodate the changes that have occurred in zoos generally, and at this zoo specifically, in the past 30 years, and in anticipation of the next 20.

Zoos have evolved to play an increasingly important role in the preservation of wildlife around the world, and the education of future generations about the importance of conservation. Animal care standards and techniques

continue to change as more knowledge is gained, requiring improvements in programs and facilities. Families and community members who visit the zoo have identified a need to increase opportunities for active involvement of the whole family, requiring improvements in programs and facilities. The number of staff and volunteers has increased significantly since 1976, requiring permanent facilities that have been postponed in deference to improved homes for the animals. Visitation has also grown dramatically since 1976, from an annual attendance of 600,000 to more than one million per year. Additionally, the passage of a 20-year Management Agreement between the City and the Zoo Society has changed the zoo into an independent non-profit, requiring the zoo to find new revenue sources to meet rising costs and support zoo operations while also maintaining affordable admissions fees.

Planning for the LRPDP began in 1999 and continued for the past five years, with the Final Revised EIS issued on December 31, 2003. The zoo is working with the City Council to find a time for presentation and approval of the plan; currently, it is expected to be heard in late May or early June. The Management Agreement anticipates that the City will finance a parking garage once the LRPDP is approved. Work is underway between zoo staff and city staff to review alternative proposals for a parking garage that meets the zoo's current and future needs. Both the LRPDP and the parking garage proposal will be presented to City Council for approval.

Key Features of the Plan

Animal Exhibits and Conservation Facilities

The plan proposes new exhibits for tigers, Asian bears, one-horned rhinos, desert animals and animals of the Asian Highlands, including snow leopards. It also provides for new mammal, bird, reptile and elephant conservation facilities that would enhance the zoo's ability to provide the highest quality of animal care.

Discovery Village

Discovery Village would be an education and conservation facility located near the site of the existing West Gate. The Village would function as a cluster of interconnected facilities, including the Family Science Learning Center currently being designed, and landscapes that provide a year-round dynamic environment for interactive, lifelong learning about nature. It would be oriented toward the interior of the zoo and is intended to become a central hub for visitors of all ages to engage in hands-on learning about the zoo, its animals and their exhibits, as well as the zoo's role in conservation of wild species and habitats. The facility represents a significant step in implementing the zoo's 1997 Education Strategic Plan and achieving the plan's primary purpose: "to inspire an understanding of nature and a commitment to conservation."

Parking Garage

Woodland Park Zoo has less than half the available parking than other zoos with comparable attendance, and demand exceeds capacity more than 100 days each year. The parking garage and surface lot proposed as the preferred alternative in the LRPDP would provide sufficient onsite parking to meet current and projected needs on all but a few days each year. The garage and associated parking management strategies would move zoo visitor cars off neighborhood streets and onto zoo grounds, helping to remedy an increasing problem with parking capacity in the neighborhood.

Events Center

By providing dedicated indoor events space, the Events Center would allow for year-round community use of the zoo for workshops, weddings, family celebrations, company parties and other social gatherings that currently take place outdoors at the zoo during the summer. It is modeled in part on similar indoor gathering places that have been successfully integrated into many other zoos and botanical parks across the country. Notable zoos with events centers include Oregon, Denver, San Francisco and Atlanta. The one-story 9,000 square foot building would be designed to accommodate up to 400 people (reduced from 600 in response to public comment). Rental fees would provide a source of revenue for zoo operations during the off-season months when the zoo experiences a significant drop in revenues. The Events Center would be located in the current staff parking lot at the edge of the North Meadow. Like most zoo facilities, it would be sensitively designed and screened by trees and other vegetation.

Historic Carousel

An Historic Carousel, originally located at the Cincinnati Zoo from 1918 to 1974, would offer families with children (the majority of the zoo's visitors) an additional option for fun activity play on zoo grounds, responding to a frequent request for more active options at the zoo for young children. The Historic Carousel would be housed in a one-story, all-weather structure that would include restrooms and an 840 square foot space that can be rented for birthday parties. Birthday party rentals would provide new sources of revenue to support zoo operations and programs throughout the year. Carousels are customary at zoos across the country, including Denver, Oklahoma City, Columbus, Atlanta, Fort Wayne, Memphis, Columbia (SC), San Francisco, Indianapolis and Providence zoos. The Historic Carousel would be located at the northwest corner of the North Meadow, where it would be screened from view both from the zoo's natural habitat areas and from outside the zoo.

Zoo Office

The LRPDP includes a new office building that provides consolidated and improved workspace for many zoo staff who are currently dispersed among nearly two-dozen sites across the zoo grounds. The building would replace a series of aging and energy inefficient trailers of a similar footprint, enabling zoo staff from different departments to work together more collaboratively and efficiently. In addition to increased work and meeting spaces, the building would provide a cafeteria and would contain locker rooms and showers for staff who ride bicycles to work.

The new office would also serve as a model of sustainable design that reinforces the zoo's commitment to conservation. A key design objective of the zoo office building is to demonstrate the application of "green" architecture by utilizing natural wind and solar patterns, natural materials, and energy efficient design. The building would be constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Public Process

The zoo has been soliciting agency and public comment in its long-range planning since its first meeting on the subject with the Phinney Ridge Community Council in June of 1999. Between that meeting and mid- 2002, when the first EIS was appealed, the zoo hosted or attended 37 meetings, presentations, hearings, open houses and briefings with members of the general community as well as city committees and representatives. This past summer, upon issuance of the Draft Revised EIS and the LRPDP, zoo staff and board members attended meetings with the Fremont Neighborhood Council, Phinney Ridge Community Council, Wallingford Community Council Land Use Committee, Zoo Neighborhood Liaison Committee (with representatives from Wallingford, Fremont, Phinney Ridge and Green Lake), the Citywide Neighborhood Coalition and the Seattle Parks Board. A briefing was also offered to the Green Lake Community Council, which declined, citing a lack of interest among members.

Written comments on the draft EIS were accepted via mail and email, and both written and verbal comments were accepted at the zoo's August 7, 2003 public hearing. In addition, the public comment period was extended by 15 days to allow interested citizens more time to comment. A number of changes were made in the final revised EIS in response to public and agency comments.

Permitting

The Final Revised EIS prepared for LRPDP 2002 is part of a phased environmental review. It is a programmatic (non-project) EIS and therefore addresses alternatives, significant adverse impacts, and mitigation measures relevant to the Seattle City Council's decision on adoption of the proposed LRPDP 2002. As individual projects from LRPDP 2002 are brought forward for development during the 20-year planning period, each would be subject to any project-level environmental review required by SEPA. That review would build upon the analyses in the Final Revised EIS, as provided in the City of Seattle's SEPA rules.

Project Schedule

The zoo is preparing to present the LRPDP to the Seattle City Council this spring. The LRPDP does not include an implementation schedule of proposed projects. Rather, the LRPDP provides the general location and size of potential exhibits and buildings as well as general architectural and design criteria.

Project Budget

N/A

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

Deborah and Bruce gave a verbal briefing and displayed a large colored map of the Zoo and the proposed projects. They reviewed the written briefing the Board received. James asked what is the proposed timing on the Plan and Deborah answered that this is a 20-year plan. It has not yet been approved and it would be premature to prioritize projects until approval. James asked if the Zoo has a wish list and Deborah answered that the Zoo would like to have the parking garage sooner rather than later.

Joanna asked for clarification on the Zoo's budget. Deborah and Bruce answered that private donors provide 1/3, the City/public 1/3, and the final 1/3 is received from ticket sales and other revenues. 100% of the capital funding comes from private donors. However, there is a joint agreement with the City to pay for the parking garage. Ken stated that two items must be approved by the City Council: the Long Range Plan itself and funding for the parking garage.

Deborah stated that the Zoo has a strong Board and has good community support. Terry asked if the Zoo has had any decrease in attendance due to the economic downturn. Deborah answered that they aren't seeing much of a dropoff. Staff anticipated lower attendance in June of last year and adjusted the budget accordingly.

Terry asked what is the most controversial project on the list and Deborah answered the parking garage. Planners have used input from the neighbors that the south end of the Zoo would be the most desirable site for the parking garage. Some neighbors want the garage to be entirely underground but do not want the additional costs this would incur. Other neighbor suggestions/concerns were to not add the carousel, events center, or move the Zoo staff from the trailers to a new office location.

Terry asked if Zoo staff work with Parks staff to schedule weddings at the Zoo. Deborah answered that Zoo staff handle this.

The Board thanked Deborah and Bruce for the update.

Briefing/Recommendation: Sonics/Storm Permit Restoration Permits for Outdoor Basketball Courts

Patti Petesch and Dennis Cook, Parks Department recreation staff, came before the Board to give a briefing and request a recommendation on two corporate sponsorship permits to install Seattle Supersonics and Seattle Storm professional sports logos on two Parks Department outdoor basketball courts. The Board received copies of the permits and color photos/drawings of the proposals. Ronnie Meredith from the Seattle Supersonics and Sarah Childs from the Seattle Storm were in attendance and also answered questions from the Board.

Permit Summaries

#1 Green Lake Outdoor basketball courts

Sponsorship Summary: Placement of one Sonic logo on full court and one storm log on half court. Renovate existing regulation basketball court surface by resurfacing with new asphalt and a layover with All-court acrylic surfacing. Extend the current court length of 84 feet to an NBA length of 94 feet. Replace existing backboards, rims, and support systems with non-adjustable, 10 feet high, plexiglass backboards, breakaway rims, and support system. Repaint court lines, key area and center circle with Sonic colors and logo. Establish a new Seattle Storm half-court

that would sit adjacent to and at the end of the full-length court. Remove current area of grass and two trees located at the west end of the existing court. Replace and replant four trees to the area of grass located next to the new Storm half-court or area to be determined. Resurface area with asphalt and All-court acrylic surfacing and place a non-adjustable, 10 feet high, plexiglass backboard, breakaway rim, and support system on the west end of the half-court.

Estimated cash value: \$29,275

Requested Term Life: Life of the court

Community comments: The Green Lake Community Council gave its approval. Friends of Olmsted Park gave its approval with the comments “to keep the aesthetic quality of this historic park. Keep the existing planting bed adjacent to the exit-entrance of the community center. Reduce the size of the half court. Keep new paving uniform with existing paving. Make corporate logo smaller on Storm court.”

#2 Burke Gilman Outdoor Basketball Courts

Sponsorship Summary: One Sonic logo at half-court with two T-Mobile logos on each side of the court. The sponsor will remove existing asphalt basketball court and hoop. Excavate 35' x 65' area for new court. Form pour and finish 35'x65' concrete slab. Install 2 Goalrilla basketball systems. Apply concrete stain/sealer (green with white lines.) There will be the need for some landscaping after the job is complete. Price for the landscaping work could be added to the price at a later date, if needed.

Estimated Cash Value: \$16,000

Requested Term Life: Life of court

Community Comments: None

Both permits went through the following approval process:

- ❖ Relevant Advisory Councils and/or Advisory Recreation Council (ARC) must be consulted prior to seeking approval
- ❖ Department's PROview must review any permanent recognition display, prior to seeking approval
- ❖ Department's Operating Division Director and manager(s) must review and recommend approval
- ❖ Superintendent will seek input from the Park Board and make determination on approval request

Verbal Briefing/Discussion/Recommendation

Greenlake Outdoor Court: Patti stated that the current 84' court at Greenlake would be extended to the NBA length of 94' and a new ½ court will be added. The Board has previously approved use of the Sonics logo at Pratt Park's outdoor basketball court and the indoor court at Queen Anne Community Center. The Storm logo hasn't been used before. The Friends of Olmsted wrote its concerns to Parks and the plans were modified to address these concerns. Kate asked if the Storm is agreeable to the reduction in size and change in location of its logo from near mid-court to inside the “key.” Patti and Dennis answered yes. Kate asked if approval of this permit will be in keeping with the Parks Department's donor policy. Ken and Patti answered yes.

Kate moved approval of the staff recommendation. James seconded.

Joanna asked about the Parks Department's logo policy and referred to the McDonalds logo at the I-90 Lid Park. There were comments on the appropriateness of fast food chains sponsoring sports courts/fields.

Ken and Patti gave further information on the policy. The Sonics and Storm are doing 100% of this work. The Department looks at these sport teams as a healthy influence.

Terry asked if these changes would impact the soccer area and Parks staff answered no. Terry urged that the workers be careful of nearby tree plantings during the construction. He also asked about the maintenance of the courts and commented that the logo will get more wear and tear in the key area of the court, as more action happens in this area.

There being no further discussion, Sarah called for the vote. The Greenlake permit, as recommended by staff, was unanimously approved.

Burke-Gilman Trail Outdoor Court: This court is located next to the Ronald McDonald House. This sponsorship is somewhat different in that the Sonics have a corporate sponsor, T-Mobile, and want to add T-Mobile's name to the court. T-Mobile donates to the Sonics, which in turn allows the Sonics to financially sponsor these types of courts. T-Mobile chose the Burke-Gilman court at its first sponsorship and plans to sponsor one court per year.

James moved approval of the staff recommendation on this permit. Kate seconded.

Kate asked does the donor policy include verbage on multiple corporate names. Terry voiced concerns with having multiple sponsorship names on the courts and wondered if the two names could be joined somehow within the circle area. Ronnie answered that the placement of the logo can be altered. Joanna asked where does the Department draw the line? Sarah observed that mobile phones don't have anything to do with sports.

Ken stated that approving this permit would not set a precedent, however, it is a legitimate concern. The process gets tricky, as there are first amendment concerns that must be observed. The West Seattle Stadium scoreboard has three sponsor names listed: Parks Department, Safeco, and a financial institution. Patti stated that there are other sports areas that have multiple sponsors listed, but the additional names are on backboards and not on the courts.

Terry asked about the exact location of the court and Parks staff answered that is it to the left of Ronald McDonald house in the Sand Point area.

There being no other discussion, Sarah called for the vote. The Burke-Gilman permit, as recommended by staff, passed unanimously.

Park Board Business – Items of Interest to the Board

None

Old/New Business

- ❖ Terry was recently at Park property near the Museum of History and Industry. At a previous meeting, Kate asked if the policy signage of "no running" had been removed from this area. Terry spotted the signage beneath a faded plexiglass sign.
- ❖ Joanna asked about a recent basketball game that experienced conflict and asked about the outcome. Ken said that the visiting team forfeited the game. The conflict was due to parental conduct.
- ❖ Terry asked if any progress has been made on filling the vacant Park Board position. Ken answered that six potential candidates are being considered.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair