



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2007

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Neal Adams
John Barber
Jackie Ramels
Amit Ranade, Chair

Excused:

Terry Holme

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Christopher Williams, Interim Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Commissioner Ranade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Ramels moved, and Commissioner Adams seconded, approval of the agenda. Commissioner Barber moved, and Commissioner Ramels seconded, approval of the July 26 minutes as presented. Motions carried.** Commissioner Ranade acknowledged the correspondence the Board has received during the past two weeks.

Superintendent's Report

Interim Deputy Superintendent Christopher Williams reported on several park items. Interim Superintendent Brooks was out of town at a conference. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, please visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Lifeguards Highlighted in Recent Newspaper Article: This week's Seattle Post Intelligencer contained a great story about Seattle Parks' lifeguards. To read the article, see http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/326806_lifeguard09.html.

Wawona: At the previous Park Board meeting, it was reported that the Department sent a letter to Northwest Seaport that the Wawona must be moved from South Lake Union. Parks is still negotiating with Northwest Seaport and the ship may be moved to a nearby Department of Natural Resources site. An historical survey must be completed before the ship can be removed and relocated from its current site.

Statue of Liberty Repair: City Councilmember Rasmussen is very involved with the repair of this well-known statue, located at Alki Park. He is planning an event with Parks and the community for September 11, with the statue to be placed inside the Alki Beach Bathhouse. A public comment period is planned at the Bathhouse on the evening of September 13. It appears that the community is now working together on this Neighborhood Matching Fund project. [The Statue of Liberty, a small replica of the original "Liberty Enlightening the World" in New York City, was a gift from Reginald H. Parsons and the Seattle Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 1952. The statue has become such a symbol of liberty and courage that it became a place to mourn, to reflect, and to leave mementos after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.] For more information on the Statue of Liberty and Alki Beach Park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=445

Washington Park Arboretum: The City Council unanimously approved the Memorandum of Agreement with, as well as a donation from, the Arboretum Foundation for the Pacific Connections Gardens project in the Arboretum. This essentially clears the way for this project to go out to bid and for construction to begin in October.

Commissioner Adams asked for a bit more information on this project. Interim Deputy Superintendent Williams gave a brief overview. [The Washington Park Arboretum is jointly operated by the City and University of Washington, with the UW owning and maintaining the plant collections, while the City owns and maintains the park land.] The Pacific Connections Garden project is one of several plans to be implemented under the Arboretum's Master Plan. The Garden will develop several geographical zones to reflect plant life from around the world. The Arboretum Foundation has undertaken a very large fundraising effort to help implement the Master Plan. Whenever funds are donated to the City, an ordinance is required to accept the funds.

A challenge is that some of the Arboretum's current neighbors weren't around during the extensive Master Plan development and subsequent adoption by City Council and have been unaware of the projects and some subsequent tree removal. For more information on the Arboretum, see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/>.

International District Park Acquisition (Hing Hay Park Expansion): The City Council unanimously approved legislation authorizing Parks to negotiate for the acquisition of the property immediately adjacent and west of Hing Hay Park. This property currently houses a branch post office and Parks will work with the Postal Service to see that this service remains in the neighborhood. For more information on Hing Hay Park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=358.

Georgetown Playfield Improvements: On August 8 bids were opened for the Georgetown Playfield Improvements project, with five firms submitting bids. Construction is estimated to be complete by mid-January. For more information on Georgetown Playfield, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=410.

Summer Swim League Championships: Helene Madison Pool hosted the 2007 Summer Swim League All City Championship Meet on Saturday, August 4. Approximately 350 swimmers from eight pools, 6 to 18 years of age, took part in 72 events. This event is the culmination of the Summer Swim League program. For more information on Madison Pool, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/aquatics/madisonpool.htm>.

Rowing Extravaganza: On August 4, over 700 rowers attended the 46th annual Green Lake Summer Rowing Extravaganza. Nineteen teams participated in the event. The sunshine and light wind speeds allowed the races to stay on schedule all day and without any problems. Several disabled rowers in the specialized adult program participated in the rowing extravaganza. For more information on rowing and sailing in Seattle's park and recreation facilities, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/boats/SMCRAFT.HTM>.

Youth Athletics: Two Seattle Parks and Recreation athletes will compete at the Jr. Olympic Skills National Championship August 8-11 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Aristotle Marr (Van Asselt Community Center) will compete in the track and field division for 8-9 year olds, and Joseph Hopkins (Green Lake Community Center) will compete in the 12-13 year old boy's basketball competition. Both athletes received an all-expenses paid trip along with a chaperone to attend. For more information on the Championship, see

<http://www.usocpressbox.org/usoc/pressbox.nsf/6272c9a938d3a5cb8525711000564abd/30c41c3879dda2a9852573330071e915?OpenDocument>.

Seattle Parks and Recreation was represented by approximately 24 athletes at the 2007 North American Hershey Track and Field Championships, August 2-5, in Hershey, Pennsylvania. For more information on these Championship games, see <http://www.hersheystackandfield.com/news/detail.aspx?id=78>.

Intergenerational Project in Central Area: The teens from the Reel Youth Program (ages 11 – 15) at Garfield Community Center will be working on the ‘senior life history project’ with the Lifelong Recreation Specialist over the next four weeks. The youth will be filming interviews of ten “Red Hat” participants who participate with the Lifelong Recreation Program. Photos will be taken, mounted, and displayed along with a brief history about the seniors. In addition, the same questions will be asked of the youth to create a contrast of answers that will be part of the display and video. For more information on Garfield Community Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/garfieldcc.htm>. For more information on the Red Hat Society, please see <http://www.redhatsociety.org>.

Langston Youth Perform in Central Area Umoja Fest: Youth from the Center’s popular Teen Summer Musical Program performed in the annual Umoja Fest. This parade and festival is an annual celebration for the Central Area’s black community. The youth performed along the one mile parade route, entertaining audiences with excerpts from the upcoming production of “Cinderella: A Love Story with the Sound of Motown.”. For more information on Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/langston.htm>.

National Magazines Feature Aquarium: Two recent feature articles about the Aquarium and its new exhibits were published in the August issues of *Horizon Airlines* magazine and *Conscious Choice* magazine. The Aquarium has seen a substantial increase in revenues since its reopening in late June. Interim Deputy Superintendent Williams invited the Board and audience to visit the Aquarium if they haven’t yet done so. For more information on the Aquarium, see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=183&srcid=-2>.

Woodland Park Zoo – Maasai Journey: There were several articles in this week’s newspapers regarding this exhibit. Bruce Bohmke, Deputy Director of the Zoo, is here tonight and will give an update on the controversy. Interim Deputy Superintendent Williams commented that the Zoo continues to work against an antiquated perception of what zoos do. He believes the exhibit is a great opportunity for kids to interact with the Maasai tribe. For more information on the Zoo, see <http://www.zoo.org/>.

Madison Park Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Update: Construction documents are being reviewed and should be complete in the next month or so. The project will be bid in January for construction in the spring. A committee is being formed to talk about the plantings and the hope is that some of the people who had complaints about the planting plan will take part. The community seems happy, in general, with the project. For more information on Madison Park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=369.

Upcoming Events

Dedication of the newly renovated Bayview/Kinnear Playground on Queen Anne Hill
Saturday, August 11, 1 to 3 p.m.

Langston Hughes Summer Musical: “Cinderella A Love Story with the Sounds of Motown”
Tuesday, August 21 through Sunday, August 26, 2007

Brighton Science Park/United Parcel Service Founders Day Event (Pro Parks Levy project)
Tuesday, August 28, 2007, all day
Brighton Science Park, 6000 39th Ave. S

August 23 Park Board meeting canceled.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. Four people testified. A very brief summary of their testimony follows:

Diane Duthweiler: She lives on Phinney Ridge, walks in Woodland Park, and volunteers there. She also writes news articles for the Phinney Ridge Newspaper. Her observation is that many days the Zoo's parking lots stand empty. The garage will be the largest structure on Phinney Ridge. She attended the workshops and public hearings and heard that the public wanted a different design from what the Zoo has presented. The public was told that there were a lot of possibilities in the design and none of it is happening. She doesn't see the garage from her home and isn't impacted by it that way; however, she is concerned with what it does to Woodland Park. It is inaccurate to say that the garage evolved from public input. She believes more people oppose the garage than support it. This process is not fair or square. Attendance at the Zoo isn't increasing. There are many other solutions to building the garage: buy strollers for visitors to use so they can more easily take the bus, use shuttles, etc.

Craig Fryhle: He is a 20-year member of the Zoo, has children who visit it, and loves the Zoo. He has been a part of the process for many years. He testified to the Zoo Society Board, Seattle Design Commission, and City Council — but the message hasn't gotten through to them. He doesn't know the nuances of public meetings, but thinks the process hasn't been fair and square — especially when the Zoo did the “switcheroo.” The garage is not needed and there are many alternatives to building it. Woodland Park is an Olmsted-designed park and the space required for the garage could be used for green space or an exhibit. Zoo patrons won't pay to park when they can use one of the many nearby free spaces. There are only a few days each year that Zoo parking is used to the maximum. The Zoo should partner with City Council, Parks, and the citizens. The public needs the Park Board to give careful oversight of this project.

Irene Wall: She is President of the Phinney Ridge Community Council and wants to see a partnership with the Zoo, as does the City Council. Five of the Councilmembers wrote the Zoo Society a letter about the garage and made a resolution for no garage. She read a portion of the Councilmember's letter. The Zoo is proceeding as if there were inadequate on-street parking. This is not true and will never be true. She hopes the Board will make a stand to protect Woodland Park. The Zoo should remain in Woodland Park, but not overwhelm it.

Sharon Levine: She is a long-time community activist. Tonight she heard again the problems with the Park Department's process. She served on a committee in 1998 to develop its public involvement policy. The Department incorporated many of the citizen's suggestions, but they are not being followed. She gave several examples of Parks' holding public meeting on projects but dismissing any opposition. She urged that the Department record all the public meetings, provide sound systems so everyone can hear what is being said, and hire independent facilitators. She promised to come back to the Board to continue addressing this issue.

Discussion/Recommendation: Dexter Pit Project

At its June 28 meeting, Patrick Donahue, Seattle Parks' project manager, presented a briefing on the Dexter Pit Project. At the July 26 meeting, Mr. Donahue and Mark Brands of SiteWorkshop, project consultant, and Kelly Davidson of the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs presented a briefing on the Dexter Pit project. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. Tonight the Board will discuss the staff recommendation and make a recommendation to the Interim Superintendent.

Verbal Update Briefing and Board Discussion

Mr. Donahue introduced Mr. Brands and reviewed additional information sent to the Board since the July 26 meeting. This additional information included:

- cost for electricity: He has discussed this with City Light and the estimate is a cost of \$15,000 to run a traditional electrical system. He has opted for a system of solar panels that will generate energy to run the irrigation and lighting system for a cost of approximately \$11,000. The budget will accommodate this amount.
- Tree removal: Mr. Donahue, Mr. Brands, and Mark Mead, Seattle Parks' Senior Urban Forester, met on-site with Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) tree arborist, Michael Schnad. SDOT owns the property where the proposed tree removal and trimming would occur. Mr. Donahue will forward the formal plan to the Park Board once it is in writing. Staff will follow Seattle Parks' tree policy, which has a section on public involvement when trees are to be removed.
- Park entrance: A citizen testified at the public hearing that the park entrance seemed to be in a dangerous location. Mr. Donahue is working with SDOT staff on traffic-calming measures and will post both the traffic calming measures and the tree policy on the project's web site.

Questions & Answers

Commissioner Adams asked about the tree policy plan and public notification process. Mr. Donahue answered that staff will individually mark each tree that is to be removed two weeks prior to its removal. The notice will include contact information for questions. There is a Pro Parks Levy sign at the project and he will also include the information on it.

Commissioner Barber asked a number of questions. Mr. Donahue's answers are shown in *italics*:

What size trees will be removed?

Only very small trees that contribute to the crowded, dense condition of the area will be removed.

What type of tree trimming will be performed?

The tree trimming will not be radical and will be made to accommodate sight lines to enable Seattle Police and citizens to see into and out of the park.

Will the \$15,000 cost for providing electricity to the park come out of the project budget?

The project has a budget for electricity of \$11,000. A conventional electricity system would cost \$5-6000 more than the budget can accommodate. Staff plan to use a solar system with a battery. This system will fit the budget and is better for the environment.

A letter was sent to the Park Board regarding the artist selection process. Was a community person on the artist selection panel?

Yes.

Was the artist selected through a request for proposal (RFP) process?

The Arts Commission selected the artist early on in the project and involved staff and a citizen representative. There wasn't an RFP process. Commissioner Barber recommended that any future Parks' artist-led projects first have a public meeting that follows the Department's public involvement policy and then have an RFP process to select the artist. Interim Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that these are good questions and, in the future, Parks staff will ask the Arts Commission to communicate with Parks on its process to select an artist for this type of artist-led project.

A citizen letter/testimony asked that a historical component or "wall of recognition" be added to the project. Did staff analyze this request?

Mr. Donahue met with Queen Anne Community Council's Parks Board where the request was first brought up and then was subsequently not addressed.

If the neighborhood comes up with a concept to add an historical component or wall of recognition at an affordable cost, would the Department consider it?

Mr. Donahue and Interim Deputy Superintendent Williams answered yes, the Department will consider the concept and go through a process to see if it would work.

The Commissioners heard testimony that only condo owners would be able to see the lighted portion of the project.
Once the trees are limbed up, pedestrians can also see the lights when they come on at night.

A citizen suggested that a water feature be added to the park.
The Department cannot add a new source of water to this site, as it is designated as a wetland.

Does the project include enhancement for both vegetation and wildlife?
Yes.

Will the artist be asked to involve the community in the project to capture the spirit and essence of the Queen Anne area by incorporating art tiles, etc.?
Yes.

Describe the type of wire to be used for the art project. Is it steel mesh and enamelized?
It is 20-gauge wire mesh, powder coated, and installed in pieces for easier repair.

Is it likely that the art work will be vandalized in Queen Anne?
Graffiti is an issue in all Seattle parks. The lighted fixtures are tall, making them more of a challenge to graffiti. The Department's paint shop will remove any graffiti.

Commissioner Ramels moved to recommend to the Superintendent that the project move ahead as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Ramels commented that she has been troubled by the limited access to the park and is happy that staff are working with SDOT to correct this. It is vital to remove the shrubbery to indicate that this park belongs to the public. Mr. Donahue agreed and stated that the goal is to have a much larger entry where park users can easily walk between the trees to gain access to the park. Commissioner Ramels stated she was pleased to hear this.

Commissioner Adams stated that in his short time with the Board, he has heard repeatedly about the Department's public involvement process. This project included controversy over the project being led by an artist [rather than the Parks Department.] He urged that the Department be clear about its public involvement policy. As a new Park Board member, he needs a real review of public input, both for and against the project. He asked the Department to look at its public involvement policy.

Interim Deputy Williams stated that Commissioner Adams made good points. Last year City Council requested an audit of the Department's policy. The City Auditor prepared a survey on the Department's public involvement policy and solicited comments. Parks is now working to implement a number of the Auditor's suggestions for improvements. These include: (1) hiring independent facilitators to lead the public meetings. Funding for this was requested last fall and turned down by the City's Department of Finance. Parks is asking for this again in the 2008 budget; (2) increasing the area of mailings [from a project site] from 300' to 600'; (3) and new ways to reach members of the public who don't necessarily come to public meetings. There is a need to significantly improve the process.

Commissioner Ramels commented that staff are also "blazing a trail" on an artist-led project, as this is the first such project. She hopes that the lessons learned from this process will be used in the future to ensure a smoother process. She would think the neighbors would be happy to see the site turned into a park.

Commissioner Barber commented that a key to good public process is to start on the right footing and determine how projects are changed when they don't meet what the greater neighborhood wants. Make sure the artist is engaged with the community before beginning the design. He suggested that any future artist-led projects ensure that the artist be given great notes before he/she begins to design the project.

The Chair called for the vote, with Commissioners Adams, Barber, and Ramels voting in favor of the motion. The Chair does not vote except to make or break a tie. Motion carried.

Mr. Donahue commented that the project has a long permit process ahead, with an expected project completion in the summer of 2008. The Board thanked Mr. Donahue for the briefing.

Annual Briefing: Woodland Park Zoo and Update on Zoo Garage

Bruce Bohmke, Deputy Director of Woodland Park Zoo, presented the annual verbal briefing to the Park Board. In addition, the Board receives quarterly written reports. Commissioners received a written copy of the briefing paper prior to this meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action: None. Per Section 20.2.1 of the Management & Operations Agreement, reports to the Parks Board are required on a quarterly basis. Once each year, zoo staff is invited to provide a briefing directly to the Parks Board. This briefing paper contains a great deal more information than what Deputy Director Bruce Bohmke will give during his 10-minute presentation.

Project Description and Background:

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: The agreement between the City of Seattle and Woodland Park Zoo was signed five years ago on March 1, 2002, which means that one quarter of the 20-year agreement has passed. During those five years, Woodland Park Zoo has had many significant events or achievements. Below is a small list of some accomplishments.

Animals: Births -- 5 Sumatran tigers, 2 sloth bears, 3 Egyptian tortoises, 1 western lowland gorilla, 2 pygmy loris, 1 southern pudu, 2 red-crowned crane. Deaths – 1 elephant (Hansa). Acquisitions: 2 ostrich, 2 young giraffe, 2 jaguar, 2 Arctic fox and 2 African lions.

Conservation/Education Programs: School to Zoo Program initiated, Zoo Corps program launched, Partners for Wildlife established, Bug Club established in Papua New Guinea, hired first Conservation Director, received John Stanford Education Achievement award and Organizational Excellence award from EEWA, AZA Award for Tree Kangaroo Conservation program, Wild Wise program delivered to every county in state.

Exhibits, Attractions and Capital Projects: Opened African wild dog, Masters of the Web, Willawong Station, Jaguar Cove, Zoomazium (received seven awards and counting) and Maasai Journey. Parking Garage Master Use Permit issued. Received AZA Significant Achievement Award for Jaguar Cove. Carousel Pavilion constructed and historic carousel installed. Rose Garden bias relief and fountain restored.

Zoo Society Development and Milestones: Strategic Plan, new logo, mission, vision and cores values established and adopted by the Board of Directors. Transition of all zoo staff from city to Society employment completed. AZA reaccreditation applied for and awarded. First \$6 million gift. First \$2+ million Jungle Party.

CAROUSEL, PHASE II: This 1918 Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel opened in 2006 following completion of Phase I and closed at the end of September 2006 to allow completion of Phase II. The second phase involved completion of two event rooms and solid enclosure of the pavilion (Phase I provided only temporary enclosure methods, i.e., curtains). Closed October 1, 2006 for Phase II, the carousel re-opened May 1, and will remain open on a daily basis throughout the year.

This carousel is considered one of the 10 best historic carousels in the U.S., as judged by the National Carousel Association. The NCA will hold its national convention in Seattle later this summer, highlighted by a visit to the zoo's restored carousel and new pavilion.

Project Cost: Carousel and pavilion: \$3.2 million privately funded.

AFRICAN SAVANNA IMPROVEMENTS: The zoo's adopted strategic plan identified the goal of developing fully integrated programs (FIPs) in all exhibit zones zoo-wide. The goal of a FIP plan is to support lifelong learning at WPZ through intentional, long-term, efficient integration of exhibit contexts, education programs, animal management, clear links to field work, and meaningful calls to conservation action. The 4.5 acre African Savanna was identified as the exhibit zone best suited for the first FIP plan and consisted of the following overlapping components:

- Identify the African Savanna conservation story.
- Integrate the six FIP core assets with the goal of creating a new, fun and inspiring visitor experience.
- Produce a long-range African Savanna FIP plan including recommended improvements, goals and prioritized elements. This final report will serve to guide efforts at achieving IMLS-inspired goals of the highest education and conservation potentials for existing and new exhibitry, interpretation and programming.
- Produce a generic template for FIP planning for future use in other zoo bioclimatic zones.

The basic intent of all four components is to better integrate the zoo's core assets (efficient, effective operations, excellent animal care, outstanding exhibits, effective education, meaningful calls to action and clear links to field work) in order to make WPZ's African Savanna a place where visitors are fully engaged and inspired to act on behalf of wildlife conservation.

Maasai Journey: Maasai Journey incorporated the African Savanna FIP into the visitor experience at the zoo for our 2007 summer season, May through September. Maasai Journey included expanded visitor programs, highlighted by "first person" cultural interpreters from Kenya leading tours and giving talks on the zoo's African Savanna. More animals were added to the African Savanna exhibit, including ostrich for the first time in 40 years at the zoo. A giraffe feeding station was constructed with sessions offered to the public twice daily. Upapi – Massai bead-making – was offered in African Village. And a new area for public programs, Savanna Outpost, was constructed near the patas monkey exhibit.

Project Cost: \$186,000 21% City of Seattle; 79% privately funded

PARKING GARAGE: Background: the garage is part of the zoo's 20-year Long-Range Physical Development Plan. The City and the Zoo Society have agreed in the Management and Operations Agreement to share the cost of the garage with the City covering 75% of the debt service that remains after revenue generation, and the Zoo Society covering the remaining 25% of the debt service.

The need for a parking garage at Woodland Park Zoo was first identified in 1988. When the Long-Range Physical Development Plan (LRPDP) was prepared, and then unanimously approved by the Seattle City Council in late 2004, a parking garage was included. Please refer to Attachment A for complete background with regard to why the zoo needs a garage [due to length, not included in on-line minutes.]

Regional and local population is growing. Attendance is growing with density and parking is only going to get worse. We want to stay accessible to our regional audience. We are planning for the future. King County population is growing, and is expected to exceed 2 million by 2020. Population in the County is expected to increase more than 1% annually over the next 20 years. City population, once flat, is becoming denser, and Seattle has had a 2.5 percent population growth since 2000.

Furthermore, we expect zoo attendance to continue growing, at least in concert with King County population – just over 1 percent annually. To meet its mission to serve the region, the zoo needs to provide conservation education to the same proportion, if not larger proportions, of our families that live here. With the region's increasing focus on conservation, sustainability and the environment, the zoo will play a vital role in this effort.

The City's plan to increase density and create urban villages is very visible on Phinney Ridge, where a number of new apartment complexes and condominium projects are springing up every year. These new residences create increased pressure on surface parking in the zoo neighborhood, and decrease the number of spots available to zoo visitors.

Woodland Park Zoo began working on an innovative design for the parking garage soon after the Seattle City Council approved the LRPDP. The planned garage option is the smallest, least expensive, and most environmentally friendly option. We have negotiated down both the size of the garage by 150 spots, and also given up 100 employee parking spots from initial plans. The west garage is a smaller, Seattle-style solution. In contrast to an underground garage, the planned garage requires minimal excavation, no HVAC/ventilation, no fire suppression/sprinklers, less lighting and less energy use. It uses recycled and recyclable materials, and can be repurposed in the future if necessary due to flat floors and open construction.

Please refer to Attachment B, Parking Garage Brochure which documents design workshops, open houses, and other pertinent planning meetings. [Due to length, the attachment is not included in these minutes.] In addition, the parking garage design was reviewed and approved no less than six (6) times by the Seattle Design Commission. All public involvement for the parking garage beginning in 1988 is detailed in Attachment C [due to length, not included in these minutes.]

In early 2005, in response to neighborhood criticism and concern, the Seattle City Council sent a letter to Irene Wall, President of the Phinney Ridge Community Council wherein they unanimously agreed there was not a pressing need to revisit the previously made decisions about the LRPDP and parking garage. Since then, the Seattle City Council has had two more opportunities to vote with regard to the parking garage, including a vote to release the bonds, and each time, the decision has been unanimous.

Garage finances are on track and the zoo's Board of Directors takes its fiduciary responsibility seriously. Construction estimates are still in line with original 2004 estimates, plus inflation. The zoo has an exemplary record of bringing projects in on budget. A number of zoo Board members have a special expertise in real estate development and construction. Significant changes that have occurred since 2005 include:

- Financing costs (bond interest rates) have dropped
- Estimates of garage use (revenues) have dropped
- The City's new parking tax has been added into projection

The lower bond rates have balanced the lowered revenue projections. In addition, the parking tax will generate more than \$4 million over 20 years. This money goes back to the City for other transportation projects, so shouldn't be considered a garage expense in the traditional sense. The zoo may also choose to pass this tax on to visitors, as other parking facility operators in the city will likely do, nullifying these impacts on costs to operate the garage.

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) issued the Master Use Permit on June 19th and an appeal was filed on July 3rd by the Phinney Ridge Community Council, Save Our Zoo, Seattle Community Council Federation and 11 individuals. A prehearing has been set for August 9th at which time a hearing date will be chosen.

Project Cost: \$16.2 million (August 2004 estimate); 75% City of Seattle Funds (bonds); 25% zoo funding.

REVENUE: The year 2006 ended with the zoo's first ever gift of \$6 million from an anonymous donor. These funds will be used to design and build the new penguin exhibit/west entry approved in the LRPDP.

The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the zoo's move to seasonal pricing in early 2007. During the period May 1-September 30: Adult (13-64) \$15; Child (3-12) \$10; Toddler (0-2) Free. Seniors and people with disabilities receive a discount and zoo members receive free zoo admission year-round. Parking: \$4. Beginning October 1-April 30, admission prices will return to \$10.50 for adults (13-64); \$7.50 for children (3-12); and toddler free (0-2). Seniors and people with disabilities receive a discount.

Woodland Park Zoo also continues to make more than 40,000 admission tickets available to social service agencies.

ANIMAL COLLECTION: The animal collection remains in excellent condition with a number of hatchings and births over the last year. Unfortunately, death also played a major role with the zoo's beloved first elephant to be born here, Hansa, passing away in early June of a never before discovered herpesvirus. The zoo received hundreds of messages conveying deep sympathy for this significant loss.

For a number of years, animal extremist groups' have demanded that the zoo send all its elephants to a sanctuary. Since Hansa's death, In Defense of Animals (IDA) and Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN) have been writing and publicizing their assertion that the zoo's elephants should be sent away. The zoo believes our elephants receive excellent care, are essential to our conservation/education efforts and would suffer from being removed from their home of over 25 years.

In early July a baby tapir was born and may be seen in its exhibit on nice warm days. The zoo also had a flock of flamingos return to the zoo from a private donor and they will be in a new exhibit in 2008. In addition, two new young giraffe and two ostrich joined the zoo's African Savanna biome and can be seen daily.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: Woodland Park Zoo offers a variety of programs throughout the year. Following is a list of programs that are held during the summer season. Locations and changes in programs are posted at each entrance daily.

Maasai Journey Summer Experience

From May 1 through September 30, Maasai Journey introduces visitors to the wonders of the African savanna with its awe-inspiring wildlife and the Maasai people who live there. Visitors have an opportunity to feed giraffe, the watchtowers of the savanna, from a platform near the award-winning African Savanna. Stunning ostrich rove the Savanna, making their first appearance at the zoo in more than 40 years. Cultural interpreters from rural Maasailand in Kenya transport visitors to the distant lands of Africa with personal stories. A host of new zookeeper talks give visitors a chance to learn about their favorite savanna animals directly from those who care for them; and docents further enlighten visitors about the animals, the people and conservation projects in Africa. In addition, new African birds, goats, guinea fowl, arthropods and reptiles have been added to the Savanna.

Maasai Journey Programs:

- African Savanna Discovery Box
- African Savanna Safari
- African Village Storytelling
- African Village Tour
- Conservation Connection
- Giraffe Feeding
- Hippos
- Lions and African Wild Dogs
- Maasai Journey Animal Experience
- Patas Monkeys
- Upapi! (African Beading)
- Wonderful Waterholes

Public Programs

Programs are effective May 26 through September 2, 2007

- All Birds Great and Small
- Animal Contact Experience
- Black and White Colobus
- Brown Bears
- Croc Talk
- Elephant Talk
- Emus and Wallaroos
- Explore the Temperate Wetlands
- Golden Lion Tamarins
- Gorillas
- Hornbills
- Humboldt Penguin Feeding
- Jaguars
- Jaguar Quest
- Jive On Jaguars
- Lion-tailed Macaques
- Ocelot Feeding
- Orangutans
- Piranha Feeding
- Raptors
- Red Panda
- Snow Leopards
- Wolves/Elk

Bug Club (fee based) Do you think crickets are cool and ants are outrageous? Then join Bug Club! Bug Club is for children 5 years and older who love bugs! Bug Club meets one Sunday per month. For information or an application, call 206.684.4841 or see the Web site at www.zoo.org.

Butterflies & Blooms Reopens May 25-September 30 – 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. Back for its 10th year, the serene experience treats visitors to a vibrant display of nearly 1,000 free-flying butterflies representing at least 15 North American species at all times. Experience a colorful explosion of flowering plants in bloom and an outdoor conservation garden. Now free with zoo admission.

Carousel – Summer Hours: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. Enjoy year-round rides on the classic, hand-carved wooden carousel horses during zoo hours. Cost: \$2 a ride, in addition to zoo admission. The lovingly restored vintage carousel was the 45th carousel constructed by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company, starting service for the Cincinnati Zoo in 1918. Beginning June 1, two party rooms are available to rent for birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings and other celebrations. For a private party, contact the zoo's Group Sales at 206.233.7272. For a birthday party, contact Rain Forest Catering at 206.684.4825.

Classes and Camps (fee based). A wide variety of classes for children, families and adults are offered on weekends throughout the year. From Early Bird Zoo Tours that take you behind the scenes with a keeper to Evening Story Safaris for preschoolers to photography at the zoo for adults and teens...there are many exciting opportunities for individuals or the whole family! Zooper Day Camps, for children ages 4-13, are offered during school vacations throughout the year. For information or an application, call 206.684.4841 or see the Web site at www.zoo.org.

Reptiles on Wheels/Bugs on Wheels. While visiting the zoo, look for special carts with banners titled “Reptiles on Wheels” or “Bugs on Wheels.” Stop by and see strange and beautiful reptiles or bugs up close.

Habitat Ramblers: Look for the "Ask Me" button. Habitat Ramblers can be found in the African Savanna, Northern Trail, Tropical Asia or Tropical Rain Forest. With a variety of animal props and enrichment items used by keepers, volunteer Habitat Ramblers share information about bioclimatic zones, animal enrichment activities and conservation efforts.

Willawong Station, the Bird Feeding Experience – Summer Hours: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. This walk-thru bird feeding experience transports visitors to the world of the Australian parrot – and the Australian grasslands habitat – right here at the zoo. Willawong Station is a fun opportunity for the whole family to get up close and feed birds in a controlled, safe environment while learning about responsible care for birds both in the wild and at home. The aviary includes approximately 150 free-flying birds, primarily small colorful Australian parrots. Admittance is included with regular zoo admission. Visitors can purchase seed sticks to feed the birds for an additional fee of \$1 per stick.

Zoo Overnight and Evening Adventures (fee based). Grab a flock of your favorite “detective” friends and join zoo staff to unravel the Mystery of the Missing Penguin. Has he flown the coop? Did someone plan the perfect penguin caper? Is this a case of “fowl” play? During your adventure, you’ll come up-close and personal with an interesting zoo resident and get the inside scoop on our animals. Follow a trail of evidence on a guided zoo tour to determine whodunit. Pick up a flyer at the Education Center or call 206.684.4839 for reservations. Information and registration are also available on our Web site at www.zoo.org.

Zoomazium – Summer Hours: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. If you’re 8 and under (and, of course, parents), you’ll love Zoomazium! The new indoor, nature play space offers play and learning in a fun, safe and stimulating environment all year long. Here, kids can connect with animals, habitats and more through the natural language of childhood – play! Crawl through a hidden cave. Squirm through a nurse log. Climb a giant strangler fig tree. Trade observations for nature items at the Nature Exchange. The interactive center is near the West Entrance at N. 55th St. & Phinney Ave. N. Free with zoo admission.

ZOO EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The purpose of education at the zoo is to inspire an understanding of nature and a commitment to conservation.

With education and conservation at the core of its mission, Woodland Park Zoo serves as a vital resource for tens of thousands of students and teachers across the state each year. The Education Department offers an array of activities to teach valuable lessons about local and global conservation issues. These programs are developed with today’s education requirements in mind and are closely connected to Washington’s Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and the Environmental Education Goals and Guidelines for Washington Schools.

School-to-Zoo Programs: 8,565 students and adults served in 2006: The Seattle Pro Parks Levy programs for K-4th graders in all Seattle schools are aligned with the Seattle Public Schools science kits. Seattle schools with 30% or more of their students participating in free- and reduced-lunch programs can attend School-to-Zoo for free, including transportation and zoo admission.

Forest Explorers: 2,060 students served in 2006: The award-winning program is a part of the Pro Parks Levy School-to-Zoo program available to second grade students in the Seattle school district. It also is available to second grade students in King County for a nominal fee. Students are introduced to the important components of tropical rain forests and temperate forests. The field trip consists of an interactive auditorium program in which students use their bodies and props to become different parts of both forests and a tour of the zoo’s Temperate and Tropical Rain Forest bioclimatic zones.

Self-guided Tours for Schools: 49,471 students and adults served in 2006: These tours offer teachers curriculum packets or self-guided tour brochures to share with students when groups are touring the zoo on their own.

Docent-led School Programs: 3,705 students and adults served in 2006: Focused on different areas of the zoo or conservation issues, these school programs are offered for K-12 students and are guided by zoo docents. Programs include on-grounds explorations and, in some cases, a classroom experience.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Wild Wise: 11,112 students served in 2006: The award-winning Wild Wise travels to schools throughout Washington and has reached more than 62,000 fourth to seventh grade students in all 39 Washington counties since its launch in 2000. With a focus on Washington wildlife, this high impact multimedia presentation and hands-on wildlife education program encourages students to take an active interest in the natural world around them. Students learn to hone their observation skills as they visit Washington habitats by taking field notes, sketching wildlife and mapping locations.

SOAR (Save Our Amazing Raptors): 5,278 students served in 2006: Education staff, accompanied by a raptor (bird of prey), visit classrooms in King County to teach K-12 students about raptors and raptor ecology.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Zoo Corps: 113 teens participated in 2006: The three-tiered volunteer program for teens 14 to 18 years old focuses on service learning and teen development through wildlife and conservation education. Following an eight-week training session, teens volunteer in several zoo education programs and projects including habitat restoration at Licton Springs. Zoo Corps teens earn service learning credits required for graduation.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops and Institutes: 348 teachers served in 2006: Topical workshops and summer institutes on plants, animals and the environment help K-12 teachers learn how to use the zoo's educational resources to meet state and local education requirements. These programs are grant-funded and are provided at minimal cost to teachers.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

Public Programs: More than 250,000 visitors participated in 2006: The free public programs presented by zookeepers, horticulturists, education staff, and volunteers offer an array of fun and educational programs to visitors of all ages.

Zoomazium: More than 325,000 visitors participated in 2006: Zoomazium is a purpose-built indoor/outdoor nature play space in the heart of a naturalistic zoo. Zoomazium opened in May, 2006, and offers young children whole-body exploration of nature and animals in a fun, safe, dry environment all year long. Zoomazium is the adventure world designed by and for kids to discover the mysteries of the natural world. Programming designed to pique children's curiosity about nature and enhance their awareness of the natural world utilizes biofacts, technology and animals. Over 325,000 children with their families visited Zoomazium and over 19,500 participated in an interactive, engaging program during their visit. 5,829 children traded items and stories at Nature Exchange.

Zoo Overnight and Evening Adventures: 2,665 children and adults served in 2006: The nocturnal adventure includes visits with the animals, special zoo presentations, games, storytelling, and an overnight (or evening) amidst the grunts, howls, snorts and calls of the zoo's wildlife residents. The program is for groups of adults and children ages 7 and above.

Education Classes and Camps: 2,954 children, families, adults and teens served in 2006: From bugs to wolves, participants of all ages discover the amazing world of endangered animals through a zoo class, camp or club.

VOLUNTEERS: More than 750 volunteers contribute more than 70,000 hours each year

There are 12 different volunteer programs at the zoo in which volunteers assist zoo visitors, present education programs, help zookeepers with animal care, assist horticulture staff with maintaining the botanical collection and provide administrative support.

INSPIRATION TO ACTION: Inspiration to Action initiatives engage audiences in personally meaningful actions in support of local and regional wildlife and habitat. Through strategic partnerships with other conservation organizations, the zoo provided training workshops on how to create backyard habitat, with ongoing participant support and assessment to measure impact. Forty-five people participated in Backyard Habitat workshops at the zoo in 2006. Zoo Corps teens continued to participate in an early detection and reporting study of invasive plant species, and restoring wetland habitat at Licton Springs.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Bohmke thanked the Board for inviting him to its meeting to give the annual briefing. He reviewed information in the written briefing and gave a Powerpoint presentation showing many of the exhibits, as well as concepts for future exhibits. He also showed conceptual drawings of the future Zoo entrances, proposed to be reduced from three to two. Major goals of the Zoo are to upgrade old exhibits and continue adding new exciting exhibits.

Comments/Questions

Mr. Bohmke addressed the controversy around the Maasai Journey exhibit. This exhibit was installed 25 years ago. It is not a new program, but was expanded this year from one cultural interpreter to four. Recently, several individuals primarily affiliated with several different academic institutions objected to the cultural interpreters' role as educators at a zoo. Several newspaper articles were published this week regarding the controversy. Councilmember Richard McIver visited the Maasai Journey exhibit and left satisfied that the Zoo is doing a respectful job. Last night, Zoo Director Deborah Jensen and the lead Massai interpreter, Kakuta Hamisi, met with objectors and other members of the community at Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. An outcome of the meeting is that the Zoo may set up an advisory committee to tweak/change the exhibit. Commissioner Ramels believes the exhibit is very valuable and is sorry for this controversy. She honors the Maasai's contributions and hopes that the interpreters have some say in how the exhibit would be changed. Mr. Bohmke stated that Mr. Hamisi is very proud of his role and was discouraged by last night's meeting.

Commissioner Ranade asked if the Zoo has long-term plans to bring any of its older facilities up to a LEED rating [like the new Zoomazium building.] Mr. Bohmke answered yes; however, each project would have to be looked at from a financial standpoint.

The penguin exhibit is an exciting new project, funded by the recent and largest ever private donation to the Zoo of \$6 million. The estimated opening date is 2009. This exhibit will save a great deal of water and electricity and will include an underwater view of the penguins swimming. Commissioner Ranade asked how it will save water. Mr. Bohmke answered that the goal for the seven-million-gallon tank is to lose water only through condensation — the water will be continuously re-circulated, cleaned, and re-used.

Garage:

Mr. Bohmke showed the future garage location during the Powerpoint presentation, as well as where the administrative trailers, that house many of the Zoo's staff, are currently located. He showed how the garage will appear from both inside and outside the Zoo, from east, west, north, and south perspectives. He showed drawings of how the garage will look, with trees and vines covering much of the building. The Zoo believes it did have an adequate public involvement process. City Council members have voted unanimously three times to approve the garage. The Design Commission, as well, voted its approval.

Commissioner Barber asked whether there is a planned coffee stand and store in the area near the garage. Mr. Bohmke answered yes, that they are shown in the conceptual drawings. Commissioner Barber asked several questions on the funding for the garage and asked if the amount of private funding has increased. Mr. Bohmke answered yes, which means the City's portion is less. Mr. Barber referred to the King County Levy for parks and whether it will impact the project funding. Mr. Bohmke answered that he cannot project whether the levy will pass. Commissioner Barber asked if the garage is a fixed commitment. Mr. Bohmke answered that the City will pay $\frac{3}{4}$ and the Zoo Society will pay $\frac{1}{4}$. It is not a flat rate and decreases each year. Commissioner Barber asked how private donors support the level of spending. Mr. Bohmke answered that the Zoo has a \$28 million budget, with \$15 million more to raise. Commissioner Barber

commented that the original garage funding troubles him. Now the Zoo must increase its fees, do marketing, and raise the needed funds from private contributions to pay for the garage. How does the Zoo convince either the City Council or the public that this is realistic?

Commissioner Barber asked if there is free parking on the nearby streets, what would make Zoo visitors pay to park in the garage. Mr. Bohmke answered that the Zoo's original estimate was based on the belief that the City planned to install a residential parking zone (RPZ) in the Zoo neighborhood. City Council believed the estimate was too high and when the Zoo learned that there would not be an RPZ, it lowered its estimate. Half the visitors to the Zoo are members and they average visiting six times yearly. Zoo staff are discussing strategies to help train them to park in the garage, such as including the price of garage parking in their memberships. Other incentives are that the garage has covered parking and provides a close and easy entry into the Zoo.

Commissioner Ranade asked about revenue from the garage. Mr. Bohmke answered that the operating cost will be deducted over the first 19 years of the garage's operation. Any revenue after that will be split between the City and Zoo Society.

Commissioner Adams asked where the carousel and garage fit in the Zoo's long-range plan. Mr. Bohmke answered that the Zoo Society perceives the need for these amenities, then budgets and spends for the direction it wants to go. On an average, parking exceeds the Zoo's parking lots 120 days per year. The Zoo receives many complaints about the lack of parking and about its entries.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the garage was being planned when the Zoo Society signed the management agreement with the City in 2002 and Mr. Bohmke answered yes, it was in the Long Range Plan developed in 1999.

Commissioner Ramels reflected, in reaction to citizen testimony that the Park Board should oversee the garage, that the garage has been unanimously approved by the City Council and the Park Board doesn't have influence now over whether it can or cannot be built. Mr. Bohmke agreed.

Big Picture/Goals

Commissioner Adams noted that there is a great deal happening at the Zoo and the garage is only one item. He asked for a brief review of the Zoo's major direction and where it is going in the future. Mr. Bohmke answered that the Zoo has a 20-year Long Range Plan, as well as a physical development plan. In 1976, the long range planning under-estimated the number of restrooms and other amenities that would increase the enjoyment of Zoo visitors. Both the animal and human elements of a zoo must be considered when planning. The Zoo's focus is on conservation, recreation, and financial stability. Woodland Park Zoo serves not only the local area, but serves residents of Seattle, King County, Washington State, other states, and visitors from other countries.

Commissioner Ramels stated that she was president of the Association Recreation Council (ARC) when the Zoo Society's plan to manage the Zoo evolved. She thought it was a brilliant and innovative plan and asked how the plan is working. Mr. Bohmke believes it is working well. All the staff, previously City employees, are now Zoo Society employees. Very few staff left because of the change. Commissioner Ramels commented that personnel issues can be difficult in such changes. Mr. Bohmke agreed and commented that the Zoo Society plan is perceived as a model for such management plans.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Bohmke for presenting the briefing and answering their questions.

Old/New Business

August 23 Meeting: The August 23 Park Board meeting is canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 13.

Committee Reports:

- *Lake Washington Boulevard Vegetation Management Plan:* Commissioner Barber reported at the last meeting and had no new information to report.

- *Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee:* Former Park Board member Jack Collins is one of the Mayor's three representatives on the ABGC. The ABGC's focus in the Washington Park Arboretum and a primary concern is impacts to the Arboretum from the State Route 520 project. Commissioner Barber referred to the SR520 Project mediation committee recently mandated by the Governor and wondered if a Park Board Commissioner should be a member of the committee. He volunteered to attend the meetings as an observer. Mr. Collins and other ABGC members will be asked to brief the Park Board at a future meeting.

Vacant Park Board Positions: There are two vacant positions on the Park Board. The Mayor's office is interviewing candidates this week and reported that a number of well-qualified candidates applied. Once the Mayor appoints a new Commissioner, that person must go through the City Council confirmation process. The Board will move ahead to determine its process for appointing the seventh member.

Annual Retreat: The Board asked that the Coordinator resume her scheduling efforts for the 2007 retreat to schedule it as early as possible. Once the two vacant positions are filled, the new Commissioners will be asked to join the retreat.

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

APPROVED: _____

Jackie Ramels, Vice Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____