

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2016

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Marty Bluewater
Tom Byers, Chair
Marlon Herrera
Evan Hundley
William Lowe
Kelly McCaffrey
Barbara Wright, Vice Chair

Excused:

Dennis Cook

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator

The meeting is held at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Byers calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He reviews the Agenda and the Commissioners introduce themselves.

Commissioner Byers calls for approval of the Consent Items, the September 22 and October 27 meeting minutes, the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, and the November 10 Agenda. Commissioner Wright moves, Commissioner Bluewater seconds, and the consent items are approved unanimously.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Bill Farmer, President of Friends of Athletic Fields – He sees the need for more dialogue between Seattle Parks and Recreation and its partners. After reviewing the public engagement plan, Mr. Farmer suggested roundtable conversations. Friends of Athletic Fields represents 50-60,000 residents and thousands of dollars. Sports leagues are often overlooked in partnership. He feels they need to leverage opportunities for more engagement and to help each other.

As far as the infill pilot - He recommends the department see if it works and then decide whether to keep doing it. No one asked field users what they want, their opinions are worth a lot in this regard.

Friends of Athletic Fields would like to present to the Board.

Superintendent Aguirre agrees there is an alignment for more engagement and more fields. The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) between Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Schools is almost done. The Joint Athletic Field Development Plan (JAFDP) is on the table, and staff are reviewing policies for field use.

The department is thinking about how to create more field space. They collaborating with Seattle Public Schools. There is money to install lighting in the Council budget and SPR will work with field users to figure out where to do it. The Mayor is increasing field fees; part of the funds will be set aside for field maintenance.

SPR staff are engaged with King County to see if they have fields to use.

Regarding engagement: Superintendent Aguirre says the planning for the next round of funding will start more public conversations going forward.

Superintendent's Report

Presented by Jesús Aguirre

Green Seattle Day – In partnership with the Green Seattle Partnership, SPR staff are coordinating work parties at 14 different sites around the city in celebration of Green Seattle Day

Staff Recognition - Congratulations to Lakema Bell, Get Moving Program Coordinator, and Karen Galt, Landscape Architect, for receiving SMA Annual Leadership Awards. Lakema received an award for Leadership in Race and Social Justice; Karen received an award in Leadership in Community Service. Kudos to both for their efforts and leadership!

December 8 Park Board meeting - There will be a study session on the People, Dogs, and Parks Plan. SPR staff wanted to provide this opportunity for the Board to have a discussion on the issues that will be before them for a vote and gather additional information from knowledgeable staff and outside professionals. This will enable board members to dig a little deeper into the issues prior to taking action on the plan early next year.

Presentation: Parks, Greenspace, and Human Health

Presented by Professor Howie Frumkin, University of Washington School of Public Health

Presentation

Professor Frumkin is a professor at the School for Public Health at the University of Washington.

Professor Frumkin discusses the many health issues facing people today. The rates of cardiovascular disease are going down, but obesity and diabetes are going up. Asthma prevalence is also inching up from 2001-2010. Children with ADHD diagnosis is increasing.

Prescription drug use is also increasing; we live in a heavily medicated society.

The most common drugs people take today can be helped by parks and greenspaces, such as high cholesterol, ADHD, and depression.

There are deep equity issues embedded in health concerns and can lead to a difference in life expectancy by over a decade - depending on factors such as ethnicity, socio-economic status and the neighborhood in which one lives.

Studies have shown happiness has declined. People feel overwhelmed and busy - leisure time is alluding people.

Solutions!

He thanks the Board for their work.

There is a scientific basis for the premise that getting outside is good for us.

The biophilia hypothesis - There is an innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms, ie. humans are hard wired to be attuned to nature.

Where does nature contact happen?

In urban parks and greenspaces, of course! and:

- Small-scale nearby nature (e.g. potted plants in a room).
- Visual contact with nature (e.g. viewing a landscape through a window).
- Residential proximity (e.g. living in a green neighborhood or near a park).
- Hands-on engagement (e.g. gardening).
- Exercise in natural settings ("green exercise")
- Therapeutic contact with nature (e.g. horticultural therapy).
- Immersive experiences (e.g. wilderness adventures)

There is a mountain of evidence demonstrating the ways parks and greenspaces are good for health. For example:

- Reduces stress - time in greenspaces can be shown quantitatively through cortisol levels

- Sleep improved - correlation between tree canopies in neighborhoods to quality of sleep
- Reduced depression and anxiety - people are happier in green environments resulting in short term and lifelong contentment
- Reduced aggression - road rage less likely on roads with tree canopy
- Prosocial behavior
- Reduced symptoms of ADHD
- Physical activity - helps with many illnesses
- Other health improvements are: lower blood pressure, smoother post-surgical recovery, better birth outcomes, improved pain control, less obesity slower to develop in green residential neighborhoods, reduced diabetes, better eyesight, some tree canopies increase allergy and asthma, others decrease., improved health in cancer patients, better general health and longer life expectancy

True Experiments

There was a study of patients undergoing bronchoscopy - a random trial at Johns Hopkins; some of the patients heard a nature soundtrack and looked at a picture of nature and this resulted in better pain control and less pain medications needed.

Plants in a Classroom - Two 8th-grade classes in a Taiwan junior high school with plants placed in one classroom, not the other. The class with plants was favored by students. There were less kids sick and less discipline problems and slightly better academic performance.

Natural Experiments

Recovery from surgery - patients were sent to the post surgical ward - half the rooms faced a brick wall and half looked at trees. The results: Over 10 years, the tree view rooms had shorter hospitalizations, needed less pain medications, and fewer notes from the nurses regarding their care.

Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago - This housing project is 3-miles long, bounded by a highway on one side and a railroad on the other. Some of the buildings had tree canopy and some landscapes were barren. The buildings that had a tree view were more people friendly and community oriented towards their neighbors, there was less psychological aggression, less violent behavior and better self-discipline among the girls.

Observational Studies

Indianapolis - Substantially less obesity in greener neighborhoods, controlled for age, race, sex and residential density.

London - Census of trees in the city - less antidepressant medications based on the amount of trees on the street.

Toronto - 32,000 adults - this study showed that people who live in treed neighborhoods are generally healthier - less heart problems and better perception of their health. Although, this study did not show a correlation with trees and mental health.

Greenspace, Social Class and Mortality

Does social class predict bad health? Does greenspace predict improved health?

Individuals who are exposed to the greenest environments also have the lowest levels of health inequality related to income. Access to greenspaces mitigate health disparity among the lower classes.

What we know

There is substantial research being done that shows contact with greenspace is good for people.

Many people think prescriptions could be written for nature and that not enough access to nature deprives us of it. He mentions the book "Last Child in the Woods" by Rich Louv.

Government organizations are buying into this with "No child left inside" legislation - getting kids outdoors is good for their health. Parks systems are adopting this agenda; branding themselves as health agencies.

Work places are offering nature to people - Apple and Amazon campuses.

Healing gardens in hospitals and parks prescription programs - American Academy of Pediatrics chapter in Washington State is starting a Park Prescription Program.

Suggestions

Research - what do we still need to know? Collaborate between health researchers and parks departments

- Key themes: What is a dose of nature? What kind of tree canopy? Which programs get people outside?

Technological nature - Apps to help people get into nature?

- Prisons are putting large screens of nature into recreation rooms and it leads to more peaceful prison life.
 - Peter Kahn at the UW School of Public Health is researching this and he is finding it's better than nothing.
- Influence of Pokemon Go on physical activity - seems to be associated with more physical activity.

Policy Analysis –

- Health Impact Assessment - tool for assessing health benefits of policies and practices.
- Full-benefit Accounting - Start thinking across silos making a case for urban trees - reckon fully all of the benefits of parks - health benefits, carbon benefits, water purification, real estate values, cooling hot cities.

Strategic selection of Park and Greenspace Assets - locate them where they are accessible to people.

Consider not just hardware, but also software - transportation, restrooms, safety, programming - determine use, synergy with other efforts such as enhanced education and health goals

Partnerships

- e.g. faith organizations, community organizations
- e.g. medical organizations, health agencies
- e.g. technology companies

One example is Group Health Community Foundation – A \$1.8 billion foundation forming between Group Health and Kaiser, with a focus on upstream determinants of health that could be a potential source of funding.

Parks and greenspaces should be “accountable” - measuring human health benefits - who is served and how to increase usage.

Communication - branding and marketing parks to emphasize the benefits of parks to people’s health. The nation faces health challenges; parks and greenspaces can help us combat those challenges in high impact, low cost ways. More research needs to be done but there is enough information to act.

Discussion

The Commissioners thank Professor Frumkin for his time and efforts.

The Commissioners will send a letter to the Seattle Parks and Recreation Alliance, the Park Board distribution list, and SPR staff - to share the video link. The Park District is starting its 3rd year, it would be great to have an Oversight member with a public health background. Members of the Oversight Committee should have training on the health benefits of parks.

The Department should determine how to spend money to improve health and provide reprieve from the urban world. The population is increasing and reduced greenspace signifies a need to bring benefits to Seattle. Dr. Frumkin’s work shows there is potential for green to make a huge health difference. He started the discussion between public policy and health work.

Commissioner Hundley feels all educators should share this information because it is useful and enlightening.

Is there a change in behavior with the doctors who write Nature Prescriptions? Robert Zahr works in a network of pediatric clinics that serve underserved populations. His group did a census of all parks in the District - made a database with maintenance, facilities, amenities, safety - to allow a Doctor to pull up the parks according to where a patient lives. The acceptance with the doctors was high. Initial results - patients are complying with the prescriptions for park use.

Tiny Trees study- Tiny Trees is an outdoor preschools where the kids are outside for the entire school day. Dr. Frumkin has a Master's student looking at the health effects compared to conventional preschools. They will be doing the comparison through the UW RANCH (Research Alliance Nature Contact and Health) – A new group at the School of Public Health, and he will send the results to SPR.

Superintendent Aguirre would like to meet up with Dr. Frumkin at his office and make a video to share with staff.

Presentation: Public Health Partnership

Presented by Patti Hayes, Seattle - King County Public Health

Presentation

Patti Hayes, the Director of Seattle-King County Public Health (SKCPH) will share her perspective on the same set of issues.

Patti starts by saying she is happy to present at the Park Board. She feels Dr. Frumkin is a wonderful example of a great partnership at the University of Washington and the opportunities he and his students could bring.

Background - Joint health department between City and King County which allows her to see the great work going on in the City and the County and help to bridge the two.

She lives in Seattle and lives by Seacrest Park - brings joy to see kids playing there.

Determinants of health - where people live, healthcare and genetics; choices one makes and the environment in which one lives.

Social determinants of health - map of health inequities in King County - correlation between life expectancy and poverty; adverse childhood experience, preventable hospitalization, obesity, and lack of physical activity. Concentration in South end where there are air quality issues and higher poverty.

Health data 98108 - includes South Park – life expectancy is lower, much higher health risks; air quality problems in that zip code. The data shown on the maps is used to determine projects and is available to anyone.

The ground work in public health is equity and social justice. The Board of Health put forward a set of guidelines to improve the health of communities living near environmental hazards.

Purpose of Health Impact Assessments - Health Impact Assessments have value as part of the planning process - a need to prioritize where there are critical areas; look at what is going on in community and how to mitigate health issues. In 2008, Commissioner Wright participated in a large Health Impact Assessment regarding the SR520 project.

Sinang Lee introduces herself. She grew up in Long Beach, California where her only sense of nature was her parent's backyard. When she moved to Seattle she fell in love with all the green. she will provide a high level overview of what hia's can do and a current example of a Rapid Health Impact Assessment.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – Looks at a proposed project and an HIA integrates health impacts. It does not look at one aspect of health, but looks at health holistically.

Social determinants of health are reviewed and there are many factors that affect our health, including environment and living conditions.

Starts with understand inequities and community context - can help with understanding vulnerabilities in a community.

Health Impact Assessments - 4 steps

Scope out issues - what are specific issues to assess impacts on?

Assessment – captures community input - qualitative and quantitative data

Recommendations - Are there high potential impacts on health?

Reporting back

HIAs come in many shapes and sizes.

Rapid Health Impact Assessment - South Park Community Center Openspace design

Community expressed concerns around the design of new playground – located in close proximity to Highway 99. Community leader requested input from Public Health due to high incidences of asthma in her community. Seattle Park Foundation welcomed the feedback.

This was a 3-month process. Understanding inequities in the community and doing research on best practices. She convened with subject matter experts regarding air

quality, noise and community representatives. They collected noise data, made observations and discussed inequity conditions and potential health impacts. Another issue researched was public safety so they did a walkthrough with Seattle Police Department.

They met with SPR a few weeks ago to assess the feasibility of their recommendations. One of the recommendations was to build a concrete wall adjacent to Highway 99, as part of their work they will meet with WSDOT to discuss the feasibility of this recommendation.

Opportunities for partnership - internal tools to look at health factors

Rapid HIA – provides valuable information. Train people at SPR how to use it is a good idea.

Park District project planning would benefit from having an HIA. It would be great to do some different scenarios.

Public Health and Seattle Parks and Recreation can work together to:

- Support engagement, address or respond to community health concerns, manage expectations (e.g., South Park HIA).

- Identify other projects where health inputs could add value to parks planning and promote equity.

- Develop or adapt a health assessment tool for parks planning that aligns with Seattle P&R process.

Discussion

Commissioner Wright thanks them for continuing to do this work. The link with the UW is an amazing opportunity. HIAs have incredible value and Andy Danneberg teaches a class on this at UW. SPR could get students to do HIAs for projects. She feels applying the health criteria to the next investment initiatives for the Park District would be a great tool to help prioritize projects.

Superintendent Aguirre thinks this is an exciting opportunity for partnership. He emphasizes how important it is to make sure all the stakeholders are at the table. It would be great to create a tool for the department. The health piece is critical.

An an organization, Seattle Parks and Recreation is trying to focus what we do - health, sustainability, and strong communities. It would be great to do this for all the zip codes; overlaying that with the programming piece to have a longer term plan on what is built and where.

Recommendations from Rapid HIA

Opportunity to design the whole community openspace to move the playground away from SR99. Another recommendation was to engage community in understanding health issues and what is best for them. Would they want to move a field or would you build a wall on SR99 as mitigation? The community wanted to be able to have eyes on the playground; the proposed location made it difficult to see the kids on the playground when its further from the center. Families would like to be able to walk the field and keep their eyes on the playground.

The Commissioners suggest they present to the Parks Committee of the City Council-educating policy makers about the health impacts. The more they think and know the importance of health impacts, the more they will consider health impacts when making their decisions.

Seattle Parks Foundation did initial design drawing for the South Park Community Center; they captured the elements but not the health risk perspective. Superintendent Aguirre feels there could be closer collaboration between Seattle Park Foundation, the community, and the Department.

Integrate a health filter in the same way as a race and social justice filter; the benefit received later is immeasurable.

Presentation: Development Plan and GAP Analysis

Presented by Susanne Rockwell and Kathleen Conner, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Written Briefing

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: November 2, 2016
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Susanne Rockwell
Subject: 2017 Development Plan and Gap Update

Requested Board Action

This briefing paper provides an overview of Seattle Parks and Recreation’s (SPR) 2017 Development Plan and Gap Analysis Update, the Plan’s relationship to Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan, proposed changes and public engagement process.

No action from the Board is requested at the November 10 meeting; timing for a Board recommendation is expected to be at the end of first quarter, 2017, following a public hearing and prior to City Council adoption via a resolution.

Project or Policy Description and Background

1. This briefing paper focuses on outlining the Development Plan background and highlighting related policy issues.
2. The presentation on November 10, 2016 will focus on showcasing the mapping technology which will be used to inform SPR's long-term acquisition strategy as contained within the Plan.

The Development Plan is a 6-year plan that documents and describes SPR's facilities and lands, looks at Seattle's changing demographics and lays out a vision for the future. The Development Plan is required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain the City of Seattle's eligibility for state grants that will help realize outdoor recreation development and open space acquisition projects; as such the Development Plan needs approval by the Superintendent and must be adopted by City Council. The Development Plan and Gap Analysis Plan were originally created in 2000 and 2001 respectively, in response to the State's Growth Management Act (GMA) and the City's first GMA Comprehensive Plan.

The 2017 Development Plan will replace the 2011 edition, and while both documents (Plan and Gap) were updated in 2006 and 2011, the metrics and mapping analysis have not changed over the 17 intervening years. With the 2017 update, SPR is proposing revised metrics and a new mapping approach.

Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan and the Parks Element within that plan, contain overarching goals and policies that guide SPR, whereas the 2017 Development Plan takes these a step further and help to define SPR's future acquisition priorities and capital investments in keeping with those policies. The Gap Analysis is a part of the 2017 Development Plan and uses Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology to illustrate SPR's and the City's open space and recreational facilities, and as a tool to help inform SPR's long-term acquisition strategy.

The City has made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050. A goal in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan is to consider access to our parks by transit, bicycle, and on foot when acquiring, siting and designing new park facilities or improving existing ones. This is an opportunity to ensure that all of our residents have access to a range of facilities and programming, while also serving as an interconnected system that serves the broader city through our community centers, pools, parks, trails, other facilities and open space.

The desire is for this plan to be more visionary and usable for future planning, and looks at city resources from the lens of accessibility and equity. We will be using equity and population density mapping, as one of many tools, to help us formulate our priority areas for future acquisition. The intent is to gain a more accurate picture of access, by measuring how people walk to a park or facility. We are calling this "walkability".

Relevant Goals and Policies

The 2017 Development Plan will have goals and objectives that are consistent with related goals and policies in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Legacy Plan, and some that will carry over from the 2011 Development Plan. There are currently:

- 5 goals and 24 objectives in the 2011 Development Plan,
- approximately 46 goals in the Parks Legacy Plan, and
- 4 goals and approximately 42 policies in the Parks Element of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Please see **Attachment A – Policy Comparison Matrix** for more detailed information on the various goals and policies.

SPR's anticipated outcomes are to:

1. Have an approach to open space and recreation facility distribution that is based upon access, opportunity, equity, and real time data.
2. Have a user friendly data interface that the public can access via story mapping and other new technologies.
3. Maintain a baseline level of service for citywide open space.
4. Have refined long-term strategies that look to acquire more land to add to the park network over time, and to increase the capacity of existing facilities to allow expanded use (e.g., converting grass fields to synthetic turf fields or adding a walking path in a park), where feasible.

Public Involvement Process

The City has a new public involvement procedure where the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) coordinates all public meetings. SPR participates with DON and other city departments in these meetings. Below is the anticipated public meeting schedule – please refer to the project webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-development-plan> for the most up-to-date schedule, locations and times.

Citywide Meetings -

1. Dec 3 - Bitter Lake Community Center
2. Dec 7 – West Seattle
3. Dec 14 – University District
4. Jan 10 – First Hill/Capitol Hill
5. Jan 21 – Columbia City

Key Issues

We will be discussing key questions and issues with the public over the next few months and will be coming back to the Park Board with staff recommendations. The recommendations will be based on public input, legal requirements and alignment with the Mayor's vision for Seattle.

Anticipated key questions and issues include the following:

1. *Determining what the appropriate Citywide Level of Service should be given the constraints of the built environment in a growing city.*

SPR manages a 6,410-acre park system; with the system comprising about 11% of the City's land area. In 2016 Seattle's population was 686,800 and it is expected to grow by over 120,000 new residents over the next 20 years. After the public engagement process, SPR will return to the Board with a recommendation for level of service metrics to include in the Development Plan.

2. *SPR is considering developing a new metric for open space goals, replacing the population-based open space goals for individual Urban Villages, and adding a Long-Term Acquisition Strategy.*

Parks, open space, recreation facilities, and programs contribute to Seattle's physical, mental, and environmental health, and support the City's economic vitality. While Seattle has a robust park system, our acquisition program is important to the sustainability, vitality and quality of life for city residents. Property acquisition is opportunity driven, but the gap areas identified in our analysis could help define SPR's priorities and needs for future acquisition and development projects.

These goals are not necessarily an accurate reflection of greater accessibility, which SPR believes is an important metric for SPR's long-term acquisition strategy. For example, in Urban Villages such as Northgate, Ballard, South Park, Westwood-Highland, North Rainier and many more, the population based goals indicated that there was sufficient open space, but when we look at it from the standpoint of access, we still have large gaps in service. Using access as a metric may provide a more realistic understanding of where our open space gaps are and best inform our acquisition strategy.

3. *Is shifting from a buffer approach to a network approach, based upon walkability and access a better model for informing SPR's long-term acquisition strategies?*

SPR proposes to use walkability to evaluate how people access park facilities, in particular by measuring the distance people need to walk within an urban village to get to a park entrance. Walkability as defined by Trust for Public Lands (TPL), National Park Service (NPS) and many major cities, to be a 10-minute walk or approximately 1/2 mile. TPL and NPS suggest using a 10-minute walk time as the national standard. Over 1,000 park entry points were mapped and linked to SDOT's walking network layer to develop the walkability areas. This walking network takes into account the street grid, major intersections, key pedestrian and bicycle routes.

SPR is considering new guidelines for measuring how people access park facilities and as a guide when developing the Long-Term Acquisition Strategy:

- a. 5-minute walkability guideline - Within Urban Villages
 - b. 10-minute walkability guideline - Outside of Urban Villages
4. *The Gap Analysis also considers population density and levels of income, as well as other publically accessible land, such as Major Institutions and Universities, Seattle Public School property and Port property. Are there other factors that should be taken into consideration?*

This last question is fairly open ended. The bulk of the staff presentation and story mapping will focus on key issues.

Budget

Planning costs for the Plan update come out of the Planning and Development Division's operating budget. Capital Improvement Projects and Acquisitions are funded through the CIP (Real Estate Excise Taxes-REET) and Seattle Park District funding. The current acquisition budget in the Seattle Park District's current six-year financial plan is \$2 Million annually.

Project Schedule

Nov 10, 2016	Initial briefing and roll out to the Board of Park Commissioners
Nov, 2016 – Jan, 2017	Public Engagement – participating with DON's Citywide Public meetings, focus groups, other partners and City Departments
Dec 8, 2016	Planning Commission briefing
March, 2017	Board of Park Commissioners Public Hearing
March-June 2017	Finalize Plan
May-June 2017	Draft Legislation and SEPA review
September 2017	City Council Approval (Resolution)
October 2017	Submit to the State

Additional Information

Susanne Rockwell, Project Manager
susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov or 206.684.7133

Project Information can be found at:
Story Mapping link: http://www.seattle.gov/ArcGIS/SMSeries_GapAnalysisUpdate2017/index.html
Project webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-development-plan>

For Comments and Questions, please e-mail:
2017DevPlan@seattle.gov

Attachment A: Policy Comparison Matrix

Presentation

Kathleen Conner – Planning Manager for Seattle Parks and Recreation. SPR has been doing planning since the 1880s with a Bicycle Master Plan – incorporated into the Olmsted Plan. Planning has changed a lot in the City. The Development Plan makes the department eligible for Recreation Conservation Office grants.

The City's new Comprehensive Plan has more focus on Parks and greenspaces. Nuts and bolts will be in the department's Development Plan. There is a lot of pressure on SPR to continue to serve the public well. Susanne Rockwell leads the team – member from inside the department and from other departments such as the Office of Community Development. She will be doing outreach at Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda meetings and others.

Susanne introduces the Planning Commissioners present at the meeting.

She thanks the IT team - Eric Asp, Rodney Young, and Patrick Morgan have made their vision feasible.

Timeline: Started on analysis back in May; starting into public involvement through January and February; drafting report and coming back to the Park Board in February and then to City Council by October.

There is a new parks element in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The Development Plan is a 6-year plan and this tool will help staff refine our strategies for acquisition. There's \$2million in Park District funding for acquisition.

In 2000, Gap Analysis and Development Plans were 2 different documents. Drew buffers around parks to show who had access.

In thinking about how to modernize this process and keeping in mind the department's values of access, equity and opportunity – the team decided to use new technology and a simpler user interface. It is live on the website.

The mapping tool aligns with city's priorities and looks at national trends.

Each tab has a different data layer taken from 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Susanne explains how the map tool works to show different filters through which one can see areas of the city that are not being served.

The new system takes into account barriers and looks at how people walk, bike and take transit. One can click on the stars to get project information, including anticipated completion date and a link to the project website.

Walkability: How do people actually enter parks? To provide greater access, SPR could look at buying a parcel that would allow more access for the community.

The map shows urban village boundaries and describe what they are.

Opportunities and constraints - Looks at schools with play areas/athletic fields or park lands not owned by the public. All of these types of public greenspace build a rich tapestry of openspace.

Poverty and Income Mapping – Much of data is based on census blocks, which helps SPR make decisions about acquisition strategy and where to partner with other organizations.

Population density – the density of an area will inform priorities for acquisition.

Outreach: She will be going to public meetings talking to people about the tool and walking them through it. As the meetings are planned they will update the website.

Walkability helps refine and target the strategy.

The Commissioners think it would be helpful to overlay topography and sidewalks. Susanne replies there were over 50 data layer options, but no one could access the information because the program kept crashing.

Maintenance of parks and community center facilities - what is the plan for maintenance funding? The plan will have an inventory that could include anticipated maintenance needs in a matrix form.

During Parks Legacy Plan process, SPR staff learned there is a huge discrepancy between pocket parks and neighborhood parks - clear from maintenance perspective it was better to acquire new park land adjacent to other parks. However, there is value in having smaller parks.

SPR staff look at how to provide multiple uses in a piece of land, which is easier on larger pieces of land with less restraints for recreation and more efficiencies from a maintenance perspective.

Commissioner McCaffrey mentions there are a lot of little parcels that could be used as parks; because increasing capacity is a priority. She feels there are opportunities for privately-owned openspaces. The department is looking at the next six years and how best to leverage limited funds. State grants have a variety of categories - look at categories to find opportunities for matching funds. Superintendent Aguirre adds there is economic value of parks. Real estate values increase more with small pocket parks.

Look at different regulatory tools such as, impact fees and incentive zoning for developers.

Using schools and other openspaces like thoroughfares (closing the streets for recreation).

Commissioner McCaffrey mentions conservation easements which are huge with big land acquisitions. Is there an opportunity for an SPR easement on other people's properties?

Seattle 2035 Public Engagement - when looking towards implementation - how will the meetings be advertised? Susanne responds there are five big meetings coming up and the outreach will be performed by the Department of Neighborhoods. For SPR projects, staff send out mailings but there is no funding for mailers.

There will be focus groups with people who spoke during openspace Comprehensive Plan formation.

Marj Press serves on the Planning Commission; she wonders how this Development Plan relates to the Parks element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Parks element would have the broad goal and long-term strategy with the shorter term strategy and implementation for land acquisition and facility in the Development Plan.

The information in the 2011 Development Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and the Legacy Plan, will be tied into the newest iteration of the Development Plan.

Commissioner Herrera notices the Equity tab is based on poverty and income but there is no race information; it would be great to see the intersection of poverty, income and race.

Susanne will look into a health filter for this, especially after the great presentations tonight.

Commissioner Byers hopes they are not zeroing out the industrial areas; Susanne says no it's just information. Some of the best parks in our system served functions that were not openspaces and more industrial.

The vision is not limited by the \$2million a year in current Park District structure. Their goal is to anticipate needs and gaps going past the Park District cycle.

The Park Board thanks the Planning Commissioners for coming.

Old/New Business

Superintendent Aguirre introduces the new parks trail app for mobile phones - available now for iPhone and will soon be available for Android. It gives great visual on trails and accessibility. There's an ability to report problems – it's called Seattle Trails.

There being no other business, Commissioner Bluewater moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Akita seconds, and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:57 pm.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Tom Byers, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners