



## Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2009

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:

Neal Adams, Vice-chair  
John Barber  
Terry Holme  
Donna Kostka  
Jackie Ramels, Chair

### ***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:***

Tim Gallagher, Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda and record of correspondence. **Commissioner Barber moved approved of the agenda as presented, the March 12 and 26 minutes as corrected, and the record of correspondence. Commissioner Kostka seconded. The vote was taken and the motion carried.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Gallagher reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Seacrest Dock: The year-round water taxi service from Seattle to West Seattle started this past Sunday, with a large crowd of people using the water taxi. One piling has deteriorated and the repair will be handled by Metro. For more on the water taxi, see <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/Marine/WaterTaxi.aspx>.

Magnuson Park Springfest: Commissioners and the public are invited to a celebration at Magnuson Park on April 25, 10 am – 4 pm. Mayor Nickels will formally dedicate the Mountaineers' new facility and the newly completed ballfield at the Mickey Merriam Athletic Field Complex. In addition, the day's festivities will showcase the talents of many of the parks' tenants. For more information on the event, see <http://www.seattle.gov/news/detail.asp?ID=9611&Dept=14>. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>.

Interbay Playfield: Seattle Pacific University has an agreement with Seattle Parks for use of the grassy soccer field area at Interbay Playfield and a large sinkhole has appeared at the site. Seattle Public Utilities has determined that it was a broken water line at the site and will make the necessary repairs. For more information on Interbay, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park\\_detail.asp?ID=3887](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=3887)

Transfer of Aquarium Management to SEAS: The Seattle Aquarium Society and the City are continuing work to transfer the management of the Aquarium from the City to the Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS.) Due to the downturn in the economy, which has led to reduced revenues for the Aquarium, the transfer has become more challenging and may require some general fund support from the City.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme whether this will be a one-time assistance from the general fund, Superintendent Gallagher agreed that it would be and added that it has no net impact on the general fund. Commissioner Holme also asked who owns the pilings at the Aquarium and the Superintendent answered that the City does. For more information on the Seattle Aquarium Society, see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=183>

All Staff Retreat: Commissioners Adam, Barber, and Kostka attended the Department's second annual all-day staff retreat, held on April 1 at Seattle Center. The event included keynote speaker K.C. Golden. Many of the breakout sessions had a green theme. Employee awards were given and the event was well received by staff.

Commissioner Barber added that he attended the youth violence prevention session and noted that it was very well attended by Parks staff; he was interested to learn the various ways that the violence affects staff. Superintendent Gallagher responded that the Department may be able to provide as many as 100 jobs for youth as part of the federal stimulus funds, which is part of its effort in the youth violence prevention initiative.

Museum of History & Industry Update: The Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) must move from McCurdy Park sometime in the future, due to their building being demolished for the SR520 widening project. Current plans are to move MOHAI to the South Lake Union Park Armory Building. MOHAI is now in a capital campaign to raise funds for the relocation. It cannot raise all the funds through donations and will finance part of the project, then continue its fundraising efforts. For more information on MOHAI, see <http://www.seattle.gov/tour/industry.htm>.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme on who owns the McCurdy Park building that now houses MOHAI, Superintendent Gallagher answered that Seattle Parks is the owner.

Arboretum Drive Status: Superintendent Gallagher noted that the Park Board's recent recommendation on Arboretum Drive did not officially designate the road as being permanently closed. An additional motion from the Board will not be necessary, but he will draft a letter confirming the Board's recommendation and including the road closed designation status, and send the letter to the Board. The south gate will remain closed and the north gate will remain open during the day for park, emergency, and special needs.

Commissioner Adams asked if the Superintendent is making this designation in addition to the Board's recommendation and the Superintendent agreed. For more information on the Arboretum, see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/index.htm>.

Green Streets Comes to Belltown: Seattle Parks is currently working with Seattle's Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Seattle Police and Fire Departments to develop a 26' strip of Bell Street, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues, to become green areas wide enough for a playground. While the Green Streets program has been under development for several years, the new Parks and Greenspaces Levy has some funding that can be directed to the projects. This first project will add 300-500' of new green space/play area downtown at a cost of \$150 square foot. For more information on Green Streets, see [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rowmanual/manual/6\\_2.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rowmanual/manual/6_2.asp).

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels regarding where the idea for using parts of streets as parks came from, the Superintendent responded that it evolved from his asking why the City is buying new park property to develop when it could, instead, remove concrete from property it already owns and turn that to green space. Bell Street is the first project to use the new Levy funds, as that site was already scheduled for the Green Street program by SDOT.

Budget Reductions: The Superintendent stated there is currently a \$43 million shortfall in the City's budget, resulting in major cuts in 2009. Parks is taking a \$2.5 million cut, which will affect operations and will also lose revenue for capital projects.

Good News from Associated Recreation Council (ARC): At the most recent ARC Board meeting, the Board generously voted a one-time use of ARC funds of \$1.2 million to help offset the \$2.5 million budget cut to Seattle Parks. This money will be used to support the numerous ARC-operated programs at the Department's 26 community centers and is a one-time transfer of funds. The agreement calls for a \$400,000 transfer in 2009 and \$800,000 in 2010. For more information on ARC, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/arc/>. Commissioner Ramels asked if ARC put any restrictions on the funds and Superintendent Gallagher answered that it didn't.

Picnic Reservations: Commissioner Barber referred to the Department's policy of scheduling picnic tables and asked if the Department has adequate tables to accommodate the number of people who make requests. Superintendent Gallagher responded that the Department is seeing an increase in park and picnic table use and a higher number of registrations. The Department schedules some of the picnic sites, while others are available for drop-in use. For more information on scheduling picnics and other events in Seattle park facilities, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/reservations/default.htm>.

## **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 two minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 10 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. One person testified. A brief summary of the testimony follows:

Daniel Johnson: Mr. Johnson is excited about the new Green Streets program and stated that it is a dream come true for him. He urged the Commissioners to also check out "National Parking Day", which is sponsored by the Trust for Public Land, with citizens encouraged to turn a parking stall into a mini park – for one day. To read more on this concept, see:

[http://tplstaging.beaconfire.us/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=22707&folder\\_id=3428](http://tplstaging.beaconfire.us/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=22707&folder_id=3428)

He also requested that Seattle Parks add additional bike racks in parks, especially Denny Blaine and Howell, and that Parks also consider installing composting toilets there.

## **Public Hearing: Native Plant Policy**

At the Board's March 26 meeting, Barb DeCaro, Seattle Parks' Natural Resources Unit Resources Conservation Coordinator, presented a briefing on the Department's new Native Plant Policy. To read the minutes, including the briefing paper on the proposal, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/03-26-09.pdf>. Tonight the Board held a public hearing on the policy and plans to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its May 14 meeting.

Ms. DeCaro introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the proposal and the recommendation that staff are requesting.

### ***Public Hearing***

The public hearing began. The Chair reminded speakers that they are limited to two minutes verbal testimony and will be timed. The Board will also accept written testimony through May 12. One person signed up to testify.

Daniel Johnson: Mr. Johnson is an active park volunteer and has spent hundreds of hours pulling invasive plants from Seattle's parks. He is very excited about this policy; however, he urged staff to take a more holistic approach and to make the native plantings a means to an end – and not the end itself. Don't just put in natives. He also asked for more edible plants to be included in the landscaping.

### ***Board Discussion***

Commissioner Holme asked if the Department has a policy on edibles on park property. Ms. DeCaro answered that, while some parks such as Carkeek contain legacy apples, etc., there isn't a specific policy on edibles, except for the locations of community gardens/P-Patches. Superintendent Gallagher added that this could be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Adams referred to the testimony about taking a holistic approach and whether the new native plant policy is limiting. Ms. DeCaro answered that this is also a staff concern. So far, a broad list of plants have been developed - 44 trees and 80 shrubs – and the natural resources unit staff are still exploring other natives that haven't been used as extensively. Commissioner Adams commented that he would want the native plantings to develop into an "ooh" and "ah" experience after a few years of growth.

Commissioner Barber asked about the natives providing habitat and referred to the current plantings and pruning at Colman Park, which has more native plantings. The pruning at that park gives a very "trimmed" appearance. He asked if the native plant policy will look at such circumstances. Ms. DeCaro answered that the Department will re-define its sustainable practices and best practices to reflect natural pruning.

Commissioner Kostka asked that staff refine the native plant policy before the Park Board discusses it at the May 14 meeting. She asked that the policy include language that all plant sources will be obtained from within 100 miles of Seattle's parks and include language on the limbing of trees. She also wants the policy to address Parks' desire to publicize and designate natural areas. Ms. DeCaro stated that she wants to develop park maps that show the natural areas, as well as developed parks. Commissioner Kostka asked that prairies and wetlands also be included on such a map.

Commissioner Holme asked that the policy include language that addresses the potential conflict for maintaining native plants for security needs (sight lines.) The Superintendent asked that the Board be careful to not overly-complicate the native plant policy and noted that the vegetation management plans that have been approved for many of the parks addresses how shrubs/trees are treated after they are put in the ground and this would include limbing/sight lines, etc. Commissioner Holme stated that he is okay with including or not including his suggestion for language about sight lines in the policy. However, if the plantings could become a security issue in the future, this could be given a higher degree of consideration during the planting design.

The Board thanked Ms. DeCaro and will discuss the policy at its May 14 meeting and make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

### **Public Hearing: Master Golf Plan**

Susanne Friedman, Seattle Parks Project Manager, has presented several briefings on the Golf Master Plan, with the last being the financial overview on March 12. To read the minutes from that meeting, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/03-12-09.pdf>. Commissioners received new information and a revised recommendation on April 6 (included below.) Tonight the Board will hold a public

hearing and plans to discuss the Master Plan and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at the April 23 meeting.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

The draft Master Plan was presented to the Board on February 12, the draft Financial Plan and staff recommendations were presented on March 12, 2009. A public hearing will be held at the April 9 meeting with staff presenting a short update on financial plan revisions based upon feedback from the previous Board briefing. A discussion and Park Board recommendations will follow on April 23, 2009.

#### **Staff Recommendations**

At the March 12 briefing, the staff-recommended action was to move forward with implementation of Option II, subject to Executive recommendations:

##### **Option II – \$19.9 million**

Option II is a prioritized improvement program consisting of perimeter trails at all courses, new clubhouses and cart barns at Jackson Park and Jefferson Park, a fully renovated clubhouse at West Seattle, a new driving range at Jackson Park and completion of the driving range at Jefferson Park.

Since then, four new funding scenarios have been examined, Options – 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B respectively. Staff will provide a verbal recommendation on a preferred option at the April 9 briefing, subject to Executive recommendations. Attachment A displays the features of the new options.

In greater depth than the previous options, these new options compare a variety of project phasing approaches that take into consideration net cash flow before debt service in actual dollars and take into consideration revenues from the new facilities as they come on-line (assumption being the year following construction). Unlike the previous options, the end of Interbay debt service in 2014 has also been factored into these new options. Please refer to attachments for more detail.

Additional assumptions made in these new funding options that differ from Options I and II are: a NEW clubhouse at West Seattle Golf instead of the remodeled scenario of Option II and double level driving ranges for all options.

- **Option 3A - \$20.9 million** spreads out planning, design and construction of the earlier Option II projects + assumptions listed above over a 5 year period.
- **Option 3B - \$27.0 million** spreads out planning, design and construction of projects by course + assumptions listed above over a 5 year period, but does not include irrigation or on-course improvements.
- **Option 4A - \$27.0 million** places the revenue generating projects – the driving ranges and cart paths for all courses, up front for planning, design and construction. Then spreads out all additional improvements by course + assumptions listed above over a 6 year period, but does not include irrigation or on-course improvements.
- **Option 4B - \$24.7 million** places the revenue generators – the driving ranges and cart paths for all courses up front for planning, design and construction, then spreads out the clubhouse, cart barn and perimeter trail improvements by course over a 6 year period. It does not include improvements to on-course restrooms, maintenance facilities (except West Seattle), Interbay Clubhouse, or irrigation or on-course improvements.

#### **Project Description and Background**

Based on guidance from City Council and input from staff, six top priorities as listed below, were originally identified for the Golf Master Plan Update. While staff recognize that course layout and maintenance issues are

paramount to the golf experience, these are not elements of this particular master planning process. All comments received regarding course maintenance issues have been forwarded on to Parks Golf Director.

1. Perimeter trails around each golf course
2. Clubhouse renovations
3. Conversion to electric cart barns
4. Tee-to-green cart paths
5. Possible driving range additions and expansions
6. Maintenance facility renovations

### **Public Involvement Process**

We have received 30 public testimony comments to date on the Draft Golf Master Plan via e-mail; some e-mails covered more than one course or topic.

- **General Master Plan comments**
  - 3 comments giving overall support for the Master Plan, driving ranges (West Seattle and Jackson), course restrooms, cart paths, club house renovations
  - 1 comment of conditional support to the Master Plan if on-course improvements at Jefferson are addressed
  - 4 comments for staff kudos and a job well done
- **Jackson Park**
  - 3 comments supportive of a driving range
  - 4 comments supportive of cart paths
  - 2 comments supportive of a new clubhouse
  - 5 comments regarding on-course improvements and/or concerns over course maintenance issues
- **Jefferson Park**
  - 1 comment opposed to the perimeter trail, but supportive of cart paths and clubhouse renovations.
  - 5 comments regarding on-course improvements and/or concerns over course maintenance issues
  - 2 comments regarding parking needs
- **West Seattle**
  - 3 comments supportive of a new driving range
  - 2 comments supportive of a new clubhouse
  - 2 comments regarding on-course improvements and/or concerns over course maintenance issues
  - 1 comment in support of a perimeter trail
- **Other** – two messages requesting work and one requesting a short course option

### **Issues**

- Creating a balanced funding strategy/package while improving the overall golf experience

### **Budget**

Net cash flow for the four new options is summarized in Table 1 below. Please refer to the attachments for more detail. The key project-wide assumptions are as follows:

- Improvements are funded with borrowings which are amortized over 20 years at a 5.5 percent cost of capital.
- Annual debt service related to Interbay expires in 2014.
- An inflation rate of 1 percent per year is applied to capital costs, revenues, and operating expenses beginning in FY2010.
- The Park Fund and Capital Improvement Replacement Reserve have been adjusted in each option in the attempt to maintain a positive cash flow and to reduce the need for additional borrowing.

**Table 1 - Comparison of Options**

	Park Fund	Capital Reserve		Net Cash Flow after Debt Service			
		3A, 4B	3B, 4A	3A	3B	4A	4B
2010	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	\$ 482	\$ 504	\$ 589	\$ 567
2011	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	\$ 246	\$ 206	\$ 448	\$ 427
2012	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	\$ (192)	\$ (247)	\$ 154	\$ 73
2013	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	\$ (226)	\$ (391)	\$ (176)	\$ (237)
2014	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	\$ (293)	\$ (225)	\$ (200)	\$ (257)
2015	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	\$ 152	\$ 73	\$ 76	\$ 105
2016	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	\$ 172	\$ 97	\$ 83	\$ 118

In terms of financial viability the Options rank in the following manner:

**Table 2 – Ranking of Options**

Rank	Options	
1	3A	In terms of long-term viability, 3A has the greatest year 2016 single year surplus, followed by 4B. Both these scenarios have a 2% capital reserve
2	4B	4B has the second greatest year 2016 single year surplus and a 2% capital reserve.
3	4A	4A has a lower 2016 single year net cash but a large ending cumulative cash flow balance. It has only a 1% capital reserve and going to 2% would make 2016 net cash flow negative.
4	3B	3B has a 1% capital reserve. In addition, it would require additional borrowing or CRS support in 2014 and 2015.

**Schedule**

- **April 9th** - Park Board public hearing on the draft Golf Course Master Plan Update and financial plan
- **April 23rd** - Park Board discussion and recommendations
- **May 2009** – Final Golf Course Master Plan Update

**Additional Information**

- Project Web link: <http://seattle.gov/parks/Athletics/golfrse.htm>
- Susanne K. Friedman, 800 Maynard Ave S, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98134, 206.684.0902, [susanne.friedman@seattle.gov](mailto:susanne.friedman@seattle.gov)

**References**

- City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Municipal Golf Renovation Master Plans, April 1991, prepared by John Steidel, Golf Course Architect
- Business and Strategic Plan, City of Seattle Municipal Golf Course System, July 2005, Economics Research Associates
- Resolution 30926, Golf Financial Policies

ATTACHMENT A  
Option Comparison

**Option Comparison** - Assumes New Club Houses and Double Level Driving Ranges at all sites.

	<b>Option 3A</b>	<b>Option 3B</b>	<b>Option 4A *</b>	<b>Option 4B</b>
Jefferson Park Clubhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Park Driving Range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Park Cart Barn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Park Cart Paths		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Park On-Course Restrooms		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jefferson Park Maintenance Facilities		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jefferson Park Perimeter Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson Park Clubhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson Park Driving Range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson Park Cart Barn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson Park Cart Paths		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson Park On-Course Restrooms		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackson Park Maintenance Facilities		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackson Park Perimeter Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Seattle Clubhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Seattle Driving Range		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Seattle Cart Barn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Seattle Cart Paths		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Seattle On-Course Restrooms		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
West Seattle Maintenance Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Seattle Perimeter Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interbay Perimeter Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interbay Clubhouse		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,932,314</b>	<b>\$27,016,443</b>	<b>\$27,016,443</b>	<b>\$24,700,923</b>

\*Difference between 3B & 4A is in revenue generation from spreading out planning, design and construction of revenue generating items

### Discussion

Ms. Friedman introduced herself and Andy Soden, Seattle Parks Golf Manager. She summarized information in the latest briefing paper. The Park Board has received 30 new e-mails on the Master Plan since the last staff briefing, with 80% of those supportive. A public meeting was held in West Seattle last night, with only 1% of the testimony opposed to the perimeter trail at West Seattle Golf.

Staff have now recommended four new funding strategies based on the previous Park Board meeting, and looked at the phasing and financial strategies for the plan. Of those:

**Option 4b is the new staff recommendation and reads: Option 4B - \$24.7 million places the revenue generators – the driving ranges and cart paths for all courses up front for planning, design and construction, then spreads out the clubhouse, cart barn and perimeter trail improvements by course over a 6-year period. It does not include improvements to on-course restrooms, maintenance facilities (except West Seattle), Interbay Clubhouse, or irrigation or on-course improvements.**

Ms. Friedman stated that this is a major and positive change in the staff recommendation. Superintendent Gallagher summarized that all the revenue generators, e.g., driving ranges and cart paths, would be up front and gave an overview of the construction approach. Ms. Friedman noted that the construction time period will be six years and the debt service 20 years. Commissioner Adams stated that he appreciates the new options.

Commissioner Ramels expressed concern that this change in the staff recommendation was not circulated to the public, and the public is here this evening to comment on the plan without being aware that staff has changed the recommended course of action. She noted that it appears that all the changes are favorable as they respond to public written comments received to date, and suggested that the Board go ahead with the public hearing at this time, mindful of this communication lapse.

Commissioner Adams believes that Option 4B better addresses the cart path needs and responds to testimony already heard by the Board.

Ms. Friedman noted that she and Mr. Soden will lead another tour of the golf courses on April 21 for any Commissioners who were unable to make the March 17 tour.

### Public Hearing

The public hearing began. The Chair reminded speakers that they are limited to two minutes verbal testimony and will be timed. The Board will also accept written testimony through April 21. Eleven people testified.

Mike Little: He lives near the West Seattle Golf Course 4<sup>th</sup> fairway and is a project manager. He supports the recommendation to have the east side of the West Seattle walking trail at the sidewalk and not at the houses that adjoin the course.

Scott McCullum: Mr. McCullum is a West Seattle resident. He has played golf for 30 years, is the West Seattle Golf president, and a member of the steering committee. He agrees with the decision to add the driving ranges early in the Master Plan. There is a built-in constituency that loves to hit golf balls before they tee off. He supports the selection of Option 4B.

John Clements: Although he is surprised that the Department has changed its recommendation to Option 4B, he is pleased to see that it addresses the cart paths. He stated that the Jackson Golf restroom located in the middle of the course is terrible – please address this problem in the Master Plan as it is needed now.

Commissioner Ramels asked if Park Board Commissioners visited this restroom on the March 17 tour, and Mr. Soden answered that they didn't.

Lorrie Schwarm: She is happy with the changes in the recommendation and supports the selection of Option 4B. She believes that golf revenues will greatly increase with the addition of driving ranges. The Jackson Golf restrooms are gross and she will not use them.

Franz Schwarm: She is on the Jackson Park Golf steering committee and Option 4B includes almost everything the steering committee requested. She thanked Superintendent Gallagher and Ms. Friedman for resurrecting the cart path. However, the terrible restrooms at Jackson Golf are the golfers' biggest complaint. She noted that port-a-potties are set up at sporting events all across the city and asked if they could be located at Jackson Golf.

Eric Reeder: He lives in West Seattle on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, adjacent to the golf course. He is pleased that the design has changed so the perimeter trail will be at the sidewalk and not by the houses. He is concerned with the tree line at the 4<sup>th</sup> hole and asked Parks to look at this during the Master Plan implementation.

Dan Puetz: He concurs with other speakers that this is a good Golf Master Plan and Option 4B is a good choice. He hopes that its implementation begins as quickly as possible. He has played at Jackson Golf since 1958 and the restrooms there are horrific. He asked that some funding be directed at the maintenance facilities.

Bob Chamberman: He has lived in West Seattle for 30 years and has been a golfer for 25 years. He has traveled extensively and played at many courses. The Golf Master Plan means a great deal to Seattle citizens and reflects on the city. He commends the Department for embarking on the plan and believes Option 4B is terrific. He especially approves of the driving ranges. He has three younger sons and looks forward to using the driving ranges with them.

Jay Turner: He has played golf at Jefferson Park for 50 years and stated that Option 4b relieved most of his concerns with the Master Plan. He has found that golf has historically created racial and financial barriers. Providing driving ranges at the municipal courses provides a less costly access to beginning golfers and the cart paths provide access to the handicapped who want to play golf.

Dr. Cris Kelley: Dr. Kelley has previously testified to the Board on several occasions regarding the Golf Master Plan. She thanked the Department for considering public input and commented that this Master Plan is a wonderful start. The restroom at Jackson Golf is an embarrassment. She has concerns with having electric carts at Jackson Golf, as the course has steep inclines. She recommends using gas-powered carts at this course.

Bill Meyer: He is the Interbay Golf President and stated that he loves the plan. He only sees one major flaw and that is the parking at Jefferson Golf – it is already inadequate. He asked that the Department address the parking problem at this course, as well as at West Seattle Golf.

The public hearing concluded.

### ***Board Discussion***

Commissioner Adams stated that he observed the condition of the restrooms while on the March 17 tour; however, he realizes that the Department has to make cuts somewhere. He asked Ms. Friedman to address the restroom issue. Ms. Friedman noted which of the options addressed the restrooms and when, and stated that the Department realizes that upgrading the restrooms will require a large amount of funding. It is not included in Option 4B. Superintendent Gallagher referred to Exhibit 3 and pointed out the financial status by year 2012 and 2014. Parks staff looked at the net cash flow and, without doing the restroom upgrade in the Master Plan, the courses would show a profit again by 2015. Option 4B is scheduled in phases and first addresses components that will produce additional revenue at the courses. It may be that the restrooms could be upgraded in 2015, after the revenues have been studied. Commissioner Adams asked if installing port-a-potties until then is an acceptable solution and the Superintendent stated that at this time it isn't.

Commissioner Holme asked if an annual inflation rate of 1 percent per year, applied to capital costs, revenues, and operating expenses beginning in Fiscal Year 2010, is the City's standard inflation rate and Ms. Friedman answered that it is and gave additional details.

Commissioner Holme asked if addressing parking needs is appropriate for the Master Plan. Ms. Friedman responded that the Department decided to minimize any additional impervious surfaces at the golf courses and gave information on how the Department and City will provide additional parking without adding new asphalt to the golf courses (re-configure existing parking lots, more nearby on-street parking, etc.)

Commissioner Ramels stated that the Board will discuss the recommendation at its April 23 meeting and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent. She asked staff to schedule additional time on the agenda for this discussion. She observed that those who testified this evening were in favor of the new staff recommendation of Option 4B, and commended the department for being responsive to public input. She suggested that in the future, changes to staff recommendations be publicized in a timely manner.

She thanked Ms. Friedman and Mr. Soden and all those who came out to testify this evening. The Board will continue to accept written testimony through Tuesday, April 21.

## **Briefing: Parks Planning and Development Division**

Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks' Planning and Development Division Director, presented a quarterly briefing on the division's work. Prior to tonight's meeting, the Board received a written briefing paper and draft policy.

### ***Written Briefing***

#### **Requested Board Action**

No action is required by the Board. This memo and the briefing on April 8 are intended to give the Commissioners an understanding of the work undertaken by the Planning and Development Division.

#### **Background**

Listed below are projects that are in various stages of our acquisition, planning, design, and construction process. Also listed are projects that we expect to move forward in the not-too- distant future that may require the attention of the Board.

#### **Acquisitions**

- Denny Triangle

- Crown Hill (closing pending)
- Webster Playground (closing pending)
- First Hill Park issues

**In Planning:**

- A and E Studies of Five Community Centers and Evans Pool
- Rainier Beach Community Center and Swimming Pool
- Golf Course Master Plans
- Central Waterfront planning (interdepartmental)
- Lake Union Trail Master Plan
- Seward Park Play Area (NMF)
- California Place Play Area (NMF)
- Martha Washington Shoreline Habitat (KCD)
- Beach Nourishment along Lake Washington Boulevard

## **In Design**

- Hiawatha Playfield
- Miller Playfield\*
- Ballfield Lighting-Rainier Playfield
- Small Ballfield work at Brighton and West Queen Anne
- Queen Anne Community Center Seismic Upgrade
- Cascade People Center Roof and HVAC
- *Myrtle Reservoir*
- *Capitol Hill Park (16th and Howell)*
- "Bellevue Substation" Park (John and Summit)
- Freeway Park Canyon and Cascade Fountains
- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum
- Leschi Moorage Renovation
- Volunteer Park Conservatory East Wing Renovation
- Jefferson Park-Beacon Reservoir
- Magnuson Park Beach Comfort Station Replacement
- Northgate Urban Center Park

\*denotes in-house design

## **In Construction**

- Atlantic City Boat Ramp Comfort Station
- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Improvements
- Morgan Junction Park
- Green Lake Shade Garden\*
- Discovery Park Nike Building Demolition
- Discovery Park North Roadway removal\*
- Irrigation Upgrades: EC Hughes, Salmon Bay, Lincoln, Volunteer Parks
- Ballard Corner Park
- Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements\*
- Lake Union Park Phase 2
- Japanese Garden Entry Structure
- Freeway Park Landscaping (Phase 1 completed; Phase 2 underway)\*
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields

\*denotes in-house design

## **Completion**

- Small paving work at Leschi and Green Lake
- Discovery Park Building 653 Demolition
- Washington Park Arboretum shoreline (KCD)
- Chinook Beach forest restoration (KCD)
- Burke Gilman (Peace Park) Improvements\*
- Lake Union Bikeway on Westlake (with SDOT)
- Lake Washington Boulevard drainage
- Green Lake Parking Lot\*
- Danny Woo Garden
- Orchard Street Ravine Trail\*
- Ballfield Lighting Replacement: Garfield, Georgetown and Interbay
- Southwest CC Roof and Pool HVAC
- Burke-Gilman Trail Bridge Repair
- Lower Woodland Tennis Court Renovation\*
- Magnolia Community Center Roof, HVAC

\*denotes in-house design

## **Other**

- Virginia-Graham Baker Act swimming & wading pool compliance
- "Yellow Swings" installations
- Viewlands School Assessment
- Magnuson Park Electrical and "Green Power"
- 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy

## **UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION**

### **2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy**

- Oversight Committee Appointees and Schedule
- Early Start Projects
- Management Plan

### **School-Park Property Issue Review and Recommendation**

- Southshore School and Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool

### **Park Plan Review and Recommendation**

- Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs Planning (2009)
- Washington Park Playfield and SPU Madison Valley Drainage (2009)

### **Policy Review and Recommendation**

- Non Park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement

### **Status Reports/Briefings**

- Central Waterfront and Alaskan Landing Master Plan
- SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks
- Freeway Park Renovations
- Arboretum Projects: Pacific Connection, Japanese Garden Entry
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields

### ***Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion***

Mr. Stoops briefly reviewed information in the written briefing and presented some additional information on some of the projects. Responding to a question from Commissioner Kostka on the location of the new park at Northgate, Mr. Stoops answered that it is located just north of the Target store, which is on the north side of 105<sup>th</sup> and Northgate Mall. The site is the former location of a Metro Park and Ride site. Commissioner Kostka asked if the new creek valley located just southeast of Northgate Mall is a Park Department project and Mr. Stoops answered that this is a private development in conjunction with Seattle Public Utilities. The park-like area will include a water feature.

Commissioner Holme asked for the status of asphalt removal on the north roadway at Discovery Park. Mr. Stoops answered that the contractor removing the Nike site will also remove the asphalt. The housing area will come to the park in the next two years and the asphalt will be removed at that time.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on the California substation, Mr. Stoops responded that about ½ the funding is in place for construction. This is enough to do some interim work until the additional funds are found.

Commissioner Adams asked if the bidding climate has improved and Mr. Stoops agreed that it has. The Department recently opened bids for the Freeway Fountains repair and the winning bid was \$100,000 under the

estimate. Another recent project received 16 bids. This is a significant change from the previous "red-hot" construction climate.

## **Briefing: 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy**

Mr. Stoops next briefed the Board on the new 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. Prior to tonight's meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, which is included below.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

No action is required by the Board. This memo and briefing will provide an overview on the proposed implementation of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

#### **Background**

**General:** The levy, passed by Seattle voters in November 2008, provides for new and improved park and recreation facilities as well as new open spaces throughout Seattle. It also provides a means of economic stimulation in the City through a robust capital improvement program over the next six years. As such, it is a valuable component of the Seattle Jobs Forward initiative.

The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy provides \$146 million for park improvements over a 6 year period from 2009 through 2014. The levy will provide for acquisition of park sites in urban villages and green spaces in natural areas and greenbelts, renovation of 23 play areas, development of parks on two reservoirs, synthetic sportsfield surfaces, skate parks, and other park development. It will provide for community garden patches, trails, shoreline street end access improvements, and reforestation of natural areas. An opportunity fund will provide for other park and green space work to be determined through further public input. Attachment 1 presents a summary of the levy categories and projects.

**Citizen Oversight Committee:** Since passage of the levy, Parks staff has been working to develop a citizen oversight committee modeled on the successful Pro Parks Levy Citizens Oversight Committee, and on making a transition from that citizen committee to the new one. Appointees will be confirmed by the City Council in March and April of this year. The Parks and Seattle Center Committee of the City Council approved members for the Oversight Committee on March 24. The Committee will meet monthly on the last Monday of the month.

New appointees include Douglas Dunham, Cheryl Klinker, Joyce Moty, Terry Holme, Don Harper, Sharon Lee, Alec Stephens, Neal Adams, Cindi Barker, Beth Purcell, Matthew Mega, and John Spalding. The City Council is expected to name four more members in April. We expect to have the Committee members all confirmed by the Oversight Committee's April 27 meeting.

We expect the Committee's main function to be making recommendations relative to the Levy's Opportunity Fund. At this time we are planning for opportunity fund cycles in 2010 and 2012. Each cycle will involve development of criteria for selection of projects, public nominations of project proposals, review and evaluation of the proposals, and rank order prioritization of the submitted projects in order to make recommendations for funding.

**Project Schedule and Early Start Projects:** We have prepared a draft schedule for the overall implementation of the named levy projects and have committed to a number of early start projects as part of the Mayor's Seattle Jobs Forward initiative. This following list and schedule is subject approval via pending legislation in front of City Council for appropriation authority.

We have previously identified a series of early start projects to be undertaken in 2009. These projects include the following that are being designed with in-house resources and will be in construction this summer:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Bid (Month)</u>	<u>Construction Start (Month)</u>
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Jefferson Park (add to Ph. 1)	May 2009	June 2009
Magnuson Park (trail)	May 2009	June 2009
Queen Anne Blvd	June 2009	July 2009
Lower Woodland #2	June 2009	July 2009
Lower Woodland #7	June 2009	July 2009
Atlantic Street Play Area	June 2009	July 2009
Northgate Urban Center	July 2009	August 2009
Bayview Play Area	July 2009	August 2009
John C. Little Play Area	July 2009	August 2009
Brighton Play Area	July 2009	August 2009

In addition, we will design others later this year with construction in 2010:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Bid (Month)</u>	<u>Construction Start (Month)</u>
Chinook Beach	September 2009	October 2009
Camp Long	December 2009	January 2010
Langston Hughes PAC	January 2010	February 2010
Beacon Hill Play Area	February 2010	March 2010
Fairmont Play Area	February 2010	March 2010
Seward Play Area	March 2010	April 2010
Ross Play Area	April 2010	May 2010
Georgetown Spray Area	April 2010	May 2010
Genesee Sportsfield	May 2010	June 2010
Delridge Sportsfield	May 2010	June 2010
7 <sup>th</sup> Elect Church site	August 2010	September 2010

In addition to the above, we will also be starting on the Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs planning in late 2009 and work with the Seattle Children's Play Garden to implement their project at Colman Playground in 2009-10. The appropriation requested for 2009 to do all the work described above totals \$24.2 million.

Based on the Mayor's directive to start other projects and quickly move them into implementation, the following additional work worth \$2.8M may be added to the above listings:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Bid (Month)</u>	<u>Construction Start (Month)</u>
Lawton Play Area	300K	March 2010	April 2010
Matthews Beach Play Area	450K	March 2010	April 2010
Sandel Play Area	350K	April 2010	June 2010
Golden Gardens Play Area	500K	June 2010	July 2010
Northacres Play Area	550K	July 2010	August 2010
Myrtle Skatedot (Delridge)	250K	January 2010	March 2010
Two Spray Areas	400K	May 2010	June 2010

Planning for property acquisitions will start in 2009 with review of the 2006 Gap Analysis, property research, title reports and appraisals. We hope to make several green space acquisitions before year-end, and have developed criteria and strategies to focus the expenditure of new park site acquisitions.

The levy provides funding for community gardens (p-patch) development that will be administered by the Department of Neighborhoods. The Seattle Department of Transportation will implement trail projects, including development of the Ballard segment of the Burke Gilman Trail this summer.

## **Public Involvement**

Parks staff will hold several public workshops at community centers in early May to launch the levy implementation. We envision meetings will be held in Southeast Seattle, West Seattle, the Central Area, and north of the Ship Canal. Prior to the meetings, we will prepare an informational brochure to provide an overview of the levy, the various projects to be undertaken, and the upcoming Opportunity Fund cycles.

The design of each park project will be based on public input following our established public involvement policy and additional outreach as necessary. This means that for each project, we will install project signs at the sites, and mail notices to all nearby households and businesses as well as community organizations. We will e-mail all interested parties and provide project information on our public web-page.

## **Budget**

Each project has a specific budget intended to cover all planning, design, construction and related cost. The scope of each project must fit within the budget. In some cases, grant funding will be sought to expand the scope of the project. Grant funding is assumed to expand the buying power of many of the property acquisition efforts. Inflation adjustments are available in each project category to compensate for costs due to inflation in the future years of the program.

## **Schedule**

- Progress Briefing and review of Levy Appropriation at the City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee on April 14, 2009.
- Approval of 2009 Levy Appropriation legislation at the Seattle City Council on April 20, 2009 (tentative)
- First meeting of the full Citizen Oversight Committee April 27, 2009.
- Submittal of Levy Management Plan to City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee by June 1, 2009
- Selected levy projects under construction in summer 2009.

## **Additional Information**

For more information, please call Kevin Stoops at 206 698-7053 or by e-mail at [kevin.stoops@seattle.gov/](mailto:kevin.stoops@seattle.gov/).

# **Attachment 1** **2008 Levy Budget Summary**

## **Acquisitions      \$35.697M**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Neighborhood Parks (in Urban Villages) | \$24.0 M |
| • Green Spaces                           | \$6.0 M  |
| • Inflation                              | \$5.697M |

## **Development      \$87.292M**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • <b>Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds \$33.09M</b>   |         |
| ○ Playground Renovations -23 sites (see detailed list) | \$10.4M |
| ○ Reservoir Parks at Maple Leaf and West Seattle       | \$8.2M  |
| ○ Skate Parks at Myrtle, Judkins, and Roxhill          | \$1.25M |
| ○ Spray Park conversions – 3 sites                     | \$0.8M  |
| ○ Off Leash Areas at Magnolia and Queen Anne           | \$0.14M |
| ○ Neighborhood Parks – 11 sites (see detailed list)    | \$12.3M |
| • <b>Cultural Facilities \$11.5M</b>                   |         |
| ○ SAAM   | \$9.0 M |
| ○ Langston Hughes                                      | \$2.5 M |
| • <b>Playfields \$10.5M</b>                            |         |
| ○ Lower Woodland #7                                    | \$2.8 M |
| ○ Lower Woodland #2                                    | \$2.4 M |

- Delridge PF \$3.2 M
- Genesee #1 \$2.1 M
- **Major Neighborhood Parks \$10.95M**
  - Jefferson Park \$5.0M
  - Jefferson Park Skate Park \$1.0M
  - WA Park Arboretum \$2.5M
  - Magnuson Park shoreline/bike path \$0.5M
  - Children’s Play Garden \$0.95M
  - Discovery Park – Capehart Restoration \$1.0 M
- **Inflation \$14.002M** (for development category)
- **Trails \$7.25M**
  - Burke Gilman \$3.75M
  - West Duwamish \$2.0 M
  - Lake to Bay (Thomas St. Overpass) \$1.5 M

**Environment \$8.01M**

- Forest & Stream restoration –Green Sea. Part. \$3.5M
- Forest & Stream Restoration- Kiwanis Ravine \$0.6M
- Community Gardens \$2.0M
- Shoreline Access \$0.5M
- Inflation \$1.41M

**Opportunity Fund \$15.0M**

**TOTAL LEVY \$145.998M**

**Playground Renovations**

Atlantic Street	\$350K
Bayview	\$250K
Beacon Hill	\$180K
Bhy Kracke	\$150K
Brighton	\$450K
Fairmount	\$170K
Gas Works	\$1,400K
Golden Gardens	\$500K
International District	\$500K
John C. Little	\$300K
Laurelhurst Playfield	\$400K
Lawton	\$300K
Maple Leaf	\$450K
Matthews Beach	\$450K
Montlake	\$550K
Northacres	\$550K
Rainier Playfield	\$600K
Ross Playground	\$450K
Roxhill Park	\$450K
Sandel Playground	\$350K
Seward Park	\$450K
Volunteer Park	\$800K
Woodland	\$350K

**Neighborhood Parks listed**

Northgate Urban Center Park	\$2.5M
Hing Hay Park	\$3.0M
7 <sup>th</sup> Elect Church Site	\$1.2M
Crown Hill Elementary	\$1.2M
Cedar Park	\$0.5M
Chinook Beach Park	\$0.1M
Marra-Desimone Park	\$1.1M
Camp Long	\$1.0M
Othello Park	\$0.25M
Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements	\$0.25M
Victor Steinbrueck Park	\$1.60M

***Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion***

Mr. Stoops reviewed the information in the written briefing and gave brief additional information on several of the topics. Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme about who received notice of the public meetings, Mr. Stoops answered that it was broadly distributed. Commissioner Adams asked Mr. Stoops to ensure it was sent to all the Levy Oversight Committee’s distribution lists and Mr. Stoops agreed to do so.

Commissioner Kostka asked if the levy includes environmental projects and Mr. Stoops answered that it includes both the Kiwanis Ravine project and the Green Seattle Partnership. Commissioner Barber asked when the first of the Opportunity Fund projects will be ready. Mr. Stoops responded that it will be in 2010 and 2012. The details haven’t yet been finalized and the Department will need some additional staff to implement these. The model of the previous Levy Opportunity Fund will be very helpful.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Stoops for both briefings and commented that they look forward to his quarterly briefings and learn a great deal about the Department’s projects.

**Old/New Business**

Naming Committee: Commissioner Kostka reported that this committee has met once since she joined it, with names recommended for two new ballfields at Magnuson Park. The next parks to be named are the new park in Northgate (a former park and ride location) and a park in the Morgan Junction area in West Seattle.

Briefing Information from Parks Staff: Commissioner Barber noted that it is helpful for Parks staff to send the Board maps and diagrams when asking the Board for a recommendation.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Ramels, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_