

Lake Washington Boulevard: Vegetation Management Plan
MEETING NOTES
Public Involvement Process Meeting 7: Draft Presentation II
November 30, 2006, 6.30 PM – 9:00 PM
Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98118

The following public comments were recorded at the meeting:

Have attended several meetings. Not a lot of concern for lakeside, but with slope issue, there is a lot of interest.

Is the schedule for the VMP too ambitious?

Seafair and Cherry Blossom had private meetings, there are many groups that feel left out of the public process.

Please define the Lakewood Neighborhood (boundaries).

You may want to rename the Lakewood Neighborhood. The Mount Baker Neighborhood (involves Cascadia and Shoreland).

Sandy Schoolfield of 3140 Lakewood Avenue read a letter from Lakewood Avenue Neighborhoods. Letter continued to be read by another resident of 3140 Lakewood Avenue. Emily Erickson 3702 42nd Avenue S continued to read. Letter has been added to the website as a link, summary of main points below:

- We do not believe that the existing views from within our park along Lake Washington are not “special” because they are open.
- We do not believe that significantly increasing the density of vegetation in our park so most views are ‘internalized’ is the best way to “showcase and protect the spectacular Pacific Northwest landscape”.
- We do not believe grassy lawns should be greatly reduced because you say they were not part of the original Olmsted plan and because they ‘get heavy use in the summer.’
- We do not believe that Olmsted thought a park should or could only be beautiful from beneath trees
- We do not believe that Olmsted thought tall trees should wall off and block out the views of surrounding areas from ‘the people.’
- We do not believe that the cherry trees are simply ‘ornamental’s’ and should be replaced

Larry Jackson, Madrona Neighborhood. Interested in what will happen in the Madrona daylighting area, etc. How will that supercede the Madrona Woods? They guaranteed that there would not be larger trees (25 trees +).

At an earlier slopes discussion, we did a tour of slopes on the PPT. There were sections that showed in many cases the slopes were higher than the trees and would not disturb views.

Gale Devol 3220 Lakewood Ave South. One of the issues that came to light this last week that is addressing a secondary drainage issue. In conversations with Lynn Sullivan who is in charge of that project, she said there would be a series of 35 or more trees that would be planted that reference historical plantings (impressions left by historic trees). Spoke to Senior LARCH and asked how tall these trees were and he said those trees would be somewhere 50-100 feet. That hasn't been addressed as this VMP, but they clearly overlap because they all constitute new plantings. Levy issue passed in 2000. The Lakeside MU, we were under the impression that the plants were only 5' tall. The comment that trees that hadn't been there for 15 years would suddenly be replanted, would be considered a "new" tree rather than an "old" tree.

Are you suggesting there is a deliberate 15 year gap to replace trees? It does sound like Parks is rationalizing for a plan that doesn't exist.

Parks needs a long-term relation with private property owners to establish a multi-generational view.

Why do we want to live in a forest? If we're living in a city, we want to use the parks as parks not as a forest.

This is an area that is 100% logged in the past. I feel that the Parks wants to maintain an old growth forest, but it was logged.

Replace trees that were there or plant new trees, there is inconsistency with VMP goals.

Choice of trees and where Parks places it is what is being disputed.

I've lived in neighborhoods in Seattle where trees have been cut to make views, and it is ugly and barren. The reason we live in LWB is because there are trees and views.

Most of the discussion if not all of it will deal with an area that is not ours. Is there a plan for an area from Genesee to Alaska?

It would be really helpful if we could see what it would look like with the modifications to the Mount Baker neighborhood. How would it feel from LWB and how would it feel from the homes?

Did you say that there are no capital improvement projects for the LWB VMP?

Seattle Parks Foundation, Karen Daubert. Launched a tree donation project. Please prioritize VMP projects. Parks staff is responsive. Many people respond to plans in the final stages. Please take the VMP and mark it up, call Parks staff, and discuss the VMP.

The increase in canopy cover from 13-30% in Map Unit 6. In her photo, the canopy in front of her house has increased in the last several years, does this plan mean it will increase more?

Broader questions: For the drifts in the lakeside, does that mean whenever a tree falls in the water, it will be left floating in the water as a habitat tree? Secondly, regarding the sliding slopes, why isn't the Parks spending money to put up a retaining wall from Madrona to Seward Park to stabilize the slope? Sefair: the lawn on the lakeside is ruined by Seafair over the past 30 years as the bank has become a mess. It is difficult to access, tree roots bare, the land is barren. The south area is a special multi-ethnic, multi-income area, and would like to be notified. Trees such as sequoia block light out of the houses and make it very, very dark. Not just talking about views, but talking about darkness in houses. Destruction between path and lakeshore.

Please ask if Seattle Parks Foundation has raised funds for this project. (Response from Karen Daubert: No active funds, there are no funds for this project, but after the plan is in place we can work on fundraising for projects). On Page 9 there is a beautiful visual that has been put on the computer with a house with a wall of conifers in front. What is the height of the conifers on this slope? You would consider putting a Western Hemlock or Western Red Cedar on a slope?

Funding: there is no funding for this. The last meeting you said that the mayor had funds for trees. Weren't you planning to over plant trees and then scale back? Is that still the plan? Will there be guarantees to the community for this thinning method?

About 10 years ago, with the full blessing of the city, we planted red buds, hazelnut and dogwoods (osier). Should one worry about these being taken away?

Trees and views remember a couple things, 1. Trees are parts of views, they add tremendous value in framing the foreground, the beauty of PNW trees, with adequate spacing, it is not impossible to have a view. 2. LWB this plan involves so much more than just the particular slope in Mount Baker. We should be giving attention to the whole plan, and not just the small pieces. Look back at the big picture, not just the little details – from global warming to pedestrians. 3. I am also a citizen of Seattle, and this resource is not just for neighbors, it belongs to all Seattle citizens. Not just throughout Seattle, but our region, and is of national and international prominence. It is very important piece of open space design. I would think we should be proud to support it and better steward it.

No one would dispute that the plan isn't a good idea, but the process. Who have called the Parks Department time and time again. What is the plan for the maples along the slopes? We love conifers, but have not had response from the Parks Department. Does this plan involve taking down trees? Will there be a specific plan for the maples along the slope? Shouldn't they be a part of the overall plan? Maples have been a part of slides along the slopes for the past 20 years?

Doesn't a larger tree make a bigger waste when a slope fails?

Why would you want to plant a 100-foot tree on such an unstable slope? It is a great risk, there are cars and other pedestrians that could grow from 100-150 feet on a known slide area and fall over LWB.

Students at UW found that tree roots stabilize the slopes.

The largest pools along LWB are around heavily forested areas? Drainage issues along LWB a very big problem.

The friends of Seward Park and Madrona area, do they have a say in what will be planted? Or will the LWB supercede their goals?

I thought I heard a contradiction, is there a 1903 master plan by the Olmsted? When this plan is done, what is its effect? Is it legally binding? What happens? What does it mean? Can these VMPs be modified in the future?

You were talking about 150 ft spacing on the conifers and 100 ft on maples on slopes? So there is a lot of density throughout all the VMP (5 trees per 300 ft²).

Why can't we choose trees that go up 40 feet? Why isn't Parks looking for trees 40 feet tall? Why 100 feet tall? Even with 150 feet spacing, if you end up having a tree right in the middle of your house, the spacing is irrelevant.

If we had 40-foot trees in the slope area, many of the opponents of the current VMP would not be here today and would be funding projects and pulling weeds and fully supporting the VMP.

Friends of Seward Park letter.

On page 31 it calls out Colman Park. You wouldn't expect much of a change in this area?

This sounds like an ambitious project with lots of money. What is the reality of the funds being put together for this VMP? What is the reason for this timing for this plan? Why are we talking about this now, if there isn't funding for this now? The whole plan might be ambitious, but a portion of the plan could be enacted very soon.

On Cascadia, are there elevations to show the community? For example, the elevation level of the lake, road, park property, slopes, etc. Section through LWB to show where parks land is and where someone's relative property is located.

Is it possible, if the obstacle is funding, for homeowners to pay for their portion of the VMP in the spirit of the plan, yet the homeowners had a choice in the implementation of

the plan? List of recommended trees in the slopes section will guide the homeowners implementation of the plan?

Just trying to clarify. Most people value trees and their view. If we could get a glimpse of what would happen? Increasing vegetation slowly will work in opposition with the Mayor's initiative of the 2 to 1 increase. Will the vegetation existing be removed or replaced if it is inconsistent with the VMP?

Seward Park Residents: In front of house, there are a number of trees have been planted, especially conifers. How does one find out how tall they will grow and what kind will grow? There was no notification to the resident, how would one deal with that?