

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee -- January 20, 2009

Committee Members Present: Ryan Barth, Scott Shinn

Staff: Susan Golub, Kelly Davidson

Guests: Morris Wainwright, Joel Wood, Craig Martin, Tony Davies

The meeting began at 7:05 PM. Tonight's meeting was rescheduled from January 12.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved and modified to allow Kelly to report on her issues first.

Dahl Playfield

Kelly reviewed the project status, noting that Newline Skateparks will be participating in the 65% construction review meeting tomorrow. Currently, it is hopeful that the project will be bid for construction by March and ready to skate by July. Discussion ensued regarding drainage issues, plantings, community donations of trees to the site. The budget targets (see below table) are on track.

Skatepark Implementation Plan Budget

Kelly provided the following information about the current budget:

Total CIP	\$365,000
Dahl	200,000
Delridge	76,682
Skate Dots	84,668
1% for art	3,650
Total	\$365,000

Delridge Subtotal	\$76,682
Design Contract	\$61,500
Design Admin	6,182
Public Involvement	3,000
Design review	3,000
Design surveys	3,000
Permits	3,500
Dahl Subtotal	\$200,000
Design Contract	\$18,000
Design Admin	9,000
Public Involvement	1,000
Design review	3,000
Design surveys	3,000
Permits	3,500
Construction	130,000
Construction Contingency	19,500
Construction Admin	13,000

Delridge

Kelly reported that the second public meeting for the Delridge skatepark occurred last week, with approximately 55 people attending. A large amount of public input was collected by Grindline Skateparks, who also provided analysis and organization for the comments. An overwhelming amount of support was expressed for the skatepark. Discussion ensued regarding the efficiency of the meeting format and the use of only two of the three public meetings to focus on skatepark design. The first design meeting was focused on gaining input from the public on the specific location within the park for the skatepark. At most other sites, the specific location for the skatepark has been identified prior to the design process so all three public meetings have focused on design input and review. Kelly noted that the Parks website can be used for additional public review prior to the next (final) design meeting, which will be the final opportunity for the public to provide input on the skatepark design. Kelly is to follow up with Parks staff and Grindline Skateparks/Abbotswood to make the design options available to the public for review and comment before the final design meeting.

John & Summit

Kelly reviewed the project status, and met last week with the community group, which will need to raise \$140,000 to build the entire park. The skatedot is still part of the proposed park design, but the group would like to see skate advocates help with the fundraising effort for this park element. Discussion ensued regarding the type of skate feature that has been proposed here, which would be a long ledge, and ways to involve volunteers in the effort without requiring large amounts of overhead.

Lower Woodland

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the baseball nets and lighting for the skatepark. Susan noted that levy money could be used to purchase lights at this site. Tony and Morris noted that four lights could likely cover the entire skatepark. Kelly reviewed the process for installing new lights through the Department of Planning and Development, which would be far more difficult than redirecting existing lights from the softball and soccer fields. Scott confirmed with Kelly that a DPD or SEPA review would also be required for new lights, and noted that this would open the process up to costly and lengthy permit and public process like those which occurred before the skatepark opened. Kelly is to follow up with Kim Baldwin regarding lights.

Public Comments

Morris reported that there are several divots in the skatepark at this time and that a coping block in the bowl is broken, as well as several additional degradations. Tony reported that some of the tiles have also fallen out. Discussion ensued regarding tags, bikes, security cameras and lights. Scott is to call parks maintenance to fix the damage, and to work with Morris to obtain the correct replacement coping. Discussion ensued regarding how absurd it is to call 911 to report bikers in the bowl, possible installation of brooms and locked toolboxes, and rocks in the skatepark that are tracked in by bikes or kicked in from the adjacent gravel path.

Kate Martin provided the following comments via email:

- Vision Greenwood Park has applied for Small & Simple Matching Funds from the Department of Neighborhoods to see about developing a design for the 4 eastern parcels at Greenwood Park which will ultimately be developed as a part of the main park. Meetings will happen in the late spring and anyone wanting to advocate for a skateable component will have an opportunity then. I'm thinking a real nice permanent half-pipe, personally.
- Later in the fall, visioning for Sandel Park will swing into gear as that is funded for a playground update in the recently passed levy. That one is mapped on the Skatepark Plan, so maybe something more significant than a dot.

SeaSk8

Ryan reported that McClure will be the general contractor and Grindline Skateparks will be their subcontractor for the skatepark. The selection of Grindline Skateparks as the construction contractor is a huge win for Seattle skateboarders given they are one of the best skatepark contractors available. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the space by festivals, with follow-up talks with Seattle Center to occur before this summer.

River City

Ryan noted that Kim Schwarzkopf reports that construction will hopefully begin within the next month. Discussion ensued regarding liability issues and engineering approval for the design, fundraising, and ongoing maintenance for the skatepark.

Proposition 2 Skatepark Funds

Susan reviewed the status of the new 2008 Parks Levy Oversight Committee, which will consist of 9 members from the Pro Parks Oversight Committee plus 7 new members.

Roosevelt Skate Spot

Scott reviewed the history of the project to date, noting that the initial effort to build this skatespot was part of a larger effort to redevelop the space under I-5 to be more community-friendly in 2002. Skate advocates were originally solicited to participate in 2006 by the 4Culture organization as part of its "Roosevelt/Green Lake Art Corridor" initiative. At this time, following a normal review process during which Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) approved the project all the way to the state level, the agency is requesting an environmental impact statement before moving forward with a market analysis, which would then likely result in a "fair market value" of approximately \$2500 per month to rent this 10,000 square foot space as a temporary facility. Discussion ensued regarding the idea for the City to establish the skatespot and the proposed adjacent "Earthwork Park" as a "highway benefit" in a manner similar to the I-5 Colonnade Mountain Bike Park. WSDOT currently waives monetary consideration at this park in lieu of "the City's discouragement of vagrancy and increased security of the site, and the City's assumption of WSDOT's obligations to remove litter, graffiti, and vagrant camps."

At this point in time, in light of the greater need to establish skateparks other areas of the City under existing campaigns, the current economic issues facing our City and the entire nation, and the fact that WSDOT will be conducting an I-5 “rehab” in 2017, the SPAC recommends postponing this project for five years. Scott is to request that WSDOT revisit this issue in 2014 by initiating communication with the Seattle Parks staff member serving as SPAC liaison at that time. Scott will continue working with the original community groups to sustain and build grassroots support for the project in the meantime. As noted in a public disclosure request made by Parents for Skateparks (reference number: 08 1171) WSDOT will keep copies of the documentation for the Roosevelt Skatespot (inventory control number: i-17-07535) on file until 2015.

Wall of Death

Scott reviewed the recent history of the skatestopper installation at the Wall of Death art project along the Burke Gilman Trail, as well as efforts to reestablish skateboarding in this space. At this point, artist Mowry Baden is working with the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs to redesign this space, and has been provided with a copy of the Skaters for Public Skateparks Street Elements Visual Glossary for reference. One central goal of this public art exhibit has always been to facilitate movement through the space on various kinds of wheeled devices, and it is hopeful that skateboarding in the area above the skatestoppered embankment will be a consideration in the redesign. Scott is to continue following up with SDOT and the Mayor’s Office on this effort.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02

The next meeting will occur on Monday, March 9, 7 PM, 100 Dexter Ave.