

Minutes  
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee  
February 12, 2007

Committee Members Present: John Carr, Scott Shinn, Keith Strobel, Dan Hughes, Ryan Barth

Guests: Craig Martin, Ben Johnson, Dillon, Elliot Jasper, Justin Amoratanasuchad, Rachael LeVally, Robbie Paine

Staff: Susan Golub

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**Public Comments:**

Dillon asked about Lower Woodland and Susan explained the history of the process for this skatepark thus far, and that bids would be opened on Wednesday with construction anticipated for this spring. Additional discussion ensued regarding the proposed design.

Justin asked about the proposed Gasworks skatedot. John and Scott reviewed the process and timeline for the Citywide Skatepark Plan, the skatepark typology and the skatedot concept. Dillon commented on the current status of the ledges at Gasworks. Scott asked about public meetings and Susan noted that two public meetings are the minimum for new park projects. Additional discussion ensued regarding potential skate features and logistics, community outreach, getting volunteers involved, city resources for skate advocates, next steps for the citywide plan and design meetings.

**Minutes from 1/8/07 meeting:** Minutes were approved and will be forwarded to Susan by John.

**SeaSk8 (Seattle Center Skatepark):**

John reviewed details of the 2/7 meeting between SPAC delegates and John Merner of the Seattle Center. Action items from the meeting included SPAC gathering information about urban skateparks in proximity to amenities similar to the Seattle Center. Brainstorming results thus far include the following case studies:

- Louisville, KY
- Memphis, TN
- Shoreline, WA
- Milton-Freewater, OR
- Sammamish, WA
- Hastings, Vancouver, next to Pacific Northwest Exposition Centre
- Venice, CA
- Helsinki, Finland
- Kettering, OH
- Stoke Plaza, England
- Various Vans skateparks in North American shopping malls
- Bonney Lake, WA

Craig commented that a disadvantage of the Louisville park was that it was not close to urban amenities, and will provide pictures of the site from his visit there. Dan commented that the Milton-Freewater, OR skatepark was built in an unpopular area of town, that the skatepark activated the space, and that the local government there views it as a success story. Dillon asked about the timeline for the actual location of the skatepark on the campus. John reported that the Seattle Center was to report back to the City Council by March 1<sup>st</sup> with a site recommendation. Dan asked about the footprint for the skatepark; it is to be 8000 square feet.

Scott mentioned that the street section of the Elliott Ave site design was a skateable plaza. Keith countered that this should be the most cutting edge street plaza available, and that the previous design should not constrain the new process. John mentioned that high end materials like granite should be considered, and that the cost per square foot for street terrain is much lower than the cost of verticle terrain.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the criteria to be submitted to the Seattle Center for siting the skatepark.

### **SPAC Chair:**

John reviewed the nomination process for SPAC Chair from the last meeting, and that Ryan and Scott were the nominees. Scott noted that he declined and became the SPAC Secretary. No one objected to the nominations. John called for a vote on Ryan as the new SPAC chair. All were in favor.

### **Master Planning Process:**

John reviewed the master planning process thus far. Susan noted that the next step is review by the City Council Parks, Education, Libraries and Labor Committee (PELL), and subsequent to their review, adoption by the full Council. There is currently no budget for skatepark construction tied to the plan. Funding the plan could come during the City budget process, or possibly could be attached by the City Council to the plan adoption resolution. SPAC's contribution to Parks budgeting process would best occur first in May, when Parks is beginning to put the budget together, and then would continue during the City Council's review in the fall. Susan will track upcoming PELL Committee meetings and provide information to Ryan regarding the schedule for plan adoption.

### **Ballard Graffiti and Maintenance:**

Scott provided an update on the status of the Friends of the Ballard Bowl organization and will continue to provide support for this stewardship organization in his capacity as a local neighborhood skater. There was a discussion about the addition of the railings at the Bowl, and it was noted that the skaters do not like the railings. The railings were part of the original design for the skatepark, but Parks only recently installed them.

Regarding skatepark graffiti, Susan reported that Parks Safety Office concerns about staff entering the bowl were being addressed by Paul Wilkinson, Parks Carpentry Shop Crew Chief. John asked why skateparks can't be treated like swimming pools for maintenance. Susan suggested that this is because they lack steps. John countered that swimming pools lack steps to the bottom. Dan noted that the fire department uses a ladder when someone is trapped in a bowl.

## **SPAC Visioning**

John provided the following list of SPAC accomplishments for 2007:

- BMX policy
- Cookbook
- SeaSk8 location fight and input
- Lower Woodland fight
- Youthquake
- Programming talks started
- Transition/vert/skill level policy stated
- Graffiti negotiations started
- Input on Roosevelt skatespot
- Ballard opening day
- Skatepark Open House at Ballard
- Presence at National Parks and Recreation Convention
- Dahl Playfield skatespot support
- Provided input into modular ramps offered by Kaboom
- Support for Citywide Skatepark Plan
- Winter Social - Oct.

John suggested that rather than simply reacting to events, we might want to think about the functions we should be serving, expressed concern about dwindling attendance, and suggested that shorter meetings could work. Susan suggested that we should focus on big quarterly meetings including the May Budget meeting and the October Youth event. Ryan and Keith countered that continuity becomes an issue for meetings that occur with less frequency than monthly. Two hours seems to be the minimum amount of time required for effective meetings.

A fundamental issue with the SPAC is that it is composed of adults who speak to other adults and this alienates kids. Having the meetings at schools would help bring out more kids to meetings, in addition to a SPAC MySpace account. Distributing flyers, cards and leaflets, compiling mailing lists for SPAC meeting agendas, and events would help boost participation. Additional membership and outreach for SPAC members will also be important, especially from local high schools.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of kids and advocating for kids in public skateparks, and of representing the need to build skateparks for the kids, in addition to remaining true to the history of skateboarding over the generations, and the need to represent a variety of skating styles in this complex activity. Above all, the need to build skateparks is paramount.

Dan noted that the initial creation of the SPAC was a reaction to the Ballard Bowl struggle. The role of the SPAC will necessarily shift toward becoming a forum for building more skateparks according to the citywide master plan.

Having input into the Seattle Center planning process is an important component of rebuilding the SeaSk8 skatepark.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM