

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
November 13, 2006

Committee Members Present: John Carr, Chair, Dan Hughes, Matthew Johnston, Ryan Barth, Keith Stobel, Scott Shinn, Kim Schwarzkopf, Fleur Larson

Staff: Susan Golub, Susanne Friedman, Chris Reed

Guests: Cath Brunner of 4Culture and Sheila Klein, artist

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Public Comments – Pre-Meeting

Craig Martin: Skateparks are great!

Roosevelt Skatepark: Cath Martin of 4Culture, King County's arts program, briefed the Committee on the project to add art and a skatepark to the area underneath I-5 at NE65th and Roosevelt. About a year ago four artists were asked to evaluate the site and develop a design. A jury selected Sheila Klein, and she received \$300,000 to implement the project. There is no specific proposal yet, but there are ideas for how the project might proceed. The focus will be to add light and color to what currently is a pretty derelict site, as described by Sheila. The goal is to have a proposal for the project reviewed and approved next spring, with work underway in a year.

Committee member Scott Shinn stated he has been working with the community for the skatepark piece of the project. He has received a lot of support, but no money. He thinks that perhaps this could be a do-it-yourself type project and that after the go-ahead is received the skate community will need to raise money for the project. Committee member Matt Johnston noted that skateboarders will provide eyes on the skatepark; but also expressed concern regarding the noise and air quality at this location. Scott stated that the critical piece was WSDOT approval, which will be sought after the Citywide Skatepark Plan is approved. WSDOT's main concerns are building a permanent feature and maintenance. Scott stated that in Portland, the Burnside skatepark pays the City of Portland's Parks Department \$4,000 per year to clean the skatepark. Sheila noted that the site currently gets very little cleaning, and thought that perhaps King County and SDOT could clean the area and remove garbage.

Project Updates

Citywide Skatepark Plan: John Carr stated that the Citywide Skatepark Plan Task Force will be making a recommendation on a preliminary set of sites and City staff will be making a separate recommendation. The City Council Parks, Education, Libraries and Labor Committee will receive a briefing on the recommendations in December and there will be a public hearing before the Board of Park Commissioners on December 14. There has been a lot of positive feedback on the plan.

River City Skatepark: Kim Schwartzkopf reported that construction has started for Phase 1, and a planter and slab will be in place by the end of December. On December 5 there will be a fundraiser for the project featuring lunch at Salty's in West Seattle and Warren Miller. Also, of note, the SoDo Rotary donated \$10,000 to the project for a decorative fence.

Lower Woodland Skatepark: The hearing on the appeal of the Declaration of Non-significance was held on October 31 and Parks is waiting to for the decision, which should be out soon.

Seattle Center Skatepark Relocation: Susan Golub reported that the City Council, in a budget action, is requiring the Seattle Center find a site for a skatepark on their campus. John Carr noted that a skatepark within the Center grounds would emphasize street/plaza terrain and that SPAC would work with the Center to find the best location.

Graffiti Mitigation: Ryan Barth talked to the skatepark design/build firm of Site Design and learned that none of their skateparks include anti-graffiti solution because it clogs the pores of the concrete. They informed Ryan that there is no good, easy chemical solution to the graffiti problem. John reiterated his request that Parks and Recreation reconsider the confined space policy.

Skatepark Funding: Matt Johnston reported that there is no skatepark funding in Parks 2007 budget.

Ballard Skatepark Maintenance: Scott Shinn reported on a meeting that Parks had to address vandalism at the Ballard skatepark. Thirteen people attended, and Scott is working on creating a Friends of Ballard Bowl group, with a goal of holding quarterly meetings. Susan Golub handed out draft language for a new sign for Ballard that would address the graffiti and vandalism problem. She requested feedback from the Committee because the idea is to have the sign speak directly to skaters with effective language and perhaps endorsements from shops or organizations that skaters respect.

Build Your Own Skatepark Recipe – Update

John Carr reported that there are contracts for web design and graphic support for this project. Once the content is finalized, the contracted businesses are ready to go. In addition to providing the material on the web, copies will be printed.

One issue is who will host the web site. Matt stated that the cost is approximately \$7.50 per year. He stated he will get the web site started and will be the initial host. After some discussion it was concluded that a printed version of the entire workbook would be made, as well as a shorter summary in brochure form.

Skate Law Summit

Fleur recommended incorporating skate law information in the skatepark cookbook. Keith noted that the outcome of the summit should translate into skatepark design.

SPAC Business

The Committee decided not to have a December meeting and that the January meeting will focus on the Skate Law Summit.