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Mary Johnston
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Julie Parrett

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 1, 2010

Convened 9:30am
Adjourned 2:30pm

Projects Reviewed

West Seattle Reservoir Park
King Street Station

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Andrew Barash
Brendan Connolly
Julie Bassuk
Lauren Hauck
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino



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July 1, 2010

Project: West Seattle Reservoir Park

Phase: Schematic Design

Last Reviewed: Apr 15, 2010

Presenters: Mark Brands, Site Workshop
Susanne Friedman, Parks and Recreation

Attendees: Patricia Hopper, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs
Tracy Record, West Seattle Blog
Michael Shiosaki, Parks and Recreation
Savannah Moran, Site Workshop

Time: 1 hour

ACTION

The Commission thanked the design team for their clear presentation of the West Seattle Reservoir Park, particularly the 3D materials that were provided. The park is very thoughtfully designed, and the team has successfully mediated between the neighborhood's and Park and Recreation's needs and requirements. Commissioners were excited to see the use of rain gardens to absorb surface water runoff. They also applauded the use of the grid as an expression of the underground reservoir structure below, and the use of corner markers to delineate the location of it. The choice to provide a savannah landscape was also commended.

The Commission unanimously approved the schematic design direction, with the following recommendations:

- Strengthen the above ground expression of the underground reservoir structure. Express the grid and corner markers in a single design vocabulary. Utilize art as a means to celebrate the reservoir presence.
- While the savannah is an exciting landscape strategy, conduct the proper research to ensure it is successful.
- Protect and feature the well established east forest area as a park element and strengthen the connection of the more formal area of the park with it.
- Raise awareness of the trail and its context in the larger regional trail system.
- Provide more emphasis to the entrance to the forest that is located near the dog parks, on the east of the site. Explore gradually increasing the width of the path that runs from the center of the site toward the forest to create a visual cue that this is a place to enter the forest.
- Explore the challenge of how to bring non-dog park users from the main part of the park to the forest where the path passes through the dog park. Consider a sort of "giraffe chute" with gates to control the passage of dogs across the path.
- Consider moving the play area to an area with other more active uses to concentrate activity;