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**Marshall Foster**  
Planning Director, DPD

**Julie Bassuk**  
Chair

**Malika Kirkling**

**Laurel Kunkler**

**Tom Nelson**

**Osama Quotah**

**Julie Parrett**

**Norie Sato**

**Donald Vehige**

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## **APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**August 18, 2011**

Convened 8:30am  
Adjourned 2:00pm

### **Projects Reviewed**

Bell Street Park  
SDOT Art Plan  
Universal Design and Public Open Space

### **Commissioners Present**

Julie Parrett, Chair  
Malika Kirkling  
Tom Nelson  
Osama Quotah (excused from 12:00pm-2:00pm)  
Norie Sato  
Donald Vehige  
Debbie Wick-Harris

### **Excused Commissioners**

Julie Bassuk  
Laurel Kunkler

### **Staff Present**

Valerie Kinast



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August 18, 2011

**Project:** Bell Street Park

**Phase:** 70% design

**Last Reviewed:** Feb 18, 2010

**Presenters:** Patrick Donohue, Parks and Recreation  
Nate Cormier, SvR

**Attendees:** Shane DeWald, SDOT  
Jason Huff, Arts and Cultural Affairs

**Time:** 10:00am-11:00am

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## Project Presentation

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation presented plans for an interdepartmental effort to create a park-like corridor along Bell Street, from 1st Ave to 5th Ave. through the heart of Belltown. One traffic and one parking lane will be removed; the roadway will be elevated to sidewalk level to create a continuous space, but not where Bell St. crosses the avenues. The four-block area will be improved with park type amenities such as trees, landscaping, better lighting and wider sidewalks on the north side of Bell Street. The design includes natural drainage cells that wind along the north side of the street to receive run-off and provide a continuous green element linking the four blocks. After construction, Parks and SDOT will do the maintenance.

## ACTION

The Design Commission would like to thank the design team for its clear presentation of Bell Street Park. The commission appreciated the trees and for overcoming the hurdles inherent in such a complicated, cross-departmental project. By a vote of 7-0, the commission approved the 70% design, with the following comments:

- The design lacks the heart of public space; it reads more like street. The linearity of the design overwhelms spaces to sit and gather and inhibits cross movement and visual connection.
- Encourage placemaking through parks programming and ample, quality seating.
- Refine and make more dynamic the grid pattern in areas designed for intentional uses. Consider changing bandwidths, colors, and shapes.
- Develop a stronger visual linkage across avenues.
- Develop signage to signal drivers and bicyclists that they're in a shared space. Consider using chevrons or bike and car image.
- Use light fixtures that don't encourage climbing.
- Design and fabricate the objects so they bend when hit. They should not fly or remain rigid.
- Provide water and garbage service for food trucks.
- Do a debrief and lessons learned on the challenges of implementing an interdepartmental, shared space project.