



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2008

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Neal Adams
John Barber
Terry Holme
Donna Kostka
Christine Larsen
Jackie Ramels, Acting Chair

Excused:

Amit Ranade, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Tim Gallagher, Superintendent
Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Commissioner Barber moved, and Commissioner Holme seconded, approval of the agenda as amended, and the June 12 minutes as corrected. The vote was taken and the motion approved.**

Commissioner Ramels acknowledged the high volume of correspondence forwarded by the Board's Coordinator since the June 12 meeting, including 450 e-mails and letters on the Summer Road Closure Proposal, and many parks-related newspaper articles, press releases, and announcements.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gallagher reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Greenwood Park Graffiti: After getting hit especially hard with graffiti over the past weekend, Parks crews responded swiftly by removing the graffiti, posting signage, locking the restroom at night, and adding additional security. Neighbors have called 911 to report the damage, but the vandals were gone by the time Seattle Police arrived. Many park neighbors have written their thanks to the Department for the swift response. June saw the highest amount of graffiti in Seattle's parks since staff have been tracking it. For more information on Greenwood Park, see http://cityofseattle.net/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=4408.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Adams on whether this is a “blip” or a trend, the Superintendent answered that more graffiti – with more of it gang-related – is showing up all over Seattle, especially in the South end. One reason for the increase is that the taggers want recognition for their graffiti.

Magnuson Park Rodents: Recently, Magnuson Park P-patch members reported an infestation of rats at the Magnuson Park P-Patch. Seattle Animal Control and King County Health Department are helping with the problem by trapping the rats. Some people believe the problem is the result of the construction project at the park pushing the rats from their usual habitat to the P-patch; however, the construction began in April and the rats just recently appeared. Staff believe that the rodents are attracted to the garden’s food. For more information on Magnuson Park and the construction project, see <http://cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/Magnuson.htm>.

Green Lake Water Skiing Permit: The Department’s current policy permits two water skiing events each year at Green Lake Park. The policy also gives the Department the right to restrict the dates of the events. This spring’s event, which had a low attendance, was disturbing to the local nesting waterfowl. Recently, the ski group requested to hold a second ski event on the weekend of August 30 and 31 and the Superintendent denied the request. The Park Board will be asked to recommend whether to continue allowing ski events at Green Lake. For more information on Green Lake Park, see http://cityofseattle.net/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=307.

Golden Gardens Beach Fires and Park Rangers Update: Two new fire pits will be installed on July 11 near the ponds at the north end of the beach. This is an area where many illegal fires are built and the Department is trying to legitimize the fires in that area. Park Rangers were sent there last weekend. However, earlier this year the Police Guild negotiated with the City that the Park Rangers may only work in downtown parks. This agreement was unknown to the Parks Department. Superintendent Gallagher stated that having the Park Rangers at Golden Gardens was very successful and he will work on continuing this. For more information on Golden Gardens Park, see http://cityofseattle.net/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=243.

Ravenna Wading Pool Update: As reported earlier, a few years ago several concrete turtles were installed in the wading pool as part of a Neighborhood Matching Fund project. Recently, King County Health Department determined that the turtles must be removed, be placed six foot apart, and have the sharp edges removed. That work has been completed and the turtles re-installed; however, the Health Department has now requested that the new rubberized surface must also be sealed. Maintaining the seal under water is very problematic and the turtles will be removed from the pool and installed on the outside. Consequently, the wading pool will not open for another several weeks. For more information on wading pools, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/wadingpools.asp>.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on whether this is now the most expensive wading pool ever, the Superintendent answered that he does not yet have the cost figures.

Department Re-organization: To be more responsive to the Climate Action Now program and the range of environmental stewardship responsibilities inherent to the mission, Parks will modify the Horticulture unit and change the name to Natural Resources. This unit will include wildlife management, utility conservation, Environmental Living Centers, trail crews, urban forestry, and tree crews.

The Superintendent also welcomed the return of Michael Shiosaki to the Department. Mr. Shiosaki is a former Park Board member and was also the Pro Parks Levy Manager Director before accepting a position with a park department on the east side of Lake Washington.

City Council: Parks is asking for an increase of \$1.8 million to the Lake Union Park project, with much of the cost due to the rising cost of steel. For more information on the South Lake Union Park project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/lakeunionpark.htm>.

Magnuson Park Building Vacations: The Department recently learned that Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) will direct it not to operate Buildings 30 and 2 at Magnuson Park for public events. This direction is being given because the buildings do not meet current code for public occupancy. Last year, DPD directed that Buildings 27 and 18 be shut down for public events. Arena Sports uses Building 2 and a number of Department staff and non-profits use Building 30. The closures are likely to take place this fall. These aging buildings are reaching a crisis point. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. Eight people signed up to testify.

Grover Haynes: Mr. Haynes spoke on two issues: (1) He walks along Lake Washington Boulevard every day and believes that it is counter-productive to close it on Thursdays. There are many commuters who use the Boulevard and he believes it is a disservice to them if they aren't allowed to commute on it; (2) He showed a photo of a Sanikan in Seward Park, stated that it is ugly and doesn't fit the attractive surroundings, and asked if it could be removed.

John Hungate: He has lived on Lake Washington Boulevard since 1960 and it is his main link to transportation. When the Boulevard is closed for bike day, he must detour to Rainier Avenue. He supports bicyclists, but asked the Department to use restraint in the summer road closure.

Roger Monson: He opposed the proposal to re-name Queen Anne Pool after a former mayor (Mayor Gordon Clinton) that he knows nothing about. He believes that there are other Queen Anne residents who better deserve to have the pool named after them. He also sent the Board an e-mail stating his opposition.

He also suggested that Lake Washington Boulevard could be revised so there is one lane for bikes and one for cars.

Dolores Merriman: She has lived on Lake Washington Boulevard for many years and is opposed to closing it on Thursday. She and her daughter have used Rainier Avenue as an alternate route on bike days, but have had two serious accidents. Her daughter is homebound and they depend on health care providers being able to cross the Boulevard to provide health care to them every day. The Boulevard is the only safe route for them to get to medical appoints. She is also concerned because Thursday is garbage pickup day along the Boulevard.

Pat Murakami: She is President of Mount Baker Community Council and received feedback from community members that the summer road closure pilot has not been well thought out. She referred to cars being re-routed to Rainier Avenue and driving too fast along neighborhood streets. She suggested that bicyclists who use streets be licensed. She has seen bicyclists on Lake Washington

Boulevard kick vehicles and spit in the windows. As an alternative to closing the Boulevard, she suggested that the Department consider restricting the type of cars to diesel or electric models. She also suggested widening the current pedestrian pathway that runs along the Boulevard.

Don Harper: He also opposes re-naming Queen Anne Pool to Gordon Clinton Pool and believes that former Mayor Clinton had little connection with the pool. He referred to the Department's policy that people must be dead for three years before a park or facility can be named after them – and former Mayor Clinton is still living. He suggested the pool could be named "Bill Blair Queen Anne Pool."

Chris Leman: He is the City Neighborhood Council Chair and was pleased to see Seattle Channel filming tonight's Park Board meeting. The CNC had included in its budget letter to City Council that this room be wired at no extra expense to broadcast the Park Board's meetings.

He also addressed the NMF Public Involvement Policy and stated that his own experience with Pamela Kliment, Seattle Parks' NMF liaison, has been positive. However, as CNC Chair he received a letter from the Mount Baker Community Council that Parks had vetoed the Council's ability to apply to the NMF. He urged that Parks let all apply and if there are problems, the City Neighborhood Council and Citywide Review Team (both are all citizen volunteers) would review and turn down the application. He believes that the CNC received late notice of this rejection and should have been included much earlier in the process. He has discussed this with Superintendent Gallagher and doesn't believe it will happen again.

Howard Anderson: He lives in the Lakeside South area and either bikes or walks along the lake every day. He has seen the traffic rates grow along the Boulevard. The traffic is very heavy and not patrolled well, and there is erratic driving and friction between vehicle drivers and bicyclists. More enforcement and control is needed, with cars speeding at rates of 50-60 mph. He supports the extended weekend closures, but not until 9:00 pm. He does not support a Thursday closure.

Discussion/Recommendation: Summer Road Closures of Selected Park Roads

At the Board's June 12 meeting, Karen Tsao, Seattle Parks and Recreation Strategic Analyst, briefed the Board on the Department's proposal for a pilot project to close some interior park roads during the summer. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. Commissioners also received a written briefing prior to the meeting, which was available to the public on the Board's web site and hard copies were available at the meeting. The Board received testimony that a number of people who live near Lake Washington Boulevard received late notice of this proposal, due to notice being sent by bulk mail. At the Board's June 26 meeting, Commissioners voted on the Volunteer Park and Seward Park components of the pilot and delayed voting on the Lake Washington Boulevard segment to allow additional time for public comments. To read the minutes from the June 12 meeting see <http://cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/06-12-08.pdf>. To read the minutes from the June 26 meeting, see <http://cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/06-26-08.pdf>. The Board accepted written testimony through July 9.

Commissioner Ramels reviewed the number of comments received by the Park Board on this pilot proposal, with nearly 450 e-mails, U.S. mail letters, public hearing comments, and faxes received:

- 277, or 62%, support the proposal as presented or requested additional closures
- 51, or 11%, support additional weekend closures. Most do not support a Thursday closure and some do not support extending the hours of closure

- 118, or 26%, oppose the proposal

Commissioners read all the comments and took them into consideration. Several people wrote that the Park Board was proposing this pilot and Commissioner Ramels clarified that the Board does not make proposals. Proposals are made by the Executive, Superintendent, or Parks staff and then the Board reacts to the proposals.

Staff Briefing Update

Ms. Tsao then introduced herself and stated that she will be reviewing the testimony for additional suggestions on how to make bicycle days better in the future.

This pilot is in coordination with the City’s Climate Action Now (CAN) program and the “Give Your Car the Summer Off” program. It will help reduce the number of cars in the three parks, promote healthy living, and help neighbors connect with each other.

She next reviewed the hours of closure. Ms. Tsao met with staff at both Seward and Volunteer Park and the hours have been set there as 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The west loop only will be closed at Volunteer Park and nearby Miller Community Center will help staff those closures. Seward Park will be closed at the main entrance gates; however, the parking lots will remain open, as well as access to the Seward Park Art Studio.

Since the June 26 meeting, staff have considered comments from the Park Board and the public and determined that the pilot Thursday closure will be shortened to 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to avoid the commuter periods, and the hours of closure will not be extended to 9:00 pm as previously proposed in the pilot. The revised hours and days of the Lake Washington Boulevard bicycle day closures are as follows and reflect four new days of closures:

Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - starting August 7 and ending September 25

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (new dates highlighted in green)

- August 9
- September 13
- **September 27 - new**

Sundays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (new dates highlighted in green)

- July 20
- August 17
- **August 24 - new**
- **August 31 - new**
- **September 7 - new**
- September 21

Ms. Tsao next responded to a number of questions/comments from both the Board and the public on the pilot:

- *What is the value of extending the closures from 6:00 pm to a new closure time of 9:00 pm?* Parks staff have reported to Ms. Tsao that the number of riders drops considerably about 5:00 pm. Consequently, the time of closure won’t be extended later in the day. The 6:00 pm closure time will work well in September, when days get much shorter than in the summer.
- *What is the usual attendance on a bicycle day?* From estimates 2,160 people participated in May and 3,720 in June of this year.

- *What are the traffic counts for Lake Washington Boulevard?* Weekday traffic averages between 3-5,000 vehicles, with about 15% less traffic on Monday. One Saturday morning register 1,000 counts in a one-hour period.
- *What is the proportion of traffic during commuter hours?* The traffic is nearly double during the morning and afternoon commute than it is at mid-day.
- *Concerns about people detouring to other streets when Lake Washington Boulevard is closed.* Parks cannot control the alternate routes that vehicles use.
- *How many bicycle accidents have been reported on Lake Washington Boulevard?* One in 2008 and three each in 2006 and 2007. Approximately 10 vehicle accidents reported in both 2006 and 2007. There may have been other non-serious accidents that weren't reported.
- *What can be done about complaints of bicyclists speeding along the Boulevard?* There are no additional traffic police available for the bicycle day closures. Education is the key and is a component of Seattle Department of Transportation's Bicycle Master Plan. Cascade Bicycle Club is also working on a three-year plan and bike safety and courtesy is a component of its plan.
- *Can the Boulevard be marked with sharrows to designate bicycle lanes?* Ms. Tsao described the sharrow symbols, which designate that lanes are to be shared by both bicycles and motorized vehicles. The sharrow locations are determined and installed by SDOT. Lake Washington Boulevard was not designated in its Bicycle Master Plan for sharrows, as SDOT was waiting for Parks to initiate the request to do so. Another option to increase safety may include pedestrian crossings and safer routes to the park. Another consideration is that the Boulevard is part of the Olmsted Plan.
- *What public transportation is already in place for the public to reach Lake Washington Boulevard?* Three buses serve the Boulevard.
- *How will homeowners and their service vehicles access their homes during the closures?* There are 47 private home driveways along the route of the closure, with 30 of those in the last ½ mile. Permits will be issued to the homeowners and to their service vehicles (health care providers who make home visits, etc.) This is a "soft" closure and people will be on the honor system for access. Signage will be posted so that bikers and pedestrians are aware that the vehicles must cross the Boulevard to gain access to the homes.
- *Will Lake Sawyer Motorized Flight Club still be able to fly their motorized planes on Thursdays, as they are currently permitted to do so, at Seward Park?* Parks staff are working with the Club, which may move their flight day to Tuesday.
- *How will people access Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing during the closures?* Signage will be posted designating that access is allowed to both the boat ramps and marina.
- *How will the closure affect the Thursday garbage collection?* Most of the garbage collection is completed by 10:00 am, when the closure would begin. Rabanco [garbage collection company] already adjusts its schedule for the Seafair hydroplane races and is ready to discuss the pilot schedule with Parks.
- *Will barricades be set up to designate the closure?* Yes, they are available on the proposed dates of the closures.
- *Is it likely that the closures would be impacted by the State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)?* Ms. Tsao has contacted the City's attorney's who believe the closure would qualify as a categorical exemption to SEPA.
- *What are other examples of city's closing their roads for bicycling, walking, and other forms of recreation?* Many cities now schedule closures of their roads for these purposes, including Portland, Oregon. The largest is "Cyclovia" in Bogota, Columbia, which closes 70 miles of its city streets and has as many as 2 million participants during weekend closures. [For more about Bogota's Cyclovia, see <http://www.mail-archive.com/sustainabletompkins@lists.mutualaid.org/msg02385.html>]

Board Discussion and Recommendation

Commissioner Kostka suggested making the hours of closure consistent at Lake Washington Boulevard, Volunteer Park, and Seward Park. Ms. Tsao answered that there are a number of evening events held at Seattle Asian Art Museum (located within Volunteer Park) and vehicle access to the building is required. In addition, the Volunteer Park closures depend on support from staff at nearby Miller Community Center.

Commissioner Larsen asked why all of Volunteer Park isn't closed, with access permitted for buses to unload passengers and ADA requirements. The nearby neighborhood has ample parking for those who must drive to the park. Ms. Tsao answered that a number of caregivers drive to the park and have multiple children/adults and their gear with them, making it difficult for them to walk from the neighborhood to the park and wading pool. Staff will poll the park visitors during the pilot and determine if Commissioner Larsen's suggestion is feasible.

Commissioner Barber noted that Lake Washington Boulevard is park property; however, it is a designated transportation route with the traffic component controlled by Seattle Department of Transportation. Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber on whether the homeowners would be issued permits for this summer, Ms. Tsao answered yes.

Commissioner Holme recommended that the Superintendent adopt the staff recommendation [for Lake Washington Boulevard] as outlined in tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kostka seconded. After discussion, Commissioner Holme agreed to an amendment from Commissioner Kostka and Adams to add "with a very high level of outreach effort and communication with signage, and communication with the affected neighbors" and "staff will bring the Implementation Plan before the Commissioners as quickly as possible." Commissioner Kostka seconded the amendment.

Discussion of motion: Commissioner Holme asked if there are plans to extend the pilot into October of this year. Ms. Tsao answered that there has been no discussion of that. Commissioner Holme stated that the statistics on how many vehicles and bicyclists use the Boulevard were confusing and Ms. Tsao answered that the figures are just for 2008. Commissioner Holme stated that he is ready to support the pilot; however, he has serious reservations about the Thursday closure. He believes that Ms. Tsao did an excellent job of presenting the information to the Board and that her presentation was one of the best since he has been a Commissioner. He urged that staff develop a method to track both the vehicle and bicycle traffic that is methodical and easy to use. He does not want to see the Department have to backtrack on implementing this pilot program.

Commissioner Kostka asked if Commissioner Holme would agree to his motion being amended to stress courtesy by the bicyclists to the homeowners and service vehicles and he agreed [see motion above.] Commissioner Ramels stated that the lack of courtesy is also one of her major concerns with the additional closures. Commissioner Barber had heard that bicyclists who race in Seward Park had proposed the closure; however, Ms. Tsao stated that this recommendation is coming from the Department and not from the biking community.

Commissioner Adams agrees with the change staff made on the Thursday closure to 10 am-4 pm to avoid commuter traffic and to allow garbage trucks to complete most of the garbage pickup before the Thursday closure begins. However, he is most concerned about the implementation of the pilot and asked that the implementation plan be sent to the Commissioners as quickly as possible. If this is a true pilot, staff will collect data and report back to the Board of Park Commissioners that the pilot worked well and how any problems during the pilot were dealt with.

Commissioner Larsen has serious concerns regarding the Thursday closure and believes that those who live along the Boulevard and are impacted by the closures have valid concerns. Issuing permits can be a complicated process. She also urged that the pilot be spread to other parts of the city, rather than primarily along Lake Washington Boulevard. The Board then took a straw poll and one Commissioner [Larsen] would not support a Thursday closure.

Superintendent Gallagher stressed that this is a pilot and it isn't being expanded to October. Staff have made good concessions based on comments from the Board and public and will collect data during the pilot. If it is successful, a series of city streets will be looked at for future closure. The Department is working with Cascade Bicycle Club to partner on the closures to help with educating bicyclists.

Commissioner Adams commented that he is willing to risk supporting the pilot if the Board receives good data from staff about the pilot. Thursday is not a deal breaker for him; however, safety, outreach, and courtesy are of utmost importance. He also stated that Ms. Tsao did a good job presenting the pilot.

The vote was then taken and was 4-1 in favor, with Commissioner Larsen opposed and Commissioners Adams, Barber, Holme, and Kostka in favor. The Chair doesn't vote except to make or break a tie.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Tsao for her work on the pilot and look forward to seeing the implementation plan and receiving data and feedback on the pilot program.

Quarterly Briefing: Seattle Parks and Recreation's Parks and Development Division

Michael Shiosaki, Deputy Director of Seattle Parks and Recreation's Projects and Planning Division, briefed the Board on the Division's efforts during the second quarter. Commissioners received a written briefing prior to tonight's meeting, which was available to the public on the Board's web site, and hard copies were made available one hour prior to tonight's meeting.

Written Briefing

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2nd Quarter 2008:

In Planning:

- Asset Management Plan and Capital Improvement Program Preparation
- Wawona Harbor Historic American Building Survey documentation
- Lake Union Trail Master Plan
- City Hall Park Renovations (with King County)
- Victor Steinbrueck Park Renovation
- Seward Park Play Area (Neighborhood Matching Fund)

In Design

- Capital Hill Parks
- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum (peer review)
- Comfort Station Replacement at Atlantic City and Magnuson
- Leschi Moorage Renovation
- Volunteer Park Conservatory East Wing Renovation
- Jefferson Park-Beacon Reservoir
- Nike Building Demolition
- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Improvements

- Irrigation Upgrades: EC Hughes, Salmon Bay, Lincoln, etc
- Hiawatha Playfield
- Burke-Gilman Trail Bridge Repair
- Northgate Urban Center Park (to be held pending funding)
- West Seattle Stadium North Stands Renovation (to be held)
- Alki Statue of Liberty

In Construction

- Ballard Corner Park
- Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements*
- Magnolia Community Center Roof, HVAC
- Lake Union Park Phase 2
- Lower Woodland Tennis Court Renovation*
- Japanese Garden Entry Structure
- Southwest Pool HVAC
- Ballfield Lighting Replacement: Garfield and Interbay
- Ravenna Eckstein Play Area Renovation*
- Lake Washington Boulevard drainage
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields
- Magnuson Park Boat Ramp Renovation
- Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections

Completion

- Seward Park Audubon Center (dedication in April)
- Georgetown Playfield*
- Ercolini Park*
- Lower Woodland Skatepark
- Freeway Park Piggot Corridor
- Madison Park (Neighborhood Matching Fund)
- Queen Anne Counterbalance Urban Oasis

Acquisitions

- 12th Avenue Transfer
- Denny Triangle (Letter of Intent)
- Ballard Church Property

Other

- Northgate Community Center: Washington Recreation and Parks Association Spotlight Award!

UPCOMING PROJECT ISSUES/HIGHLIGHTS

- Alki Statue of Liberty with in-house construction
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields ongoing construction
- Rainier Beach Property Acquisition and Site Planning
- Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs Planning
- Golf Course Master Plans
- Washington Park Playfield and Seattle Public Utilities Madison Valley Drainage

UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION

- **School-Park Property Issue Review and Recommendation**
 - Southshore School and Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool

- School Property Dispositions
- **Park Plan Review and Recommendation**
 - Northgate Urban Center Park
 - Lake Union Trail Master Plan
- **Policy Review and Recommendation**
 - Non-park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement
- **Status Reports/Briefings**
 - Alaskan Landing Master Plan
 - 2009-2014 Asset Management Plan
 - SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks
 - Freeway Park Renovations
 - Arboretum Projects: Pacific Connection, Japanese Garden Entry

* Indicates projects conducted in-house

Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Shiosaki introduced himself and stated that it is great to be back with Seattle Parks and Recreation. The Division Director, Kevin Stoops, is on vacation this week. Mr. Shiosaki briefly reviewed the information in the written briefing.

Commissioner Adams asked if the Counterbalance Park project is supported by the community. Mr. Shiosaki answered that it is a community-driven project with a well-loved design.

Commissioner Barber referred to the recent controversy about a re-design of Victor Steinbrueck Park and asked about the schedule for the design process. Mr. Shiosaki answered that the project is not moving forward at this time.

Commissioner Larsen asked what type of community involvement led to the design of Jefferson Park. Mr. Shiosaki responded that the Jefferson Park Master Plan was adopted seven years ago after years of planning and design. The first part of implementing the plan is to develop the reservoir into a park. Commissioner Larsen asked if the Master Plan includes an outdoor pool and Mr. Shiosaki answered that it doesn't. Commissioner Larsen commented that there should be a policy and it be followed. However, if the policy needs to be changed to reflect what the community really wants, then it should be changed. If we have a policy in place and then make exceptions – that's when it really gets political.

Commissioner Holme noted that the Berger Partnership was hired to help design the Park. For more information on the project, see <http://cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/projects/JeffersonPark.htm>.

Commissioner Holme asked about the location of the recent acquisition in the Denny Park area. Mr. Shiosaki answered that it is located in a triangle where the current Enterprise Rent a Car business is located. The Superintendent added that development is still under discussion, as Parks owns the surface area and Enterprise owns the sub-surface (garage.) Parks staff are concerned with the stability of the area.

Commissioner Ramels asked about the West Seattle Stadium project and the Superintendent answered that the Park Board will be briefed on this at its August 28 meeting. Commissioner Ramels noted that the Board has had regular update briefings from the Superintendent on the Statue of Liberty project.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Shiosaki for the briefing.

Briefing: Park Naming Amendment

Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks and Recreation Strategic Advisor, briefed the Board on a proposal to amend the name of Freeway Park to Jim Ellis Freeway Park and the name of Queen Anne Pool to Gordon Clinton Queen Anne Pool. Commissioners received a written briefing prior to tonight's meeting, which was available to the public on the Board's web site, and hard copies were made available one hour prior to tonight's meeting. Due to a spell check error, the written briefing read that the proposed name was to Mayor George Clinton Queen Anne Pool. The on-line briefing and agenda has since been corrected.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

We are seeking Park Board input on an Executive proposal to modify/change the names of the Queen Anne Pool and Freeway Park. Under the proposal, Freeway Park would become Jim Ellis Freeway Park, in honor of Jim Ellis. Queen Anne Pool would become Gordon Clinton Queen Anne Pool, in honor of former Mayor Gordon Clinton. A public hearing will follow at the July 24 meeting of the Board.

The Park Naming Policy gives authority to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, with the advice of the Board of Park Commissioners, to designate the names of parks and facilities.

This proposal represents a change in our current Park Naming Policy that states, "Parks and facilities may be named for a person subject to the following conditions: the person must have been deceased for a minimum of three years, and the person must have made a significant positive contribution to parks, recreation, or culture in the community where the facility is located." The policies also state that "A name, once bestowed, is permanent."

Seattle Parks and Recreation has had a naming policy since 1969 to guide the naming of parks and facilities. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Naming Committee was created by Ordinance 99911, and consists of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Chair of the City Council committee that considers parks and recreation issues, or their designated representatives.

Summary of the Current Park Naming Policy

- To avoid duplication, confusing similarity, or inappropriateness, the Committee will review existing park and facility names already in use throughout park system.
- The Committee will consider geographical location, historical or cultural significance, distinctive natural or geological features, and the wishes of the community in which the park or facility is located.
- In naming community centers and other facilities, the Committee will give considerable weight to names that reflect the geographic location, i.e., neighborhood, and promotes a sense of identity within the community.

- Parks and facilities may be named for a person subject to the following conditions: the person must have been deceased for a minimum of three years, and the person must have made a significant positive contribution to parks, recreation, or culture in the community where the facility is located. The City will bear the cost of the plaque or monument indicating the name of the individual for whom the facility is named.
- The Superintendent of Parks and Recreation may accept or reject the Naming Committee's recommendation.
- As a general rule, portions of a park or facility will not have a name different from that of the entire facility. The Committee may consider exceptions in cases where, as a revenue or fundraising opportunity, a nomination is submitted to name a room within a community center after a corporate sponsor. Sometimes, the Committee will consider an exception in cases where an area within a park is distinctive enough, in the view of the Committee, to merit its own name.
- Because temporary "working" designations tend to be retained, the Superintendent will carry out the naming process for a new park facility as early as possible after its acquisition or development. Facilities will bear number designations until the naming process results in adoption of a name.
- A name, once bestowed, is permanent.

Naming History of the Two Proposed Sites

The Freeway Park was officially named in February, 1976.

Queen Anne Swimming Pool was officially named in July, 1977

Background of Jim Ellis and Mayor Gordon Clinton

Jim Ellis has been a lifelong civic leader who led the effort to create Freeway Park in 1976. Ellis also spearheaded initiatives to clean up Lake Washington in the 1950s; to finance mass transit, parks, pools, and other public facilities through "Forward Thrust" bond issues in the 1960s; to preserve farmlands in the 1970s; to build and later expand the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in the 1980s; and to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway along the I-90 corridor in the 1990s. Most of the projects he was involved in happened only after years of opposition and were a direct result of Mr. Ellis' tenacity. Freeway Park was championed by Jim Ellis and built with Forward Thrust funds in 1976.

Former Mayor Gordon Clinton served from 1956 – 1964. During his Administration, Clinton tackled issues as diverse as regional governance, international trade, and discrimination in housing. His leadership helped form the Metropolitan Municipality of Seattle (METRO), established Seattle's first sister city relationship with Kobe, Japan, and supported the development of the current Seattle Center site for the 1962 World's Fair. Clinton is a long time resident of Bayview Manor on Queen Anne Hill.

Issues to Consider

The two naming proposals are deviations from Parks and Recreations Park Naming Policies. The only documented cases of Parks being named after individuals while they were still living is Warren G. Magnuson Park, Homer Harris Park, and Waldo Dahl Playfield. These were situations where without their contributions, or contributions made on their behalf, the park would not have been possible. Homer Harris Park was named in an ordinance that accepted a donation in his name.

There is one other notable deviation from the Park Naming process, also accomplished by ordinance. In June 2002, Seattle City Council approved the formal name of a baseball field in Lower Woodland Park. City Council named this field The Mariner's All-Star Field at Lower Woodland Park. The Seattle Mariners, Seattle's

professional Major League Baseball team, was instrumental in securing the one million dollar grant that made the field improvements possible. Naming the field after the Mariners was part of the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between Seattle Parks and Recreation at the time of receiving the grant.

In the past, the naming criteria required that a person be deceased a minimum of 5 years before a park was named after him/her. The rule changed to a minimum of two years from 1985 – 2003. In 2003, this requirement was changed to a minimum of 3 years. The establishment of a waiting period after a person had died is an important criterion because: 1) it allows time for potential personal or professional “skeletons” to come to light; and 2) it ensures that the community still feels strongly that the individual’s contributions are worthy of a naming honor.

Immediately following many deaths of public figures and well known individuals, Parks frequently receives a flurry of requests to name parks in honor of the decedent. Two notable figures who recently had parks named after them -- after the 3 year waiting period -- were Amy Yee and Cal Anderson. Immediately after the deaths of Ms. Yee and Mr. Anderson, friends and family asked that these individuals’ contributions be recognized by naming a park or facility (both in areas where the individuals had a strong connection) after them. Friends and family anxiously waited and understood the requirement for 3 years to pass.

Community Notification

The press release for this meeting went out to all of the community groups we could identify who may have an interest in this proposal. We are working this week to get notice out broadly for the public hearing on July 24.

Options

1. Change the names of the two park sites outside of our typical park naming process.
2. Amend the Park Naming Policies to take out the condition that states a person must have been deceased for a minimum of three years in order to name a park or park facility after them.
3. Add a condition to the policies that states, “If there is a major donation or contribution made to the Park that made development and/or acquisition of the park possible, the Committee and the Superintendent can consider making an exception to the Park Naming Criteria.”
4. Do not proceed with these name changes, as they are not consistent with the Park Naming Policy.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends combining options one and two: modify the two park names and proceed with a process to review and amend the Park Naming Policies.

Additional Information:

Paula Hoff: paula.hoff@seattle.gov; 615-0368

Board Discussion

Ms. Hoff introduced herself and apologized for the spell check error. She gave a brief review of the Park Naming Committee, which consists of a City-appointed member of the public, a member of the Park Board, and the Superintendent or his representative (in this case, Ms. Hoff.) Former Park Board members of the Naming Committee include Bruce Bentley, Debbie Jackson, and Jackie Ramels. Neal Adams is the Board’s current representative.

Ms. Hoff sent notice of the proposed name amendment to the Queen Anne and Freeway Park constituency groups. She next reviewed the history of the naming policy, which designates that a person must be dead for three years before a park/facility can be named after him/her. This naming amendment is being brought to the Park Board to consider a deviation in the naming policy and for consideration of altering the policy.

Commissioner Barber asked whether former Mayor Clinton contributed specifically to Queen Anne Pool and Ms. Hoff answered that the Executive wanted to pursue this change. The Superintendent added that former Mayor Clinton lives near the pool and Mayor Nickels wants to recognize the contributions to the City by both former Mayor Clinton and Jim Ellis. This is an amendment to the name and not a name change.

Commissioner Adams asked if the Board is being asked to change the policy. Ms. Hoff answered that the Superintendent has the naming authority, with input from the Naming Committee. If these names are amended, it makes sense to amend the policy at the same time. The Superintendent commented that he hasn't worked in any other park departments that used a naming rule of a person being dead for several years. Changing the policy would allow people to be honored while they are still living.

Commissioner Holme commented that park naming can be political. This is the first time a park naming issue has been brought to the Park Board and he wondered if the naming is going in a new direction. Commissioner Barber believes that the three-year provision was partially due to naming requests getting out of hand. The three-year policy gives time to reflect on and assess a person's achievements, and determine their benefit to the community.

Commissioner Ramels asked about the timing of the request and the Superintendent answered that former-Mayor Clinton is in ill health. Ms. Hoff noted that in years past, the wait-three-years-after-death policy was five years. Commissioner Larsen commented that she supports following the Department's current policy and not amend it. Otherwise, the park naming becomes a political issue.

Commissioner Adams, who is a member of the Parks Naming Committee, asked why the Naming Committee wasn't asked to address this change before it was brought to the Park Board. Commissioner Holme added that is a big question to him, too. The Superintendent responded that this request is from the Mayor. He doesn't want the Park Board to become a naming committee, but he does want the Board to weigh in on whether the policy should be amended. Ms. Hoff noted that several other parks have been named after living people, including Warren Magnuson, Homer Harris, and Waldo Dahl.

Commissioner Ramels thanked Ms. Hoff for the briefing and for the extensive background she included in the briefing paper. The Board will hold a public hearing on the naming amendment at its July 24 meeting and discuss and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its August 28 meeting.

Briefing: Neighborhood Matching Fund's Public Involvement Policy

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Neighborhood Matching Fund Coordinator Pamela Kliment and the Department of Neighborhood's Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager, Laurie Ames, briefed the Board on the public involvement policy for Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) projects, particularly NMF projects in Seattle's parks. Commissioners received a written briefing prior to tonight's meeting, which was available to the public on the Board's web site, and hard copies were made available one hour prior to tonight's meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This briefing is for informational purposes only. The Board requested information on outreach and public process for Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) projects. Since Matching Fund projects are initiated and organized by the community with City staff support, the process is unique for each project. This briefing describes the framework for developing a user-friendly handout on outreach for community groups doing NMF projects which can be tailored to each individual project.

Program Description and Background

The Department of Neighborhoods (DON) administers the Neighborhood Matching Fund program. The Neighborhood Matching Fund was created in 1988 and is a nationally recognized program that has since been emulated in cities and communities all over the world. More than 3,600 projects have been completed in Seattle since its inception, with awards of more than \$55 million. City dollars have also generated community matches in excess of \$80 million. The community can match their City funding with contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated materials, and/or donated professional services.

The program consists of two types of awards that involve Parks. The Small and Simple Projects Fund provides a maximum award of \$15,000 with four funding cycles per year. Projects are to be completed in six months. The second type, Large Project Fund awards, are up to \$100,000 and are awarded once per year. Projects are to be completed in one year.

The NMF provides City funding and technical assistance to community groups for a wide variety of Parks improvement projects such as park design, park construction, facility improvements, public art, events, and community gardens. There are typically two kinds of projects: design projects and construction projects with a consultant/contractor for such efforts as play areas and pocket parks. Other projects may include community events, habitat restoration and individually purchased items (batting cages, etc.).

The Department of Neighborhoods funds a Parks staff position to facilitate and manage NMF projects in Parks. This staff person ensures that community groups understand and abide by Parks project requirements such as design guidelines, competitive bids, technical review, inspection, and other specialized services. The application review process described below applies to both the Small and Simple Projects Fund and the Large Projects Fund.

Parks and DON staff work with community members before they submit an application. Often staff meet with community members on-site to get an idea of the proposed project, discuss potential issues, and provide technical assistance and networking opportunities with other groups and funders. Staff also inform groups of the importance of engaging key community stakeholders in their projects. A portion of their funding request may include outreach related expenses. Overall, community groups are provided with vital information to develop a feasible project idea that meets both Parks and Matching fund requirements.

Once funding requests are received, DON forwards applications to Parks for review and comment. Parks' primary focus is the value of the proposed project for the department, and DON reviews and selects projects based on these criteria: project idea, neighborhood involvement/ community building, project feasibility, and demonstrated community match. Staff work closely with community groups to deliver a united message about project issues and award conditions. Development of an outreach plan is a fairly standard award condition for projects.

NMF Parks Projects

Since the inception of the NMF program in 1988, approximately 550 projects in Seattle parks have been funded with awards totaling \$15 million and a community match of at least three times the value of the awards. In 2005, NMF funded design work for projects at Ravenna Park Dahl Playfield, Dahl Skate Spot, Bayview Kinnear Park, Big Howe play area, Fremont Peak Park, Mt Baker Ridge Viewpoint, Pinehurst Pocket Park, Maple Leaf Community Garden, Dakota Place Park, and Montlake Park. In 2006, NMF funded design work for Denny Park, for artwork at Ravenna Playfield and Dahl playfield, design work at Ballard Corners Park and for installation of benches with historical information about the neighborhood at Roanoke Park. In 2007 and 2008 (so far), play area projects have been completed at Madison Park, Ravenna Park, Dahl Playfield, Bayview Kinnear, and Big Howe Playground, and Cesar Chavez Park.

Public Involvement Process

As described above, NMF projects differ from other parks projects in that they are initiated by the community. There is little predictability as to when the City will receive applications or for what projects. Many are in areas that need improvement and/or are not in Parks current work plan. For example many play areas have been improved and brought up to code using NMF funding. However, since these community projects have not been developed through a Parks planning process, the external outreach process and internal evaluation are very intensive. Since community building is at the heart of any Neighborhood Matching Fund project, staff encourage groups to inform and engage various community stakeholders. DON and Parks staff help connect them with numerous groups, individuals, and businesses as part of their outreach process.

For each NMF project, Parks pays for a sign at the site and a large mailing in the neighborhood.. This is required by our Public Involvement Policy (PIP) and is paid for with Neighborhood Response Funds. Park and DON staff assist groups to develop a broad and inclusive outreach strategy using outreach materials (fliers, websites, and brochures), project signage, paid advertisements, mailings, translation, interpretation, community outreach workers, and community events.

Typically, project representatives present their project idea to local business associations, schools, churches and retirement homes, community-based organizations, and other neighborhood groups. Other outreach tools have included project yard signs, door-to-door outreach, fliers in neighborhood grocery bags, web sites (e.g., www.friendsofmadisonpark.org and www.boarders4parks.org), and local community newspapers (such as in the Ballard Herald Tribune and The Queen Anne News).

Issues

City staff continue to work with project organizers to ensure that each project has an outreach plan for each project. Parks and DON propose creation of a user-friendly handout specifically for NMF projects that satisfies both the Parks PIP and the goals of DON. This would be part of a packet of handouts given to groups at the beginning of each project. The groups who do all of the above would fill in the checklist. While there is a list of NMF projects on the Parks website, we could put a reference in the A to Z list also. The goal is to ensure a baseline for outreach that can be adapted to individual projects.

Budget

Parks supports community outreach efforts by paying for a large sign and one large mailing to the surrounding neighborhood. Occasionally, Parks will pay for an additional mailing depending on special circumstances. Parks also supports ribbon cuttings by providing a podium, tents, chairs and tables. While the ribbon cuttings are primarily organized by the community groups, staff (Public Relations Specialist) time is spent to support them. This costs approximately \$8,000 per year and comes from the Neighborhood Response Fund. Almost all funded NMF projects also include a budget line item for outreach.

Schedule

Outreach is an ongoing element of any Matching Fund project from pre-application through project completion. The City requires groups to generate support or match for the project before submitting an application. Typically, throughout the course of a design project, there are a minimum of three public meetings to gather input and refine design.

Additional Information

Pamela Kliment, Parks Neighborhood Matching Fund Planner, 684-7556
Pamela.Kliment@seattle.gov

Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager 684-0320
Laurie.Ames@seattle.gov

Attachments

1-NMF Design Process Handout

2- NMF How to Hire Handout

3-NMF Sample Outreach Checklist (Thanks to the Seward Park Playground Improvement Foundation)

1-NMF Design Process Handout

There are **four phases** involved in designing and building your new park: 1) schematic design, 2) design development, 3) construction document preparation and, 4) park construction.

Once you have selected a consultant, the design process starts. This is a collaborative process between your community group, your consultant and Seattle Parks and Recreation. Parks reviews the design as it develops - looking at the ease and cost of maintaining and operating the park, safety issues, the success of different design elements, and overall design.

Throughout the process, your group should be having regular steering committee meetings to talk about the design, budget, fundraising, outreach and public involvement.

Schematic Design

This is the first phase, and the most important. During this phase, you will select all the elements for your park and their physical relationship to each other. The process is as follows:

- First community meeting - the consultant works with park neighbors to brainstorm ideas and get a sense of what is important to the neighborhood; for example, safety, more play space, gathering spaces or native plant restoration, etc. Based on this information, your consultant will prepare three design concepts
- Design review; Parks looks at the three design concepts before your next public meeting.
- Second public meeting - review the three design concepts; the goal of this meeting is not to choose a single one, but to talk about aspects of each. The consultant will use these ideas and put together a preferred schematic design.
- Schematic review; Parks reviews the preferred schematic design before it is presented to the public.
- Third public meeting - present the preferred schematic design. There may still be comments at this meeting about the design/plan; unless they are major, you can deal with them in design development. At the end of this meeting, you will have your final schematic design.

Design Development

At the end of the schematic design phase, in addition to your plan, you will have a preliminary cost estimate. During this next stage, the details of your plan are developed such as potential artistic elements, paving material for plazas or benches, and a refined plant list.

A very important aspect of design development is to look at all your elements and prioritize them. You may have a very elaborate plan that is beyond your fundraising abilities. It is critical to make decisions on what can be left out as early as possible. Sometimes removing elements strengthens the design. Parks will review the final design development plan.

Construction Documents

These are a set of technical drawings that will be used for bidding (the process by which the contractor estimates, or 'bids' the cost of the construction job) and by your contractor. Parks reviews the construction documents three times, as your consultant develops them. When they are approved, the project can be bid and constructed!

Sample Project Schedule

Event	Purpose	Key Involvement	Schedule
<i>Phase I - Planning</i>	<i>6 months +</i>		
Consultant Selection	Planning and Design	Project Planner and Community	
ProView #1 & #2 Steering	ProView & Steering Review Approval of Public Involvement Plan	Project Planner and Consultant	
Sign Installation	Initial public notification, 4'x4' site sign	Parks	
Media Release	Press release, flyers, internet	Parks and Community	
Permits	Pre-permit review with DCLU & SDOT	Project Planner and Consultant	
Public Meeting #1	Kick-off meeting. Site Analysis, Input on Community priorities for Program Elements	Consultant, Community and Project Planner	
ProView #3	Review and direction on Design Alternatives	Project Planner and Consultant	
Public Meeting #2	Presentation of Refined Design Concepts (schematic) & Community Input	Consultant, Community and Project Planner	
ProView #4	Review and direction on Refined Concepts	Project Planner and Consultant	
Public Meeting #3	Presentation of Final Design	Consultant, Community and Project Planner	
ProView #5	Review and direction on Final Design	Project Planner and Consultant	
Steering	Review and direction on Final Design	Project Planner and Consultant	
<i>Phase II - Design Development</i>	<i>3 months +</i>		
ProView #5	ProView Review at 50% Design	Project Planner and Consultant	
Permits	DCLU & SDOT & WSDOT	Landscape Architect	
Technical Review	SE Sector Shops Review 95% Design	Project Planner and Consultant	
Technical Review	SE Sector Shops Review Final Design	Project Planner and Consultant	
Public Meeting #4	Open House to present construction timeline	Consultant, Community and Project Planner	

Event	Purpose	Key Involvement	Schedule
<i>Phase III - Construction</i>	<i>5 Months +</i>		
Construction Bid	Publish Bid Package	Project Planner and Consultant	
Contractor Award	Award contract	Project Manger and Contracting	
Construction Completed	Complete		
<i>Closeout</i>	<i>2 months</i>		

Depending on the scope of your project, you may need to hire a private consultant. This may be a landscape architect, architect, engineer or other professional. The consultant will be a very important part of your project and it is important to make sure you select someone who not only has the technical skills you require but someone who can work with your community group and with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The following consultant selection process is designed to be fair to the consultant as well as the client. In order for you to see the widest types of work, a three step process is recommended.

- Prepare an advertisement. It is most effective to advertise in the Daily Journal of Commerce on Wednesdays for design and construction projects. Call them at 206-622-8272 or email to legals@djc.com to place your ad. You may also want to advertise in your local newspaper.
- Prepare a Request for Qualifications. This will enable you to describe in more detail the nature of your project, timeline and budget.
- Select two or three firms from the firms who responded to the RFQs.
- Prepare for your interviews. Decide what qualities are important to your group. Create a list of sample interview questions. Reserve a room and set aside time to discuss your selection.
- Maintain a file on the process. It is important to keep a record of the hiring process to make sure that it was fair and equitable. In particular, describe how the position was advertised, who applied, how applicants were evaluated and reasons for selecting a certain candidate.

Samples are included. We would be happy to work with you to tailor these to suit your project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call your Parks NMF Planner.

Board Discussion

Ms. Kliment introduced herself and Ms. Ames and commented that Counterbalance Park, which was referenced earlier in the evening, received \$100,000 in Neighborhood Matching Funds (NMF.) She and Ms. Ames are here to answer how the NMF outreach satisfies the letter of the Parks Department's public involvement policy (PIP.)

Commissioner Ramels stated that the Board has been asking for this briefing for some time. She referred to the Statue of Liberty project, an NMF project that has been controversial. Much of the project had been planned before it ever got to the Parks Department. The Board has heard similar reports about the recent Madison Park NMF project. She wondered if there is a missing public outreach portion of the NMF process that doesn't satisfy the public's expectations of Parks' PIP.

Ms. Kliment explained that at the beginning of every NMF project, a 4'x4' project sign is installed at the project site and a mailer is distributed. This satisfies the PIP. She noted that the Madison Park project outreach by the NMF volunteers has been very thorough. They not only visited neighbors of the project, but went to local daycares and senior centers, too. Seward Park NMF volunteers have developed an effective checklist and distributed a handout in their neighborhood. Their checklist assigns tasks to individuals, and has been very effective. NMF staff are considering adding it to their information packet.

Commissioner Ramels asked at what point in the project outreach occurs, whether before design approval or after? Ms. Ames answered that it happens both before and afterwards. Each set of NMF applicants must demonstrate broad community support and who they contacted before the project is awarded. Commissioner Ramels noted that the Statue of Liberty NMF project was in the planning stage years ago, and was then dormant for several years. Then, the project was resumed and fundraising well under way before many in the local community knew about it, and were unaware of the extensive scope of the project. The Superintendent commented that each project's success depends on its leader. People sometimes get excited about a project, but underestimate the complexity and don't always understand what governs the cost of projects. Commissioner Larsen added that another disconnect is when professionals are working on a volunteer basis.

Commissioner Barber noted that he has worked on five park design projects in his neighborhood and found the neighborhood outreach to be the most interesting and exciting part of the project. Ms. Kliment added that at one of the projects Commissioner Barber worked on, successful open houses for the project were held at the site on Saturdays. Other NMF-applicants are now holding this type of open house and the process is working well.

Commissioner Larsen was pleased to hear NMF staff talk about being creative when it comes to outreach as so many people confuse notification with outreach. It is one thing to post a flyer announcing something and quite another to seek people out in many different ways – to meet them on their terms. She stated that she has given her thoughts on the NMF program to the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. She continued that one thing she thinks is important is to have training for citizens and staff beyond the general open house. All citizens receiving awards should be required (as a grant stipulation) to attend a workshop on outreach, grant writing and management, public planning processes, etc., before they can receive funds. That would help alleviate misunderstandings down the road and very clearly ease the workload of staff like Ms. Kliment who have to educate so many different people along the way. This would require that additional money be built into the NMF budget to pay for the trainers.

Commissioner Ramels asked how the outcome of the outreach is incorporated into the project design and Ms. Kliment answered that three design meetings are held for each NMF capital project. Ms. Ames added that the three design meetings are held after a great amount of community outreach is completed.

Ms. Ames stated that the Department of Neighborhoods is always looking for ways to improve the NMF process. Commissioner Ramels stated that it is a great program and it would be ideal to have a process in place to avoid the occasional communication gaps that cause dissention in a community. She wondered if there is a disconnect between DON's project approval process and Seattle Park Department's process. It is unfortunate that a few of the projects became a source of controversy in their community.

Commissioner Kostka suggested that perhaps the disconnect is a result of City Departments having different types of outreach (Department of Neighborhood and Park Department) and suggested that the City work to develop a citywide outreach policy that is followed by all departments.

Commissioner Holme noted that the Park Board doesn't hear about all the projects that go well – it is only the problem ones that come to the Board. He also believes that many people are accustomed to Parks' PIP and may not feel as included with the NMF outreach policy. He urged that staff double up their outreach efforts on park-related NMF projects. Commissioner Barber requested that staff also have guidance material available for all the NMF volunteers.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Kliment and Ms. Ames for the briefing.

Old/New Business

Correction to April 24 Minutes: It was recently determined that information was incorrectly recorded and approved in the April 24 minutes on the cost of repairing Building 11 at Magnuson Park. Staff listened to the recording of the meeting and prepared a correction for Commissioner's consideration. Commissioner Barber moved to correct the minutes as re-worded. Commissioner Larsen seconded. Vote was taken and motion was unanimous. The section of the minutes will now read:

Magnuson Park Building 27: Commissioner Barber expressed concern about a potential 40-year lease for Building 27 at Magnuson Park. He thought it might be pushing out too far, and also expressed concern about a fitness center competing with private businesses. He thought maybe a bare-bones restoration, with lights, no heat, and a skeleton operation might make the building usable for non-profits. Commissioner Barber believes that a bare-bones construction by Arena Sports would cost \$2 to \$2-1/2 million dollars and cost an additional \$4 million to make the building "business usable." Deputy Superintendent Williams agreed that it would probably cost a total of \$6-7 million. No one else came forward when Parks put the proposal out to the public. He stated a long-term lease is needed to amortize the initial pay-out.

Proposed Parks and Green Space Levy: Commissioner Holme asked whether the Board has enough information to determine its support for a new levy. After a brief discussion on the Board's support of a new parks levy, **Commissioner Holme moved that the Board of Park Commissioners is in support of the idea of a Fall 2008 ballot for the Parks and Green Space Levy. Commissioner Kostka seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.** Staff will prepare a letter the following Monday for the Park Board Chair to sign and will send it to City Councilmembers.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Jackie Ramels, Vice-Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____