



## Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2008  
Meeting Held at 100 Dexter Avenue North

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>  
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present, and  
Seattle Channel tapes of meetings from June 12, 2008)

### ***Board of Park Commissioners:***

#### Present:

Neal Adams  
John Barber  
Terry Holme  
Donna Kostka  
Christine Larsen

#### Excused:

Jackie Ramels, Vice-Chair  
Amit Ranade, Chair

### ***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:***

Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Commissioner Holme called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Commissioner Adams moved, and Commissioner Kostka seconded, approval of the agenda, the minutes as amended to move the Green Lake Water Ski Policy from Item #6 to Item #1, and the record of correspondence that includes written testimony to the Board on park issues, announcements, meeting notices, and press releases. The motion was approved.**

### **Discussion/Recommendation: Waterski Events at Green Lake Park**

At its September 11 meeting, Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, briefed the Board on Waterski Events at Green Lake Park. To read the minutes from that meeting, including the briefing paper, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-11-08.pdf>. This was followed by a public hearing at the Board's September 25 meeting. To read the minutes from that meeting, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-25-08.pdf>. The Board has received a number of testimonies, both written and verbal, on this policy. The Chair and Vice-chair are out of town and, because this issue is important to a number of people, Commissioners agreed to delay the discussion and recommendation until more Board members are present. **Commissioner Barber moved to table the discussion and**

**recommendation and Commissioner Larsen seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

Staff will notify the various interest groups of the new date for the discussion and recommendation, once it is determined.

## **Superintendent's Report**

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

Orchard Street Ravine Dedication: Originally purchased by Parks and designated as a natural area, Pro Parks Levy Funds have restored the 2.2 acre ravine. A community celebration is scheduled on Saturday, October 11, from noon-2:00 pm. Orchard Street Ravine is located in West Seattle at 7200 38th Ave SW. For more information on this project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ProParks/projects/orchardStRavine.htm>.

Garfield Teen Life Center Dedication: The Garfield community will celebrate the dedication of the Garfield Teen Life Center on Saturday, October 11, 2:00-5:00 pm. The facility will be the Center for Drop in Sports, Arts, and cultural activities for Teens and is the site for Seattle Parks' weekend Late Night Program in Central Seattle. For more information, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/news/detail.asp?ID=8930&Dept=14>

City Council Briefed on Department's 2009-2010 Budget: Superintendent Gallagher and Budget Director Carol Everson (who briefed the Board later in this meeting) presented the Department's proposed 2009-2010 Budget to City Council this week. Deputy Superintendent Williams commented that it was a good presentation and Councilmembers appear pleased with the direction that Superintendent Gallagher is leading the Department.

Encampment Removal at Discovery Park: The illegal campers at Discovery Park have been told to vacate tomorrow by noon at the latest. Parks staff have worked with United Indians of All Tribes (UIATF) to move the campers.

Commissioner Barber asked if the encampment's sudden relocation to Discovery Park was a surprise to the Department. Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that staff heard rumors a year or so ago that the encampment organizers had considered Discovery Park as a location site. However, this recent move came as a total surprise to the Department. Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber whether the UIATF encouraged the encampment's move to Discovery Park, Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that Marty Bluewater, Executive Director of UIATF, was also taken by surprise and has worked with the Department on moving the encampment.

Nominations for Denny Awards Sought: On November 18, Seattle Parks will recognize and honor its volunteers at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Denny Awards ceremony. For more information on the Denny Award and to request a nomination form, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/news/detail.asp?ID=8905&Dept=14>.

Hempfest: Seattle Police Department has stated that Myrtle Edwards Parks is not longer a suitable site for this festival. Seattle Parks doesn't think the festival has grown too large for Myrtle Edwards Park; however, Hempfest needs to hire professional security staff for the event. Parks staff will work with Hempfest promoters to ensure this happens. For more information on The Hempfest, see <http://hempfest.org/drupal/>.

Community Center Coordinator Randy Smith Retires: Long-time Seattle Parks recreation staff Randy Smith recently retired after 37 years with the Department. Mr. Smith worked at 11 community centers and spent the

last 11 years at Jefferson Community Center as a popular coach, teacher, and mentor to many. His retirement party was well-attended and he will be missed by the community and the Department.

Former Park Board Member Calhoun Dickinson: Former Park Board member Calhoun Dickinson, who served on the Board from 1968-1977, recently passed away. The many issues and projects he worked on included Discovery, Gas Works, and Freeway Parks, as well as the Arboretum Master Plan, Woodland Park Zoo Long Range Plan, and Aquarium Master Plan. For more information on Mr. Calhoun, see [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008259783\\_dickinsonobit13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008259783_dickinsonobit13m.html).

Manager Training Program: Seattle Parks has implemented a new manager training program to cultivate a group of managers and prepare them to take on responsibilities in the Department.

Commissioner Holme asked how the manager candidates will be chosen. Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that Division Directors and the Superintendent will recommend "rising stars" to train for higher level work during the eight-month program. The training program was designed by Richard Huston and is already in use in Portland, Oregon, and several California cities.

The Families and Education Levy Community Learning Center Program's: Deputy Superintendent Williams noted that Commissioner Holme was a new member of the Park Board when the Board first discussed whether Parks should take on the Families and Education Learning Center Program. The Department did and it has been a successful program, with Parks far exceeding its goals. The Department has achieved 100% of the 2007-08 school year performance outcomes. The attendance/retention goal was met in January and the WASL goal was exceeded by 45%. Final numbers are being calculated by the Office for Education and should be available by mid-November. The achievement of these outcomes results in a performance pay value of \$157,292, which is reinvested in the program. For more information on the Levy, see <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/edlevy.htm>.

## **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 two 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. No one signed up to testify.

## **Quarterly Briefing: Seattle Parks' Project and Planning Division**

Kevin Stoops, Director, Seattle Parks' Planning and Development Division, presented a quarterly briefing on the Division's work. He reviewed the information in the written briefing, which Commissioners received prior to the meeting and is included in the minutes; Commissioners then asked a number of questions.

### ***Written Briefing***

#### **Acquisitions**

- Denny Triangle (closing pending)
- First Hill Park issues

#### **In Planning:**

- Asset Management Plan and CIP Preparation
- Golf Course Master Plan
  - *The current Plan was prepared in the 1990's. Staff will look at the Golf Club Houses, which were built in the 1930's.*
- Central Waterfront planning (interdepartmental)

- *Parks now go back work with Seattle Department of Transportation and Department of Planning and Development.*
- Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop Trail Master Plan
- City Hall Park Renovations (in cooperation with King County)
- Seward Park Play Area (Neighborhood Matching Fund [NMF])
- California Place Play Area (NMF)
- Martha Washington Shoreline Habitat (King County Development Grant [KCD])
- Washington Park Arboretum shoreline (KCD)
- Chinook Beach forest restoration (KCD)

### **In Design**

- Capitol Hill Parks
- Morgan Junction Park
- Green Lake Shade Garden
- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum
- Leschi Moorage renovation
- Volunteer Park Conservatory East Wing renovation
- Jefferson Park-Beacon Reservoir
  - Seattle Public Utilities continues its work on the underground reservoir; consequently, Park's portion of the project is moving slowly at this time.
- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center improvements
- Hiawatha Playfield
- Atlantic City and Magnuson Park comfort station replacement (will re-bid in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter as the first bids came in over budget)
- Northgate Urban Center Park (On hold pending funding; the schematic design has been completed)
- West Seattle Stadium North Stands Renovation (On hold)
- Freeway Park Landscaping and Fountain Repair

### **In Construction**

- Nike Building demolition
- Burke-Gilman Trail Bridge repair
- Irrigation Upgrades: EC Hughes, Salmon Bay, Lincoln, etc
- Ballard Corner Park
- Queen Anne Boulevard improvements\*
- Magnolia Community Center roof, HVAC
- Lake Union Park Phase 2 (awarded \$9.9 for Phase II)
- Lower Woodland Tennis Court renovation\*
- Japanese Garden Entry Structure (\$1.1 million project)
- Southwest Community Center roof and pool HVAC (\$1.6 million project)
- Ballfield Lighting Replacement: Garfield, Georgetown and Interbay
- Lake Washington Boulevard drainage
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields (awarded \$6.9 million to minority contractors)

### **Completed**

- Magnuson Park Boat Ramp renovation
- Alki Statue of Liberty (400-500 people attended the recent dedication)
- Ravenna Eckstein Play Area renovation
- I-5 Colonnade Park second phase (NMF) (the recent grand opening was featured in *Sunset Magazine*)

- Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections (this is a gorgeous project that used Pro Parks Levy funds as seed money to raise millions more in private donations. Parks hopes this is a model that will be used in the future.)

**UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION**

**School-Park Property Issue Review and Recommendation**

- Southshore School and Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool

**Park Plan Review and Recommendation**

- Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop Trail Master Plan
- Golf Course Master Plan
- Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs planning (2009)
- Washington Park Playfield and SPU Madison Valley Drainage (2009)

**Policy Review and Recommendation**

- Non-park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement

**Status Reports/Briefings**

- Central Waterfront and Alaskan Landing Master Plan
- SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks
- Freeway Park renovations
- Arboretum Projects: Pacific Connection, Japanese Garden Entry
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields

\* Notes a project with in-house design work

***Board Discussion***

Mr. Stoops reviewed the information in the briefing paper and suggested that the Park Board schedule another site visit to the Arboretum (last toured in October 2006) and Magnuson Park (last toured in April 2007), as major projects at both those parks are progressing.

Commissioner Kostka asked about the location of the Green Lake Shade Garden. Mr. Stoops answered that it is on the east side of the lake at the 5-way intersection. There are a series of large trees and asphalt pathways underneath, and staff will remove the asphalt, clean up the area, and use the asphalt remains as an example of a “folly” [unwise investment or expenditure.] The second section of the Shade garden will be near Hearthstone Retirement House and will be a quiet resting spot with a view of the lake.

Commissioner Larsen asked about the status of the Dakota Place Park. Mr. Stoops answered that Dakota Place is a former substation that the Department received from Seattle City Light. Parks staff are working with the community, who received a Neighborhood Matching Fund, on this project. The site has had abatement of hazardous materials and it needs a new roof and windows. Bids were opened the day before for the outdoor components, with the bid most likely being awarded to the second-highest bidder. Needed interior work includes flooring and re-finishing the cabinets. The work should be underway soon. Commissioner Larsen asked if the Friends of Dakota Place Park are excited about this project moving forward and Mr. Stoops agreed that they are.

Responding to a request from Commissioner Larsen for a status on the Denny Park Project, Mr. Stoops answered that the design construction documents are 100% complete and ready for a final review. Parks staff will soon advertise the bids and expect to start construction for the new northeast corner play area in early

November. Commissioner Larsen asked if any trees will be removed. Mr. Stoops answered that the design work includes all the current trees left intact. Two trees were removed several months ago (they were growing under the large trees and their growth was stunted.) In addition, several large shrubs were removed to give better sight lines into the park.

Commissioner Barber asked about the Seattle Asian Art Museum [located in Volunteer Park.] Mr. Stoops answered that Seattle Parks owns the building and land, while Seattle Art Museum (SAM) operates the museum. The building's infrastructure dates to the 1930's and Pro Parks Levy Oversight funds are being used for the design work for the upgrade. Parks is responsible for, and will handle, the value engineering and the basic work. SAM is responsible for, and will handle, any curatorial needs for its exhibits. Commissioner Barber asked who will pay for completion of the work if the Parks and Greenspaces Levy, which is up for vote on the November ballot, doesn't pass. Mr. Stoops responded that it is unknown at this point.

Commissioner Barber asked about the schedule to complete the Magnuson Park comfort stations. Mr. Stoops answered that the first bids came in too high. Staff hopes the next set of bids will be lower. He gave a brief history of why the comfort stations, which were severely damaged and set on fire by vandals, have been unusable for several years. Another complication is that the electrical cables that were installed in the 1970s to supply power to the comfort stations have severely deteriorated in areas, resulting in no electrical power to the comfort stations. Parks has been talking with Seattle City Light to determine which Department will pay for the new electrical elements. Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber on how long it will take Parks to complete the work once a bid is accepted, Mr. Stoops answered that the work will take three-four months.

Commissioner Barber next asked about the Magnuson Park wetlands project. Mr. Stoops answered that Andy Sheffer is the project manager and Ohno Construction is doing the work. The ballfield work will be mostly complete by January and the wetlands completed by late winter. Other components of the project are expected to be complete in the fall of 2009. Earlier in the wetland project, the contractor and Parks staff discovered several contaminated areas and dump areas left behind by the Navy. The Navy is expected to pay for part of the cleanup of these sites.

Commissioner Barber asked if Mr. Stoops' Division monitors Seattle School District (SSD) projects like the recent Hamilton Middle School project. Mr. Stoops answered that he meets monthly with Seattle School District staff. SSD and Seattle Parks have 53 locations (schools/community centers/pools/playgrounds) with shared use. They try to work through issues together and usually get along. Commissioner Barber commented that his concern was with the Hamilton design. Mr. Stoops noted that SSD has since redesigned the new Hamilton gym to be smaller and moved back 20 feet.

Commissioner Holme asked for an update on the acquisition of the Crown Hill property from SSD. Mr. Stoops responded that Parks is working with SSD on the sale of several of its properties. The Crown Hill property is located in Ballard and \$5 million in Pro Parks and grant funds will be used to purchase this property. Parks has also purchased the improved property (playground) at Webster School. The third purchase is the south parking lot/playground at University Heights – site of the University Farmer's Market.

Mr. Stoops added that Parks has completed two new park acquisitions, with one being in Ballard and the second in the International District.

Commissioner Holme next asked about the Jefferson Park reservoir/park project. Has Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) completed its work so that Parks can begin its portion of the project? Mr. Stoops answered that SPU has encountered some problems with the reservoir and is behind schedule. The Utility must be sure that the reservoir will hold water and also must fill a hole at the north end. Parks is assisting SPU in locating enough fill

material for this. Mr. Stoops will meet with SPU's Director next week to discuss the project. He agreed to keep the Board updated on this project, at Commissioner Holme's request.

Commissioner Holme asked about the Waterfront Park/Viaduct Replacement project and whether this will move ahead quickly. Mr. Stoops answered that there are eight scenarios on the table, with each being tested and evaluated. Two to three of the alternatives will move forward and be analyzed through 2009. A final plan recommendation will be submitted by the Governor, will then go through an Environmental Impact Statement process, and then go to the State Legislature for a final decision.

Commissioner Holme asked for a status on the Pro Parks Levy arts funding component. Mr. Stoops responded that the focus is on major art pieces at South Lake Union and Thomas Wales parks. He will send additional information to the Board.

Commissioner Adams noted that Mr. Stoops and his staff are managing a large number of projects and asked what systems are used to monitor them. Mr. Stoops answered that several systems are used, including: (1) a weekly report to the Superintendent and to the Mayor's Office; (2) Mr. Stoops meets weekly with the project managers; (3) on a quarterly monitoring basis he and staff look at the project's status, update the budgets, and review the project checklist; (4) monthly spreadsheets are prepared showing the budget; and (5) the project costs are included in the status reports and flagged if they need the Superintendent's attention. Even with all these steps, the system is not perfect.

Commissioners commended Mr. Stoops on his presentation and stated that they are very interested in his project briefings. Commissioner Holme asked that considerably more time be allotted on the agenda for Mr. Stoop's next quarterly report and fellow Commissioners agreed with this request. Commissioners all thanked Mr. Stoops for the briefing.

### **Discussion/Recommendation: Wildlife Sanctuary Policy**

At its September 11 meeting, Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks Partnership Director, briefed the Board on the Department's draft Wildlife Sanctuary Policy. To read the minutes from that meeting, including the briefing paper, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-11-08.pdf>. The Board held a public hearing at its September 25 meeting. To read the minutes from that meeting, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-25-08.pdf>. Ms. Salinas was unavailable for this meeting and Deputy Superintendent Williams gave a brief overview of the policy and what the Department is asking the Board to approve. At the September 25 public hearing, Commissioners made several suggestions to the policy and Ms. Salinas incorporated those and sent a new draft of the policy to the Board (see copy below.)

#### ***Board Discussion***

Commissioner Kostka recused herself from all three meetings, as she is an active volunteer for the Kiwanis Ravine project.

Commissioner Holme asked how the Department will follow up on violations of the policy. Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that enforcement will be established right at the beginning of the policy's implementation. The Department would like to see the Park Ranger program expand to a system-wide level, over time. Commissioner Barber referred to a suggestion from Friends of Dahl Park to broaden the policy; however, he likes this disciplined approach, and believes it to be a necessary first step. He asked if the Department will incorporate a level of habitat areas that are not defined as narrowly as this first level. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that it is likely the Department will do so. He noted that the Superintendent is interested in a comprehensive habitat and vegetation environmental management plan.

Commissioner Larsen noted that some areas could be very close to being designated a wildlife sanctuary, but don't quite make the cut. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that the management policies for the area could be changed to help it qualify for the designation.

Commissioner Adams noted that this policy has received a very positive reception from the public. He believes the policy is flexible and asked that, if needed, it be amended in the future and Deputy Superintendent Williams agreed and added that use policies always come before the Park Board for consideration.

Commissioners briefly discussed section 7.0 of the Policy "WITHDRAWAL OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARY DESIGNATION" and requested that staff review this section with the City's Law Department.

Commissioner Holme asked if the first park area designated as a Wildlife Sanctuary could be treated as a pilot program, as a basis for learning from the experience, and Deputy Superintendent Williams agreed. Commissioner Holme read section 7.0 and asked if the policy is reviewed by Seattle's Law Department. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that Ms. Salinas will work with the Law Department so the policy does not unintentionally tie the Department's hands. Commissioner Larsen commented that she believes 7.0 will help the policy do what it sets out to do and will be a strong element for protection of the wildlife sanctuaries.

**Commissioner Adams moved to recommend to the Superintendent approval of the Department's Policy on Wildlife Sanctuaries and Commissioner Larsen seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed with all voting yes. Commissioner Barber asked that the minutes reflect the discussion of section 7.0 of the policy.**

Commissioners thanked Deputy Superintendent Williams for tonight's update and Ms. Salinas for her work on the wildlife sanctuary policy. A copy of the latest version follows:



## *Draft Policy*

DRAFT

Department Policy & Procedure

Subject: Wildlife Sanctuary

### 1.0 PURPOSE STATEMENT

To continue and increase wildlife and habitat protection and enhancement efforts within parks. To promote public education and volunteer involvement in stewardship of parks. To ensure consistency in Department actions related to wildlife and habitat protection and promote interdepartmental and interagency cooperation in these efforts.

### 2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

- 2.1 Department of Parks and Recreation
- 2.2 Seattle Public Utilities Department
- 2.3 Other City departments on a case by case basis

### 3.0 REFERENCES

- 3.1 2000 Urban Wildlife and Habitat Management Plan
- 3.2 2005 Department of Parks and Recreation Best Management Practice Manual, Chapter 5
- 3.3 SMC 18.12.030 (9, 10) Park Code – Rule of Construction, definition of “Park” and “Park Rule”
- 3.4 SMC 18.12.040 Park Code – Superintendent’s Authority
- 3.5 SMC 25.05.675 (N) Park Code – Specific environmental policies, Plants and Animals
- 3.6 Park Policy 5.6.1 – Tree Management
- 3.7 2007 Urban Forest Management Plan
- 3.8 Seattle Parks and Recreation Strategic Action Plan: 2009 - 2013

### 4.0 POLICY

- 4.1 The Superintendent on an annual basis shall accept and consider nominations for a Special Status Species of wildlife **and** their habitat to be designated as a Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 4.2 A Special Status Species or habitat to be designated shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. Local populations of native species that are in danger of extinction or likely to be endangered as identified in the federal Endangered Species Act; or

- b. Local populations of native species whose continued existence in the state and their sensitivity to habitat alteration is of concern as identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); or
  - c. Local populations of native species of local importance that may have declining populations (based on peer reviewed scientific research), yet are not listed by state or federal governments for protection, and those that are especially valued by Seattle’s citizens as symbolic of the Pacific Northwest; and,
  - d. Protection by other county, state, local or federal policies, laws, regulations, or non-regulatory tools is not adequate to prevent degradation of the species or habitat in Seattle; and
  - e. Areas nominated to protect a particular habitat or species have either high-quality habitat or habitat with a high potential to recover to a suitable quality, and the habitat is limited in quantity, highly vulnerable to alteration, or connects habitats (wildlife corridors).
- 4.3 Nominations shall be in writing, address the criteria listed in section 4.2, and state whether specific habitat features are being nominated (for example, nest sites and breeding areas), or whether the habitat or ecosystem is being nominated in its entirety. Any planned or desired habitat restoration or management activities and practices must be included in the nomination.
- 4.4 The Superintendent shall review the nomination and make the decision to approve or deny the request based on:
- a. How compelling a case was made using the criteria listed in section 4.2
  - b. Planned or desired restoration activities are in keeping with departmental policy, applicable laws or best management practices
  - c. Adequacy of resources needed to establish, maintain and manage the proposed Wildlife Sanctuary
- 4.5 If approved, the Superintendent will authorize and approve a site-specific plan developed by Department staff in collaboration with staff from other City departments, along with outside organizations who have expertise in wildlife and habitat management.
- 4.5 Site-specific plans must:
- a. Address habitat restoration and/or habitat and species management strategies critical to the designated Wildlife Sanctuary
  - b. Provide strategies for implementing and monitoring the plan and evaluating short and long-term changes to the designated Wildlife Sanctuary
  - c. Describe and justify any anticipated impacts to the Park infrastructure and/or designated use
- 4.6 The Department will support wildlife biology and ecology education for park users of the Wildlife Sanctuary. Where possible, public access routes and viewing areas will be created to allow users to observe wildlife without disturbing it or damaging natural resources.

- 4.7 The Department will promote volunteer stewardship in the protection and enhancement of Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- 4.8 Designated critical habitat areas for Special Status Species will become part of Park comprehensive plans, Park master plans, Park vegetation management plans and other applicable plans.

## 5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Wildlife Sanctuary: A critical habitat area for one or more Special Status Species. The major theme in such areas is to preserve integrity and minimize intrusion. (SMC 25.09.200)

## 6.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the Department staff, led by the Natural Resources Management Unit, to monitor and ensure these policies are carried out. Department staff will recommend appropriate actions to the Superintendent including establishing additional restrictions within a Wildlife Sanctuary if needed to protect the wildlife and/or the habitat.
- 6.2 The Superintendent may establish additional restrictions, based on scientific information, levels of protection or other actions he determines are necessary in order to protect, restore or enhance the Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 6.3 The Department will promote interdepartmental and interagency cooperation to protect Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- 6.4 Department staff is responsible to have signs made and installed to educate the public about the Wildlife Sanctuary, and, as needed, to control and direct the use of Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- 6.5 The Superintendent's Office will develop permission forms for public or educational use activities within Wildlife Sanctuaries.

## 7.0 WITHDRAWAL OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

- 7.1 The Superintendent may make the decision to withdraw a Wildlife Sanctuary designation if there is a significant change(s) in the habitat designated as a wildlife sanctuary, resulting in a determination, supported by scientific information, that the habitat is no longer considered to be a high quality habitat or habitat with a high potential to recover to suitable quality within realistic resources and efforts.

Wildlife surveys will not be used in determining a withdrawal of a Wildlife Sanctuary Designation. It is not uncommon for animals that have abandoned a site to return if there is quality habitat. There can also be successful efforts in reintroducing species that have abandoned a site for long periods of time.

The Department will not withdraw a Wildlife Sanctuary Designation solely for the purpose of converting the designated site to another use.

Prior to considering a withdrawal of a Wildlife Sanctuary designation, a careful review of the site plan will be conducted to determine if changes to the site plan could provide a feasible alternative to the withdrawal of the Wildlife Sanctuary designation.

- 7.2 The Department will notify the public of the intent to withdraw a Wildlife Sanctuary designation and will provide the public with an opportunity to comment.
- 7.3 Should a Wildlife Sanctuary designation be withdrawn, corresponding revisions will be completed on Park comprehensive plans, Park master plans, Park vegetation management plans and other applicable plans.

## **Public Hearing: Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop**

David Graves, Seattle Parks' Planning Manager, briefed the Board on progress on the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop Trail at the Board's September 25 meeting. To read the minutes, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2008/09-25-08.pdf>. Tonight the Board has scheduled a public hearing and will discuss the project and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 23 meeting.

### ***Public Hearing***

No one signed up to testify.

### ***Board Discussion***

Mr. Graves briefly reviewed the information in the September 25 briefing. Two public meetings have been held, with 110 people at the first and 70 at the second, and 85% of the comments were positive. He next reviewed a few concerns that were heard at the meetings.

Commissioner Adams commented that he was out of town on September 25 and watched the video of the meeting on Seattle Channel. He complimented the excellent graphics presented by the consultant and Mr. Graves. He asked if plans are to have both walking and bicycling on the Cheshiahud Trail. Mr. Graves answered that the focus of the Trail is walking, with bicycling allowed. Commissioner Adams next asked if there have been any changes made to the plans since that meeting and Mr. Graves answered no. The consultant and staff are now working to pull the Master Plan together and prioritize the project elements for 2009-2010.

Commissioner Kostka asked if there will be a speed limit for bicycles using the Trail. Mr. Graves answered that that bike speed is a concern and they are looking at ways to slow the bikes. The Trail will not be an especially convenient way to commute as are some other routes. Commissioner Kostka asked if speed bumps and other slowing elements will be included. Mr. Graves answered that he and the consultant are looking at ways to incorporate these and some are already included in the plans.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Larsen about the public art elements of the Trail, Mr. Graves noted that he has a relatively small budget of \$10,000 for the Trail's public art and is working with the City's Office of Cultural Affairs on the art elements. Commissioner Larsen noted that several areas of the Trail have some community art elements and a piecemeal approach can be good; however, she thinks this is a terrific opportunity to develop significant public art for the Trail.

Commissioner Barber stated that the Mallard Cove design is very interesting with its three options and asked how the final design will be decided. Mr. Graves answered that the decision will be made and prioritized through the Trail's Master Plan.

Mr. Holme reflected that the current design is "broad scale" and has had few negative comments. However, he believes that when the Trail elements get more specific there may be more disagreement. He noted that Seattle Department of Transportation will be the lead on a number of elements of the projects, with Seattle Parks being the lead on other elements. He urged that it be made clear to the public which Department is the lead on each element. Mr. Graves agreed with this.

Mr. Graves will return to the October 23 meeting where Commissioners will complete their discussion of the Master Plan. He asked the Commissioners to consider whether the Department is on the right track in the design and whether any elements have been overlooked. Commissioners will make a recommendation to the Superintendent following their discussion.

## **Briefing: 2009-2010 Budget**

Carol Everson, Seattle Parks' Budget Director, gave a Powerpoint presentation and distributed a handout with the following information on the Department's Budget. Commissioner Adams asked if most of the changes in the budget are a result of the Department's Strategic Action Plan (SAP.) Ms. Everson answered that some changes are. However, when the budget was prepared, all the SAP information was not yet finalized.

### **Section 1: Budget Basics**

- 2009 Proposed Operating Budget
- 2009 Proposed Capital Improvement Project Budget by BCL (\$30.7 million)

Commissioner Holme asked what amounts other City Departments spend on Debt Financing and Ms. Everson answered that she does not know that information for other Departments.

### **Section 2: 2008 DPR Outcomes – Building for Tomorrow, Today**

- Completed Strategic Action Plan
- Reorganized Department
- Established the Community Connections unit
- Dispersed Enterprise functions into other divisions
- Natural Resources section (horticulture, forestry, environmental education)

#### **Completed 22 Capital Projects**

- Magnuson concession agreements and construction projects
- Washington Park Arboretum – Pacific Connections Garden
- Lake Union Park Development
  - Phase I completed; Phase II started
- Lower Woodland Skateboard Park
- Uptown's Counterbalance Park
- Acquired Ballard and 12<sup>th</sup> and James properties

#### **Build Strong Families and Healthy Communities**

- Park Rangers – Started April 2008
- Healthy Parks, Healthy You!
- Kickoff Event and Two Community Health Fairs
- Partnerships
- Car Free Days
- Special Populations Programs
- Began three after-school programs (middle school)
- Expanded summer camp opportunities
- Participated in planning for Youth Anti-Violence Initiative

### **2008 DPR Outcomes – Climate Action NOW**

Included the goals, year-to-date, and year-end estimates on the following: acres forest restored; seedlings planted; trees replaced; outdoor park recycling pilot; reduce water consumption; volunteer hours; and commute trip reduction pilot.

### **Section 3: Major Adds and Reductions 2009-2010 Proposed vs. 2008 Adopted**

- Strategic Action Plan Implementation
  - Improved Financial Management
    - New maintenance management system (+\$100,000)
    - Asset Management program (+\$104,000)
- Department Reorganization
  - Improved Management & Service Delivery
    - Management/Analytical Staff realignment (-\$119,000)
    - Close Print Shop and Warehouse (-\$145,000)

### **Section 3: Major Adds and Reductions 2009-2010 Proposed vs. 2008 Adopted**

- Recreation Program Changes
  - Carry out Youth Anti-Violence Initiative (+\$779,000)
  - Teen program staffing restructured for flexibility and general fund savings (-\$204,000)
  - Reduce general fund support for computer labs and program annexes (-\$147,000)
  - Eliminate underutilized free swim lessons (-\$194,000)
  - Reduce lifeguarded hours at beaches on weekdays during low attendance times (-\$65,000)
  - Eliminate 2008 one-time funding for increased Community center hours (-\$517,000)

Commissioner Larsen asked if this will impact the Strategic Action Plan and hours of operation at the community centers. Ms. Everson answered that the Department would like to have the community centers open even more hours. The hours of operation could have been cut; however, the Mayor supported keeping them at the current level of operation.

### **Section 3: Major Adds and Reductions 2009-2010 Proposed vs. 2008 Adopted**

- Park Program Changes
  - Add a 4<sup>th</sup> tree crew for improved system-wide tree maintenance (+\$335,000)
  - Add maintenance for new and improved parks and buildings (+575,000)
  - Close the Volunteer Park Conservatory on Monday, the lowest attendance day (-\$30,000)
  - Reduce temporary seasonal grounds maintenance staffing by approximately 10% (-\$151,000)

### **Section 3: Major Adds and Reductions 2009-2010 Proposed vs. 2008 Adopted**

- Significant Line Item Changes
  - Aquarium maintenance will be paid for by attendance revenues (-\$100,000)
  - Reduce vehicle fleet by 10 vehicles (-\$28,000)
  - Reduce funding for consultant services (-\$100,000)
  - Increase in internal City-charged rates (+\$1,300,000)
  - DoIT, FFD (including fuel), judgment and claims

### **Section 3: Major Adds and Reductions 2009-2010 Proposed vs. 2008 Adopted**

- Increase Fees (\$424,000)
  - Adult Swimming fees
  - Boat ramp fees
  - Adult athletics, including tennis
  - Room rental fees
- Changes to Contract Revenue (\$417,000)
  - Increase Golf Program support of other Parks and Recreation services (from 3.5% to 5% of gross golf revenues)
  - Children’s Hospital parking fee increase at Magnuson
  - Increase moorage revenues to fund moorage improvements

### **Section 4: Capital Projects – Major Changes**

- Major New Projects
  - Delridge Playfield Renovation: \$2.9 million
  - Play Area Renovation: \$800,000
  - Design of West Seattle & Maple Leaf Reservoirs: \$400,000
  - Basketball Court Lighting: \$175,000
  - Denny Park Lighting: \$159,000

### **Section 4: Capital Projects – Major Changes**

- Major Changes to Existing Projects
  - Rainier Beach Community Center/Pool: \$24.5 million
  - Northgate Park Acquisition/Development: \$9.8 million
  - Delridge Skatepark: \$700,000
  - Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop: \$600,000
  - Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center: \$365,000
  - Colman Pool Renovation: \$900,000
  - Golf Capital Improvements: \$30 million in 2010 (potential debt funding)

### ***Board Discussion***

Commissioner Larsen asked if the Rainier Community Center/Pool will have a LEED rating. Ms. Everson responded that the Department’s goal is to receive at least a silver rating on all its new buildings.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Adams on the \$30 million for golf clubhouses, Ms. Everson responded that Parks is looking at not only the clubhouses, but other amenities at the courses such as electric golf carts, cart paths, and perimeter walking trails. The Board was especially enthusiastic about the perimeter walking trails. Commissioner Adams noted that golf courses all over the country are upgrading their facilities as a way of increasing their income. Ms. Everson stated that if the aging golf clubhouse buildings are upgraded, they can be rented for various purposes and that increases income.

Commissioner Barber asked about the average cost of a full-time Parks employee and Ms. Everson stated that the salary and benefits of the lowest paid employee are \$50-60,000.

Commissioner Larsen asked what lessons can be learned from golf’s profitability. Ms. Everson answered that (1) the municipal golf courses do not pay rent on the land it uses; and (2) the Department’s history with golf is problematic: demand for golf could decrease and there have been some issues with the management companies (one filed for bankruptcy.) She summarized that the golf courses are a great asset, must be taken care of, and the City must invest in them.

Commissioner Kostka asked about the \$900,000 figure for Colman Pool. Mr. Stoops responded that this outdoor pool, located in Lincoln Park in West Seattle, is a 1940's vintage pool. The costs are for a changing room and to replace/repair the deteriorating aggregate decking.

Due to time constraints, Commissioner Holme asked the Board to submit any additional questions to Ms. Everson in writing. Commissioners thanked her for the briefing.

**Old/New Business**

Park Naming Policy: Commissioners are currently reviewing the Department's Park Naming Policy. Commissioners Ranade and Barber will bring suggested changes to the October 23 meeting for discussion and a possible recommendation to the Superintendent. Commissioner Barber stated that he met with former Park Board Chair Bruce Bentley. He found Mr. Bentley to be very interested in the policy and supportive of a more flexible policy. Current Park Board Chair Ranade has also suggested adding language to ensure that the naming of parks includes a public involvement process.

Disclosure Filed: Commissioner Larsen recently filed a "Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict or Impaired Judgment SMC.4.16.070.6.b" with Seattle's Ethics and Elections Commission. This filing is to acknowledge her volunteer efforts for Project Seattle Pools and that she will testify as a citizen – and not as a Park Board Commissioner – at Seattle City Council budget hearings in support of the group's efforts to include funding in the 2009-2010 budget for a swim pool feasibility study.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_