

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2010

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

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<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Neal Adams
John Barber
Terry Holme
Jourdan Keith
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair
Jackie Ramels, Chair

Excused:

Donna Kostka

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Board members introduced themselves. She welcomed the audience to the meeting, and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Holme moved and Commissioner Kincaid seconded approval of the September 23 agenda, August 12 minutes, and the record of correspondence received by the Board since the August 12 meeting.**

Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent Williams was attending the City Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee special meeting. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following topics.

Good News! Three Grants Awarded:

Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grants: This grant was awarded to a coalition of 39 organizations across Washington State. Seattle's Associated Recreation Council (ARC)'s portion of the \$4.2 million grant, which totals \$850,000, will support operations of Seattle Parks' technology programs for two years, funding technology upgrades in nine community center

labs, expand the hours of public access to the labs, and provide an additional 50 summer internship opportunities for Seattle youth.

2010 GoGirlGo! Grant: Parks was selected as a grantee of GoGirlGo! Seattle. The grant award of \$7,750 will be used to teach young girls to make healthy lifestyle choices. The Business Resources Grant Consultant worked with Jefferson Community Center staff and with DiscNW (Ultimate Frisbee non-profit organization) to develop a successful proposal for a program directed at getting girls involved in physical activity.

Out of School Time (OST) Grant: The OST office received a grant from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) grant. This is a five-year grant, renewable yearly depending on funding and performance, with a yearly award of \$100,000. Parks is partnering with the YWCA of Greater Seattle. This funding will be used to expand the CLC at Mercer Middle School including after-school activities, family engagement, and a summer academic program. The YMCA, through contract with Parks, will operate out-of-school-time activities at Franklin High School.

Commissioner Adams asked whether 100% of the OST grant will pass through Parks to YWCA. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that it will not and that the Department hopes to receive more of these grants.

Lake Union Park Opening: Commissioners and the audience were invited to join the Seattle Parks Foundation and Seattle Parks and Recreation on Saturday, September 25, to celebrate the dedication of Lake Union Park with its partners, The Center for Wooden Boats, Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), and The United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. This free public celebration will kick off with a Family Fun Run and Sunrise Yoga on the Fitness Field, and continue all day with family activities on land and water. The formal ceremony is scheduled at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Holme, the Park Board's representative to the Seattle Parks Foundation, also encouraged everyone to attend.

West Seattle Golf Driving Range: The second public meeting was held on September 15. The community does not like impacts to the course and vocal opposition and written responses were areas of concern. The team is working on an option that will be seen as an addition and not an impact to the course. Parks staff are also working to revise the 35th Avenue entrance.

Walt Hundley Naming Event: Last weekend a wonderful celebration was held in West Seattle to celebrate naming of the Walt Hundley Playfields. The event was well attended, with speeches by Former Mayors Wes Uhlman and Charlie Royer, former Park Department Superintendent Ken Bounds, former Parks staff member Curt Green, Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams, and Mr. Hundley's sons David and Evan. This was a great way to honor a former Parks Superintendent and leader in the African American community.

Seattle Park Foundation News: Following the retirement of Karen Daubert after nearly 10 years as Executive Director of the Foundation, Thatcher Bailey has been named as the new Executive Director. Mr. Bailey is a Seattle native, passionate advocate for parks, and fundraiser with a long history of success. Ms. Daubert started with the Parks Foundation in 2001 as the only staff member. She leaves an organization that is supported by a highly effective board and staff team that are extending Seattle Parks Foundation's reach in the community.

Mr. Bailey is leaving his position as lead with the Port Townsend Public Development Authority and Fort Worden Collaborative. Before that he served five years as executive director of Centrum in Port Townsend, publisher of the Copper Canyon Press, founder and publisher of Bay Press, president of the Pride Foundation, and founding president of Artist Trust.

In the coming years, the Seattle Parks Foundation will be focused on completing 2-3 neighborhood park projects each year, implementing the vision of the Bands of Green report, and partnering with others to create a magnificent Central Waterfront in the Downtown neighborhood.

Trust for Public Land Study: Earlier this year, staff from Trust for Public Land briefed the Park Board on a study of Seattle Parks, jointly funded by Seattle Parks Foundation and Parks Department. The report is near completion and will be issued in the next several weeks.

Commissioner Kostka noted that the Trust for Public Land's 2010 annual report was recently made available.

Pike Place Market Historic Commission Adopts New Guidelines: The Pike Place Market Historical Commission adopted revised guidelines on September 22, 2010. The Guidelines affect both programming and physical development in Victor Steinbrueck Park, which is included in the historical district boundaries. Parks staff testified to the commission that the new guidelines are more restrictive than Parks is comfortable with.

Overview: Programming should be more streamlined in that special events of no more than three days do not require a Certificate of Approval unless an event requires electronic amplification. Regarding physical changes, the Guidelines are much stricter than in the previous Guidelines. Views and character-defining features (almost everything in the Park) should be preserved and the addition of new features not part of the 1982 original design is strongly discouraged. The Commission and the District Coordinator contend that the use of language such as "should" and "strongly discouraged" will still allow Parks to propose renovations and additions to the original park design while preserving its character. It should be noted that renovations for compliance with ADA accessibility and other regulatory requirements will be able to be made in the park but must be submitted as part of a Certificate of Approval.

Commissioner Ramels asked if this is related to the Women in Black wanting to install a statue at Victor Steinbrueck Park dedicated to deceased homeless people. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that it is related. The Hearing Examiner ruled that the statue can be installed; however, the Preservation Board opted to approve stricter guidelines for what can be added to the park.

Thomas C. Wales Park Update: Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli and Project Manager Patrick Donahue recently met with 5-6 owners at Windwatch Condominiums, regarding concerns voiced by Helen Swint of Windwatch about the new parks' perimeter fence that borders their condos. There was disagreement from those homeowners present on whether or not they want the fence. Parks staff agreed to put a gate in the fence and to give Windwatch

owners a key for access into the park, while recognizing that this solution may not make Ms. Swint happy.

Seattle Parks' 2011 Budget: Mayor McGinn will announce his proposed 2011 budget on Monday, September 27, at Rainier Community Center to the public. He will then present it to City Council at 2:00 pm. Parks staff will receive notice of proposed position cuts at 9:00 am that morning and will meet in groups with upper management staff. Each staff member will receive a letter as to whether or not their position is affected. The budget will then go to Council for deliberation and final approval.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained 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-to-three minutes each, will be timed, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. The Board's usual process is for 10 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 Old/New Business. No one signed up to testify.

Public Hearing: Concept of Allowing Other Uses at Seattle Parks' Low-Use Tennis Courts

At the Board's September 9 meeting, Dennis Cook, Seattle Parks' Citywide Athletics Manager, presented a briefing on the Concept of Allowing Other Uses at Seattle Parks' Low-Use Tennis Courts. The Board plans to vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent at its October 28 meeting. To read the briefing paper from the September 9 meeting, please see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks> <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2010/09-09-10.pdf>. To hear the discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591059> and move cursor to position 51.25.

Tonight's meeting was standing room only, with many people present for the public hearing. To hear Mr. Cook's comments, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591074> and move the cursor to position 19.40.

Mr. Cook gave a brief review of the proposal. Parks staff will lead Commissioners on a tour of Cal Anderson tennis courts (located on Capitol Hill and being used by the public for both tennis and dodge ball games) and several other tennis courts. The public is welcome on the tour and should plan to provide their own transportation from site to site.

Commissioner Ramels reminded the audience that the Board held a public hearing on a pilot program for dodge ball at tennis courts in 2008. The Superintendent's decision at that time was not to allow the dodge ball play. She commented that the Board is advisory to the Superintendent and views proposals through a number of filters.

The Board will accept written testimony through Tuesday, October 26.

Public Hearing

The public hearing began. All who requested to speak were allotted two minutes each to testify, asked to speak at the podium, and timed. The Chair urged anyone with additional comments to e-mail their testimony to the Board's coordinator. 35 people testified. A very brief summary follows and includes the speaker's name and whether or not they support the proposal. To listen to the full comments, please see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591074> and move cursor to position 26.00.

Bill Brooks: Member of US Tennis Association Board. Opposed to proposal.

Leslie Look: Tennis player and opposed to proposal.

Matt Look: Tennis player and not opposed to the Department finding space for emerging sports, but opposed to this proposal to use low-use tennis courts for this purpose.

Patricia Lally: Tennis player and not opposed to space for dodge ball, but opposed to using tennis courts for this purpose.

Gavin Lund: Tennis player and opposed to proposal to use tennis courts for other sports.

Jon Girsch: Tennis player and opposed to proposal.

Aaron Paul: Dodge ball player and supports using a tennis court at Cal Anderson for this purpose.

Matt Messenger: Founder of Seattle bike polo and supports proposal to use low-use tennis courts for emerging sports.

Ruoal Lopez: Member of BMX Club and supports proposal.

Richard Miller: Tennis player and opposed to proposal.

Brant Lyerla: Tennis player and supports proposal to use low-use tennis courts for emerging sports, but not at Cal Anderson courts due to high tennis demand. Suggested the Department also consider converting basketball courts to multiple use sites.

Hareesh Kapoor: Dodge ball player and supports designating a Cal Anderson court for this sport.

Wade Atkinson: Bike polo player and supports the proposal.

Chris Hunter: Member of junior roller derby and supports the proposal.

Erika Moore: Not a dodge ball player, but supports keeping dodge ball at Cal Anderson court.

Carl Bergquist: Tennis player and opposes the proposal.

Mark Faasse: Dodge ball player and wants to keep dodge ball at Cal Anderson tennis court.

Nick Dolan: Dodge ball player and wants to keep playing it at Cal Anderson tennis court.

Arlo Smith: Dodge ball player and wants to keep dodge ball at Cal Anderson tennis court.

Steve Widmeyer: Dodge ball player and wants to keep dodge ball at Cal Anderson tennis court.

Lucas Boyle: Dodge ball player and wants to keep dodge ball at Cal Anderson tennis court.

Todd Mason: President of Seattle RC racers and supports proposal.

Sean Kauffman: Dodge ball player and wants to keep dodge ball at Cal Anderson tennis court.

Steven Weinreich: Seattle street hockey player and supports proposal.

Randy Van Helsnen: Seattle Tennis Association Board member and opposes the proposal.

Bill Rumpf: Tennis player and opposes proposal.

Brendan Boyle: His two sons play dodge ball at Cal Anderson and he supports the proposal.

Peter Rothbart: Dodge ball player and supports the proposal.

Mitchell Morley: Dodge ball player and supports the proposal.

Beth Meberg: Dodge ball player and supports the proposal.

Norman Frey: Tennis player and opposes the proposal.

Donna Hartmann-Miller: Requested additional information on how the Department will budget for potential damage if court usage increases; made other suggestions.

Lean Ettelson: Seattle bike polo player and supports the proposal.

Alex Danilchik: Model race car club member and supports the proposal.

Fidel Trower-Kelly: Dodge ball player and supports the proposal to use low-use tennis courts for emerging/alternative sports.

The public hearing ended at 8:45 pm. Commissioner Ramels thanked those who testified and also thanked the large crowd for their courtesy. The Board will continue to accept written testimony through Tuesday, October 26.

Board Discussion

Commissioners made several comments/requests, as follows:

Commissioner Adams

- Asked how Parks will decide how to allocate limited assets for various uses?
- Requested a very clear definition of what Parks staff mean by "limited use."
- Requested a summary of how many tennis courts are really in bad shape.
- Commented that whatever action the Department takes on this proposal will have its consequences. It is critical that the Board have correct information to consider the consequences, while making its recommendation. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the Department is setting up criteria so options will be thoughtful and any alternative uses will take place at the appropriate site.
- Will e-mail additional questions.

Commissioner Barber

- Is fascinated by the physical requirements needed for the various emerging sports. Each sport has its own standards and he questions how tennis courts can fit all those different standards.

Commissioner Holme

- Send the Board a list of lighted tennis courts.
- Send models for revenue-based scheduling.
- Asked if the I-90 Lid is a possible site. Mr. Cook responded that WSDOT owns the property and restricts it from this use.
- Asked if the sports advocacy groups have discussed the proposal. Mr. Cook responded that they fully support it.
- Requested that the Sports Advisory Group send a letter of support to the Park Board.
- Requested Parks staff to also consider alternative sports on Seattle School District property. Mr. Cook responded that they are doing so.

Commissioner Keith

- Requested information on whether each court surface is clay, asphalt, or concrete.
- Asked how Parks will stop dodge ball from being played at Cal Anderson, if that decision is made. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that, if that determination is made, tennis players would call Seattle Police Department if the courts are being used for non-tennis sports.

Commissioner Kincaid

- Asked if some sports cause more damage than others.
- Requested the Department to consider other sites, not just tennis courts, to satisfy different groups' needs.
- Asked for a list of courts that are not currently being used because of safety concerns. If they are unsafe for tennis, how will they be made safe for other sports.

Commissioner Ramels

- Asked staff to provide projected maintenance costs due to increased use.

Commissioners asked that the October 28 agenda include extra time to discuss this proposal and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Briefing: Central Waterfront Development

Nathan Torgelson, Seattle Parks' Senior Real Property Manager, briefed the Board on the City's Central Waterfront Development plan. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, included in these minutes.

To hear the verbal briefing and the Board's discussion of the plan, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591074>.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

None requested; this is an informational briefing only.

Project Description and Background

With the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, Seattle is poised to reclaim its Central Waterfront and reconnect it to Elliott Bay. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a dynamic and inviting waterfront public space that reflects our values as a City. This is one of the most significant civic projects in Seattle's 150 year history. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and Parks and Recreation are working jointly to staff a 41 member Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee that is helping to guide us through this process. The three departments are also working to select a consultant team who will design more than nine acres of public waterfront space and a new surface street on Alaskan Way. This team will work closely with the team that has been selected to work on the Elliott Bay Seawall Project.

In 2003 the City began a public process for developing a community vision for the Central Seattle Waterfront. In 2004 the City and the Planning and Design Commissions jointly sponsored public forums to establish principles for reclaiming the Central Waterfront and reconnecting it with Center City. These principles were adopted by the City Council through Resolutions 30664 and 30724. In May 2006 the City's Department of Planning and Development published the Waterfront Concept Plan, which provided concepts for reclaiming the Central Waterfront for public use consistent with Resolution 30664. Parks has done additional planning work focused on the Central Waterfront surrounding the Aquarium. Between 2005 and 2007, concurrent with the broader City process, Parks determined at a conceptual level the best options for the creation of a civic space, pier replacement, and habitat enhancements on the Central Waterfront. This Parks process included planning and environmental review.

In April 2009 the Washington State Legislature passed legislation that provides funding for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program, which includes funding to complete street and public space improvements along Alaskan Way.

The City will need to secure additional funds for the public space improvements. It will take an unprecedented partnership between government, local communities and civic groups to identify common principles, develop a thoughtful overall approach, and recommend the tools needed to ensure the Central Waterfront is developed and maintained as a public space for all of Seattle.

To get there, the Seattle City Council adopted [Ordinance 123142](#), which created the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee. The 41 member committee has been meeting since late 2009, and includes Park Board Commissioner Donna Kostka. In addition 3 subcommittees of the group, partnerships, process and stewardship, have been meeting.

The Committee has already had a significant positive impact. The Committee recommended a two tier approach to selecting the team that will design the project. City staff and two Committee members recently shortlisted four teams for the urban design portion of the project. The selected urban design team will help the City choose an engineering team. Then both the urban design and engineering teams will merge and will have one contract with the City. SDOT will be the contracting agency.

The City received 30 urban design proposals from local, national and international firms. The City also received six proposals for engineering work. The four shortlisted urban design teams are led by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (based in Seattle), James Corner Field Operations (based in New York City), Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (based in New York City) and Wallace Roberts & Todd (based in Philadelphia). All have local firms in their groups. The next step will be public presentations on September 15 in Benaroya Hall. The public can ask questions and hear the shortlisted firms explain their skills, experience and approach. The lead designer will be selected in part based on the quality of their presentation and ability to engage the public.

Issues/Recommendations

The Partnership Committee is currently working on recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. The Committee has been looking at best practices from other cities, the unique challenges and opportunities we face in Seattle, and will recommend partnerships and strategies essential to succeeding with such a complex public project. The recommendations will focus on the following:

- Project scope and consultant selection process;
- Partnerships and public oversight. The Committee has written a charter to establish a successor group that will guide the design process and establish a partnership between the City, civic organizations and the broader public. The Committee is also recommending that a separate nonprofit organization be ultimately created that will play a growing role in the management, operation and funding of the Central Waterfront. The Committee is also recommending that a stakeholder group be created to advise the City on the Central Waterfront Project and the Elliott Bay Seawall Project. The Seawall Stakeholders group is already meeting and will be merged into a larger waterfront stakeholder group once the Central Waterfront consultant team is selected.
- Stewardship considerations, including management, programming, advocacy, promotion, security and maintenance.

Strategic Action Plan

This project is related to Goal 1D2 of the Strategic Action Plan, *“Explore with the Department of Planning and Development and private developers opportunities to acquire and develop parks and open space in the Center City.”*

Public Involvement Process

The Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee held four meetings in March to take input from the public. In addition, all of the Committee and Subcommittee meetings have been open to the public. Numerous additional public meetings will be held throughout the process.

Budget/Schedule

Design will begin in October and run until 2015. Construction is scheduled from 2016 to 2018. The budget for design work in phase one, which will stretch over two years, is expected to be about \$6 million. The estimated budget for planning and design of the entire project is between \$50 million and \$70 million. The State is providing \$290 million for the demolition of the viaduct and construction of the new Alaskan Way. The City is estimating and will finance a minimum of \$150 million for the utility, seawall and public realm work.

Additional Information

For more information, you can contact David Graves at david.graves@seattle.gov or Nathan Torgelson at nathan.torgelson@seattle.gov

Commissioners thanked Mr. Graves and Mr. Torgelson for the informative briefing.

Old/New Business:

Atlantic City Nursery: Commissioner Ramels noted that the Board has had several e-mails since its discussion and recommendation requesting follow up on the future of the Atlantic City Nursery. Commissioner Barber added that some of the neighbors are gripped by fear about the future of the site. He believes Parks’ planners are doing a good job to bring the police into the planning, as well as improving maintenance at the site and clearing the pathway to improve its safety. He has remaining concerns about the planning process and funding. Commissioner Holme responded that he is a member of the Parks Levy Oversight Committee, which is considering this ranked project for Levy funding. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli added that the change of use for the site had to be brought before the Park Board and determined by the Superintendent before the Levy Oversight could consider it for funding.

Daily News Roundup: Mayor’s Office staff distribute a daily news roundup regarding City of Seattle. From that roundup, the Park Board Coordinator, Sandy Brooks, selects articles regarding Seattle’s parks and other items of interest to send to the Board. She asked if the Board finds these articles helpful and want to continue receiving them. Board members do find them helpful and want to continue receiving them.

Central Waterfront Design: Commissioner Kincaid asked that the Board be briefed on the outcome of the six-month design process for the Central Waterfront.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____