

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 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
Donna Kostka
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair

Excused:

Jackie Ramels, Chair

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 Kincaid 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 Barber seconded approval of the November 18 agenda, September 23 and October 14 minutes, and the record of correspondence received by the Board since the October 14 meeting. The vote was taken and motion carried.** Commissioner Kostka abstained, as she was unable to read the documents.

Superintendent's Report

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following topics. To listen to the report, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591083> and move cursor to position 2.00.

Denny Awards: These annual awards are presented to outstanding volunteers who donate a vast amount of their time to Seattle's parks, as coaches, park stewards, and many other capacities. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7, 6:00-9:00 pm, at the Lake Union Armory. This will be one of the last public meetings to be held at the Armory prior to the Museum of History and Industry's move to the site.

SR 520 6f Mitigation Impacts: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is requesting comments on the 6f mitigation of the SR 520 project, which affects The Washington Park Arboretum, McCurdy Parks, and several other parks. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli briefly explained the 6f process. [Section 6(f) of the Washington State [Land and Water Conservation Fund Act](#) (LWCFA) concerns transportation projects that propose to convert outdoor recreation property that was acquired or developed with LWCFA grant assistance, which in Washington is distributed by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB), formerly the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC).] If WSDOT takes

park land, it must replace it. Waterfront property, owned by the UW, has been identified as a possible swap for the park land that WSDOT will take for the SR 520 project. Comments are being accepted through Thursday, December 8.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kostka whether the Parks Department will submit formal comments, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that Parks staff continue answer questions from WSDOT and he is unsure at this time whether the Department will submit comments. Commissioner Kostka asked if the proposed property is a good replacement and Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli believes it is. He noted that there are several mitigation processes, including 4f, 6f, and Section 42, which is a City ordinance. The Board agreed to discuss this further during Old/New Business.

Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) Update: There are 11 off-leash areas in Seattle's parks, with each having at least one steward. The stewards comprise the COLA Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. Acting Superintendent Williams recently met with the COLA Board and reported a positive meeting. There are some issues with the Lower Woodland off-leash area. Jose Rizal off-leash area is located near a homeless encampment and there has been some issues with the off-leash area water faucet being used as a hygiene station. Parks staff and COLA Board members will brief the Park Board in spring of 2011.

Magnuson Park's Building 30 Update: There have been many recent news stories on this building, which is used for a number of community events. The City's Department of Planning and Development and Fire Department have restricted the number of events, due to the building's condition. In past years, 38 events were allowed. Beginning in 2012, only seven events will be allowed, including the Friends of the Library book sale. Parks was allowed to hold the higher number as long as it was making improvements to the building. Parks did so and improved the roof and other lower cost improvements. Parks will develop the criteria for the competitive process it must implement in 2011. Councilmember Nick Licata has suggested a Councilmanic bond as a way to fund Building 30's costly improvements.

WRPA Conference: The annual Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA) conference will be held on Friday, November 19. Commissioners Kincaid and Barber will attend the segment especially designed for Boards and Commissions members.

Othello Park Lighting: Two community groups have differing opinions on the lighting at this park. Parks Department is establishing a Project Advisory Team of community members and staff to address this issue.

Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI): Documents have now been signed with Washington State to develop McCurdy Park as part of the SR 520 project. MOHAI will move to the Lake Union Armory and re-open to the public in 2012 at the new location.

Hometown Huddle Held: On October 26, the Garfield Teen Life Center hosted the Seattle Seahawks and United Way for the Annual Hometown Huddle, the annual day of giving for both organizations. The event included more than 90 volunteers, 17 active players, and staff from the Seahawks, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and United Way that completed a variety of campus projects.

Yesler Community Center Hosts Seattle Police Department's Pumpkin Carving Contest: The first SPD pumpkin carving contest was held on Monday, October 25, with 30 youth participating. They were very excited to carve pumpkins with the eight SPD officers. Goodies and treats were handed out for top carvers and the pumpkins were on display in the Seattle Police East Precinct.

Fifth Annual Green Seattle Day A Huge Success: The November 6 Green Seattle Day was the biggest and most successful ever, with an estimated 1,120 volunteers and great weather. The volunteers were working at 20 different parks across Seattle and planted over 4,000 plants, moved mountains of mulch, and removed ivy and blackberries to make ways for future plantings.

Lawton Playground: Children from Lawton Elementary and the neighborhood flocked to the renovated play area in Lawton Park, 3843 26th Ave. W, last week after Parks staff removed construction fencing from the most recent play area renovation project. The project, identified in the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, provided new play equipment for children ages 2-12, site improvements to enhance safety, and paving of east and west pathways to improve access by all users. Low fencing will remain in place near the play area to allow the grass to establish.

Green Lake Bathhouse Lighting: Commissioner Kostka referred to the poor outside lighting at this site. The facility has evening performances and the poor lighting makes it difficult for patrons to find their way. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that one of the Park Rangers and an electrician can do a site analysis to determine a solution, prepare a cost estimate, and then the upgrade would be added to an existing list of projects.

Budget Update: City Council adopted the City's 2011 budget on Monday, November 15. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli distributed a handout, which he reviewed. Council made several changes to Mayor McGinn's proposed budget, in relation to Parks' budget, and decreased its budget another \$1,028,020.

Council approved that the fee increase planned for 2012 would be moved forward one year and implemented in 2011. Council also reinstated some community center operating hours, with limited use. The Department strives to keep a \$1 million surplus for emergencies; that amount was reduced to \$500,000.

Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI): Council directed the Parks Department to prepare a Statement of Legislative Intent on three issues: (1) parking analysis at some Seattle parks; (2) community center partnership and planning analysis to determine how hours of operation can be increased without increased general fund support; and (3) the transition plan for the two rowing and sailing centers to move to self-sufficiency in 2012 and 2013.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Parks will receive \$2 million less in 2011 for maintenance to roofs, tennis courts, and community centers. The CIP is funded by the Real Estate and Excise Tax, which has been negatively impacted by the economy.

Commissioners asked whether City Council will take public comment on the parking fee analysis. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the plan has not yet been developed; however, it is likely Council will ask for public comment. The community center analysis will definitely include community meetings and it isn't yet known whether the rowing and sailing transition will have a public process.

Commissioner Holme asked if Council will ask the Park Board to hold the first public hearings on these topics. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that it was successful to bring the park operating hours to the Board prior to taking the proposal to City Council for approval. The scope and process are being determined now and he and Acting Superintendent Williams will report back to the Board in the near future.

Commissioner Holme referred to the Council's decision to not allow Parks to locate a number of its staff at Green Lake Community Center (due to losing office space at the Lake Union Armory to MOHAI) and asked where the staff will go instead. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that Council approved one unit to move to Green Lake Community Center, Aquatics will move to the RDA or Westbridge building, athletics and the business services center will stay in their current location, the Seattle Parks Foundation is moving to a private space, the Associated Recreation Council will move to the Densmore location, and the Lifelong Recreation program will move to Laurelhurst Community Center.

Commissioner Barber understands that Parks is eliminating 96 staff. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that notices will go to affected staff on Tuesday, November 23. Responding to an additional question from Commissioner Barber, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that the reductions include all full-time utility laborers will be reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. All who were previously $\frac{3}{4}$ time will be reduced to half-time.

Acting Deputy Superintendent thanked Councilmember Bagshaw for her advocacy and support of Parks in budget discussions.

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. Four people testified, with a very brief summary of their testimony included below. To hear the full testimony, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591083> and move cursor under screen to position 42.00.

Patricia Barger: Ms. Barger referred to the Council's Statement of Legislative Intent for community centers and will be very interested in how the Parks Department reflects the interests of the community centers.

Carol Fischer: Ms. Fischer noted that City Council increased the hours at community centers. She is a member of Lifelong Recreation and that program has lost 17% of its specialist and will lost a corresponding amount of their programs. Lifelong Recreation has a history of other programs taking precedence over them. She asked that partnerships address the Lifelong Programs, too. She recently heard Councilmember Bagshaw state at a community meeting that the Council's references say to highlight senior populations and not just youth. She asked if this is happening.

Donna Hartmann-Miller: Ms. Hartmann-Miller is chair of the Maple Leaf Park citizen's group. Earlier this week she sent the Park Board extensive documentation on the public process for this new park. She re-emphasized the dedication of the group and that they are legitimately requesting that a picnic shelter and community garden be included in the design. It is unfair that Parks is ignoring 365 pages of citizen input and effort. The community is requesting that these projects be included as unfunded and the community will raise the funds to implement.

Jim Cunningham: Mr. Cunningham is a member of the Queen Anne Community Council and appreciates the efforts of Councilmembers Bagshaw and Burgess to help save Queen Anne Community Center. When the Department considers partnerships, it should consider how to keep the sites open and available to the public. He also thanked the Park Board for its work.

Commissioner Kincaid thanked audience members for taking the time to attend tonight's meeting and for testifying.

Update: Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember Bagshaw is chair of the Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee (PASC) and attends several Park Board meetings annually. Tonight she thanked outgoing Commissioner Adams, whose term ends on 12/31, for his great job on the Park Board. Her office is now searching for his replacement. Commissioners noted that three years ago City Council adopted a resolution directing six members of the Park Board to select the seventh member. The Board filled the position as a one-term, four-year position which will expire on 12/31/11. Commissioners requested City Council re-visit this decision and determine a method where Commissioners do not have to select a fellow commissioners. Commissioner Holme suggested, in addition to this change, that the terms, which are set by City Council resolution to end on 12/31, be changed to end 3/31. The Council is heavily involved in budget proceedings at the end of the year and it is difficult to schedule confirmation hearings during October-December. Changing the expiration date to 3/31 could make it easier to schedule those hearings. Councilmember Bagshaw agreed to take these requests forth to PASC.

She next spent some time discussing the Parks Department budget regarding community center hours, fees, the apprenticeship program, parking fees in parks, and Lifelong Recreation program. She briefly referred to the Maple Leaf Reservoir project and the Lake-to-Bay Loop Trail, and recognized Thatcher Bailey as the new Executive Director of the Seattle Parks Foundation. Commissioners then asked a number of questions. To hear the discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591083> and move cursor to position 52.00.

Commissioner Kincaid thanked Councilmember Bagshaw for attending the meeting.

Briefing: Seattle Parks Foundation Update

Commissioners welcomed Thatcher Bailey as the new Executive Director of the Seattle Parks Foundation. Mr. Bailey briefed the Board on the Foundation's recent efforts. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing paper, included below.

Mr. Bailey distributed the Foundation's community report and reviewed information in the written briefing. He noted that Seattle Parks Department now has a \$30 million dollar annual shortfall in maintenance funding – and already has a \$300 million backlog in maintenance needs. He spent some time discussing a study funded by the Foundation to look at methods to help with this. The report will be finalized near the end of the year and will be presented to the Park Board. Commissioners agreed that the maintenance funding is a serious problem for the Department and asked a number of questions. To hear Mr. Bailey's briefing and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591083> and move the cursor to position 90.00.

Written Briefing

Seattle Parks Foundation improves, expands, and creates parks and green spaces, building a more vibrant community. The Parks Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working with public and private partners. Since 2001, Seattle Parks Foundation has completed 33 neighborhood park projects and raised nearly \$30 million for parks and green spaces in Seattle.

PARKS

In September 25,000 people came to celebrate the opening of **Lake Union Park**. This new Seattle landmark has already been honored as the NAIOP (the Commercial Real Estate Development Association) Community Project of the year and Seattle Parks Foundation was recipient of the 2010 Downtown Champion Award for our role in making Lake Union Park a reality.

For three years, Seattle Parks Foundation worked with the Wallingford community, Friends of Waterway 18, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources to design, permit, and fund the restoration of an underutilized waterway on north Lake Union along the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop. In June these partners came together to dedicate **Waterway 18**, now a renovated beach with restored habitat.

The opening of **Junction Plaza Park**, located in the heart of the West Seattle Junction, celebrated a five-year collaboration with West Seattle residents, the West Seattle Junction Association, and Seattle Parks and Recreation.

In South Seattle, we helped complete the transfer of four parcels of land near the headwaters of **Taylor Creek** to Parks, preserving 0.5 acres of critical salmon-spawning habitat.

Under our fiscal sponsorship **Seward Park Playground** Improvement Foundation developed a naturalistic play area adjoining old growth forest, where kids of all ages can explore the natural beauty of the Northwest.

Concord Elementary School PTA converted an underutilized outdoor area into a recreational center with a new playground layout and equipment. And Friends of **Jackson Park Trail** completed the design of a new four-mile loop surrounding the 200-acre Jackson Park Golf Course.

We have just approved a fiscal sponsorship for the design phase of the **Thornton Creek Park** restoration project. Friends of Thornton Creek Park plan to remove invasive plants, preserving the watershed areas around the creek, and providing educational opportunities around birds and plants.

As Seattle plans the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, the Parks Foundation is playing a lead role advocating for the inclusion of accessible, public green space along the **Central Waterfront** and reconnecting downtown to Elliott Bay. In September, we sponsored a presentation at Benaroya Hall to foster public engagement in the waterfront's design. More than 1,200 citizens heard the four short-listed design teams present their background and approach to the project. Last week we hosted a reception for the winning team—James Corner field operations—offering leaders of and advocates for the waterfront project, as well as city staff and elected officials, the chance to listen to and meet with members of the award winning design team.

GREEN CONNECTIONS

Seattle Parks Foundation continues to be the chief advocate for the implementation of **Bands of Green** report recommendations—trails and linear parks connecting neighborhoods and green space throughout our city. By working with city agencies and community partners, we are providing beautiful and safe transportation routes reminiscent of the original Olmsted Plan.

We are also updating the Bands of Green report to incorporate a number of recently completed plans, such as the Complete Streets, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans. The effort will document progress made on the plan's recommendations, prioritize remaining opportunities, and identify the next steps and partnerships needed to move key projects forward.

In partnership with public and private stakeholders, we are moving forward the **Lake to Bay Loop**, a new 3.5-mile pedestrian path establishing a green connection between Lake Union and Elliott Bay. A Council resolution in support of Lake to Bay was finally approved, and the resolution calls for completion of the Loop's design by June 2011. We have been meeting with city leaders, the Mayor and Council members to advocate that funding be included for Lake to Bay's design and early implementation as part of the 2011-12 budget. The Thomas Street Pedestrian Overpass—a critical link in the route—has been fully funded and construction will start in 2011.

We also continued our work with the city to oversee implementation of the **Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop**, and helped leverage an additional \$500,000 in public funds for implementation of priority projects on the route in 2010.

BENCH, TREE, AND YELLOW SWING DONATION PROGRAM

Last year 20 benches, 8 new trees, and 8 ADA-accessible yellow swings were funded by donors, and an additional 9 mature trees were "adopted" through our Adopt-a-Tree Program. In the past month alone we've submitted 5 work orders for new and refurbished benches across Seattle. The tree planting season for the Parks Department is beginning in November and there are already 14 trees that have been donated this season through the legacy tree donation program.

ADVOCACY

Seattle Parks Foundation is working to ensure adequate funding for Seattle's park system now and in the future. We are spearheading a collaborative **Parks Funding Study** effort with other nonprofit agencies to identify long-term funding solutions, helping to ensure the health of Seattle's parks for generations to come.

Briefing: Maple Leaf Reservoir

Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks Planning and Development Division Deputy Director; Kim Baldwin, Seattle Parks project planner; and Greg Brown, Berger Partnership, presented a briefing on the Maple Leaf Reservoir

project. Mr. Brown is the park designer. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, included in these minutes.

Ms. Baldwin and Mr. Brown displayed and described a number of large drawings of the project. They also described the public process. Earlier in the meeting, Ms. Hartmann-Miller voiced strong concerns that a large amount of public input, gathered by her and other community members outside the Park Department's process, was not included in the decisions. She stated that the community wants both a picnic shelter and community garden included in the plan and that the community would then raise funds to build both.

Commissioner Barber stated he read Ms. Hartmann-Miller's letter to the Board and asked why the Department didn't consider the public input she referred to. Mr. Shiosaki responded that it is uncommon for this type of community process to happen before the Department has started a project. The Department worked at community meetings to develop consensus on the design ideas, and he believes the vast majority of the ideas from the community's process are included in the design. He also believes that Ms. Hartmann-Miller is happy with 90-95% of the design. Responding to a question from Commissioner Adams whether the Department would be receptive to a picnic shelter, Mr. Shiosaki said it is, in general, and this could be looked at in the next design phase. As for a community garden, Seattle Public Utilities will not allow one over the City's water reservoirs; thus limiting the available sites for the garden. Mr. Shiosaki suggested the Department look at other sites in the Maple Leaf area that may be better suited for a community garden.

Commissioners asked a number of other questions. To hear the full discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4718> and move cursor to position 13.00.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This briefing is for informational purposes only. No action by the Board is requested.

Project Description and Background

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is replacing its open reservoirs with underground structures that will improve the quality and security of our water supply and provide new public open spaces on reservoir lids throughout Seattle. Construction of the lidded reservoir at Maple Leaf is slated to continue through first quarter of 2012 and the site will be turned over to Seattle Parks and Recreation after the work is complete.

The Maple Leaf Reservoir project provides for new park development on the reservoir lid and the development of a comprehensive site plan for the park space, including the existing Maple Leaf Playground. This plan will be implemented to transform the 16 acres of open space on the reservoir lid into a new neighborhood park for northeast Seattle. A number of scope elements have been identified in the schematic design process as priorities of the community. In addition to Parks and Green Spaces Levy funding, this project is also receiving 1% For the Arts funding and the artist is working closely with the project team to develop appropriate art for the site.

Three design concepts were presented to the public with the themes of Vista (taking advantage of views), Commons (creating many rectilinear outdoor rooms) and Waves (incorporating organically shaped forms). The public leaned toward the organic forms in Waves and the dramatic view corridors of Vistas. The schematic design weaves these two themes together and creatively integrates the park elements. The design team divided the site into different use areas and has given them names as follows: Family Terrace, Sports Terrace, Maple Leaf Terrace and Roosevelt Edge. Please see the attached schematic design for a full list of elements proposed for development along with potential future elements.

Strategic Action Plan

This project supports Goal #2 of the Strategic Action Plan (Provide Recreation and Learning Opportunities) and fits directly under the action item: Acquire and develop facilities to support community recreational needs.

Public Involvement Process

Parks held an extensive public involvement process for this project and community participation was outstanding. Four community meetings were held at Olympic View Elementary School between Dec. 15, 2009 and June 16, 2010. Between 120 and 180 people attended each of these meetings and participated in the facilitated brainstorming sessions and project feedback opportunities. Over 8,000 mail invitations were sent out to neighboring homes and establishments. E-mail blasts, news releases, project website, public posters and signs were all used to advertise the opportunities. Information was also gathered via e-mail, phone, and some hand written comments.

Public comment was plentiful and ideas were abundant. Because the site is so large and can accommodate many use elements, discussions were lively. Some of the elements of particular importance were open space, maintaining views, places for gathering, kids' play, multi-generational use, walking paths, art, community identity, plantings, water, and safety. Some elements that were debated were off-leash dog use, skate park* and athletic fields. There was not widespread support for an off-leash area, the skatepark is identified on the plan for future development, and the existing athletic fields are to be maintained.

A number of stakeholders have been involved in the process but the Maple Leaf Community Council (MLCC) has been the most active. Representatives from the subcommittee of the MLCC named 'Friends for a Greater Maple Leaf Park' ("the Friends") have been active participants in the public involvement process. They have attended all the meetings and remain in touch via e-mail and phone.

Issues

Prior to the start of Parks public process, the Friends gathered information and ran their own public process. From this the Friends developed a list of potential elements for the park. Most of the items that came from Parks public process overlapped with the group's ideas, but not all. The feasibility of some elements needs to be explored through the design development process, some elements are beyond the budget and others weren't identified as priorities during Parks public process.

Environmental Sustainability

As most parks can claim, this project adds 'green' to an area that was once fenced in and provided no possibility for carbon fixation (the process of trees absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen to keep the atmosphere balanced.). Parks is also working with SPU during the construction process to coordinate needs that lead to more permanent features applicable to a park setting.

**Identified in Citywide Skatepark Plan as a recommended site.*

Budget

This project is funded by \$5 million from the 2008 the Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

Schedule

The public outreach process is essentially complete. The project is on hold until the next phase of design; design development starts in mid 2011. The lag in design is needed to allow the SPU reservoir project to be completed. Park construction is projected to start in mid-2012. Parks will update the public when the project becomes active again during the design development stage.

Additional Information

Contact Information:

Kim Baldwin

206.615.0810

Kim.baldwin@seattle.gov

Website: http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/maple_leaf_reservoir/

Attachment: Schematic Plan

MAPLE LEAF RESERVOIR PARK

EXISTING

1. Water Tower
2. SPU Buildings
3. SPU Access points
4. Communication building / tower
5. Rain garden
6. Existing trees
7. Buried reservoir
8. Restroom
9. Art

ROOSEVELT EDGE

10. 85th Street entry - west
11. Maple Leaf Pavilion and terrace
12. Sports courts
13. Maple grove
14. Street crossing
15. Future skate park

MAPLE LEAF TERRACE

16. Grand Terrace
17. Wave plantings, earthform, texture
18. View terrace
19. Vista Point
20. View Point
21. Loop paths
22. Hill climb
23. Grove and Wave plantings
24. Buffer planting
25. North entrance
26. 85th Street entry - east
27. Reservoir markers
28. 50' off set markers

SPORTS TERRACE

29. Baseball / soccer overlay
30. Sports gathering
31. Potential/future streetscape improvements

FAMILY TERRACE

32. Children's play
33. Adventure play
34. Children's garden
35. Access to Maple Leaf Terrace



Old/New Business:

To hear the Board's discussion of Old/New Business, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4718> and move cursor to position 43.00.

SR 520 Project's 6f Mitigation: Comments on the 6f process are due to WSDOT on December 8. The Board's next meeting is on December 9. **Commissioner Barber moved that the Board request an extension, due to its meeting schedule. Motion was seconded, and was unanimous in favor.** Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli will contact WSDOT on Friday to request the extension. If successful, the Board will draft a comment letter for discussion and approval at its December 9 meeting. Parks staff will forward the link to WSDOT's comment page. Staff will also check with the City Attorney's office whether the Open Public Meetings Act, to which the Board adheres, will allow a draft of the letter to be prepared prior to the meeting. Commissioner Kincaid volunteered to draft the letter. The Board would then discuss the final version and vote on its approval at the December 9 meeting.

John Street Park Hours of Operation: Commissioner Holme noted discussion at the Levy Oversight Committee meeting regarding the hours of operation at this new park, which includes a skate dot. Neighbors have complained of late-night noise from skateboarders. A briefing is scheduled at the Board's December 9 meeting.

Operating Costs at Community Centers: Commissioners asked that Parks staff prepare a briefing on what it costs to operate a community center. Parks staff will also brief the Board in late January on "best practices" in light of the budget cuts for 2011. A matrix showing the impact of the changes/reduction in maintenance will be helpful to the Board.

Water Runoff Report: Commissioner Kostka reminded staff that Parks Planning and Development Division Director Kevin Stoops agreed to send the Board the full runoff reports for both Magnuson Park and Lower Woodland's synthetic turf athletic fields. Staff will follow up with Mr. Stoops.

Board's Concerns re: Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Systems on Park Land: Earlier this year, the Board heard a briefing on a potential CSO to be installed at Lawton Park in West Seattle. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and King County are looking at several sites for this CSO, as well as new CSOs to be located in various parts of the city. SPU will soon announce its top choice for the West Seattle site. Commissioners expressed strong concern that park land not be looked at as an easy solution for this purpose. Commissioners also asked for an update briefing from the Planning and Development Division in the very near future. The Board believes strongly that Seattle Public Utilities must not circumvent the Park Board during the site selection process and will communicate those concerns widely to the public.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Jackie Ramels, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____