

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2012

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

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Antoinette Angulo
John Barber
Megan Heahlke
Jourdan Keith
Diana Kincaid, Acting Chair
Brice Maryman
Barbara Wright

Appointees:

Yazmin Mehdi, Mayoral Appointee

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent
Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Acting Chair Diana Kincaid called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked all commissioners to introduce themselves. The Board has several new commissioners (Heahlke, Maryman, and Wright), and Yazmin Mehdi has begun the confirmation process. Ms. Mehdi joined the commissioners at the table as a non-voting participant and will continue to do so until she is confirmed. All new commissioners were welcomed by the Chair and Superintendent Williams thanked them for joining the Board.

Commissioner Barber moved approval of the February 23 meeting agenda and Commissioner Keith seconded. The vote was taken and motion carried. Commissioner Barber moved approval of the February 9, 2012, minutes, and Commissioner Kincaid seconded. The vote was taken and motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

A written report was distributed to Commissioners and available to the audience prior to the meeting. Acting Superintendent Williams reported on several additional items.

<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=6079> and move cursor to position 7.30.

Magnuson Park Strategic Plan Meeting: On Saturday, February 11, from 8:30 am-1:00 pm, Parks held a public meeting to begin work on updating the Strategic Development Plan for Warren G. Magnuson Park, which will guide future capital investment and development for this beautiful regional park. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>.

Parks Youth Employment and Community Service Unit: This group had a table at the “Youth Education, Career and Resource Fair” at Rainier Community Center on February 22. The City’s Human Services Department coordinates this event, including the marketing.

Yesler Child Care and Teen Programs: Yesler Community Center is introducing a new program, Full Circle Farms. This program allows Parks to order a variety of fresh, organic produce that is delivered weekly, with plans to use the produce in cooking projects on Wednesdays. For more information on Yesler Community Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/yeslercc.htm>. For more on Full Circle Farms, see <http://www.fullcircle.com/>.

Washington Park Playfield Synthetic Turf: The public works contract for this synthetic turf project had a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting on February 9 and the project was bid on February 22. For more on this project, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=1100393 and select “Playfield Renovation.”

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Remodel: This project is nearing substantial completion, which is due March 12, 2012. There have been substantial construction challenges on this project, including hazardous material removal, plumbing replacement to resolve contamination issues, and a variety of structural and code compliance issues. The project provides seismic upgrades to the theater dome and various walls in the building. New fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems have been added; and renovations to the offices include flooring, lights, electrical upgrades, and other finishes. For more on this project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/langston.htm> and select “Project Information.”

Discovery Park Capehart Site Restoration: This restoration project is scheduled for completion by the end of February 2012. The 25-acre old military housing site, with approximately 50 single family homes, was cleared of the structures prior to Parks taking over the property, but the hard surfaces such as concrete and asphalt were left behind for future removal. A total of 4,500 cubic yards of concrete and asphalt were removed and recycled; approximately 20,000 cubic yards of wood mulch were imported, and approximately 12,000 native trees and plants have been planted. For more on this restoration, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/environment/discovery.htm> and select Capehart Housing Area under “Projects.”

University Heights Open Space Improvements/University Heights South Lot Park: The schematic design for this Levy Opportunity Fund project includes redevelopment of an existing parking lot on University Heights (UH) property. Zoning restrictions on parking and site access will require a variance or conditional use permit and will delay the project. Parks and UH are considering separating parking and vehicle access from the project. Under this scenario Parks would develop its park site and the southeast corner of UH as a multi-use asphalt lot with improved paving, drainage and landscaped edge. UH would undertake a separate effort to build vehicle access and get parking approved. The UH land use committee is now weighing the options, benefits, and risks of continuing to participate in the park project. For more information, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/university_heights/open_space.htm.

Kirke Park/9th Avenue Northwest Redevelopment: Construction started February 1 on this project. The contractor, Oceanside Construction, is making great initial progress and construction should be complete in early June. When completed, the park will have open lawn areas, a play area, ‘adventure trail’, picnic areas, community gardens, and P-patch gardens. For more information on this project, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/kirke/>.

Opportunity Fund: The Levy Oversight Committee approved the evaluation criteria at its January 23 meeting. An overall schedule and process are being developed by staff for the second cycle of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy opportunity fund to engage communities throughout Seattle. More than 100 projects were submitted in the first round in 2009-10, of which 15 development and two acquisition projects were ultimately selected. For more information on the Opportunity Fund, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/levy/opportunity.htm>.

Shoreline Street Ends: Three shoreline street ends were completed in 2011 as part of the Shoreline Access Levy project. Planning and Development landscape architect R. Frank Robinson did the design and the Conservation Corps constructed all three projects. This is a partnership with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), which will continue to own the land and provide ongoing maintenance with assistance from volunteer street end stewards.

Civic Justice Corps: Will A. Pablo, a gardener in Parks South Central district, volunteers with the Civic Justice Corps (CJC), a six-month program providing service learning, educational support, and job training to young men and women 18-22 who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. He reports great success in the projects he has done with the group, including clearing decades' worth of blackberries and other invasives at Katie Black's Garden and "resurfacing" the trail steps at Deadhorse Canyon. Parks hopes to continue working with this group who help youth who are in less-than-ideal circumstances. For more information on the Civic Justice Corps, see <http://www.youthcare.org/our-programs/employment-training/civic-justice-corps>.

Youth Basketball Is Alive and Well!:

- Magnuson Community Center has a record 17 teams this season with a full slate of 16 games on Friday evenings, all day Saturdays, and Sunday afternoons. A typical number of spectators, ranging from 800 to 1,200 people, pass through the community center doors each weekend along with more than 300 players and coaches.
- Hiawatha Annual Pancake Breakfast was held Sunday, February 5, with photos taken of 32 basketball teams during the breakfast.

Magnuson Community Center Extends Successful Summer Program: Magnuson Community Center's "Rock the Park" has returned. After a very successful summer program, this middle school program for Brettler Family Place teens has returned as a bi-monthly activity starting in January 2012. Scheduled are field trips, swimming events, and special time spent together. Ten youth participated in the first two sessions but numbers are expected to increase as word of the program's return spreads. For more on Brettler Family Place, see <http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Housing/SandPoint/Documents/BrettlerFamilyPlaceInfo-ReferralProcess.pdf>.

Middle School Late Night Program at Magnuson Community Center: Magnuson's Middle School Late Night program has been averaging 20-25 teens on Friday nights from 9-11 p.m. The majority of youth come from Brettler Family Place, located in Magnuson Park. Youth are participating in basketball, racquetball, foosball, video games, ping pong, watching movies; eating snacks, etc. It is becoming very apparent that a third staff member is needed during the very busy time between 8-9:15 p.m. when cub basketball games are still being played; classes are still in session, and staff are trying to set up for the REC. Youth are arriving early with only the lobby as a place to hang out. For more on Magnuson Community Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/Magnuson.htm>.

Recent Volunteer Support: Parks' gardeners and truck drivers provided tools and wood chips for the Urban Orchard Stewards' recent volunteer project. On Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the 40 volunteers removed blackberries and other weeds and mulched apple trees along the Burke-Gilman Trail.

Ballard Bell Plaque: The Ballard Historical Society, in partnership with Department of Neighborhoods and Seattle Parks and Recreation, presented a proposal to the Landmark Board the first week in February. Placement of an educational plaque in the Ballard Bell tower (adjacent to Marvin's Garden Park) was approved. The goal is to have the plaque in place for the Mayor's Ballard walk. For more information on the Ballard Bell Tower and Marvin's Garden Park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?id=298.

Acting Superintendent Williams also reported on the following:

Downtown Initiative: Parks staff are working with other City departments to focus on public safety and a number of the City's downtown parks.

Rainier Beach Community Center: This newly-rebuilt community center will re-open later this year. The Advisory Council and Parks are exploring five operational options. Acting Superintendent Williams explained that the Y approached Seattle Parks Department to discuss partnering to operate the community center. Seattle Parks is interested, as this would save the City \$1.5 million in operating costs. However, there are a number of concerns: the Y is a Christian organization and the area has a large Muslim population. There are also concerns on access. Seattle Parks will now issue a Request for Interest (RFI). Acting Deputy Superintendent Eric Friedli is meeting with the Advisory Committee tonight to discuss the RFI and Park staff will meet soon with the community to explain the process to ensure the center is inclusive.

Commissioner Keith asked how Parks will notify the public about the meeting. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that the area's Neighborhood planning group have asked to lead the notification process. They are very involved with the various cultural groups and will assist with not only translating words to non-English speakers, but also translate the concepts. Commissioner Heahlke asked if the RFI will let the public know about the public meetings. Responding to a question from Commissioner Heahlke whether the RFI will be distributed to agencies/groups other than the Y, Acting Superintendent Williams answered that it will.

Friends of Burke-Gilman Trail: Acting Superintendent Williams met earlier today with this group, which recently restored 16 acres of the Burke-Gilman Trail, centered at 65th Avenue Northeast. This is an impressive amount of work and he is very proud of their efforts, which raised \$90,000 and included 18,000 hours of volunteer work including planting 50,000 new plants. The before and after transformation is remarkable and he urged everyone to stop by and see the restored area.

Downtown Seattle Association Requests Downtown Playground: Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) is very interested in piloting a playground in the downtown core, possibly at Westlake Park. DSA estimates there are 3,000 kids living downtown and they want a centrally-located playground for them. There is a small playground at Denny Park and Commissioner Barber recalled another at First and Seneca. This would be a small playground, possibly portable, with an estimated cost of \$100,000. DSA would provide the funds.

Commissioner Maryman asked whether discussions have progressed to the long-term maintenance and operation of a new playground. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that they haven't, but the need for low maintenance, portability, and ease in take down and set up has been discussed.

City Council's Parks and Neighborhoods Committee: Acting Superintendent Williams met with the Committee this week in regard to the Department's budget. He reviewed some of Parks' guiding principles: accessibility; free or low-cost admission; maintain the current park system; deliver high quality experiences for users; provide good customer service; build to sustainability; and reinvest in the promise of Parks and Recreation to support and build the volunteer program.

Park Facts: Parks staff have been assembling facts and statistics to help the Department tell its story. Acting Superintendent Williams gave several of the statistics, with the full list to soon be available on Seattle's Parks' web page. Examples: Parks staff pull approximately two million trash can liners per year in more than 400 parks and in 2011 collected 2,400 tons of garbage. They also serviced 114 outdoor restrooms, which require about 90,000 rolls of toilet paper per year.

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center: Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center has been closed for remodel and will soon reopen. Commissioner Barber asked for an update on arts funding. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that last year the mayor stated the City's admission tax must be used to fund Langston Hughes and for downtown park activation - but only through 2013. One of City Council's two 2012 Statements of Legislative Intent (SLI) for Seattle Parks directed staff to determine whether Parks should be in the business of managing a performing arts center. The SLI response will address other questions, too.

Denny Park Off-Leash Area: Commissioner Barber next asked for an update on construction of the temporary (three year) off-leash area in Denny Park, as well as the status of a permanent site. Acting Superintendent Williams gave a brief overview of the public hearing process earlier this year that resulted in the temporary off-leash area. The temporary off-leash area is under construction and expected to open at end of March. A possible permanent location is at the former Greyhound bus terminal; however, due to contamination, that property will require an extensive SEPA process.

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 Old/New Business. One person signed up to testify. To hear the testimony, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=6079> and move cursor to position to 31.00.

Carol Fisher: Ms. Fischer stated she spent the day on Whidbey Island, as part of a Parks Department Lifelong Recreation day trip, which she really enjoyed. She expressed concern that, after reviewing briefing materials for the Magnuson Park long-term plan, it appears Lifelong Recreation dropped off the document showing what elements attendees at the recent public meeting most favored.

She also thanked Acting Superintendent Williams for meeting with the community to help resolve issues at the Jose Rizal Park off-leash area. It says a lot to the community and is very helpful that the Superintendent meets with them.

Update: Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan – Next Steps

Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks Senior Partnerships Manager, presented a briefing on the Strategic Development Plan for Magnuson Park. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a number of documents from the February 12 public meeting on the same topic. Three of the documents are included below: Reasons to Celebrate, Wish List, and Time Line. To hear the full presentation and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=6079> and move cursor to position 33.30.

Written Briefing

Magnuson Park & Sand Point Accomplishments REASONS TO CELEBRATE

2011

- Building 30 Phase I Improvements – City funding approved for artist studios and community events space (#1 priority in Magnuson Park Public Workshop—2009)
- Solid Ground, Brettler Family Place Townhomes—\$8.1 million (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- Wayfinding Signage Improvements (Magnuson Park Public Workshop—2009)
- Seattle Landmarks Preservation District Designation (Magnuson Park Public Workshop—2009, Blue Ribbon Task Force Recommendation)

2010

- Building 29 Renovation, UW—Center for Pediatric Dentistry—\$20 million
- Building 27 Renovation, Arena Sports Indoor Recreation Complex—\$8-9 million (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- National Register of Historic Places District Designation (Magnuson Park Public Workshop—2009, Blue Ribbon Committee Recommendation)

2009

- Magnuson Wetlands and Athletic Fields—\$16.2 million (Blue Ribbon Committee, Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- Magnuson Park Wetland/Habitat and Athletic Fields Complex Master (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- Swim Beach Comfort Station—\$1.1 million (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- Creation of Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (Blue Ribbon Task Force Recommendation, Magnuson Park Public Workshop—2009)

2008

- Building 67 Renovation, The Mountaineers Headquarters—\$5 million

2006

- Northshore Shoreline & Boating Improvements—\$2.6 million (Blue Ribbon Committee)
- Magnuson Motorized Boat Ramp—\$1 million (Blue Ribbon Committee)

2004

- Magnuson Sports Meadow Improvements—\$1.5 million (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)

2003

- Building 47 Renovation, Magnuson Community Center—\$4.1 million (Blue Ribbon Committee, Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- Building 30 Roof Replacement—\$1.6 million
- Dog Off-Leash Area—\$750K (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)
- Boundary Fencing Removal (Blue Ribbon Committee)
- Entry Signage NE 65th & NE 74th Streets

2002

- Building 406 Renovation, The Brig at Magnuson Park—\$618K (Blue Ribbon Committee)
- Magnuson Community Garden Construction—2002-2005 (Magnuson Park Concept Plan)

2001

- Building 29 Renovation, UW—School of Public Health—\$17.5 million
- Buildings 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D Renovations, UW—2001-2008

2000

- Solid Ground Housing, Buildings 26N, 26S, 224, 330, 331, 332—\$8.1 million

1999

- Deed conveyed to Seattle Parks and the University of Washington for Sand Point Historic District

WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK:

Wish List

(Uncompleted Items from Master Plans, Public Workshop Feedback, Community Ideas, Parks Staff Unmet Needs)

Master Plan & Workshop Sources (1997-2009)

Sand Point Physical Development Master Plan (1997 - Resolution 29429), Report to the Mayor and Seattle City Council: Sand Point Blue Ribbon Committee (1999), Magnuson Park Concept Plan (1999 - Resolution 30063), North Shore Recreation Area Master Plan (2001), Drainage, Wetland/Habitat Complex and Sports Fields/Courts Master Plan (2004 - Ordinance 121502, 2006 - Ordinance 122318), Magnuson Park Community Communications Committee Workshop (2009)

***Parks staff identified unmet needs**

Land (Open Space, Recreation Facilities, Public Art)

Open Space

- Conserve open/green spaces near community housing
- Implement vegetation management plan (remove invasive plants, replant with native plants, plant more tree cover)
- Update vegetation management plan (include wetlands and athletic fields, other reconstructed landscapes, include historic preservation areas such as bunkers)
- Restore and include more native vegetation
- Increase use of volunteers (re-vegetation projects)
- Develop more P-Patches
- Landscape parking lot(s)
- Preserve habitat and retain undeveloped open space
- Construct seating berm (existing Off Leash Area south parking lot)
- Build Wet meadow viewpoint
- Build Wetland habitat restroom and nature center (east Commissary parking lot)
- Construct Viewpoints on Buildings 54, 55 (ammunition bunkers)

Recreation Facilities

- Build small boat rental pier (north end existing Sail Sand Point pier)
- Develop 400m Track
- Develop fishing pier
- Develop in-line skating facilities
- Develop skate park (Building 2 identified for regional facility in citywide Skatepark Master Plan)
- Build In-line hockey, skate facility (area east Magnuson Community Center)
- Construct basketball courts (area east of Magnuson Community Center)
- Construct Field 2: soccer
- Construct Field 4: soccer
- Construct Field 7: baseball
- Construct Field 9: Little League
- Build Playfield restroom and concession stand (area east of Magnuson Community Center)
- Build Playground (area east of Magnuson Community Center)
- Build Sand volleyball courts (area east of Magnuson Community Center)
- Build Shelter/Restroom (adjacent to existing baseball fields)
- Build Volleyball court (area east of Magnuson Community Center)

Public Art

- Construct art walk to sculpture sites (provide access to sites, particularly those at NOAA-WRC)
- Provide multiple public access points to NOAA-WRC Art Walk

Infrastructure (Circulation, Parking, Utilities)

Circulation

- Create east access to Burke-Gilman Trail
- Develop more accessible, safe trails & paths
- Provide separation between bicycle & pedestrian trails
- Develop better pedestrian and bicycle connections (NE 77th and Burke-Gilman Trail spur (NE 81st Street) and at NE 70th Street)
- Increase public transit use and options to the Magnuson Park
- Increase alternative public transit and non-motorized vehicle use

- Improve park entrance at NE 74th Street (increase capacity and make safer for pedestrians/bicycles)
- Create north entrance north of NE 74th Street and south of NOAA Road
- Open access to NE NOAA Drive at 63rd Avenue NE and make intersection improvements
- Construct Sportsfield Drive improvements (intersection improvements at NE 65th, elevate road to decrease seasonal flooding, widen to provide clear pedestrian path and increase parking capacity)
- Increase disabled accessibility to the park

Parking

- Construct more parking
- Construct expanded swim beach parking (back-in angle parking). STATUS: SEPA checklist completed, attempts made to construct jointly through other park projects, need committed funding.

Utilities

- Reduce use of portable toilets
- Build more permanent public restrooms and near Building 67 (Mountaineers)
- Provide permanent public restrooms throughout park
- Build soccer, rugby, kids area restroom (adjacent Jr. League Playground)
- Install information kiosks throughout Park and Historic District
- Provide more site lighting, more pedestrian lighting
- Install more street furniture such as benches
- Construct electric power system upgrades, convert remaining 4 kV system to SCL 2.6 kV (\$1 million)*
- Construct sanitary and storm sewer upgrades (\$1.1 million)*

Buildings

- Reuse Building 18 (Fire Station) for bicycle center or arts center (\$3.6 million)
- Reuse Building 2 (old Arena Sports location) (\$27 million)
- Construct indoor and/or outdoor pool facilities at Building 2
- Construct Boating Center including small boat rental pier, boat shed and multi-use covered area
- Construct Building 31 covered safety boat moorage, fast launch boat and viewing pier
- Renovate Building 275 for classrooms with beach access (provide electric power, water, etc.)
- Demolish Building 310 for new housing, roadway, pathway and landscape improvements. STATUS: Parcel owned by Office of Housing, long term lease to Solid Ground for low-income or transitional homeless housing. Windermere CSO to be constructed on west half 2012-2013.
- Provide onsite tenant storage facilities
- Renovate Tower Restroom for public restroom (east lakeshore, south of swim beach). STATUS: Tower Restroom seriously damaged in arson fire, needs extensive reconstruction
- Locate FareStart restaurant at Magnuson (community member idea)
- Renovate Building 138 (building at main entrance at 74th Street) (\$2.6 million)*
- Replace roof on Building 138 (\$400,000)*
- Replace crew quarters at Building 308 (located north of NE 65th Street) (\$800,000)*
- Replace roof on Building 406 (The Brig) (\$1.6 million) *
- Repair/renovate Building 69 (SDOT owned parking garage, adjacent to Brettler Place Building Townhomes and 62nd Avenue NE) (\$500,000 - \$1 million)*
- Renovate Magnuson Community Center (Building 47 south wing) (\$3 million)*

Programming and Events

Expand senior programming at Magnuson Park (community member idea)

What other programs and events would you like to see at Magnuson Park?

For programming and events, how would you prioritize between the arts, social services, food service, boating and volunteer programs?

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS - TIMELINE

- February 11 – Public Workshop
- February 25 – Public Comment forms available – Park website, electronic mailings, hard copies
- February 23 - Park Board of Commissioners Plan update
- March 2 – Deadline for Comment forms submission
- March 15 – Draft of Plan available – Parks website, electronic mailings – *Opportunity for public input*
- March 22 – Park Board of Commissioners reviews Draft Plan – *Opportunity for public input*
- April 2 – Second Draft of Plan available – Parks website, electronic mailing – *Opportunity for public input*
- April 26 – Park Board of Commissioners reviews Second Draft of Plan; makes recommendation to Superintendent
- May 4 – Final Plan completed and available – parks website, electronic mailings
- May 17 – Resolution to City Council for approval and adoption of Plan – *Opportunity for public input*

Verbal Briefing and Board Discussion

Ms. Salinas introduced herself and gave background on Magnuson Park and the recent public meeting held on Saturday, February 12. Magnuson Park has been the focus of a great deal of planning since 1975, including a high level of public involvement. This is a very well-used and well-loved park and is used by diverse groups. The Magnuson Park Advisory Group faces a huge task, along with Parks staff, other City staff, and the public in determining the park's future.

Ms. Salinas next spent time describing the February 12 public meeting, with approximately 75 people present. Comments are still being accepted and information on the web is updated regularly. Attendees were sorted into groups and discussed the categories of land, infrastructure, and buildings. They were asked to select their priorities by placing green (want) or red (not an immediate need-athletic fields, skate park, and indoor/outdoor pool were examples) dots on issues. There was lots of consensus in the group and some surprises. Infrastructure improvements ranked very high and included circulation and wayfinding, as well as storm and sewer utilities. They also wanted the Sand Point historic sites rehabilitated. Building 18 received the most votes and will cost approximately \$3.6 million; Hanger 2, which is the most historic building, would require \$24-27 million in repairs. Ms. Salinas stated the Department will have very clear guidelines when it looks for partners to help with funding.

There was overall synergy on items that rose to the top. Parks is getting good feedback from the community; however, there is little input from youth. The Department will also seek voices from additional zip code areas and diverse communities. Ms. Salinas next reviewed the timeline. The draft plan will come back to the Park for two more reviews. Commissioners were invited to tour Magnuson Park in the near future; the Park Board's coordinator will make the arrangements.

Discussion

Acting Superintendent Williams thanked Ms. Salinas and her staff for all the work on this planning process. He would like the Park Board to help consider the following: How should the City best manage a large regional park like Magnuson? What is the role of partnerships? How should the organization be structured in the best way for the public? How can public benefits be measured? Who are the players that need to be in these discussions?

Commissioner Maryman asked about the National Oceanographic and Aeronautical Authority (NOAA) access. Ms. Salinas answered that Parks and the public wants to use a NOAA road at Sand Point for better access to the park's north shore. Little progress has been made, especially after the September 11 terrorist attacks. NOAA has stated another reason for not allowing public access is that it may want to expand its facilities in this area sometime in the future.

Commissioner Barber asked about the status of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC), considering that a new Advisory Committee has been appointed for Magnuson Park, and how the two committees are related. He is the Board's alternate representative to MPAC. Acting Superintendent Williams gave a brief history of MPAC and stated it has a representative on the Strategic Action Plan committee that reports back to MPAC and supports the idea of the committee.

Commissioner Keith observed that the need for funding is great all across the city. How does Parks get to its overarching goals in the face of that need. She asked if the Department will examine successful models in other cities and even in other countries. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that many parks as large as Magnuson are managed by conservancies. Magnuson Park may need to grow into one of these entities, but that is a long way down the road. In the meantime, the City and public must determine how to best focus on long-term goals for the park.

Commissioner Maryman asked that Parks staff provide the park classification information to the commissioners. This will help with understanding how a regional park differs from others in the system. Acting Superintendent Williams will ensure this information is provided. He added that regional parks experience multi-uses with many partners and people come from many areas to use the parks. In addition, large scale events are held at the regional parks.

He asked if the committee is looking at operating and maintenance (O&M) costs while it estimates remodel and other costs. He urged that O&M be kept in front of the public during all discussions. Ms. Salinas answered that it is and sustainability will be built into projects, too.

Commissioner Heahlke asked whether the Navy has turned over other military bases to local cities in such condition as at Magnuson. Ms. Salinas responded that the BRAC property conditions vary, with some okay and others falling down when the Navy turns over ownership to local and state agencies. One former BRAC property was turned into a Disney studio, some have been converted to housing, and others have fallen down.

Commissioner-appointee Mehdi stated that what has been accomplished so far at Magnuson Park is a huge success. She worked in the mayor's office in the late 1990s and recalled talking with officials at the Presidio in San Francisco and other cities that had received BRAC property. Seattle is still grappling with the issues. Parks has maintained the property for about 14 years without a large dollar infusion. What are the priorities if no major partners step forward to help fund the vision? Acting Superintendent Williams responded that the park currently has a number of housing partners and funding from two levies and work will continue on where to go next. Responding to a question from Commissioner Belbeck whether the Department has partnered with the Cascade Bicycle Club, Acting Superintendent Williams stated it has.

Commissioner Kincaid attended the charrette and gave it high marks. She asked if Parks staff are using the 1999 Blue Ribbon report. Ms. Salinas answered they are; the report is available on the Magnuson Park web page and Parks staff are pointing the public to it. Commissioner Kincaid noted there is a strong desire for an arts zone at Magnuson Park. Ms. Salinas responded that is being discussed, along with all other ideas. Building 30 was a good start for arts at Magnuson. The discussion will continue on arts, education, north shore expansion, and recreation. Commissioner Kincaid added that, looking at the Department's Gap Analysis for open space in Northeast Seattle, Magnuson Park plays a dual role – as both a regional park and the local community's neighborhood park. Not only does it serve as a regional park, but it also fills a local need, especially its waterfront. Ms. Salinas agreed – the mile-long shoreline is a big draw.

Commissioner Barber asked that, while developing the Magnuson Park vision, it be looked at coherently and include passive elements (plants, etc.) that make a beautiful park. Ms. Salinas agreed; the tenants also want such a coherent appearance to the park. The park is a much bigger asset if it has a good flow and fits together and the components don't compete with one another. Commissioner Wright seconded Commissioner Barber's request. Ensure that the park really flows and don't just "plop" in elements. Tie the park together visually with trees, roads, park furniture, etc., so that it has one single viewpoint.

At the Board's March 22 meeting, commissioners will review the draft long-term plan, and at the April 26 meeting will be asked to review the second draft and make a recommendation to Acting Superintendent Williams. Commissioners thanked Ms. Salinas for the briefing.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Barber stated Ms. Salinas has one of the most challenging positions in the City, in helping plan the future of Magnuson Park and develop partnerships. Acting Superintendent Williams added that the Park Board's role is also critical in helping shape the park's future.

Park Board Operations

Susan Golub, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, presented an update on Park Board operations. Prior to this meeting, the Board received a copy of the briefing, which was also available to the public on the Board's web page and as hard copies at the meeting. A copy of the briefing is included below. To hear the presentation and Board's discussion, <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=6079> and move cursor to position 78.00.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

No Board action is requested at this time. This is an update briefing on Park Board Operations, providing information on Board committees, officer elections and the spring retreat.

Board Committees

There are a number of committees, both within Seattle Parks and Recreation and outside Parks, which include a Park Commissioner as part of required or recommended membership. Some committees, such as the Park Naming Committee, include policy or ordinance language mandating Board member participation. Others, such as the Golf Steering Committee, include a Park Commissioner at the request of the Department.

Because the Board is in a time of transition, six committees have vacancies:

- Associated Recreation Council;
- Central Waterfront Partnership Committee;
- Golf Steering Committee;
- Magnuson Park Advisory Council;
- Park Naming Committee; and
- Seattle Park Foundation.

Descriptions of these committees were sent to the Board via e-mail from Sandy Brooks on Thursday, February 16. Also, as Sandy noted in her e-mail, Parks is requesting Commissioners submit their first and second choice for a Committee assignment. But please note, Commissioners are not required to serve on a committee.

Board Retreat

April 17 should be on Board members calendars for a half-day retreat (probably from noon to 6:00 p.m.). We are currently interviewing outside facilitators to work with the Board on a number of exciting topics. In addition, the facilitator will moderate a panel discussion with Councilmember Bagshaw, former Mayor Charley Royer, and leading community member and attorney Gerry Johnson. One of the more mundane retreat items will be an update of the Board's Operating Procedures to capture the recent changes. I will send out a draft of the revised Operating Procedures in March for your review.

Board Officer Elections

Terry Holme, whose term on the Board recently ended, was the Board's chair. Diana Kincaid is the Board vice-chair. Staff recommends having Diana step in to serve as the Board chair until all new members have been confirmed. We expect the last new member will have their confirmation appointment considered at the April 5

meeting of the City Council's Parks and Neighborhood's Committee, with full Council approval April 9. Because of this timing, staff recommends having Board officer elections take place at the April 17 Board retreat.

2012 Park Board Meeting Dates

Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	8	26	24	28	12	9	13	11	8	13
23	22									

Additional Information

Susan Golub: susan.golub@seattle.gov
684-7046

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

Ms. Golub introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the written briefing paper. Commissioners were asked to send preferences for committee assignments to the Board's Coordinator by March 1. Commissioners are not required to serve on any committees. Commissioner Maryman asked for further information on how frequently the committees meet and the level of commitment required. Parks staff will send additional information.

The Board's annual retreat is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, April 17. Elections will be held at the retreat and Commissioners will be asked for their interest in serving as chair or vice-chair. Acting Superintendent Williams asked that Commissioners consider these questions for discussion at the retreat:

New Commissioners: What do you expect to get out of being on the Park Board?

Ongoing Commissioners: How do you see the role of the Park Board changing?

Commissioners thanked Ms. Golub for the briefing.

Overview: Seattle Parks' 2012 Work Plan and Statements of Legislative

Intent

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent, presented a briefing on Seattle Park Department's 2012 Work Plan and Statement of Legislative Intent (SLIs.) Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, which was also available on the Board's web and as hard copies at this meeting. To hear the full presentation and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=6079> and move cursor to position 82.00.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This is for information only and no Board action is requested.

Background

Each year Parks establishes a series of work plans to help guide our work. Each Division develops a work plan that outlines significant special projects or items that need special attention through the year. Each manager and strategic advisor develops a work plan demonstrating how they intend to support their Division and the Departments work plan.

The Department's work plan consists of a few high priority items that we believe are timely and warrant special attention. These items are identified by the management team as ones that we want to focus on to move the Department forward or in a different direction during the upcoming year. We review issues that have come up over the previous year and consult the Strategic Action Plan in making our selection. Parks then establishes interdivisional work teams that bring the combined resources of multiple divisions to focus on the task.

In addition to the work plan items identified by Parks staff, we also focus special attention on work items requested by the City Council through Statements of Legislative Intent (SLI). Each fall during the budget deliberation, the City Council requests executive departments to do special work projects. The Council has adopted two SLI's for Parks for 2012.

2012 Work Plan

In addition to the SLI's described below, Parks has identified six work items that we will focus on through 2012:

1. Cash handling and concession contract monitoring

Outcome: Ensure for policy makers and citizens that we have proper procedures in place to manage cash and concession contracts.

Lead director: Kevin Stoops

- Inventory policies and procedures we have in place to guide cash handling and concession contract monitoring.
- Establish protocols to implement auditing system.
- Conduct series of audits.

2. Information system development/integration

Outcome: A comprehensive inventory of data systems and their ability to support decision-making and understanding of critical gaps.

Lead director: Dan Johnson

- Identify and catalogue existing information systems
- Assess usability of existing systems for decision-making
- Outline opportunities and needs for sharing data across information systems
- Identify missing information and missing information links
- Recommend actions for information system development

3. Community Center Reorganization implementation

Outcome: Community center reorganization is successfully implemented.

Lead directors: Sue Goodwin/Nathan Torgelson

- Develop key goals and milestones for measurement
- Regular assessment of progress toward goals
- Adjust course where necessary

4. Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan

Outcome: A prioritized plan for the ongoing capital investment, program development, and management of Magnuson Park.

Lead directors: Rebecca Salinas/ Michael Shiosaki

- Community process to develop plan
- Plan review by CBO and Mayor
- Plan acceptance by Council

5. Staff communication about Parks values and budget challenges

Outcome: Staff at all levels are familiar with the Department's key values and budget issues and have appropriate opportunity for input.

Lead directors: Michele Finnegan/ Dewey Potter

- Review and finalize Department values and budget message with executive team
- Establish system to involve staff in discussions, educational session
- Implement sessions

6. Volunteer Program Development

Outcome: A plan for long term development of our volunteer program

Lead directors: Michele Finnegan/Dan Johnson/Sue Goodwin

- Inventory existing policies, procedures, agreements that guide our use of volunteers
- Review of staffing and other resources necessary to support volunteers
- Plan for development of volunteer program

2012 Statements of Legislative Intent

The City Council adopted two SLI's for 2012 related to Parks and Recreation.

1. Parks Long-Term Funding Option

Outcome: Analyses of service levels and options for supplementing General Fund support for Parks and Recreation.

Lead director: Kevin Stoops

- Analyze and define service levels and revenue needed to support those levels
- Description and analysis of pros and cons of potential new revenue sources

2. Funding options for arts-related programs

Outcome: A plan that details future funding options for three arts-related programs (Downtown Arts in Parks, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center -LHPAC, Outdoor Neighborhood Parks) that are funded from the Admissions Tax Revenues that will end in 2012.

Lead Director: Kevin Stoops

- Develop plan for transferring costs to General Fund or other funding source
- Develop options for long-term maintenance and operation of LHPAC

Additional Information

Eric Friedli, eric.friedli@seattle.gov, 684-8369

Verbal Briefing and Board Discussion

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli introduced himself and reviewed the two Statements of Legislative Intent (SLI), as described above. He also reviewed the Department's six 2012 Work Plan items. Commissioners will be briefed on different work plan items over the next several meetings. The volunteer program will be brought to the Board in the fall.

He described how the Department uses its Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to help establish the annual Work Plan items. Parks staff review the SAP annually and select the top 5-6 items to take the Department from its current state to where it wants to be at the end of the year. For example, in 2011 the Department did the ground work of moving the 26 community centers to a geographic-team approach, and altered its fees and charges schedule, which generated an additional \$1.2 million in revenues. He briefly described the six Work Plan items, (listed above.) Parks employees will also be engaged in the discussions. He noted that much of the Work Plan items are in addition to the regular work of staff.

The mayor also has accountability agreements with all departments to hold each responsible for various expectations. Seattle Parks has 14 items in its agreement. An example is that Parks will remove graffiti from its property within 48 hours. Another example is the Department will serve teens. Each accountability agreement item includes measures and milestones the Department must meet.

In addition to the Department's regular work, annual work plan, and the mayor's accountability agreements, the City Council also issues Statements of Legislative Intent (SLI) on an annual basis. While the mayor directs the departments, the SLIs are a way that City Council can direct some work. He next briefly reviewed the two SLIs.

The Department is involving the Park Board in service levels to help answer many questions, such as: are programs over subscribed? under subscribed? what teen programs are offered, how many do they serve, and is that the capacity? How often should parks be mowed and what is the level of value to citizens to keep them mowed? If the department decreases a service level (such as mowing), what are the effects? Studies have shown that homes near parks enjoy a higher value, which in turn, increases the City's tax base. Does an unkempt park reduce nearby home values? If the department increases recreation and helps make people healthier, what other levels of service would increase/decrease?

As part of the ongoing briefing process, the department's finance director will brief the Park Board at the March 8 meeting, immediately followed by a briefing on park level of service. At the March 22 meeting, Recreation Division staff will brief the Board on recreation levels of service. At the April 17 retreat and in spring, Parks staff will do analysis with the Board. This is exciting, and analysis that hasn't been done previously.

Mr. Friedli and Ms. Golub next distributed several handouts to the Board: Trust for Public Land formal report; Seattle Park Foundation park funding study report; 2011 City Parks Facts (parks are really important in Seattle; how is that level of importance maintained?); and Excellent City Park Systems (good background.) Commissioners were asked to read all the documents to help determine principles and guidelines.

Commissioner Brice stated he finds levels of service fascinating and can't wait to delve into the discussions. He asked if the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is already doing this type of research. Mr. Friedli responded that it is. Next week, the Board will hear what it would cost to 100% maintain Seattle's park systems. Estimates are that the current level of maintenance is 60%. What would the parks look like if the level of maintenance drops to 60%? And, if service levels are taken from one program and given to another, what are the long-term affects?

Commissioner Barber was surprised by the two Statements of Legislative Intent and asked about the Board's involvement. He noted that the commissioners may sign up to receive City Council full meeting and committee meeting agendas, which he finds helpful. He complimented Mr. Friedli on the presentation.

Commissioner Kincaid asked that the latest census data also be provided to commissioners. Mr. Friedli stated the information will be included in the Recreation Division Level of Service briefing.

Old/New Business

Magnuson Park and Other Site Tours: Parks staff will arrange a tour of Magnuson Park for the commissioners. Acting Superintendent Williams also suggested a tour of the Westbridge Facility, which houses many of the crews; swimming pools, and other sites.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Diana Kincaid, Acting Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____