

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2013

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
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Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Antoinette Angulo
Jourdan Keith, Vice-chair
Diana Kincaid, Chair
Barbara Wright
Yazmin Mehdi

Excused:

Brice Maryman
Tom Tierney
Caitlin McKee

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Christopher Williams, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator
Susan Golub, Strategic Advisor
Susanne Rockwell, Strategic Advisor

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Diana Kincaid called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioner Wright moved approval of the consent items including the June 13, 2013 meeting agenda and the minutes from the April 11 meeting and acknowledgement of correspondence. Commissioner Mehdi seconded; the motion carried.

To hear and view the full meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591326>

Superintendent's report

Acting Superintendent Williams appreciates the Park Board members giving up their beautiful sunny evening to be at the Park Board meeting.

Legacy Plan/Citizen's Advisory Committee - Parks and Recreation has spent the last month holding public meetings. Last month, Acting Superintendent Williams attended a Parks and Neighborhoods City Council meeting with Commissioner Wright, Charlie Zaragoza and staff; the purpose of which was to pass a resolution to create a Citizen's Steering Committee. The resolution described the scope of work for the Committee which contains a funding package, funding mechanism – fixed or term, also includes recommendations of composition of the funding package – capital versus maintenance and operations. This was a critical step in forming the committee. The Committee is formed; Commissioner Wright will talk more about that later. The Legacy Plan will go to the voters in 2014.

South Lake Union Park - When South Lake Union Park was constructed, like all major parks and designs, it went through Seattle Design Commission; as part of the feedback they said they recognized parking is congested. The Seattle Design Commission (SDC) recommended Parks maintain the parking lot for 2 years.

Parks knew that when Vulcan construction was completed there would be an underground parking garage, which would provide access to the park. Without the existing parking lot, there is a barrier to access to MOHAI, Center for Wooden Boats and South Lake Union Park. Parks will be pushing back against SDC to maintain parking until construction with Vulcan and Mercer is completed. Parks has installed pay stations to regulate parking so that it doesn't become a Park and Ride; it really does serve the park.

Conservancy – Acting Superintendent Williams met with Kate Joncas and Jack McCullough from the Downtown Seattle Association and looked at the concept for a conservancy/hybrid model for Westlake and Occidental Parks; he also met with Heidi Hughes, Executive Director of Friends of Waterfront Park. DSA and Friends of Waterfront Park are open to the idea of establishing a conservancy to do fundraising for activation and programming for downtown parks.

Parks will bring this to the full Park Board to ask and answer the following questions and policy decisions:

- How much delegated authority do we give to a conservancy to make decisions around programming and activation?
- What will be important to maintain and secure public access to the parks?
- What kinds of activities would we interpret as barriers to public access to the parks?
- How do you work with communities so we don't have cookie cutter parks while allowing them to have different interests and different priorities?
- How do you balance different interests and priorities in all of the different parks?
- Where do we need consistency, where should we be more flexible?
- What should be value drivers in how we delegate authority to a private organization?

Commissioner Mehdi pointed out that Parks is heading down a path where there are several non-profits working to help support the parks system but it feels unorganized. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that Parks holds an annual "Friends of..." meeting to talk about issues with which they are concerned.

One of the challenges of creating an umbrella agency for all the fundraising is that a lot of fundraising happens at a local neighborhood level. How do you create a downtown conservancy of all these parks and continue to allow the local interest to fundraise and influence what happens? Parks is interested in helping form a hybrid that takes all of these local groups and unifies them under an umbrella organization. This would be especially good for those areas that do not have a neighborhood group and Parks believes it would foster an extra level of community. Commissioner Mehdi responded that it seems to be a double-edged sword between wanting people to have ownership over individual parks and wanting there to be some consistency of philosophy and how parks are activated and programs are prioritized. Private organizations are skeptical to give government money to use on their behalf but it feels like there's dispersion as to how the parks are being maintained and programmed. Commissioner Mehdi added there is value in organic, local people coming together and wanting to do things but there is also value in government trying for a certain amount of equity and consistency. It's a balancing act.

Acting Superintendent Williams agreed; none of our parks are alike. These are grassroots steps; the idea has been thought a lot about but the conversations about it are really just starting. Commissioner Mehdi acknowledged now is a good time to start thinking in these terms because of the Legacy Plan. Commissioner Wright added that the Partnership Committee has had many talks about it. There is a nationwide trend towards adopting parks; however, Commissioner Wright emphasized the importance of ensuring equity through having good criteria. People become more engaged and do more when they have more authority. Where's the sweet spot for doing something really creative that works for the property? Commissioner Wright added that oversight of contracts will be critical especially during the budget process and the Park Board will have to help Parks with this; to make sure deliverables are met. Equity is paramount.

Acting Superintendent Williams suggested bringing this to the full board and putting it on a future agenda to discuss all of the issues and questions in detail.

Red Bull Skateable Art Park – Red Bull wants to donate \$120,000 to build skateable art at Myrtle Edwards Park. For background, Parks put together a Skate Park Plan in which it identified sites that would be appropriate for skate parks; Myrtle Edwards was a named site in the plan. At the time the skate plan was developed the Olympic Sculpture Park hadn't been opened; the Olympic Sculpture Park represents a material change for Myrtle Edwards and, specifically, in the Skate Park Plan that was adopted in 2007. Questions and issues have arisen with that as a location.

- Is it appropriate to have a skate park this close to the shoreline?
- Is the location a place people will visit?
- Is it being placed in an area that creates too much congestion?

We are now hearing from the Olympic Sculpture Park and other neighbors that they don't think Myrtle Edwards is a proper location for a skate park. Red Bull is interested in building skateable art work – designed to serve the function of public art but adaptable to skating. One of the concerns is that most of the artwork in Myrtle Edwards is not intended for skating. Parks is willing to look at other sites across the city; Parks recommended Jefferson Park.

PI Globe- There has been a discussion about putting the PI Globe in Myrtle Edwards Park. Currently, it sits on top of F5 building near Myrtle Edwards but people are interested in moving it to Myrtle Edwards. The PI Globe feels out of context there because it is so large; it would have to go on a 20-foot base structure. Councilmember Clark is involved in this and Parks suggested to her that Parks plan a site visit interested parties so everyone can get a sense of context, size and scope in order to draw their own conclusions. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 27.

Magnuson – Radium discovery at Magnuson Park in Building 2 and Building 27. Through old drawings, Parks discovered there was a radium dial room in Magnuson Park during World War II. These dials were used on aircraft because it glows in the dark; radium emits gamma rays, which is one of the more harmful radioactive materials. The quantities described are relatively low – the Washington State Department of Public Health and the Navy said the health risk is low; similar to background radiation. Parks has a link to the Washington State Department of Public Health Question and Answers about this issue on our website here: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>

There has been a lot of attention on this issue by Representative Gerry Pollet. A public meeting was held last month. In terms of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, which is the overarching governing process that oversees the transfer process of military bases to city; BRAC describes the appropriate military branch is always lead in cleanup, communicating to the public and funding any mitigation. The Navy is the lead for communication; Parks and Recreation followed all protocols, has been working cooperatively with the military and the Department of Ecology. Parks and Recreation cares strongly about this issue but thinks the park is safe.

Cleanup will begin on July 8. The Department of Ecology does not think there is a need for a public meeting since the cleanup is happening so soon. Parks is encouraging the Navy to host a couple of meetings on a monthly basis to brief the public; Parks will keep the Park Board and the public informed about when those meetings will take place, the status of the cleanup and discoveries made by the Navy during the cleanup. Acting Superintendent Williams anticipates it will take about a year for cleanup, however, they won't know until they get started how extensive the cleanup will be. There will not be a business interruption phase of the cleanup. Commissioner Kincaid adds that Representative Pollet did make the comment that his sons would continue to play at Arena Sports.

Levy Oversight Committee - The Opportunity Fund from the Levy Oversight Committee recently approved 14 projects in six different geographic zones of the city; totaling \$8million. The project descriptions are at the following link:

Smith Cove – Parks celebrated the acquisition of Smith Cove in lower Magnolia. Parks has been working with the Port and County for over a year to make this happen; stars and moons aligned and we got consensus; the issues were how much liability for environmental cleanup the City was going to risk. Benefit outweighed the risk in terms of environmental cleanup. Based on phase 2 testing, the future environmental risk was relatively low as Parks found one kind of toxin as opposed to Gas Works Park where there are many different toxins. Commissioner Keith asked about the toxins at Smith Cove to which Acting Superintendent Williams replied that the one type of toxin at Smith Cove isn't as bad as the CFC's at Gas Works. Mitigation and level of toxicity is milder than Gas Works.

The Smith Cove acquisition was a three-way deal between King County, Parks and the Port of Seattle. The drive for this deal was that King County needed to install a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) in the park. King County will install the CSO in the north end of the area we acquired recently. Having the county involved was important because they used the drainage fees to purchase the property for Parks and hold it until Parks could come up with the \$5million, which Parks will get from a combination of Levy funds and rebates from permits and fees. Parks implemented a creative funding strategy because there was no money to fund it outright; Donald Harris deserves a lot of credit for figuring it out. All of the area to the east of the playfield and to the north will be park land. We have a wonderful opportunity to have a waterfront park. Parks will go through the design charrette with the community with these questions in mind: How much natural beach area do we want to restore? How much public access to beach and tideland do we want?

The more beach land we can strive for the better. Diana thinks it's great news and Superintendent Williams credited the staff for all their hard work.

Volunteer Park Conservatory Greenhouses - Park Foundation raised \$1million for the Conservatory at Volunteer Park. Our crews installed tables that one can wheel out with the collections on them; it's a wonderful, world-class event venue. Since installing a pay station and people counter, we have collected \$58,000 since March. Our goal is \$87,000 in revenue this year and we feel we're on our way. We feel we have a good financial plan and some good strategies. Parks is really proud of the work the Parks Foundation is doing on behalf of the department.

Introduction of Rachel Acosta – New Park Board Coordinator

Rachel Acosta is thrilled to be working for the city of Seattle, Department of Parks and Recreation. She enjoys playing in the parks and using all the programs the city has to offer. Rachel comes from a human resources and a legal background; working for the city is new but very exciting. She loves Parks and Recreation and is happy to be a part of it.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Trang Hoang introduced herself to the Park Board and Acting Superintendent Williams. Trang wondered what percentage of the immigrant and refugee community Parks is able to reach. Trang feels there is a need for multi-lingual customer service employees in community centers, especially in areas that have large immigrant/refugee populations. Language is a barrier; people are more likely to enjoy community centers when the people there speak their language. She questioned what strides Parks will take on behalf of the immigrant and refugee communities.

Trang emphasized the need for dedicated funds for scholarships especially in low-income neighborhoods. The prices of activities and classes are too high for low-income people. Scholarships need more advertising and better access; there is only one person who deals with all the scholarships and that person is hard to access.

Lastly, Trang feels there is a strong need for a community engagement and outreach position on staff. She thinks the staff should reflect the community; right now, it doesn't seem the community centers do that.

Trang wants to get more involved with Parks and assist with these issues. Trang thanked the Parks department for their work starting the single gender swim. Diana thanked Trang for coming and speaking to these issues. Diana encouraged Trang to email her and Acting Superintendent Williams also said to contact him to set up a meeting.

Commissioner Angulo asked Trang if she went to the Legacy Plan meeting regarding immigrants and refugees; Trang felt that the attendance was low due to not enough outreach. The people Trang spoke to at the Legacy Plan meeting for Immigrants and Refugees knew about it from the internet and many people in her community do not have internet at home.

Jennifer Ott from Friends of Olmsted Parks introduced herself. Jennifer emphasized the historical importance of the Olmsted Legacy and feels it should be brought to the forefront of plan especially in the introduction. The 100-year old Legacy is an invisible web that supports our parks system today.

Friends of Olmsted Parks feels there should be more emphasis on the Olmsted legacy and how it plays an important role in the parks system; Olmsted shared a similar vision for the parks system: healthy people, healthy community.

Friends of Olmsted Plan are anxiously waiting for news on the Volunteer Park Reservoir; it is the jewel of the Olmsted system. Friends of Olmsted Parks will support Parks in preserving the Volunteer Park Reservoir. Friends of Olmsted Parks know that the decommissioning is coming up.

The Friends of Olmsted Parks want to ensure that Seattle Parks maintains the historic landscape that is the Olmsted Legacy and requests that Parks uses the Secretary of Interior standard as the basis of how to preserve and protect landscapes.

Diana thanked her and affirms that the Park Board received the letter.

Donna Hartmann-Miller introduced herself to the Park Board. She requested that the Park Board Coordinator have the Superintendent's Notes available at the meetings. Mrs. Hartmann-Miller says she is very excited about the Citizen's Advisory Team and details her hopes for the evening's presentation on the Legacy Plan. She would like to know:

- Meeting times for the meetings.
- Goals and outcome of committee
- Cost-benefit analysis available for the goals and outcomes.

Mrs. Hartmann-Miller requested that the Legacy Plan staff ask for feedback on how the meetings went. The attendees she brought to the meetings were disappointed with the meetings and didn't feel like they had a chance to be heard.

Mrs. Hartmann-Miller asked Superintendent Williams how to get on the invitation list for the annual "Friends of" groups? She believes getting together with other "Friends of" groups is a great idea.

Parks Legacy Plan

Susanne Rockwell, Strategic Advisor in the Superintendent's office, thanked the Commissioners for attending the Legacy meetings and asked for their feedback. Susanne handed out a draft summary that describes the outreach done, how many people attended and a brief synopsis of comments (Attachment A).

Outreach process was extensive; Parks met with city departments, including the Office of Immigrants and Refugees, published notifications in 9 languages, sent to 30,000 people on listservs, and standard press releases. About 300 people signed in at the public meetings; 120 sent in written comments. Statistical analysis on website visits alone showed: over 1,050 people looked at the project website and over 150 looked at the plan itself. Overwhelmingly, there were positive comments from constituents; people are passionate about parks and what they love about them. Lifelong Recreation participants felt the questions Parks asked were provocative.

Results:

- Spray parks are popular; people want more of them.
- Creative funding for athletics; sponsorships/logos to maintain athletic fields as long as they share Parks Vision and Mission.
- Community centers and immigrant meetings – every program across the board, having consistent staff is really important. Developing and having a relationship with the staff and having a friendly and familiar face that speaks multiple languages. Better marketing and promotions for programs that are offered. Better fees and scholarships and simplify the forms.
- Parks heard fabulous testimonials from aquatics and small crafts and how those programs had a positive impact on youth and community; very compelling.
- Everyone wants comfort stations clean which is still the highest priority. Forest restoration and maintaining what we have.

Superintendent Williams added that during the public process no one told us to stop doing anything; no one said give us less. People were appreciative of the meetings and felt that they got a lot of useful information. Education is one of the key reasons Parks holds public meetings and that came through from the public at each meeting. Parks staff are in the process of updating the plan to include comments from public and staff. We're hoping to have that in 2 weeks. Comments will be posted on the website.

Input or observations from the Park Board on the Legacy Plan Meetings

Commissioner Mehdi went to three of the meetings. She felt the group sessions did not promote meaty discussions. It was easy for a single person/issue to take over discussion. Commissioner Mehdi noted Parks compiled a lot of amazing data in the Legacy Plan but feels that if Parks put something more provocative on the table it would give people a way to think about priorities. Lifelong Recreation advocates commented strongly because the questions were so focused and perhaps threatening. People need an opportunity to say what they really want to say. She felt that being a little more provocative and focused on what Parks is asking people to comment on would be more useful. Acting Superintendent Williams added that staff did an amazing job.

Commissioner Wright added she went to almost all the meetings. Staff was learning along the way; at first, they expected people to self-organize but by the end staff came forward to manage discussions. She looked at the public meetings as a slice of the public. The letter and comments from the Friends of Olmsted Parks are fantastic and they are appreciated. There are segments of the population who have yet to be heard. There have been some great comments in writing and written material; the Legacy Committee needs to make sure

that the loudest people aren't the most important. All the comments need to be incorporated into the Plan. What will the system look like in the future? How does Parks maintain the respect and preservation of the history? The Legacy Plan Steering Committee will grow as it goes through this process. Staff did excellent work.

Commissioner Angulo attended the Northgate meeting; ARC did a good job of getting people there. Her experience was opposite of Commissioner Mehdi's. There was a tension between the people who came to learn about Parks and those from ARC who wanted to discuss the questions. It seems a lot of people stayed in the same group to continue the conversation due to time constraints.

Commissioner Keith agreed; at the meeting she attended the mentors and teens were clear about what they wanted. They mentioned consistency of staff and more mentorship. When budgeted appropriately, having a consistent staff makes a difference. Teens seem to think of parks and recreation as a stepping stone; preparing them for the world. Teens said Parks helped them figure out how to connect outside of the community center. Commissioner Keith thought the Legacy meetings were well run, however, some people were confused about responsibilities of the people at the table.

Commissioner Kincaid stated the Parks Legacy Plan is an incredible document. She expressed interest in making hard copies more widely available to the public. Great for groups to be able to read it and understand the issues. Commissioner Kincaid believed there was a larger public audience at the Park Board meeting tonight because of this discussion, which is great.

Susan Golub – Strategic Advisor in Superintendent's office.

A 2nd draft of the Legacy Plan will come out on June 25 and there will be a final draft in the fall. Main difference in the new draft is that questions have been replaced with goal statements. These goal statements were prepared using criteria developed in consultation with City Council staff and Budget Office staff. Each division evaluated their proposed goal statements against the criteria. The results are 117 pages of backup material that reflects the breadth of what Parks and Recreation does. The goal statements will be added to the snapshots.

In the new draft Plan the Partnership section will be expanded and will be stand-alone; each partner will have a page on what they do. Volunteers and "Friends of" groups will be in an appendix or in the Partnership/Volunteer section.

Staff is diligently editing the plan and adding the public outreach material. It will be on the web and hard copies for the Board and Legacy Committee. Susan mentioned Joel Hart, the third member of the team, he isn't at the Park Board meeting but he has been an invaluable member of the team. Commissioner Keith asked if there will be an executive summary.

Susan responded that instead of an Executive , the Plan brochure will be updated; changing the brochure to connect to the 2nd draft of the plan. Commissioner Angulo emphasized the importance of having a highly visual report that will cross literacy levels, digital media/multi-media. It was suggested that Parks ask the library system to make it available, that entities and agencies that helped with immigrant and refugee outreach could also help get the word out, too. Commissioner Mehdi thinks having the division directors involved is great; they are the one that do the work and have the expertise. Commissioner Mehdi challenges Parks to make the goal statements useful in making budget decisions and setting priorities.

Commissioner Kincaid mentioned the safety survey because originally it was broken down into levels of safety; for women and men the difference was 10 points and she thinks that distinction is important and should be included in the Plan. Commissioner Kincaid mentioned CEPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design); making parks safe for all is important.

Commissioner Wright feels there is passion and energy in the Legacy Plan Goal Statements. The goal statement under maintenance looks to traditional maintenance but under that area is also urban forestry and forest stewardship – perhaps these should be separate. Maintenance section should be reviewed.

Commissioner Keith stated the executive summary being clear and easy to view is critical – the summary should be the bait that will make people want to read more.

Antoinette asked Superintendent Williams if there were themes with Immigrants and Refugees? Susanne said most had to do with programming and having bilingual staff. The directors of the divisions reviewed the public comments while developing the goal statements and Parks incorporated in to the Plan multiple goal statements from the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

Diana thanked staff again for all their work.

Parks Legacy Citizens Committee – Barbara Wright

A Resolution passed April 12 to create the Committee. Commissioner Wright is co-chairing with Charlie Zaragoza, Board Chair of the Associated Recreation Council. Attachment A of the Resolution is the list of participants. There are 15 people on the Committee who are all from different parts of the community, each have different experiences and perspectives and staff will be there to help with technical information and expertise. The Steering Committee will be looking at entire systems. Meetings start on June 25.

First charge will be to look at the draft plan including looking at oral and written testimonies. The Committee will meet monthly from 6-8 and then in the fall, double up the meetings; whether the committee breaks up into sub committees or forms an ad hoc will be decided later. The Committee will have one full meeting in November for public comments. The Committee encourages people to submit things in writing to ensure viewpoints are heard.

The Committee will then look at investment initiatives. Superintendent Williams is enthusiastically pursuing several creative approaches to funding; he is looking at things in a new and fresh way, and also funding traditional programs and looking at how the system will look in 25 years.

The Committee will have a draft report by Dec. 15 and then the committee will take a 2-month break. This will give everyone time to digest what is happening. There will be frequent briefings with the City Council and Mayor. There will be briefings after the primary elections that will provide equal access to notes to the candidates. Public meetings and notes will be posted online.

The Committee's recommendations will go to City Council and Mayor jointly. There will be more public comment during that time. During the City Council's review there will be another chance for public comment.

There will be a list of Committee meeting dates on the website. The meeting on June 25 from 6-8pm will be an opportunity for the public to get acquainted with the Committee members. Councilmember Bagshaw and the Mayor will give some words of wisdom. No public testimony at the first meeting. There will be an opportunity for real comment and interaction at the 2nd meeting.

Acting Superintendent Williams noted that the Mayor and the City Council jointly selected the members of the Committee.

Commissioner Kincaid asked what will the interaction be with the Park Board? Briefing the Park Board on a regular basis and asking for feedback will be critical. There are three Park Board members on the committee. Commissioner Mehdi will work at helping with funding mechanisms. There may be policy issues that arise regarding funding mechanisms. The Legacy Committee anticipates good interaction with the Board.

Barbara added it's a huge undertaking and critically important.

Commissioner Keith asked if the Legacy Committee will be addressing the advertising/marketing for Department of Parks and Recreation. It could be part of the investment strategy. Parks Foundation is rolling out a "Love Parks" campaign. Commissioner Keith thinks there is a need for a commercial or youtube video. Superintendent Williams stated that ARC partnered to raise \$300,000 each year for fundraising. Parks is paying ARC \$75,000 for this effort and they have hired a Development Director. Thus far ARC raised funding for the renovation of the Georgetown comfort station and youth basketball scholarships. Commissioner Wright added that marketing could be added to the funding; it could be in one of the initiatives working through social media.

Commissioner Mehdi inquired about the King County Parks ballot initiative. She pointed out that Parks will get little funding out of that. Acting Superintendent Williams stated the County is running a low-key campaign and treating it like a renewal. The Zoo benefits because they get \$6million from King County. Typically, Seattle has received trail funding get from King County levies. This time Seattle will get to prioritize the money we get from the County levy. Commissioner Mehdi emphasized the importance of getting voters to understand the difference between King County Parks Levy and a City of Seattle levy. Commissioner Keith noted that to voters the difference between King County and Seattle Parks is confusing.

Commissioner Kincaid said she first heard about the King County Levy during Seattle funding discussions. She agrees the timing is unfortunate and Seattle will not have a low-key campaign. During the Legacy Citizen's Committee process, key issues will come out. Commissioner Wright points out that King County parks doesn't have a funding source and they are regional facilities that people in Seattle use.

Park Board Business:

Commissioner Kincaid requested the Park Board Commissioners report on any outside groups/organizations with which they are associated.

Funding Committee - Commissioner Mehdi says her committee is done for now.

Levy Oversight Committee – Commissioner Keith stated it is wonderful seeing how fired up people are on the Levy Oversight Committee, especially about the recently completed Opportunity Fund. There is a lot of interest and discussion in making sure due diligence is done to ensure they are doing what they need in terms of funding. It is amazing to see how people look at what projects could be funded and which projects would add further costs. The Opportunity Fund projects are spread fairly through all sectors of the City. Acting Superintendent Williams added that the Committee reviewed the projects and the initial staff scoring; they had to analyze whether the projects actually met the criteria, and after public comments and Committee evaluation, ended up cutting some projects, which took courage. He has a lot of respect for the committee to come out strong for something they listened to people and it was encouraging to see such a large group function in such a constructive way.

Associated Recreation Council (ARC) update - Commissioner Angulo informed the Park Board that people involved with ARC turned out for the Legacy Plan public meetings and were really well informed; they had heard about funding mechanisms and they wanted to learn more about them. They really care about their parks and the community centers and are staunch advocates for the community centers. ARC members mentioned Fremont and Wallingford areas are the furthest away from a community center and they are two large densely populated neighborhoods.

Central Waterfront Committee - Commissioner Kincaid said the seawall is 100% designed. It's been exciting to be a part of that conversation; there has been so much research in regards to the environmental impacts and creating a safer haven for the juvenile salmon. The new design will be built for climate change – anticipating rogue waves, and a height increase in the Sound. Research team has come and talked with the design team. This project is fully funded.

The plan is designed for seismic activity. Drainage issues have yet to be discussed although the park itself would be permeable surface. Acting Superintendent Williams added there will be a public space which will run the length of Alaskan Way; it will be as wide as this room and it will be a lawn.

There will be a dedicated cycle track, transit corridor and a link up to the rest of the city. The Central Waterfront Committee has reviewed various cities' waterfront areas from around the world to look at examples to see what was done well and what works and what doesn't. The road will be where the viaduct is now, this will provide a lot of area for people to be; there will be a wetland, another place where you can touch the water. It will be a very dynamic waterfront that is built for citizens.

Commissioner Keith mentioned a recent trip to Brooklyn and was amazed by the work on their waterfront, which apparently Seattle is emulating. It looked incredible. She had a lovely beer in the park, and there was a narrow strip of restaurants and there were only 20 tables so you felt like it was still family friendly but it gave it a community feel. Acting Superintendent Williams says serving alcohol is a policy question that will need to be asked. Would we be comfortable to have the "friends of" groups do that? At this point, Superintendent Williams is the only person who can approve alcohol in the park. Serving alcohol would generate revenue for maintaining the parks. Commissioner Wright believes this would require very clear rules and regulations. Commissioner Keith suggested discussing models with other cities so as not to recreate the wheel.

Commissioner Kincaid encouraged everyone to look at the plan online. It is very dynamic. It's going from Pioneer Square to Myrtle Edwards and beyond. Seattle will forever be different. You can see the plan here: <http://waterfrontseattle.org/>

The Environmental Impact Statement is online here: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/seawall_eis.htm

Parks Department Website and Technology

Commissioner Angulo wondered if we have a mobile application. Acting Superintendent Williams replied the Parks website is one of the most visited and is archaic. Commissioner Kincaid believes improving technology for parks department and the website should be made much more accessible. Acting Superintendent Williams added that the trends is moving towards people wanting to access things on the fly and from home; Parks needs to adapt its infrastructure to be able to move that way.

Park Board and the Citizen's Advisory Committee

Diana noticed at the Legacy Plan meetings that the public doesn't understand what the Park Board is and that the members are not city employees but volunteers. They also don't seem to understand that the Park Board is an advisory committee, which means it provides advice and counsel as opposed to making binding decisions.

Commissioner Keith moved the meeting be adjourned; Commissioner Mehdi seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

APPROVED:


Diana Kincaid, Chair

DATE

