

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2014

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
Diana Kincaid
Barbara Wright
Bob Edmiston
Lydia Albert
Tom Tierney, Chair

Excused:

Brice Maryman
Yazmin Mehdi, Vice Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Tierney calls the meeting to order at 6:37pm. Commissioner Angulo moves to approve the Agenda and Acknowledgment of Correspondence, Commissioner Kincaid seconds; the consent items are approved.

To hear and view the full meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591331>

Oral Communication from the Audience

Skip Knox – asks the Park Board how many have walked through unrestored area. He invites them to walk through Cheasty Greenspace; he feels strongly that if one doesn't know the plants and dirt then should not make a judgment on whether to put a trail through an oasis in a dense city. With regard to the Cheasty Project Advisory Team (PAT) he's disappointed in the resources and feels it needs to have 2-person facilitator. It doesn't look professional and it doesn't bring the community back together again.

Deputy Superintendent's Report

Cheasty: 2nd PAT meeting. Commissioner Tierney went to the 1st meeting and helped introduce it. At this stage there has been a lot of sharing of information. Margaret Norton-Arnold is facilitator she has been doing a good job keeping the lines of communication open.

Magnuson – There was a public meeting regarding radiation; State Representative Pollett made a presentation; asking for separate advisory committee for environmental issues; MPAC serves that purpose so the mayor declined; state agencies and the navy are responsible for the clean-up and their level of communication with the community has been great.

Seattle Park District: Oversight Committee –The Inter-Local Agreement spells out a 15 member oversight committee; 7 from each city council district; 4 members from the Park Board and 4 from other Seattle boards/commissions. Councilmembers Godden and Bagshaw and the Mayor solicited applications; deadline was Monday and there was a good geographical distribution. Did not get response from the other city boards and commissions yet.

6 member committee reviewing materials people submitted and ranking them; city Councilmembers Godden and Bagshaw, and Mayor will pick. The goal is to have a group selected in December with the first meeting in January with substantive work starting in the spring.

Superintendent search: Mayor invited 45 people to participate on Citizen's Advisory Committee; large group of people asked to have a conversation about qualities desired in new superintendent. Search firm is in process of issuing advertisement this week. The mayor hopes to do interviews in December. Commissioner Tierney adds he submitted the Park Board comments to the joint Committee, consultants, and Mayor's office. The Park Board comments were well received and that will make up the characteristics for the candidates.

South Lake Union: There are issues with the bridge – it is settling in an awkward way – there is a structural review of the bridge happening and it is closed.

Roxhill Park Play structure has a castle ceiling that has mirrors attached to it and so they closed it for a few days to repair it and return it.

Unsheltered homelessness: Tent city 3 was closed – they moved under I-5 on Ravenna Boulevard, at Northacres Park, and North Passage Point Park. Parks have posted signs in the parks telling them to vacate and will have Department of Human Services do outreach. The procedure is that anything left behind will get tagged and bagged so people can come and claim their stuff. Parks recognizes the impacts on the neighbors.

The mayor has established a committee on unsheltered homelessness. Mayor would like to have a representative from the Park Board; if you are interested, talk with Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli about it.

Acting Superintendent Williams is at a conference for the City Parks Alliance on the future of parks management and will speak about the Seattle Park District.

Briefing and Public Hearing: Magnolia Manor Off-Leash Area

Presented by Leah Tivoli, Sustainable Operations Manager

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

Magnolia Manor Off-leash Area (OLA) opened in November 2012. Per Ordinance 118724 (1997), all OLAs start as pilots. Parks is responsible for the on-going monitoring of these sites and a formal evaluation after 18 months of operation.

The Board of Park Commissioners makes a recommendation on whether to make the OLA permanent based on the staff evaluation and public testimony. The vote can occur the same day as the evaluation or at a later date should the Commissioners require additional information to make a decision.

The Commissioners may recommend Parks and Recreation to work jointly with Seattle Animal Control and Citizens for Off-leash Areas (COLA) to mitigate issues that are highlighted in the evaluation. The Superintendent makes the final decision regarding making the OLA permanent. Should the Superintendent decide to make the OLA permanent, changes to legislation must be sent to City Council.

Staff Recommendation

The Magnolia Manor OLA meets all the criteria necessary to become a permanent OLA. Given the proximity to residents, continued emphasis on mitigating noise, smells, parking and providing education to users will be an on-going necessity.

Project Background

The off-leash area program established in 1996 has been very successful. Parks has 11 permanent OLAs and one temporary OLA that are operating well under the Citizens for Off-leash Areas (COLA)-Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) Agreement.

In 2006, the Superintendent directed the department to find suitable sites for an OLA in Queen Anne/Magnolia to ensure the provision of OLAs in all sectors of the city. Parks formed a committee with representatives of the Magnolia Community Club, Queen Anne Community Council and COLA to identify five sites in Magnolia/Queen Anne. The five sites identified were: Magnolia Park, Magnolia Manor, Thorndyke Park, David Rodgers Park and Kinnear Park.

There were two public meetings regarding siting, one in Magnolia and the other in Queen Anne. Parks mailed more than 11,000 notices to neighborhoods surrounding the five possible sites. The Magnolia meeting drew 120 community members and the Queen Anne meeting drew 80-100.

Parks staff evaluated each site based on criteria legislated in Council Resolution 29628 (1997):

- A. Avoid interference with other established uses or department-sponsored activities.
- B. Avoid directly abutting residences.
- C. Assure the availability of close parking.
- D. Avoid locating near children's play areas.
- E. Locate where there are minimal impacts upon the total visual character of a park.
- F. Locate where there is low potential for spillover into areas not designated or off-leash use.
- G. Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes.

Based on the evaluation and public comments, Parks staff recommended David Rodgers, Lower Kinnear and Magnolia Manor to be constructed. These sites were approved by the Superintendent, received a SEPA

determination of non-significance, and were brought before the Board of Park Commissioners where they were recommended for final approval. The Superintendent approved Lower Kinneer and Magnolia Manor.

Magnolia Manor Off-leash Area

Magnolia Manor OLA is one of the most accessible OLAs in the system. It is located on level ground, in a neighborhood park along a relatively quiet street with a bus stop about 100 feet from the entrance. Neighbors can walk to the OLA or drive. Parking is available, although it may require some searching during peak use hours on the weekend.

Magnolia Manor Park is located at 3500 28th Ave W, on what was previously a Seattle Public Utilities reservoir. The SPU portion (184,921 square feet) is completely fenced, maintained as a grass field and is restricted to only SPU access. The park portion, under agreement with SPU, is separated by a fence and consists of a paved walking path and grass. The OLA is 20,291 square feet with space for a shy/small dog area. There are two entrances into the OLA, one from 28th Ave W and one from the North. There is water available. The surfacing is split between mulch and gravel and in the picture below is represented by brown and grey, respectively.

The Magnolia Manor Off-Leash Area is a community asset for the Magnolia and Queen Anne neighborhoods. The OLA is actively used with at least 50 dogs per day. There is a strong sense of community at the park and staff received over 60 letters of support from individuals and community organizations. The recent enhancements to Magnolia Manor Park were the result of a \$402,500 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund project that intended to create a neighborhood recreational destination with places to walk, garden, picnic, and exercise dogs. The community fundraised \$25,000 to add to the \$70,000 of levy funding allocated for the OLA. The park was transformed from a passive grassy area that was surrounded by an 8 foot fence to what it is today.

Evaluation Criteria

Overall, Magnolia Manor OLA meets all the criteria set forth in Resolution 29628 and Ordinance 118724.

Avoid interference with other established uses and department-sponsored activities.	✓
Avoid directly abutting residences.	✓*
Assure the availability of close parking.	✓
Locate where there are minimal impacts upon the character of a park.	✓



Locate where there is low potential for spillover into areas not designated or off leash use.	✓
Avoid locating near children's play areas.	✓
Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes.	✓
COLA responsibilities met under umbrella agreement	✓
Animal Shelter responsibilities met under umbrella agreement	✓
No Public Health Issues	✓
No Safety Issues	✓
* The OLA does not directly abut residences; however, there is no separation from a road or other physical feature that would buffer residences to the north from the OLA.	

There have been questions raised in regards to:

- 1) How close the OLA is to residents,
- 2) The availability of parking and
- 3) How the OLA has changed the character of the park.

The park is close to residents, but is not directly next to them with about a 100 foot grass buffer. Although there have been some issues raised about parking, the issues are generally about control and not about availability. The question as to how the OLA has positively or negatively impacted the character of the park is in the eye of the beholder. Many of the neighbors, Parks staff, COLA, past Park Board of Commissioners (per minutes from 2006), community groups and animal shelter staff contend the park had been underutilized and was used primarily as an informal OLA. Now, given the OLA and the p-patch, the park is bustling with community-creating activity.

In contrast, a small, but vocal minority living north of the OLA, dispute this claim saying the OLA's noise and aesthetics have ruined their peace and the park is driving drugs and crime into the neighborhood.

Public Involvement Process

There has been overwhelmingly positive feedback from the larger community, and 3 complaints from neighbors. Outreach was done to better understand the extent of impacts on residences that directly face the OLA on the North, South and West sides. Staff knocked on doors and called telephone numbers provided by the building manager for the apartment building north of the site and was able to make contact with 11 households out of about 16 total households facing the park. The conversations were informal with the goal of touching base with those who would not typically get involved with city government. Staff asked how we could improve the OLA or mitigate any concerns.

All 6 households on the South and West sides of the OLA and 2 on the North side were generally supportive of the OLA. These households mentioned that we could improve the park by focusing efforts on parking, preventing dogs from running off-leash outside of the OLA, providing a family area protected from dog excrement, and educating disrespectful dog owners who bring noisy dogs to the park or do not clean up. There was also consensus that the OLA had improved the park by bringing in more people, which increased positive uses of the park as well as legitimized and contained on-going off-leash activity.

Of the 3 households to the North who were highly dissatisfied, all three mentioned the noise as the most intrusive part of the park. One of the residents said, "We can't seem to get across to anyone in your realm how frustrating and mind altering continuous barking is." Another resident said, "I believe that just walking the neighborhood on foot and behind the greenery on the south side of the park doesn't give you the full impact that being on a 2nd or 3rd level balcony above all this noise does."

Some users have been receptive to the neighbors' requests for them to quiet dogs or pick up and others who have used inappropriate language or gestures in response. One Yelp reviewer asserted, "IT'S A DOG PARK, LADY. I am SORRY YOU CAN'T HANDLE BARKING, but there is only so much a person can do to limit demand barking! We haven't been back... and it's no one's fault. It's just better for everyone involved that barky dogs don't come here."

Staff visited the park several times from 5:30pm-6:30pm on clear summer evenings when people were coming home from work and using the park. Staff never had trouble finding parking and found the park visitors to be respectful and following park rules. When a dog started barking loudly, staff noticed another visitor approach the dog owner and ask her to quiet her dog. Staff visited the park about 5 times and did not experience the animosity demonstrated in letters, blog postings and yelp reviews.

According to both visual inspection and Park Resources Manager, Patrick Merriam, COLA stewards, Toni Imfeld and Cheryl Frantz have maintained the OLA to a high standard. In 2014, Toni and Cheryl logged over 742 hours of volunteer time including 6 work parties with 204 hours each. Patrick Merriam mentioned that Magnolia Manor OLA is one of the nicest OLAs in the system and part of the reason is the clientele is very conscientious and pressure one another to clean up after pets. Park Resources visits the park on a daily basis to service the garbage cans.

Recommended Park Improvements

- Signage or some parking control is necessary to help regulate parking such as reminding visitors to not park in front of the fire hydrants or double-park in front of residences.
- Frequency of garbage collection is at an acceptable standard. If there are smells, we should explore more air tight garbage cans or change the surfacing.
- Provide regular visits by animal control to reduce off-leash activity outside of the OLA.
- Partner with COLA to create more formal looking signage to educate dog users regarding proper dog etiquette in a neighborhood park.
- Change out the gravel to the smaller size that is gentler on the dog paws.
- As resources come available:
 - Include other unfunded elements from the 2011 Opportunity Fund project design such as a family/picnic area in addition to the OLA.
 - Provide an entrance directly into the small/shy dog area.
 - Consult a sound engineer to see how noise traveling north could be mitigated.

Environmental Sustainability

No known environmental issues at this time.

Additional Information

Leah Tivoli: leah.tivoli@seattle.gov

For further details regarding the siting process refer to links below:

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/OLA.htm> ; <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/10-12-06.pdf> <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/10-26-06.pdf>

For further details about the Magnolia Manor opportunity fund project including cost and application:

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/magnolia_manor/
<http://magnoliamanorpark.org/mission/about-the-park/schematic-design/meeting-3/>
<http://magnoliamanorpark.org/mission/about-the-park/schematic-design/meeting-2-draft-designs-workshop/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/magnoliamanorpark/sets/72157629177252058/show/>

Magnolia Manor and Lower Kinnear parks were built in November 2012 and January 2013, respectively.

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/off-leash/>

For more information relating to the OLA program visit: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/offleash.asp>

Presentation

Deadline to submit written comments to the Board of Park Commissioners is November 11.

Leah states Magnolia Manor meets the criteria to become a permanent off-leash area (OLA). There will need to be some continued mitigation regarding noise, smells, parking and providing education to users. Magnolia Manor is one of the most accessible OLAs in the city. It used to be a reservoir. A fence separates the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) portion. The OLA surfacing is split between mulch and gravel.

Location selection: 11,000 notices went out to the Magnolia community and Magnolia Manor was picked; it was considered under-utilized; changed the character of the park intentionally. Policy questions came up: is it any different from living next to other Seattle parks? Seattle is growing; houses on perimeter of parks often struggle with noise and other issues. Does the OLA meet the criteria?

Leah did door-to-door outreach and spoke with 11 of 16 units facing the park. She found most people interested in what she had to say. She visited during a summer evening – the OLA was very busy; none mentioned noise as a concern unless it was dog fights and/or at odd hours. The main critique was to provide family areas and train disrespectful dog owners. Many people mentioned that people ran their dogs here before there was an OLA. She interviewed 5 neighbors on the north; 3 were deeply opposed – crime, drugs, noise - they felt were related and have lived in the neighborhood for 5 years. They felt Parks did not provide enough screening to protect the views. Citizens for Off-Leash Area (COLA) stewards have maintained Magnolia Manor OLA better than others have. Toni and Cheryl logged over 742 hours of volunteer time and 6 work parties; a lot of time and a nice community. They have built up teamwork and commitment to educate dog owners about proper etiquette.

Parking issues could be mitigated through enhancing enforcement. Newly hired animal control officers could help curb off-leash activity outside the OLA. As resources come available look at other community needs – space for families?

The users of the OLA have requested a separate entrance into small/shy dog area so those with shy dogs do not have to go into the big dog area.

Magnolia Manor OLA is a medium/small dog park – lower Kinnear is 11,000 square feet, Magnuson and Westcrest are larger; not all have 2 separate areas for dogs. The OLA hours are the same as the park hours; 4am-11:30pm. Commissioner Angulo suggests changing the hours of the OLA to reflect the community's needs. She suggests better signage as a reminder not to have dogs off-leash outside of the off-leash area.

The commissioners feel Leah has done excellent work all the way around.

Public Hearing

Cheryl Franz: One of the stewards of the park; prior to the OLA, the park was under-utilized – it acted as the neighbors personal back yard and the character has changed. Decrease in crime through 2013-2014; homeowners in the area love this park and come there all the time. She would be downtrodden if it were to leave– she loves it. Many people in the area have issues but the people in the park are not drug dealers or criminals. She and the other steward are working hard to teach dog owners distraction techniques and other ways to keep dogs quiet.

John Cavello – The OLA is wonderful for retired people to meet others but those that cannot have dogs like to come and meet the other dogs.

Cyril Hilton- He lives in Chinatown in SHAG housing and they load up in vans and go to all the different dog parks. These are companion animals and we need them. He thinks this is a really good idea and is in favor of keeping Magnolia Manor open. He hopes for one in Chinatown.

Chris Hawking – loves this dog park and the people here; does not come across unruly dogs or owners that are inattentive.

Marilyn Sierra: She feels the dog park contains it to allowable numbers; this park is a blessing to her. The dogs don't get nearly as dirty – the drainage is great. Community is amazing, they all help each other, and the OLA brings a sense of community.

Sherry Rhodes: Sherry states she is not against parks and not against visitors from the parks. They don't deal with the ongoing barking. A few times doesn't warrant the years of ongoing incessant barking – out of sheer aggravation. She has been told that is what dogs do, she has been flipped off, and people have confronted her. She feels there are other better areas. And feels it is unfair and they should not have to deal with it.

Judy Fallen: She lives by Sherry; she feels dog people are special people. The dog park is placed inappropriately because it is in a residential area. Parks promised many things that have not happened. They have not supervised the administration of the park; volunteers cannot manage this park to the right level. A parks employee needs to manage the park – She requests the Commissioners put off the vote. People brushing their dogs and leaving it and it blows up on her deck. She would like to see 6 more months to make this work.

Ali Amato – resident of the North side of the building – no one from Parks has ever made an effort to experience this OLA from their building. There is an entitlement mentality; they have all benefits without any of the detriments. Parks policy states that it should not directly abut residences but it does. It is a very busy OLA; these residents live and work in this building. Fights between the dogs in the summer time. People encourage the dogs to bark – throwing the ball when the dogs bark.

Toni Infeld- She is the other steward at Magnolia Manor since it opened in November 2012. It has been the stewards' responsibility to organize park amenities like poop bags, maintenance work party; park users have put in hundreds of hours. The level of use has been astonishing; it has continued to increase. It is the only OLA in Magnolia. Many users have not been accustomed to proper use behavior. They have created a real community of responsible park users; clean up after dogs, be considerate of neighbors by keeping the barking down, and unlearning demand barking.

Carol Burton – does not have a dog; she is a member of Friends of Magnolia Manor park – they talked to Amato and tried to get her involved; she's been involved since the beginning. She has

overwhelming support for the OLA because, before the OLA it was an unofficial dog park. The police have never had a complaint about crime. Friends of Magnolia Manor raised \$25,000 for the OLA; all donations from the community. As treasurer, she got the feedback that the community wanted the park; over 150 donors. She has a grandson who is a dog lover and they were there on Sunday for 3 hours and there were no fights.

Leslie Sherman – have dogs and it is improved greatly now that there is an OLA. They are lucky Magnolia is as organized and she thinks more OLAs need to be developed.

Diana Donaldson – thank you for this park and it is so nice to meet the neighbors; her dog likes to run and this is her only outlet and she is miss congeniality and she really loves this park.

Sharon LeVine – speaking for OLA – extensive process associated with Magnolia Manor for OLA. It was overwhelmingly favored to be Magnolia's first OLA. Residents got notices and helped to design the park. The pilot has been successful and has fostered relationships and community. Great location; incentivizes people to visit the park; great stewards maintain the park; minimal barking from dogs; dog owners that have dogs that repeatedly bark are asked to find other parks. \$100,000 has been invested in Magnolia Manor.

Jim Davis – lives down the block and he's a homeowner – walks the dog almost daily – people and dog place – like a piazza in Italy. Makes a vibrant neighborhood and he thinks about the neighborhoods; there's a way to meet everyone's needs.

Carla Cotilla – dog owner, gardener, friends of Magnolia Manor park; pending opportunity fund money – part of the project is buffer landscaping on the north side. Looking actively at locations for other dog parks in Magnolia; she has been to all parks in the city – I have 1 dog is a barker that I don't bring to this park because it is disruptive. Building the p-patch in the garden and there has been a lot less barking recently. They need to get promised sound mitigation.

Bruce Carter: thank you for the patience – on Magnolia Community Council and Chair of the Magnolia /Queen Anne District Council; he feels Friends of Magnolia Manor Park has been impressive with how they have reached out to opposition. He is sympathetic to the neighbors who have to deal with the barking.

Laura Osterbroek – resident South end of the park; played Frisbee, sledding, thanksgiving football game – all of this was curtailed when the dog park came in. No one uses the park except the people who have dogs. The park character has completely changed; never heard OLA was mandatory; never knew the character was going to change. Dogs play off-leash on the steep slope still. The OLA criteria are not met. The residences are too close.

Chip Gashe – People from Parks knock down trees; educating people to keep the dogs quiet; they talk about all the money spent and it has been wasted. As resources become available they will have a sound engineer – why is this not more of a priority? OLA people have received everything they want and the opposition have not received anything.

Sharon LeVine 2- She has been involved in parks activities since 1998; artificial turf in pnw; the community banded together and were concerned about the number of increased hours of usage at the parks. She was told that people who live near parks have to endure certain aspects of the park.

She feels for these neighbors it is a fact of life that neighbors who live near ball fields, live with noise – no less so than a dog park.

Commissioner Tierney says the hardest thing with which the Park Board has to deal is park use impacts on neighborhoods; written comments accepted until November 11 with discussion and a vote on November 13.

Commissioner Wright visited the park the other afternoon and it was raining; it seemed really orderly and clean. She was surprised at how much the dog park overwhelms the greenspace. There are design issues at the park and the dog park overwhelms the space. She feels having spontaneous play area for the kids would be nice. The volunteer effort is commendable. Everyone is trying hard with education. The dog barking is really annoying!! She empathizes. She hopes that Parks can find a place to get landscaping. Leah responds that the opportunity fund project will open more of the park and add landscaping. Acting Deputy Superintendent adds at the November 13 meeting Parks staff could do a presentation that shows the proposed design changes. The opportunity fund is approved and in process.

Commissioner Kincaid wonders about the feasibility of having a sound person evaluate the sound issue and if there ways to mitigate. Is there a substantial family area?

Leah responds that OLA question brings up many design questions. Parks planning and Leah will coordinate an answer.

Commissioner Edmiston thinks it would be interesting to take a data logging apparatus to record the barks - frequency and loudness and analyze that in the same fashion as traffic data. Make rational decisions based on empirical evidence.

Commissioner Wright adds she was driving around looking for the park – on the north side the density of the apartments is enormous. It is nice to have an area where people can go with their dogs nearby; the need is there. There are benefits to being next to the park but there are also negatives. Leah agrees it is very dense; there are so many dog users in the area. Part of the mitigation strategy is to have more dog parks for them in the neighborhoods so that there are less people there.

If you have further questions then let's try and get those to Rachel + additional comments and then the Park Board will have a further discussion on Nov 13.

Update: 2015-2016 Budget

Presented by Michele Finnegan, Finance Director

City Council initial issues identification was today at 3:30; generally speaking, it is a boring budget year. There has not been a ton of policy questions because the budget is not changing much. Park District is a huge component of change; the Aquarium support is now on the operating side of the budget – to allow more flexibility in how the money is used during the construction in the central waterfront. The performance measurement and strategic management line item was funded at a level that City Council was not expecting to see; they are thinking of taking \$400,000 for the performance monitoring from the Community Center rehabilitation for 2015 budget.

Legislation to create a Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund – Parks has never had an ongoing capital project fund – they think this is a good idea.

Legislation for \$10million loan for 2015– City Council has to agree to the legislation for a cash pool loan.

Green Lake alum treatment – hot topic – closed to swimming for 6 weeks or more. Long term plan is to do another alum treatment and they tend to last about 10 years. Friends of Greenlake want it to happen sooner. Parks is proposing to get the process started sooner to use Reallocate Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to do design and permitting related to Green Lake. The consultant advised should not do treatment when water is cold; do it in April 2016 and ready for swimming for 2016, but in 2015 there may still be algae blooms.

Smith cove – funding in 2016; Combined Sewer Overflow project is happening now. City Council wants to try and do design process now to coordinate with King County.

Open space/city land that is being surplused but is not in a gap area – no reason Parks should use funds to purchase it; create another type of open space acquisition fund that might meet other goals like climate change; goals that aren't necessarily Park's goals. Community members are worried about these properties being bought by private developers and developed. Commissioner Tierney asks about moving Park's open spaces into a new department of urban forestry. SPU, Seattle City Light and other department greenspaces – would go into this new department. Acting Deputy Superintendent replies that this has been suggested but it has not gained traction at this point.

Every 2 years Parks updates their fee schedule – the fee changes are not significant. The fees schedules have been cleaned up and those should pass City Council.

Golf Interfund Ordinance– earlier in the year, parks got their golf projects bid and because of the construction climate, the bids came back high; Parks has a loan that will hold them over until City Council gives Parks a bond that will be paid off by golf revenues. Jackson Park driving range is opening next week.

Amy Yee Tennis Center – interest from advisory council to do some improvements; parks has hired a consultant to do a business plan and that should be done next March. There is a conversation about adjusting the CIP to do some major maintenance improvements at the tennis center.

Burke-Gilman – people recognizing the Parks portions of the Burke-Gilman; City Council has been asking questions about that. There is currently nothing in the CIP for that project.

Issue Identification that crosses departments – an assumed underspend or assumed revenues will get better and council is not sure they like that approach. Council discussing whether or not they want more identified cuts.

2nd issue identification related to Parks in about 10 days but that's all we have for now.

Commissioner Tierney, states that the Park Board want to know if there are any issues in the budget with which they could you the help from the Board of Park Commissioners; nothing seems pressing right now. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli replies that the Performance Monitoring program dollars are important. How will the audit work? Who will do it? We could learn a lot from that kind of audit. However, so far, the City Council is agreeable. Commissioner Tierney clarifies that there may be more budget issues but that the budget will pass by Thanksgiving.

No questions regarding the budget.

Commissioner Tierney requests that they keep in touch with us by email. Thanks Michele for all her hard work.

Old/New Business

Public hearing process – At the October 9 meeting there was some questions about the procedure following a public hearing and when to vote or not. Commissioner Kincaid expressed she would be more comfortable having the vote after a spell to think about it. A couple of commissioners said they didn't feel a delay was needed when the public is amenable to the change. The executive committee discussed this at the last meeting and decided to never vote on a hearing the same night unless it is on the Agenda. The City Council used have a policy that allowed a councilmember to ask for a 1-meeting delay on the vote and those requests were respected; this is a possible solution.

Commissioner Kincaid states that at the October 24 meeting, the vote was not on the agenda and she feels the public needs to be notified. In the past few years, there has been a real change in the process and the Board wasn't involved in the conversation about it. She wants the Park Board to be careful not to sacrifice time for good decision-making. Commissioner Wright comments this evening is a good example; a lot of issues come to light during public hearings and staff evaluation. She feels postponing the vote is better decision-making – better than being swayed by public opinion, other board members or parks staff; allow some time to sleep on it, but she recognizes that some occasions do not warrant a 2nd meeting. She requests a written policy. Commissioner Tierney volunteers to write a memo on the Park Board's voting policy.

Follow-up to Kinnear park – Leah asked the arborist to take a look at the tree in the Lower Kinnear OLA and they said it is in ill health. This raises an interesting question on dog parks and trees; is there something to be done about it?

Mayor is asking for a person from the Park Board to address unsheltered homelessness. There is some discussion regarding using community centers as shelters? Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli wonders if Parks should be more lenient about homeless encampments at parks? Currently, Parks takes a hard line.

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli gives the dates of the taskforce meetings. Commissioner Tierney will let us know who will do it. There will be 30 people on the taskforce and Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli or Dan Johnson, Parks Division Director will also be at the meetings. Superintendent Selection process input was valued; Commissioner Tierney thanks Susan for pulling together our various thoughts.

Commissioner Kincaid went to the design commission meeting for the Central Waterfront; the design is at 60% design. Perhaps they should come back to the Park Board for another presentation?

Commissioner Edmiston moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Kincaid seconds the motion and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:57 pm.

APPROVED: _____
Tom Tierney, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____