



Park District Oversight Committee
Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom
100 Dexter Avenue N
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Park District Oversight Committee Meeting Summary- February 9, 2016

Welcome – with Tom Tierney, Park District Oversight Committee Chair

Public Comment

- **Bill Farmer, Community Member**- Called for more reporting and communication regarding Seattle Park District outcomes. Inquired about change in Major Projects Challenge fund award amount. Expressed that the planned allocation amounts will not address community need.
- **Carol Valdrighi, Magnuson Community Center Advisory Council** – Introduced Magnuson Community Center as a prospective awardee for Major Project Challenge Fund. Shared information about the changing demographic of Magnuson Park residents and increase community need.

Park District Oversight Committee Housekeeping

Covered:

The committee reviewed the proposed 2016 meeting schedule. There was announcement made regarding the status of committee membership. Five committee members are retiring and two returning in April 2016. Written reports on the status of the committee's 2015 recommendations to staff were circulated.

Q&A, Comments-

Comment 1: In response to a proposed quarterly meeting schedule, several members expressed a desire to continue to meet monthly. Several committee members expressed a desire to have more meeting time to time explore the issues coming to the committee. Most members expressed a desire to meet in March and discuss the committee's 2016 calendar and work plan further.

Comment 2: Most members expressed a desire for more written staff reports providing information about the status of all Seattle Park District Initiatives. Many staff members expressed a desire for a web-based library of Seattle Park District and Oversight Committee materials.

Comment 3: Several members expressed a need for more clarity regarding the committee's scope of work and required committee action at each meeting.

Q1: What is the charge of the Park District Oversight Committee? How does it differ from the role of the Park Board?

A1: Staff will provide a briefing paper at a future meeting describing our interpretation of the Inter-local agreement. Time at that meeting can be used to explore this issue further and gain clarity.

Recommendations/Decisions Made- Park District Oversight Committee Housekeeping

1. Committee decided to meeting again on March 8 to discuss the committee's 2016 calendar and work plan further.
2. Committee recommended staff develop additional web and print materials to increase communication regarding the status of each Seattle Park District Initiative.

Initiative 4.9: Activating and Connecting to Greenways– with **Cheryl Fraser**, Regional Parks and Strategic Outreach Director and **Mike Schwindeller**, Assistant Capital Projects Coordinator

Covered:

The initiative will further develop the partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) (Planning and Development & Regional Parks and Strategic Outreach- RPSO) and Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to enhance and activate connection points from Neighborhood Greenways to parks. These Greenway corridors will offer safe and calm residential streets and provide comfortable and attractive places for people of all ages and abilities to walk and ride. RPSO’s main role within the initiative, and the work of our new Program Coordinator, will focus on outreach and engagement of currently underserved communities, not-for-profits and other agencies in and around these corridors and work with them to activate their neighborhoods. This cooperative effort will be key to providing access for all. Funding for the CIP component (\$200,000 – Planning and Development) and the activation and events component (\$118,744 - RPSO) will begin in January 2016.

Q&A, Comments- Initiative 4.9: Activating and Connecting to Greenways

Q1: Will pedestrians be able to walk side-by-side? Will a ten foot wide walkway accommodate that type of activity?

A1: We think so. We don’t anticipate seeing the volume of users that you may get at larger parks. We believe 10 feet should accommodate the activity described.

Q2: Are these projects intended to connect the urban villages to each other and/or to parks?

A2: The transportation corridor work is within the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. The Activating and Connecting to Greenways initiative will focus on access to parks that are within the jurisdiction of Seattle Parks and Recreation.

Q3: Will the Activating and Connecting to Greenways initiative come before the Park District Oversight Committee for recommendations?

A3: No, the Activating and Connecting to Greenways initiative is not one of the initiatives that will come before the Park District Oversight Committee for formal recommendations. However, we wanted provide the committee with an update regarding progress on this initiative.

Q4: How will the Activating and Connecting to Greenways initiative connect to the City’s plans for increased access to public transit?

A4: Activating and Connecting to Greenways initiative funding will be used is to increase access to parks and open up park entryways. The Department of Transportation is charged with increasing access to transit. Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation are coordinating our efforts to make sure that we are leveraging public funds to the best of our ability.

Recommendations/Decisions Made- Initiative 4.9: Activating and Connecting to Greenways

None