

**Welcome** –with Lylianna Allala, Park District Oversight Committee Chair  
Christopher Williams, Acting Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent  
Steve Boyd, MacDonald Boyd and Associates, Retreat Facilitator

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staffing Changes:

- Jesús Aguirre resigned as Superintendent. After 28 years in public service, he decided a change in career was best for himself and his family.
- Christopher Williams will serve as Acting Superintendent.
- Holly Miller, former Superintendent, has returned to serve as Acting Deputy Superintendent.
- Chief Financial Officer Michelle Finnegan has been reassigned to the Superintendent's Office leading Policy and Organizational Performance Management.
- Donnie Grabowski will serve as Seattle Parks and Recreation Finance Division Director.

Tonight's focus:

- Evaluate of Park District Oversight Committee's work to date
- Discuss and clarify Park District Oversight Committee and Park Board responsibility in the oversight of Seattle Park District outcomes.
- Brainstorm collective solutions in moving forward in the best way that we can. Determine how we can best present them to our communities.
- Discuss the proposed planning process that will guide the next 6-year financial plan and the Park District Oversight Committee's role.
- Identify emerging needs in resources and staff support for the Park District Oversight Committee moving forward.
- Begin to shape the Park District Oversight Committee's 2018 meeting schedule.

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**Review of Current Planning Context and 2018 Master Plan**– with Susan Golub, Policy Manager  
Kathleen Conner, Planning Manager

**Summary:** The 2018 Master Plan will consider everything we do, long-term community needs and interests for recreation programming, leading undoubtedly to a massive facility improvement list. This list will become the foundation for the department's Capital Improvement Program and the Park District financial plans.

The 2018 Master Plan will be developed during a thoughtful, community-engaged, equity driven process to determine priorities and anticipated community priorities and known needs; the list will greatly exceed funding. The plan will have 4 major elements: an inventory, public involvement process, future needs assessment, and analysis. Planning Manager Kathleen Conner and Policy Manager Susan Golub, will co-lead the master planning process and development of the second Park District 6-year financial plan. Both the Board of Park Commissioners and the Park District Oversight Committee will be active participants in the process.

The 2018 Master Plan will be informed by information collected during other recent Seattle Parks and Recreation planning efforts. The table below outlines the planning context for the 2018 Master Plan and the culminating second Park District 6-year financial plan.

Planning Context Document	Year	Purpose/Authority
Parks Legacy Plan	2014	Established the need for additional funding for Seattle Parks and Recreation; led to Park District formation
Community Center Strategic Plan	2016	Established programmatic and facility priorities for community centers
Recreation Demand Study	2016	Estimated future demand for recreation services
Seattle: 2035, the City's Comprehensive Plan	2016	Established land use and planning direction for the city until 2035
Open Space Plan	2017	Required by State of Washington to be eligible to apply for State grant funds; must be updated every 6 years; established open space metrics
New Parks & Recreation Programming and Facilities Plan	2018	Will result in long-term facility improvement list, based on analysis of current and future programming interests/needs
Second Park District 6-year financial plan	2019	Second 6-year financial plan begins in 2021, but must be finalized by the end of 2019 to be included in the Mayor's 2021 budget (SPR submits to Mayor in March 2020)

### 2018 Master Plan Development Timeline

**Red dates firm; others tentative**

<b>January 2021</b>	Second 6-year financial plan cycle begins
<b>November 2020</b>	Park District Board (City Council) adopts second 6-year financial plan
<b>March 2020</b>	Seattle Parks and Recreation includes financial plan in budget memo to Mayor
November 2019	Park District Oversight Committee (PDOC) recommendation
Sept. – Oct. 2019	Second round of public outreach
June-August 2019	Develop draft financial plan per public input
April-May 2019	Public outreach on financial plan priorities
Jan. – March 2019	Work with Park District Oversight Committee to refine financial plan
2018	New Seattle Parks and Recreation programming and facilities plan developed

**Q&A, Comments- 2018 Master Plan:** Susan Golub, Policy Manager  
Kathleen Conner, Planning Manager

#### **Q1: How is the park board composed?**

*A1: All ad hoc, no assignments.* Park boards feels like a diverse and representative group. Four of the positions are appointed by the Mayor, four by the Council and the ninth is appointed by the Get Engaged program.

**Q2: What is the scope of Seattle Parks and Recreation?**

*A2: Seattle Parks and Recreation staffs about 1400 employees in peak season (May – October). We have 465 parks, 3500 developed areas, 2500 greenbelts, 26 miles of beach and shoreline, 25 community centers. ARC partnership for programming for 30 years.*

**Q3: Has there been a separate study on the annexation of White Center. Do we have a separate pool of stats that can add to the conversation that represents White Center?**

*A3 Yes, there has been discussion over many years looking at White Center annexing.*

**Q4: What are the defining differences between the Park District Oversight Committee and Board of Park Commissioners’ role in Seattle Park District work?**

*A4: The Oversight Committee is specifically charged with input into the six-year financial plan. The Park Board has land use and general planning responsibilities.*

**Q5: What is the Seattle Park District? How much of Seattle Parks and Recreation’s budget is supported by the Park District?**

*A5: A funding mechanism that allows us to collect tax revenue (contributes 13% of total operating budget \$283M); capital and major maintenance side (contributes 48% of budget).*

**Recommendations/Decisions Made- 2018 Master Plan**

1. Hold a joint Park District Oversight Committee and Board of Park Commissioners meeting for further discussion and planning.
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**Evaluation of Park District Oversight Committee’s Work**– with Steve Boyd, MacDonald Boyd and Associates  
Galen Brodie, MacDonald Boyd and Associates

**Covered:**

Where are we (PDOC) making the most impact and working well?

- Major Projects Challenge Fund (MPCF) – engaging, examining and making recommendations (3x)
- Letter to Council regarding community center funding (2x)
- Equity Based recommendations/intersectional equity lens (2x)
- Tweaking criteria for Programs for People and providing feedback
- Reviewing and providing input for Get Moving and Recreation for All
- Funding shift for the Waterfront Pier 62/63

What needs improvement or needs to be changed for effective collaboration?

- We need better focus on our specific responsibilities (4x)
- We need to be more specific on what we need from staff (3x)
- How to balance new people/energy/underserved communication with knowledge of systems and structures
- Follow-up on community centers funding allocation
- Better representation from recreation users and staff
- MPCF is too small for our vision

General discussion

- Need to make sure “unflashy” projects are getting funding, not just the “flashy” ones so our backlog of maintenance projects does not continue to grow.
- Keep public informed of reality (i.e.: give us the data that can help us be better spokespeople to the people we meet around our communities).

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**Strategic Thinking/2018-2019 Planning Efforts**– with Steve Boyd, MacDonald Boyd and Associates  
Galen Brodie, MacDonald Boyd and Associates

**Summary:** led a discussion around the follow prompt: Looking forward to SPR’s 2018 Master Planning process and the Second Park District 6-year financial plan, what one thing, or idea, might best contribute to SPR success?

**Committee Member Responses**

- Informed by another successful but unsatisfying round of MPCF grants, we and staff have completed a defensible draft financial plan for the next 6-year cycle.
- We held a robust public involvement process to get input on the Park District second 6-year financial plan by listening closely and applying data form the 2018 Master Plan. (Note: Public opinion and data - education and managing expectations - will be very important to consider as well as establishing criteria).
- The Committee-led, staff supported accountability report provides a basis for public trust in and support for the next robust 6-year funding plan. (Notes: committee led looks like “here is what we want and here is what we conclude” with staff support; accountability report is both dollars spent and needs).

- PDOC becomes a driver for equitable, efficient, and effective investments, holding SPR accountable to good governance, race and equity, and a vibrant Parks and Recreation system.
- If Fix It First projects were broken out by communities, then our historically underserved would have successfully “fixed” at least 60% of them (or more?).
- We have implemented a vision which identifies and funds the highest value targets in each of our four areas of concern. (Notes: Vision is clarity around the things we are doing after an evaluation that determines what has the highest return); 4 areas are the distinct budget areas we are making financial decisions on.
- 4 new community centers with pools funded with urban village focus – Columbia City, Wallingford, Lake City, South Park, Aurora/Licton Springs, Belltown; year-round recreation is important.
- Community centers in high-poverty areas are set up to offer accessible programs and equal service levels as community centers in high opportunity areas.
- Community centers and Parks facilities are updated and maintained to be climate resilient and sustainable, and functional to support the needs of the communities they serve creating resiliency hubs.
- Combine the PDOC (accountability body) and Park Board (in-depth operational advisors) with a subcommittee tasked with real time evaluation of Park District spending/implementation.
- Parks staff tells the story of parks success to inform PDOC and personalize to sell to voters.
- Managing the public’s expectation around projects. SPR can/has effectively communicated that Green Lake Community Center will be remodeled/rebuilt and will be managed/owned by SPR.

**Recommendations/Decisions Made-Strategic Thinking/2018-2019 Planning Efforts**

1. Hold a joint Park District Oversight Committee and Board of Park Commissioners meeting for further discussion and planning.
  2. Review and transition some of the conclusions from the discussion into actionable work items for 2018.
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**Final Committee Thoughts:**

- Very happy that we were focused;
- Do homework and come back with ideas;
- Enjoy the process and everyone’s input; proof is in the pudding;
- Excited about the new/old leadership here and to get to know other people on this committee; better sense of role.
- Food was great; great opportunity to reset and well structured

- Feel very enthused about the direction
- Inspired to be amongst these great people
- Inspired to have a very productive year
- Nice to jump in and talk about direction
- Perfect time to do this retreat to reflect on what we've done and where we can improve
- Feel good about 6-year planning
- Thanks to Parks staff to be responsive to the request for this type of meeting and thanks to everyone for showing up and being involved; go into another year with intention