

Board of Park Commissioners Meeting Minutes April 26, 2001

Draft Minutes

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES APRIL 26, 2001

Present: Karen Daubert, Acting Chair
James Fearn
Susan Golub
Yale Lewis
Kathleen Warren

Excused: Bruce Bentley, Chair

Staff: Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

Karen Daubert, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The agenda was approved as distributed. The approval of the April 12, 2001 minutes was deferred until the May 10 Board meeting. Karen acknowledged receipt of correspondence: Letter from Ann Lennartz regarding the Tree Policy, News Release regarding Arboretum Plan, Letter to City Council regarding Arboretum Master Plan, Letter to Friends of Olmsted regarding Volunteer Park Calder sculpture, Neighborhood Matching Fund Awards for Small & Simple summary, City Council Cultural, Arts and Parks Committee action summary on Arboretum Master Plan and notification of Seattle Art Museum – Olympic Sculpture Park lead designer public presentations.

Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience: None

Superintendent's Report

? Arboretum Master Plan – The City Council Cultural, Arts and Parks Committee action summary was distributed to the Park Board members. The Council identified 21 issues, which were voted on separately. By in large, with a couple of exceptions, the Council followed the Park Board recommendations as stated in the April 19 letter. The Council committee expressed concerns about the proposed south end visitor center with three members approving the center as proposed, two desiring further investigation to the size and location and one suggesting eliminating the proposed center. Regarding the new shelters proposed in the Master Plan, four council members recommended retaining all the shelters and two members recommended removing the shelter from Foster Island. The Council had a discussion about the pedestrian overpasses and one council member did not approve of either overpass, three recommended approval of the two new overpasses and two members abstained. The Council committee had issue with the parking lots along

Arboretum Drive and three members recommended retaining 5 lots instead of 3 and three members agreed with the Park Board recommendation of adding language to clarify what is provided in the plan. Four Council committee members suggested the south end parking lot should be expanded only as necessary, one member approved of the expansion as proposed and one abstained. The items that have a Council committee divided report will be voted on separately by the full Council on May 7.

? Pro Parks Committee – Committee met on April 24 and is making progress on the Opportunity Fund criteria.

? Sand Point/Magnuson Park – lawsuit filed regarding environmental review process.

? Major League Baseball – Next week there will be a grant announcement for Lower Woodland Park field improvements.

? South Lake Union – Neptune Building has been demolished. The area has been graded and reseeded. The wharf project is moving forward.

? Aquarium Mobile Field Lab – The Aquarium’s Mobile Field Lab and their partner the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center were notified they are the recipient of the Cascade Land Conservancy’s 2001 John Stanford Education Achievement Award for their English-as-a-Second Language Environmental Education Project.

? Events: All community centers held egg hunts and attendance was exceptionally high this year. Over 25 Earth Day events were held throughout the city.

? Personnel Galen Goff, Aquarium PIO, has accepted a position with the City of Seattle’s cable TV station as a writer, producer and narrator. Robin Kordik, Project Manager, has accepted a position with the Port of Seattle.

Items of Interest to the Board

Susan Golub expressed concern about high school boys and girls ballfield inequity. Recently the Lower Woodland cloverleaf was closed to the girls but boys were able to play on the other diamond field, which had been specially treated. There are cloverleaf field improvements planned with funding through the Major League Baseball grant.

Kathleen Warren informed the Board there are girl’s soccer field scheduling concerns being expressed in the soccer community. At the Rec level the girls get one season a year with boys getting two seasons.

Kathleen Warren expressed appreciation to Mickey Merriam for his work on the baseball fields and grant applications.

The April 26 Post-Intelligencer “Get-Aways” article regarding the Parks Levy environmental programs was circulated to the Board members.

Karen Daubert informed the Board the Historic Seattle Tour of the Olmsted south properties is scheduled for Saturday, September 15 from 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$45. She attended the north tour last year and highly recommends the bus tour. Space is limited.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Revised Policy on the Placement and Maintenance of Visual Arts Work on Park Property and Strategic Plan for Arts & Culture “Explore the Magic of Parks”

Wendy Ceccherelli, Strategic Arts Advisor, presented the policy revisions on the Placement and Maintenance of Visual Artwork on Seattle Parks and Recreation Property. This policy updates the previous art placement policy 060-P.2.14 approved in 1981. It provides a process for the implementation of the City’s Percent for Art legislation and other public art funding sources as it pertains to temporary (temporary art placement is considered 5 years maximum) or permanent placement of visual artwork on Parks property, provides an effective evaluation method for determining the appropriateness and suitability of proposals for the acceptance and the placement of any donation of artwork on the Parks property, provides a process to divest or relocate any artwork that has been accepted by or has become the property of Parks and Recreation and provides opportunities to consider and review the requirements and responsibilities necessary to adequately maintain an artwork on Parks property.

An intradepartmental employee committee met in 2000 to revise the 1981 policy. It had been modified in 1996 but revisions were never formally adopted. Many changes in the department’s organizational structure, public involvement process, funding and maintenance policies have occurred since that time. The revisions were proposed in light of the department’s desire to encourage art and culture offerings to the public as part of a citywide initiative to infuse arts throughout city decision-making. The policy revisions are proposed at the same time as a strategic art and culture plan is being recommended and the policy will be included in that larger plan. In revising the policy staff considered the comments of citizens, employees and civic leaders. Artwork can become controversial for a variety of reasons. There is a need to be especially sensitive to concerns about environmentally vulnerable locations. The most successful art works enhance the park visit, expand the visitor’s appreciation of the park environment and complement but don’t dominate or detract from that experience. The most successful artworks resonate with the local community and provide a serendipity for the viewer coming upon them in a park setting. Often they provide opportunities for the viewer to reflect upon their own individual experience or to enhance learning about the natural, social, historical or cultural environment.

This policy has been revised to conform to the decentralized organizational structure of the Department’s decision-making, to clarify decision-making roles, to incorporate the public involvement process; to better address maintenance issues, and to distinguish between temporary and permanent artworks making it easier to accept artworks on a temporary basis. 125 artworks in Seattle parks are listed in the 2000 maintenance agreement between the Seattle Arts Commission and the Department. These include artworks commissioned through the City’s One Percent for Art program, artworks

donated to the City by citizens and community groups, historic artworks and monuments, and a variety of functional art pieces acquired through various funding sources. This revision has no budgetary impacts except to recognize that an increasing number of artworks may generate additional maintenance costs that need to be considered and planned in future budget cycles. Some of these additional costs may be borne by individual or community donors.

Section 5.3 outlines the Park Board's role: "Discuss with the Arts Liaison potential Percent for Art priorities proposed for inclusion by the Department in the Commission's Municipal Arts Plan. The Commission will report annually to the Board on Parks projects included in the current Municipal Arts Plan. Review sites and appropriateness for proposed art donations or other major art commissions, prior to Commission acceptance." Section 6.1.1.2, "The Department Arts Liaison will work with the Superintendent, Board and department staff to identify a biennial priority list of sites and projects where art is most appropriate. This list will form the basis for discussion with the Commission and staff."

Susan Golub inquired about the procedures for Percent for Art Commission vs. the other publicly funded projects procedures. Wendy stated there are different ways arts is acquired. The Percent for Art is one way and the Department of Neighborhoods is another way for example. The Department of Neighborhoods art proposal is not known ahead of time until it goes through the review process. In the case of the Seattle Arts Commission the Department is proposing that there is a discussion before the Arts Commission embarks on developing a scope of work, recruiting an artist and installing the artwork. The Superintendent stated most of the Percent for Art projects are integrated into park projects and thoroughly reviewed.

Kathleen Warren had a question on the evaluation process. The Department of Neighborhoods gives both the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Seattle Arts Commission an opportunity to comment on a Neighborhood Matching Fund application before the Department of Neighborhoods act. The Superintendent referenced artwork in Cowen Park and Cormorant Cove as examples. The art becomes a project element that gets reviewed by the Department.

Karen Daubert referenced 4.1.15, "An "Artist" is an individual who has established a professional reputation..." and wondered where that places the children's art. Student art is usually temporary and placed for five years or less. If it is an art piece that will be placed longer than five years it may go through the Seattle Arts Commission.

James Fearn inquired if the Department has to accept an art piece. The Superintendent can make decisions about artwork site locations and appropriateness but cannot make decisions about artworks.

The Department Core Team will review art proposals for placement and make a recommendation to the Superintendent on safety, environmental impacts, compatibility with the site, the public involvement plan, and technical and maintenance issues. The

Project Steering Committee will review all permanent art placement projects and make a recommendation to the Superintendent. After Core Team and Project Steering Committee review, the Board will review the artwork referred by the Superintendent and advise the Superintendent of their option on whether to accept or decline the artwork. Acceptance will be recommended only for those gifts that will benefit the park and recreation system in the areas of aesthetics, environment, economics, maintenance, operations or programming. The Superintendent reserves the right to make the final decision on acceptance of a gift or donation of art, and to determine appropriateness of a donation, and its usefulness and continued value to the park system and to the City. The Arts Commission makes the aesthetic judgment decisions. The policy is designed to re-enforce the Superintendent's authority.

Wendy Ceccherelli presented an overview of the Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture "Explore the Magic of Parks." The strategic plan is being developed to further the department's mission of providing safe and welcoming opportunities for all citizens to play, learn, contemplate and build community. Arts and culture are integral to the Department's mission and history, and essential components of a well-rounded recreation program. In developing the plan the Department intends to accomplish the following: to compile and document the important leadership roles played by Parks and Recreation in providing arts and cultural services to the Seattle residents (accessible, affordable opportunities, especially for those who might not otherwise have this experience via the "marketplace"), to increase use of Parks venues and facilities (in particular dedicated spaces and other facilities that are underutilized by the public), to integrate arts and culture in every Parks program by determining parameters, guidelines for a consistent approach, to increase knowledge of arts and cultural resources of the Department among decision-makers and funders (thereby identify and support resources to increase arts and cultural opportunities), to carry out the Mayor's mandate in the Arts Action Plan to infuse the arts throughout City decision-making and to provide opportunities for more people to experience arts and culture.

The Superintendent expressed appreciation to Bill Keller, Associated Recreation Council Director, for the Advisory Councils' continued partnership in arts and culture in the community centers. Wendy acknowledged appreciation of the work by Jeff Bercuvitz. She thanked the employee committee members that developed and reviewed the policy and plan which included department staff, Arts Commission, ARC, Department of Construction and Land Use, Landmarks Preservation Board and the Department of Neighborhoods. The Law Department also was asked to review the policy.

Wendy distributed a copy of "Salmon in the City" temporary arts schedule to the Board for information. "Pigs on Parade" is temporarily coming to park sites the end of May.

Lisa Fitzhugh, Arts Corps, informed the Board that the city facilities were underused in terms of the arts. She formed the non-profit Arts Corps and hires art teachers for community center classes as well as classes in schools. Arts and culture should be an integral part of what the Parks Department can offer. A facility is charged \$100 for an eight week class. The class meets twice a week for an hour or hour and a half. Arts Corps

has raised over \$200,000. Arts Corps pays for the expenses over the \$100. The benefits to the Department are enormous. Kids are coming to the community centers that did not come before to participate in the arts programs. At Garfield they have a video production class, a digital photography class and a contemporary dance class taught by a woman from the Pacific Northwest Ballet. It is also supporting Project Liftoff in making classes accessible to kids after school. It is involving parents in the centers.

Tony Fragada distributed an issue paper to the Board members on the Alki Neighborhood Circulation and Parking Issues. He was informed that he may speak to the Board during the Oral Requests and Communications portion of the Park Board meeting but missed that portion of tonight's meeting. The Superintendent will meet with him following the Board meeting to listen to his concern.

Kay Rood applauded the goals of the arts policy and plan but would like to suggest some fine-tuning to the procedures. She will put her comments in writing and submit copies to the Board.

The Park Board will discuss the art policy and arts and culture plan and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its May 10 meeting.

Seward Park/Audubon Education Center/Memorandum of Understanding Briefing

A Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Audubon Society was distributed to the Board members for review. Christopher Williams, Director of the South Division, outlined the background and project summary for a partnership to provide environmental stewardship programs at Seward Park. The partnership will consist of collaborative stewardship programs housed in a jointly funded renovation of the Music Annex Building into an environmental education center. The cost is estimated at \$1.5 million. \$619,000 in city funding was identified and approved by the voters in the Parks and Green Spaces Levy. Audubon will raise the balance of the funding. Renovation of the Annex Building into an environmental education center was one of the initiatives Parks identified as a priority in the Levy to further its commitment to environmental stewardship. Seward Park's natural assets afford a multitude of programming and stewardship opportunities and are ideally located to further Park's outreach to communities historically under-served by environmental organizations. The National Audubon Society also views Seward Park as an ideal location to further its conservation mission and its 1995 Strategic Plan to develop 20 Audubon Centers statewide.

The MOU does not create a contractual obligation on the part of either party. It establishes a framework for the future development of a temporary use, occupancy and maintenance agreement (use agreement) which will stipulate more specific terms and conditions regarding Audubon's fundraising, occupancy of the building and program offerings. Initial discussions regarding the proposed project have been held with the Friends of Seward Park and Southeast Park Alliance.

Woody Wheeler, Director of Audubon Centers – Washington, briefed the Board on the Audubon mission and education centers. Audubon Centers are a key component of the “2020 vision” which is to establish 1,000 centers nationwide. Centers will be located in close proximity to nature refuges that average 1,000 in size. Children and adults are removed from nature more than ever. Seventy-five percent of all Americans now live in urban areas. By 2030 the number will be eighty-five percent. Many children have little or no opportunity to experience nature. The culture of childhood that featured playing outside and roaming freely in natural areas has been replaced by after-school programs, organized sports or the TV and computer at home. Most of these activities take place indoors.

People can learn about nature in many ways but there is no substitute for getting people, particularly young people, out on the land with the real thing. That is where people can best develop an appreciation and develop values that will lead them to be good stewards of the earth. The Audubon Centers will go beyond natural history identification. They will be places where visitors gain an understanding of the relationship between people and nature, and what every person can do to make a difference.

By the year 2020 Audubon intends to provide one out of every four K-12 school children with a field based environmental education experience at an Audubon center. In addition, by 2020 Audubon Centers will recruit an average of 500 volunteers per Center. Volunteers will be docents for educational programs and will be trained to conduct habitat restoration and stewardship work on site.

The Seattle City Council will be asked to pass a resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding. There is a community workshop planned for May 8 and a Cultural, Arts and Parks Committee briefing on May 23. The Park Board requested a report on the results of the May 8 workshop be given at the next Park Board meeting on May 10. The Park Board has scheduled a public hearing for May 24. An adjustment to the CAP agenda will be made.

Conservation Futures Tax Briefing/Request for Park Board Endorsement

Donald Harris, Parks & Green Spaces Acquisition Program Director, and Bill Blair, Parks & Green spaces Acquisition Program Planner, presented the background of the Conservation Futures Tax Levy and outlined the proposed projects for grant applications from the 1998-2000 CFT proceeds.

The Conservation Futures Tax Levy (CFT) is a county-wide property tax of \$0.625 per \$1,000 of assessed value dedicated exclusively for the acquisition of open space, agricultural or timber lands. County policy regarding CFT funding provides for a biennial allocation based on recommendations made by a citizens oversight committee, with the exception of \$500,000 which is allocated at the council’s discretion. Applicants for funding include King County government, incorporated city governments, citizen groups and individual citizens. Jurisdictions in which the open space is located must provide at least a 50 percent matching contribution to the project. From 1990-1997 the Open Space

Citizens Oversight Committee made two rounds of allocations and oversaw the distribution of \$250 million from three open space bonds. In 1997, with the completion of the various bond programs, the committee disbanded. In 1998 and 1999 CFT allocations of approximately \$5.1 million were made through the county budget process without oversight committee review and recommendation. The 2000 county budget included a provision that withheld \$885,000 in CFT funding for eight Council initiated projects until an ordinance was enacted that re-established a process for allocation CFT funds. The fund source has been inaccessible to the city for the last biennium. The County has recreated a Citizens Oversight Committee and. Park Board Commissioner Susan Golub has been asked to serve on that Committee.

It is requested the Park Board approve the Department's proposed submittal. A City Council resolution will be sought and the funding request will be submitted to King County.

The Department reviewed the Pro Parks Levy program, much of which is premised on attracting additional leverage funds. With the escalating land values some of the Pro Parks levy programs may be short of funds. A map with dots identifying the properties and an overhead projector presentation of GIS/orthophotos were displayed. The proposed project list includes West Duwamish Greenbelt/Mayer, Puget Ridge, Me Kwa Mooks, Fremont, Columbia City/Hitts Hill, Linden Orchard/Phinney Ridge, Little Brook/Thornton Creek and Northgate Park for a total of \$3,775,000. Jerry Arbes encouraged funding be sought for other open space property rather than \$1 million for one site, e.g. Northgate. He suggested one alternative may be a site just north of the Leschi Open Space Natural Area.

Yale Lewis moved the Board of Park Commissioners strongly support the application package for Conservation Futures Tax. James Fearn seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business/Old Business: None

Future Agenda: May 10 agenda includes Zoo Long Range Plan public hearing, art policy and plan discussion/recommendation and a Seward Park/Audubon Education Center May 8 workshop briefing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair