

Seattle design Commission

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October 16, 2025

Convened – 10:00 am

Adjourned – Noon

Projects Reviewed

Commission Business

Green Lake Aquatic Center

Commissioners Present

Eric Alipio

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi

Kevin O'Neil

Molly Spetalnick

Commissioners Excused

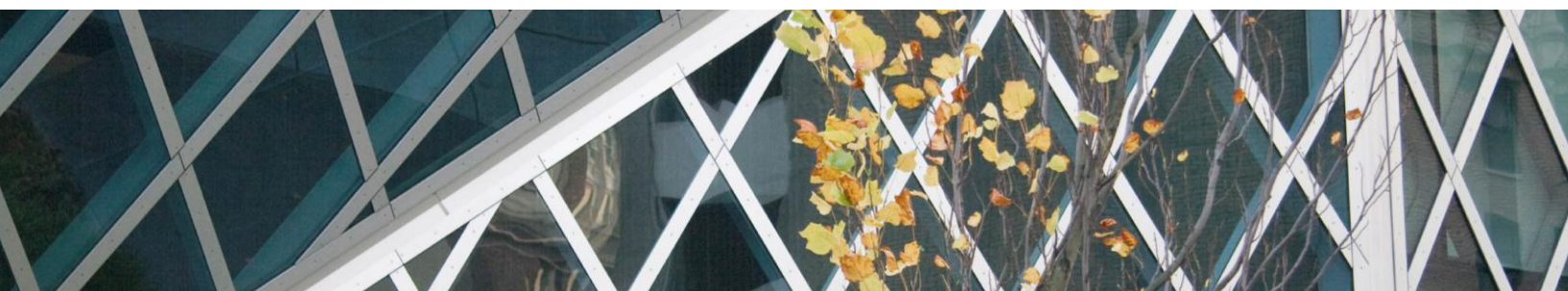
Zubin Rao

Staff Present

Windy Bandekar

Valerie Kinast

Robin Magonegil



Commission Business (9:00 am – 10:00 am)

The Commission received a staff briefing on the Green Lake Aquatic Center project, discussed their ongoing coordination with City staff on WSBLE projects, and discussed how the commission implements their policy on accepting public art in a public benefit package.

Green Lake Aquatic Center (10:00 am – Noon)

The Commission held its initial review of a proposal to create a new aquatic center in Green Lake Park. Zubin Rao was recused from the meeting, as his firm – Miller Hull – is the designer for the project. The proposal is to build a new standalone aquatic center in Green Lake Park to replace the aging Evans Pool. The project includes a new aquatic facility with regulation pool, leisure pool, locker rooms, and supporting spaces, along with relocated playground areas. The Seattle Design Commission does not review the existing Evans Pool building, which is a city landmark.

The following people presented:

- Margaret Sprug, Miller Hull
- Andy Mitton, Berger Partnership

The following people attended:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Cameron Rosenberg, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Andrew McConnell, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Alex Wolfrum – Miller Hull

The Commission voted 8 to 0 to approve the Green Lake Aquatic Center concept designs. The Commission made the following recommendations:

1. Holistic Campus Vision - Develop a more comprehensive understanding of the campus approach, including zoomed-out views showing relationships with the boathouse, pickleball courts, parking lot, and broader Green Lake context. Document long-term desires for the area to inform future planning beyond Phase Two.
2. Materiality and Architectural Expression - Focus on creating exceptional architecture rather than minimizing visual impact. Develop materiality that celebrates the building's role in the park while considering its visibility from all four sides and multiple vantage points.
3. Experiential Integration - Continue developing the conceptual section showing the relationship between park and pool experiences. Explore how the building can maintain connection to the park setting for users inside the facility and vice versa, creating outdoor "rooms" and supporting desire lines between existing and new spaces.
4. Playground Integration - Apply the same level of material elegance to play areas as proposed for the building. Ensure playground design relates to and supports the overall site concept, including exploration of natural play elements and integration with planting plans.

5. Sustainability Goals - Clarify sustainability and resilience goals for the project, including how they reflect Pacific Northwest values and how sustainable features can be made visible and educational to users.
6. Public Engagement Continuity - Continue comprehensive public engagement strategy tracking demographics of current and potential pool users. Ensure community members understand that previous input is being incorporated into the design process.
7. Olmsted Principles - Incorporate Olmsted principles as educational elements within the project design for both the new facility and playground. Explore how 21st century design can tie into and communicate these historic principles to park users.
8. Diverse Programming - Design for a great mix of people in the parks through different types of programs that create shared experiences among diverse user groups.
9. Indigenous History - Research and incorporate acknowledgment of the indigenous history of Green Lake into the design or interpretive elements.
10. Percent for Art - Investigate the possibility of a percent for art project associated with this development.