

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 24, 2003**

**Present:**

Bruce Bentley, Chair  
James Fearn  
Sarah Neilson  
Kate Pflaumer  
Kathleen Warren

**Absent:**

O. Yale Lewis

**Excused:**

Susan Golub

**Staff:**

Ken Bounds, Parks Superintendent  
Michele Daly, Acting Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The agenda consent items were presented. Kathleen Warren noted the 4th paragraph on page 11 should be corrected to read "Kate Pflaumer stated that Catherine Maggio informed her that the gap was actually an illegal cutting." The consent items were approved as submitted including approval of the April 24 agenda, corrected minutes of April 10, and acknowledgment of correspondence.

**Superintendent's Report**

- Last weekend there were 18 egg hunts sponsored by the advisory councils with over 2,000 kids participating around the city.
- There were 6,300 volunteer hours in the parks on April 19 as part of the Earth Month. On April 26 more Earth Month events are scheduled with more volunteers.
- A celebration was held on April 19 at the new Cal Anderson Park. The new shelterhouse was dedicated and the fence is up to begin construction of the park on top of the reservoir with Pro Parks funding.
- Governor Locke celebrated Earth Day in Seward Park on April 22 and planted a tree and pulled ivy with 5th graders. Chair Bruce Bentley helped in the celebration activities.
- The Mayor and Superintendent Bounds celebrated the kickoff of First Tee at Jefferson Park Golf Course on April 23 with a number of local celebrities.
- Arboretum Plant sale slated for this weekend.
- The National Olmsted conference begins next week in Seattle. There is an exhibit in the second floor gallery of the Convention Center, "Youth in Focus," which will

be on display through June. Brochures of photos taken by kids in the parks along with their experience stories were distributed.

- At 7 a.m. on April 30, Chair Bruce Bentley and Superintendent Ken Bounds will be greeting John Charles Olmsted as he travels to Portland on the train. It is a reenactment of an event that occurred 100 years ago.

- On May 1, 9 a.m., Arleyn Levee presentation "In Olmsted's Footsteps" at South Lake Union Center. Boat and bus tour May 1, 1 p.m., \$20, Virginia V. May 1, 5:50 p.m. Reception at South Lake Union and aboard Virginia V, followed by keynote presentation by Jane Holtz Kay "Olmsted Now More Than Ever."

- May 2, 6.p.m. Reception at Rainier Club. Presentation of Olmsted Legacy Award by Board of Park Commissioners and reading of Olmsted Letters, followed by no host dinner (\$25). Reservations required by May 1.

- May 5 - Groundbreaking for High Point Community Center
- May 15 - Opening of Aquarium exhibit "Life of a Drifter."
- Gas Works Park - Landscape Architects have come up with a couple of revised alternatives that they will be taking out to the community in two or three weeks: one removes no trees and one removes less than ten trees. The e-mail authors will be notified of the community meeting.
- Budget reduction - Parks and Recreation has to reduce its budget by \$700,000 in 2003 because of failing revenues.
- An update of "Great Cities-Great Parks" will be made available to the Park Board Commissioners.

### **Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience**

None

### **Regrade Park Pilot Dogs Off Leash Area - Briefing/Public Hearing**

David W. Goldberg, Project Planner, briefed the Park Board of the pilot dog off leash proposal. Belltown community members met with representatives from Parks and the Mayor's Office to suggest that Regrade Park be considered for pilot dogs off leash area to displace persistent illegal activities in the park and to provide a downtown off-leash opportunity. The Mayor's office expressed a strong interest in doing something immediately to address these concerns. In March, Parks began discussions with community organizations and distributing information about the proposal to gain public input. Staff is requesting the Park Board consider establishing a pilot 18-month Off Leash Area at Regrade Park and to make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

**Background** - Community members have long expressed concern that Regrade Park is the continuing focus of illegal activity. Parks has worked with the community and the Seattle Police Department on many occasions to address this problem. Efforts have included removing the play equipment, developing alternative designs, and most recently removing the portable toilet. While these actions are important, they have not fully addressed the problems of persistent illegal activity. The Superintendent outlined three short and long term options in order to get a sense of the community's support for this proposal or longer-term approaches:

- **Option 1: Leave Regrade Park as it currently is.** Some community members have observed that illegal activity has reduced since the portable toilet was removed.
- **Option 2 (Short-Term):** Reprogram Regrade Park as a pilot Off-Leash Area (OLA). This would entail fencing the park and bringing in mulch or another suitable material. Parks would work with Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) to develop a stewardship plan. The OLA would be reviewed after a one-year trial period. The improvements would be relatively inexpensive and could be accommodated within the existing budget.
- **Option 3 (Long Term Ideas):** In 2000, Parks worked with a consultant and community members to consider alternative designs for the park. Parks does not currently have the budget to implement the preferred design. There is also concern that a redesign would not deter the illegal activities occurring in the park. Parks has also discussed locating the proposed 6,000 square foot Belltown Community Center in Regrade Park. The community center Project Advisory Team (PAT) prefers locating the new center within a planned Low-Income Housing Institute project on First Avenue. However, if that site does not work, the Regrade Park site is a viable alternative. Quick analysis suggests that there would be enough room in Regrade Park for the center, a half basketball court, and a small open area accessed through the center.

### **Public Comment**

As of April 17, 2003, David Goldberg has received forty letters and emails, and one phone call regarding this proposal. All but two of the comments are in favor of establishing a pilot OLA. Many of the writers identified themselves as either living or working in Belltown or downtown. The Belltown Community Council and the Downtown Seattle Residents Council have also expressed support for the OLA. No support was voiced for other approaches.

A letter outlining the OLA proposal was sent to Belltown residents and distributed via email to community organizations. The proposal was discussed at the Belltown Community Council, Denny Hill Association, Downtown District Council and the Downtown Residents Council. Signs were posted in Regrade Park with the Superintendent's letter and an announcement of the Parks Board Hearing. Some strong concern was expressed at the Denny Hill meeting that Regrade Park is one of two open spaces (the P-Patch is the other) in Belltown. The neighborhood plan stressed enhancing existing open space realizing that acquisition of additional areas would be difficult. Some feel that establishment of a permanent OLA would result in the loss of scarce open space as a gathering space. Individuals expressed hope that illegal activities would diminish over time and that the park could be reestablished to serve as a neighborhood park.

### **Key Factors**

City Council Resolution Number 29628 lists several key factors that should be assessed when establishing an OLA. My application of these factors (underlined below) to establishing an OLA at Regrade Park is as follows.

- Avoid interference with other established uses or department sponsored activities. Establishment of an OLA at Regrade Park would displace current uses including basketball and passive park use.
- Avoid directly abutting residences. There are no directly abutting residences. Existing apartment buildings are located west and northwest of the park across Bell Street and Third Ave.
- Assure the availability of close parking. There is metered, on-street parking available on the blocks surrounding the park.
- Avoid locating near children's play areas. The children's play area was previously removed do to persistent illegal activity in the park.
- Locate where there are minimal impacts upon the total visual character of a park. Although a pilot OLA would not result in significant physical changes, the OLA would change the character of the park.
- Locate where there is low potential for spillover into areas not designated for off-leash use. The site would be fenced to contain off-leash use.
- Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes. There are no sensitive areas on or near the park.
- Develop clearly marked boundaries and signs explaining the rules of behavior for use of the OLAs. The site will be signed and fenced.
- Fence sites completely where there are no natural barriers separating OLA from other areas. The site will be completely fenced.
- Encourage Animal Control to continue to enforce the scoop and leash laws. Parks meets regularly with COLA to promote effective management of off-leash areas.

## **Conclusions**

- Most community members feel that the status quo is not a viable option.
- Community opinion seems to be strongly for establishing a pilot OLA.
- There are differences in opinion regarding the purpose of establishing an OLA. Some favor its perceived effect at discouraging illegal activity in the park. Others are in favor of an OLA as a needed facility.
- Consideration of the key factors in the City Council's Resolution suggests that Regrade Park is not an ideal place for an OLA because it would displace existing park uses. However, community perception is that the legitimate park uses have already been displaced by persistent illegal activity, and that an OLA would create a legitimate use that would displace illegal ones.
- There is a strong possibility that the existing illegal activities will be displaced to other areas in the neighborhood

## **Board Questions and Answers:**

Sarah Neilson inquired about the term of the OLA pilot program. 18 months is the standard trial period and David Goldberg stated community members have requested Parks take a pro-active review after the trial. Superintendent Ken Bounds explained the designation of a dog off leash program has to be done by ordinance and the City Council

will be briefed after 18 months. A recommendation on whether to make Regrade Park a permanent off leash area or discontinue the activity will be made at that time.

Kathleen Warren asked if there has been a change in how the Department philosophically approaches some of these issues. There was the thought previously that we do not make park-programming decisions based upon a problem with police enforcement. The Northacres OLA does seem to be working and off leash areas do seem to be a good way to deal with illegal activity. Superintendent Ken Bounds stated it is a legitimate recreational activity and what other legitimate park use can be put into the site that meets a need without having to program the site. Programming takes staff resources and the OLA can sustain itself. Kathleen asked if there was any other open space identified in that area. There is no funding for open space in that area. Kathleen noted some of the letters sent indicated the illegal activity will probably move to another area. Some of the letters requested the bus stop be moved but attempts to move that bus stop have been unsuccessful.

Bruce Bentley expressed concern that the illegal activity would move to Tillicum Place or another nearby park.

Sarah Neilson inquired if the whole park would be fenced. There have been discussions but no conclusions. Community members who want to participate in the design hope that if the area becomes a permanent OLA the fence would be a good design, not chain link but perhaps ornamental iron.

Bruce Bentley inquired about the referenced mulch that is going to be brought on site. The mulch will be used for a dog surface and help the grass area if it gets muddy.

James Fearn stated the .3 acre site seems like a very small area for an off-leash area. David Goldberg stated size is not what the City Council called a factor in the OLA ordinance.

### **Public Hearing:**

**David Ackerman**, resident of Grandview condo, 15th floor, looks down onto the park. He is very concerned about the maintenance and the lights randomly going on and off which create dark pockets in the park. He sees kids 12-15 years of age play basketball in the poorest lit portion of the park and they are not dealing drugs. The park seems to be a "designated drug zone." He would like to see the park fenced and access controlled. It would make it difficult for people to elude police or try to hide something in the park. The drugs seem to be tolerated by police; they treat it as though it was a place of containment. Closing the park and making it a dog run will have no effect on the drug problems. Homeless people hang out at the park and they are not doing drugs. Dogs should not have a precedent over the homeless.

**Tim Corbett** lives a block from Regrade Park and thinks the park is a hassle and borders on being a public nuisance. In the late evening there are so many people congregating

around the bus shelter that it is hard to walk down the street. He has been approached as if he was a drug dealer. Making the park an off leash area is not going to do anything to the drug traffic. It seems like a very small space for an off leash area. Homeless people do use the park to relax. The basketball court does get used at various times and it is a healthy use. He was once surprised while waiting for a bus and slapped very hard on the rear end by a woman from the park which constituted assault and would have called the police if he had a cell phone. The park is not a place for children. Something needs to be done to make that area safe for people that live in the neighborhood but not sure if an off leash area is the answer.

**Patricia Kane**, resident of Belltown Senior Apartments, stated an off leash area in Regrade Park would be better than nothing. A lot of seniors have pets but they would not go to the park now because of the drug use and other illegitimate uses. She is one social security check away from being homeless but she would not sit in a park all day long and give up on life and keep other people from using the park for relaxation. Belltown has a changing image and is a high rent area. The basketball use should be kept at the park. Controlled access with a locked fence at night would be good. Since the portable toilet has been removed the park users now use the alley in full public view. The old wooden outhouse is full of trash and should be removed. It would be nice for the community members to be able to use the park. Whatever can be done to help the residents would be appreciated. Some community members would rather see the property sold and a building or parking lot put in its place under the current park conditions. Ms. Kane noted later that the pigeon problem is terrible at Regrade Park.

**Elise Topp**, resident of Grandview for 23 years, has seen a number of things taking place in the park. A playground was installed but parents would not bring their children to the park. She was responsible for getting the outhouse moved to the alley because it was less noticeable. She agrees a fence surrounding the park and better lighting would help. She wondered about the park closing hours as people are in the park at all hours. She thinks the park looks reasonably well. There are not a lot of bushes where people can hide. She would like some colorful perennials planted. The park is not large enough for an off leash area and it would need a caretaker and would not be a place of beauty.

**Randy Randolph** of the Three Dog Bakery, supports the off leash area. He agrees the park should not be in charge of police matters. A downtown place for dogs to get together and more importantly the people that bring the dogs to socialize is a very good resource to have. Most major cities have downtown dog parks. Dogs do not go without the people. It will be a place to get together and form community with people of like interests. It will be a family friendly environment. The size is not a detriment as there will not be 100s of dogs there at one time. For people that live in the area it is going to improve the overall look of the neighborhood and therefore improve property values. A place that can offer dog amenities does well. Apartments in the area that once did not allow dogs are now dog friendly. He has seen some major shifts with major landowners in the area. 96,000 households in the city have dogs and they will not all show up at Regrade Park on the same day but some will and they will appreciate a place to go.

**Begum Turner**, 3rd & Bell area resident, recently moved to Seattle from Chicago. Her building has a lot of dog owners and the people she first met in Seattle were while walking her dog. In Chicago she could walk from her apartment to two different dog parks the same size or smaller than Regrade. Size is not an issue. Dogs get exercise from playing with other dogs and socializing. It is a great place to meet people and socialize. She currently crosses the street rather than walk by the park. She does not think the area would be unsightly. Putting lights on a perfect timer, adding colorful flowers, etc. will not do anything for what is currently going on in the park. It is a pilot program and if it does not work after 18 months try something else.

**Zander Batchelder** of the Belltown Community Council reported the Council voted unanimously to support the off leash proposal. Many in the neighborhood support the idea as a means of suppressing illegal activity. Option 1, staying with the status quo is unlikely to result in a meaningful improvement to Regrade Park. While increasing bicycle patrols and removing the portable toilet has had positive effects, the park remains a magnet for criminal activity. Doing nothing will not change this. Option 2, converting the park to an off leash area seems like a worthwhile experiment that could at once reduce criminal activity while simultaneously increasing public use. Teaming with COLA on a stewardship agreement for the dog park could also establish a fine precedent for cooperation between Parks and the community. If the OLA should fail, other options could be pursued in the future. Option 3, redesigning or building on the property, sound like pie in the sky ideas especially given the current budget situation. Parks has encouraged the community to redesign the park but has not followed through yet on this project. In the interim the dog park would be an opportunity to try something different.

**Jerry Malmo**, COLA representative, thanked Project Manager David Goldberg for his honest and straightforward work. The ComPlan 2000 set goals for off leash areas in Seattle; with at least one off leash area in each sector of the city. There is no off leash area in the area. COLA will help steward the off leash area. It has active stewardships in the eight off leash areas in the city. Thousands of hours of volunteer time are given to help improve the OLAs. The steward groups have secured neighborhood-matching grants for improvements at a number of OLAs. (\$20,000 at Westcrest, \$5,000 at Jose Rizal, \$15,000 at Magnuson/Sand Point, and \$7,000 for Golden Gardens). COLA has spent \$4,500 to complete the fence along Martin Luther King South at the Blue Dog Pond. COLA salvaged plants and replaced ivy and blackberries at Northacres Park. COLA is arranging for tool storage areas at each site. A steward has been identified for Regrade Park and she is already organizing a steward group.

**Sharon LeVine**, Queen Anne resident, supports the off leash area for Regrade Park. She has enjoyed working with David Goldberg on the under I-5/Eastlake project as he is really trying to balance the needs of the competing interests in that neighborhood. The pilot program will allow concerns to be addressed and mediate those with the people in the community. The 96,000 households that own dogs own more than one dog. It is estimated that there are 140,000 - 150,000 dogs within the city limits. All the OLAs are heavily used. The areas are open to everyone. People that do not have a home will enjoy

the camaraderie of the dogs. The area will be used early morning till evening in all kinds of weather throughout the year. It will satisfy the need for people to come together and build community. Having a city that is dog friendly enables people who ordinarily have dogs to live in a community and it also makes an impact on the homeless dogs that would not have been adopted.

**Alley Rutzel** moved to Seattle from New York City and used to live by a number of small dog off leash areas. People would come to the parks to watch the dogs play. There were backless benches for people to sit in either direction. Some thought does have to go into the fence design. The fence needs to be high enough as dogs can jump six feet. The size of the park is not an issue. It would be the best use for the space and filling the need for the community. With a successful steward group like COLA and with the dedication of the people in the community who want this to succeed it will succeed. Giving the space a purpose and having people congregate around that purpose is going to make this park successful.

**Brian Randolph**, downtown resident, deals with people across the country. They see how dog friendly Seattle is and come back with their dogs. It is of an economic benefit. It benefits the dogs, owners and city. It is a pilot program and any issues can be addressed. He urges the motion to be passed.

Bruce Bentley stated that he is concerned about the short public process for this pilot off-leash area.

Kathleen Warren inquired about the number of youth that live downtown. She is curious about the basketball usage and how extensive it is. She asked about the park closure hour. Kerry Lasko, Parks Resource Manager, stated the Park is officially closed 11 p.m. - 6 a.m. She would like clarification on the reported light problems.

Sarah Neilson would like to know if there has been any discussion with the social service agencies in the neighborhood and what they might have to say about the park and ways to help prevent some of the activities taking place.

The Board will have a discussion and make a recommendation to the Superintendent at its May 8 meeting.

### **Seward Park Audubon Center Discussion/Recommendation**

Cindi Shiota, Parks Strategic Advisor, summarized community concerns and questions that have been raised. With one exception it appears most people are very supportive of the idea of programming the Audubon project. The majority of responses received have been very concerned about the motor vehicle access along the perimeter road leading to the hatchery. Some of the people who wrote assumed we were going to access the entire perimeter. Cindi pointed out where the inner loop meets the perimeter road to the hatchery on a display board which is about .21 miles. There is a steep slope and



retrofitted golf carts and/or vans with lifts would be necessary for ADA accessibility requirements.

Kate Pflaumer asked if the only motorized transport that Parks is talking about is for disabled or will it be for groups. The Parks Department and Audubon will be designing programs for the hatchery area. As the programs are developed the Department will look for ways to minimize the use of motor vehicles. School kids will be encouraged to walk through the park to the hatchery. Kate noted the language in the agreement that got people distressed was there were going to be improvements made to the road.

Cindi Shiota stated the roadside improvements and controlled access have not been designed and the public will be included in the design process. The road improvements include repairing the hairpin turn located on the inner loop, possibly making some demarcation to indicate where any motorized vehicles should remain, working on the entry area with grading and working on a mechanized fence to control access to the hatchery. Unauthorized folk are getting onto the perimeter road at various times and the Department is considering a mechanized bollard installation. The Department is trying to make sure any access in the park is controlled and authorized. The Department will make the decision on the design and nature of access and the programming. There may be a maximum of 2 or 3 sets of classrooms going to the hatchery with the use hours being Monday-Friday 10 a.m. 2 p.m. when the programs are fully booked.

Kate Pflaumer inquired where the buses of kids would be let out. Cindi Shiota stated depending upon the nature of the program the kids would be let out on the inner loop so they can take Trail 1 and Trail 2 down, they could be let out at the base and walk .21 miles or let out at the parking lot.

Kathleen Warren questioned why any road improvements are necessary if the road is already accessible. Cindi Shiota stated the assumption was the perimeter road would be used for shorter-term uses. The major costs will be working with the grade and gate and putting in the control mechanisms. Repaving has never been a consideration. Cindi showed the outer and inner loops on the display board.

James Fearn stated in any event we are not talking about any more vehicles on the perimeter road. A van or two and motorized carts would use the road to serve communities that cannot walk  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the program site. School buses or individual cars will not be using the perimeter road. James asked if permits will be required and if so is there going to be some environmental review. Permits will be required.

The Superintendent stated it is fair to say that having an active environmental education program in Seward Park is going to increase use during certain times of the day. Depending upon programming, traffic will increase inside the park not on the perimeter road. The increased use of the perimeter road would be sporadic and depend upon specific programming issues. Any traffic on the perimeter road would be very restrictive and limited. Park truck usage will increase as the area will be maintained more than it is now.

Kathleen Warren sees a general approval of the Audubon Center and a general desire to make programs handicap accessible. From what she has heard from the community is concern because so much of it is on the uncertain side. Kathleen is not convinced any road improvements are necessary except figuring out a way to get people in wheel chairs to the site.

Kate Pflaumer stated it is hard to put on certain restrictions, as it is micro managing to what may turn out to be necessary there. We recognize the community's outpouring to limit any kind of traffic on the outer road.

Bruce Bentley stated improvements have to be made in order to make the turn. Buses could drop kids off down below and the turn improved to allow the ADA vans but no bus access. Bruce does think some sort of markings are necessary on the road to give the walkers and joggers some indication that there are some vehicles on the road at certain times of the day.

James Fearn stated there is a minor improvement proposed for the end of the perimeter road for handicap accessibility and limiting access to the hatchery. It is not going to increase access and will limit unauthorized use.

Sarah Neilson takes issue with establishing an environmental educational program and then driving kids most of the way. It takes about 15 minutes to walk from the parking lot to the hatchery driveway. She would suggest environmental programming start as soon as the kids get off the bus and start walking, e.g. native plant identification program, habitats along the shoreline and as you go into the forest. Urban kids may not have any other opportunity to walk 15-20 minutes in a woodsy environment. It is a treasure and it should be a big part of their outdoor education experience. Cindi Shiota stated she believes that is the intent of the majority of the programs. There may be some communities that do not feel comfortable walking and we need to not force them into uncomfortable situations. The Superintendent stated we are a long way from designing the programs. At the policy level the issue is whether the annex and hatchery are part of an education program and whether or not they can work without a big impact on the park. The Department can then figure out a way to make it work in a way that deals with the issues, and traffic is clearly one issue.

**Kate Pflaumer moved the Park Board recommend approval of the proposed partnership and the Board's encouragement be expressed for minimal impact on both the perimeter and interior road and improve only what is necessary for safety, ADA accessibility, and encourage programs that kids, particularly, into the park on foot.** James Fearn seconded the motion. Kathleen Warren would like the motion stronger and state the drop off point would be the entrance of the parking lot and any improvements are only to assist handicap accessibility. James did not accept the friendly amendment. Ken Bounds gave an example of two programs starting at the same time - one at the annex and walking through the park to the hatchery, getting picked up close to there depending upon time limits and one group starting at the hatchery and getting picked up at the parking lot. We do not know enough yet to say we are not going to drive

any buses into the park and are going to keep traffic out of the park. The public will be involved in the design and programming.

**The motion carried, 3-1, with Kathleen Warren opposed.**

### **Spruce/Squire Park Briefing**

David Goldberg, Parks Project Planner, stated the development project will create a neighborhood park on a small triangle of land located at 156 Boren Avenue. The site is owned by the Fleets and Facilities Department. Staff is requesting the Parks Board to approve the site plan for this new neighborhood park.

The site is 12,537 square feet of undeveloped land and is currently overgrown with blackberries and there are several small maple trees and shrubs on the perimeter of the site. There is unopened alley on the western side. It is steeply sloped to the west along Boren and toward the alley. The site contains critical areas (steep slopes in excess of 40%). The central portion of the site is relatively flat. There are views to the PacMed building and potentially Mount Rainier. Pro Parks provided \$128,875 to clean up the site. After discussing options, CORE agreed with the proposal to complete a site plan that would raise community interest and serve as a blueprint for future grants and improvements. The Department of Neighborhoods has supplemented the Pro Parks budget by allocating \$73,961 from the Central Area Community Project Funds to this project.

Parks and its consultant are working to create a neighborhood asset out of a very difficult site. There are design challenges, permitting requirements and fees. The construction budget will be around \$80,000. The permitting hurdles will be cleared during the first round of improvements. Future work will be less costly to design and implement. The first phase of improvements will include grading, seeding, a small plaza, walkways and the entry stairs from 10th Avenue. Construction will be completed by the end of fall 2003.

**Kathleen Warren moved the Park Board recommend approval of the Spruce/Squire Park project. Kate Pflaumer seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Lake City Civic Core (Albert Davis Park) Briefing**

Mark Johnson, Parks Project Manager, presented a briefing to the Board of the proposed redevelopment of the Lake City Civic Core/Albert Davis Park. In November 2000 the Seattle voters approved the Pro Parks Levy, which included \$789,000 to redevelop Albert Davis Park. In September 1999 the City Council approved amendments to Seattle's Comprehensive Plan for North Neighborhoods including a recommendation that Albert Davis Park be redeveloped and improved as part of the Lake City Civic Core. The City and citizens developed ideas for the project in more detail over the next two years, culminating in a master plan. Elements of the project include: an addition to the Lake City Branch Library, including space to house the Lake City Neighborhood Service

Center (NSC); a below grade parking garage to provide additional parking for the library, NSC and Lake City Community Center; a public plaza located between the Library addition, the Community Center and the park; and, a small acquisition of land to the north of the existing park boundary that will be added to the park.

The master plan called for the below-grade-parking garage to be located under a redeveloped Albert Davis Park. However, investigation and cost-estimating has shown that locating the garage under the library addition and the plaza will reduce construction costs, provide an entry location that is easier for patrons to find, and allow mature trees to be retained in the park. Parks and the designers, Hewitt Architects, have worked with the community to develop a design for the redevelopment of the park that will serve the community's needs, including the park's role with the public plaza - as the central space of the Lake City Civic Center.

Elements of the redeveloped Albert Davis Park will include: a public plaza, accessible walks and ramps; play areas and equipment for children; seating for visitors and enhanced night lighting of park and plaza; improvements to sight lines through the park that will enhance security, including regrading the amphitheater area, creating a much larger, gently sloping lawn area in the park suitable for play or relaxation; street improvements along 27th Avenue, including curb, gutter and sidewalk consistent with the design of the park and selective removal of plantings and thinning or pruning of mature trees to increase the penetration of sunlight into the park..

Parks has adopted a public involvement plan for this project. Parks held four open meetings and workshops over the past six months in which information has been shared with the general community and ideas and input have been communicated to Parks and the design team. Parks has attended neighborhood council and neighborhood plan stewardship meetings to provide updates and gather comments. Construction will begin in 2003-04 and completed in 2003-04. The Board thanked Mark for the briefing.

### **Park Board Business**

The Superintendent reported that Commissioner O. Yale Lewis has found it necessary to resign from the Board. Kathleen Warren will continue serving on the Board until a replacement is found.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Bentley, Chair