

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 11, 2003**

**Present:**

Bruce Bentley, Chair  
James Fearn  
Joanna Grist  
Terry Holme  
Sarah Neilson  
Kate Pflaumer

**Staff:**

Ken Bounds, Superintendent  
B.J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

**Note:**

Archived agendas and minutes from 2000 to present may be viewed online at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard>

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **Sarah moved and Kate seconded that the December 11 agenda as adjusted, November 13 minutes as corrected, and acknowledgment of correspondence be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Superintendent's Report**

Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds reported on the following:

**New Deputy Superintendent Welcomed:** Ken introduced B.J. Brooks as the new Deputy Superintendent for Parks and Recreation. B.J. recently moved to Seattle from Denver, where she was Director of Focus Neighborhoods. Prior to that, she spent 10 years as Manager (which is equivalent to Superintendent) of the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Board members met B.J. at the Park Board's Executive Retreat in September. Ken, B.J., and other Department staff are currently working on the 2004 Work Plan for the Department and will bring this to the Board in early 2004.

**Conservation Futures Tax Dollars Approved for Pro Parks Levy Match:** The Pro Parks Levy provides the base funding to seek matching grants from the State, the County, and private donors. In November, King County Council approved \$3.635 million from its Conservation Futures Tax collections as matching grants toward acquisition projects in Seattle. Eight projects received funding, including nearly \$1 million each for acquisitions in the University District and Denny Triangle. With these grants, the Pro Parks Levy now

has provided the base funds to obtain more than \$15 million for park and open space acquisitions through public and private matching grants.

**Lake City Mini Park is Focus of Community Meeting:** Parks Department staff will hold a public meeting on December 16 to address complaints about the inappropriate behavior of transients who have taken over this park. The Department has some funds to improve the Park and, with good police and community support, will work to deal with the problems.

**Freeway Park:** Parks Department staff met with stakeholders last week to discuss ways to improve the appearance of this park and to and discuss longer-term design plans. Joanna asked if private donations are solicited from nearby businesses for park enhancements. Ken stated that the Department is looking at this option and is also working with the Downtown Seattle Association.

**Magnuson Community Garden Receives Gift:** The University Lions Club Foundation approved a \$10,000 gift to the Magnuson Community Garden Committee to fund the Amphitheater Arbor, which will be a distinguishing feature in the garden.

**Sand Point Magnuson Park Conceptual Vision is Commended:** At the Seattle Design Commission's 35th anniversary celebration, the Parks Department was awarded a "letter of commendation for design excellence and innovation" from the Commission in recognition of the Sand Point Magnuson Park Conceptual Vision.

**Chinese World Basketball Tournament Hosted by Seattle:** More than 1,300 Chinese basketball players came to Seattle over Thanksgiving weekend. Seattle's Chinese community hosted this tournament, held annually for players of Chinese descent over the age of 40 in various cities around the world.

**Cal Anderson Park Hosts Successful Story Times:** A well-attended, first-of-many, toddler story times was held at the Cal Anderson Shelterhouse on December 10. About 35 young toddlers attended, along with supervising adults and teachers from Seattle Central Community College. The story times is a continuing programming project between Miller Community Center and the Front Yard Neighbors - a stewardship group for Cal Anderson Park.

**Green Lake Path Lights Up:** The annual Pathway of Lights at Green Lake, featuring luminaria along the entire pathway around the lake, is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Singing groups will be located at Green Lake Community Center and the Small Craft Center. A tradition that usually goes along with this event is that it almost always rains!

**City Council Announces Committee Assignments:** Councilmember Jan Drago will chair City Council in 2004 and Councilmember-elect David Della will chair the reorganized Parks and Neighborhoods Committee. Parks staff will send additional

information on the committees to the Park Board, once the Committee memberships are announced.

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

Bruce explained that the general public comment portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had or are not scheduled for a public hearing. Testimony is limited to three minutes per speaker. Two people gave testimony.

**Kari Stiles:** From the Seattle Park Foundation; thanked Parks Department staff and the Board of Park Commissioners for their great work; is excited about and strongly supports the new Homer Harris Park.

**Dale Phurrough:** Thanked the Board for its process for Homer Harris Park.

### **Briefing/Public Hearing: Homer Harris Park**

Cathy Tuttle, Parks Department project manager, came before the Board to give a briefing on the new Homer Harris Park, followed by a public hearing. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Both are included in these minutes.

## **Written Briefing**

### **Action Requested**

A public hearing and Parks staff briefing on Homer Harris Park development will be presented on December 11. No action is requested at this time. Homer Harris Park will return to the Park Board on January 8 for a recommendation on the preferred schematic development plan for this new park.

### **Project Intent**

The Pro Parks Levy provides \$98,976 and the Seattle Parks Foundation provides \$400,000 to plan, design and construct the new Homer Harris Park at 2401 East Howell Street, two blocks southeast of 23rd and Madison.

### **Project Background**

In the 1990s, the Central Area neighborhood plan identified the need for a park in the Madison and 23rd Avenue area. The 2000 Pro Parks Levy included funds to acquire and develop a small park in the neighborhood.

In 2002, an anonymous donor gave \$1.3 million to the Seattle Parks Foundation for a new Central Area park, doubling the size of the park to one-half acre, increasing park development funding, and creating a small maintenance endowment. The donor requested the park be named after Dr. Homer Harris. This donation represents one of the largest donations in the history of Seattle Parks and Recreation.

Dr. Homer Harris is one of Seattle's most beloved and respected athletes and physicians. Homer E. Harris's grandparents arrived in Seattle in the 1890's. His mother was born here in 1894, when there were few African-American families in the area. Following the example of his family, Harris has been a pioneer for much of his life. Dr. Harris, one of the city's most prominent and beloved doctors for 43 years, was also one of Seattle's greatest athletes. He was recently inducted into the Iowa Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Harris has said that sports were a tool he used to get ahead in the world. It led him to an athletic scholarship at Iowa, a stint in the Army, and eventually to medical school. Dr. Harris currently lives on Queen Anne Hill with Dorothy, his wife of over 50 years.

### **Design**

The preferred schematic design for Homer Harris Park was presented to the community on November 12 by Parks staff and Worthy and Associates, Landscape Architects. The park design includes elements that serve neighborhood needs and pay homage to the life of Dr. Homer Harris such as art, a "reaching for greatness" stretching area, a play area that emphasizes mental and physical challenges, a human unity plaza, and a healing and restorative garden. Additional information is on-line at

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/HomerHarrisPark.htm>

### **Public Process**

A preferred schematic design for Homer Harris Park was developed by Worthy and Associates, Landscape Architects, with input from three community meetings and two Seattle Design Commission meeting held in the fall of 2003. Over 100 community members participated in these meetings. A "Friends of Homer Harris Park" group held several meetings to define park art and history elements. Parks has met with adjacent businesses and institutions, neighbors, and the Central Area District Council to address specific concerns.

Teens from the Garfield Teen Life Center, under the direction of Teen Leader James Bush, have visited the park site and participated in all community meetings. Teens will assist in plant selection for the healing and restorative garden and received a \$500 grant from Sustainable Seattle for an art project in Homer Harris Park.

### **Project Schedule**

Construction documents will be completed May 2004. Park construction will begin in June and be completed by the end of the 2004.

### **Project Budget**

Project funding for planning, design and construction, is \$498,976, including \$400,000 from Seattle Parks Foundation and \$98,976 from Pro Parks Levy

### **Additional Information**

Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, 684-7033; or [cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov](mailto:cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov)

### **Verbal Briefing**

Cathy displayed several large photos and drawings of the proposed new park and introduced two staff from Worthy and Associates. The property for the proposed park is part of the William Grose property. Mr. Grose was a pioneer in the area. Cathy pointed to photos of the property, pointed out nearby buildings, and explained where different elements of the park may be located. The Central Area Outreach Partnership and Central Area Arts Commission are also assisting with the design. Cathy reviewed the written briefing and discussed the public involvement process. She also discussed the concept of the park - how to reflect Dr. Harris' life in this park - and how this is incorporated in the design process.

There is some controversy on whether to include a play structure. Some participants would like to see the play area as stretching bars and other adult type structures. Other participants would like a children's play structure included. Plum Park is two blocks away and has a children's play structure. An artist is working on a design for a children's play structure that would not be made from plastic or metal.

The Board asked if there is any controversy other than the play structure and Cathy answered no. Robert Stephens, from the Central Area Arts Commission, talked more about the design of the park. He stated that there are no quiet, reflective parks in the Central Area and there are many older residents in this neighborhood. He asked that the design be kept to the theme of reflecting Dr. Harris' life and that a play structure not be included.

Terry asked if the stretching bars will be designed as "quasi-art" and Robert answered yes. Terry asked about the large, older trees currently on the property and their future upkeep. Cathy said the trees will require some limbing and maintenance. Dr. Harris has requested that three Sequoia trees be planted; this will be considered.

James asked if there is a maintenance budget included in the grant for the new park. Cathy answered that a one-time grant of \$40,000 is included. Estimates for yearly maintenance are \$20,000.

Sarah asked if there will be a commemorative plaque installed in the park. Cathy said that the plaque is planned at the northwest corner of 24th Ave and E Howell Street. The plaque will not be a bust of Dr. Harris. Photos of Dr. Harris in the prime of his life may be incorporated into the stretching bar area.

### **Public Hearing**

The Chair opened the floor to public testimony about Homer Harris Park. Testimony is limited to three minutes per person.

**Rex Prasad/Jamal Mengistu/James Bush:** James is the leader at the Garfield Teen Life Center. Rex and Jamal talked about their participation in the design and their excitement for winning the \$500 grant for the healing and restorative garden in the new park.

**Jim West:** He has lived two blocks south of the park, with his wife and children, for the past ten years. This is a very diverse neighborhood with many kids and elderly and he believes the park will bring people together. The design of the park will attract many. He supports a play structure and stated that the structure at Plum Park is in disrepair.

**Helen Carreras:** She lives near the park and attended two of the three public meetings, and attended five meetings in total. She is impressed with the process. She supports a play structure being included in the design, as this was brought up in the brainstorming sessions.

**Ann Rennick:** She is a neighbor of the park and requests that the middle ground be taken concerning the play structure. She doesn't want the type of structure that is at Plum Park and brought photos of alternative styles of play structures. She also wants the large tree to remain in the park.

**Cathy Baker:** She lives near the park and is thrilled to see this new park become a reality. She has one child and finds Plum Park "creepy." She currently drives her child to Madrona Park to play and thinks the structure there enlivens the park. Dr. Harris was an athlete - encourage children to use their bodies to play. She supports a children's play structure in Homer Harris Park.

**Dale Phurrough:** He is a neighbor of the park and is concerned that the hardware used in the benches and other areas of the park not be an "old" style that would make the benches look old. He prefers boulders and crawl spaces as a third alternative to a play structure.

**Robert Stephens, Jr.:** He spoke earlier during the Board's questions and answers and is also a member of the Central Area District Council. He requests that there be no play structure included in the design.

The public hearing concluded. Bruce thanked those who testified.

### **Board Questions and Answers**

Terry asked if an arborist has evaluated the large trees for disease and age, as the design seems to be adapted to the tree. Cathy said the City Arborist has made a visual study and has a more extensive study on his work plan. He has told her that the tree is stable.

Cathy will come back before the Board at its January 8 meeting for a discussion and recommendation from the Board. She will forward the latest design of the park to the Board prior to that meeting. The public may submit written comments up to January 8.

Bruce thanked Cathy for the presentation.

### **Briefing: Bitter Lake Reservoir Open Space**

Parks Department project manager Tim Motzer came before the Board to give a briefing on the Bitter Lake Reservoir Open Space project. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Both are included below.

### **Written Briefing**

**Action Requested:** This is a project briefing only. No action is required.

### **Background Information:**

- In 1999, the Broadview-Bitter Lake-Haller Lake Neighborhood Plan identified the following project action as a major element to be implemented: "The City shall move the fence during the rehabilitation of the Bitter Lake Reservoir and in conjunction with community organizations, property and business owners, residents and other interested parties, develop walking paths and recreational areas for children and adults, community gardens and landscaping which may include a P-patch garden and additional or other types of public open space features."
- The project was funded as part of the 2000 Pro Parks Levy to develop public open space amenities around the Bitter Lake Reservoir located at the SW corner of Linden Avenue North and North 143rd Street. Seattle Public Utility (SPU) Water Division has agreed to allow the use of part of their reservoir site for park open space as well as moving the existing fence at their cost. The levy provides \$489,725 for the project. The construction is now slated to occur in 2004, and will allow for partnering with the SPU. SPU is providing \$470,000 in additional project funding to fund storm drainage improvements.
- A design program for the project was completed and approved in December 2002
- J. A. Brennan and Associates (Brennan) was selected from the City's consultant roster and started work on the planning phase of the project in March 2003.
- Since several City departments are directly and indirectly involved with the project, an inter-departmental team was formed and has been meeting in conjunction with the design process. The inter-departmental team includes: Parks, Department of Neighborhoods (DON), SPU-Storm Drainage, SPU-Water, SPU-City Light, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Police Department, Metro Transit, and the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.
- DON has indicated that they have approximately \$130,000 of neighborhood funds that have been allocated for street and drainage work with emphasis at the intersection of Linden and 143rd Street. SPU and Parks will be working with DON to incorporate street and drainage items that can be funded with the available DON funds.

### **Approved Schematic Design:**

The approved schematic design (see attached plans) developed by Brennan consists of the following elements:

- a graded berm with trees and storm drainage swale on 143rd St.

- new storm drain structures and pipe in 143rd St. in conjunction with a concrete pathway and either concrete curb stops or permanent curb and gutter
- a site along 143rd designated for a possible future P-Patch
- major pedestrian plaza at the NE corner of Linden and 143rd with a seating wall, pavers, plantings, vertical water pipe feature and reintegrated art work at entry, concrete sidewalk, and curb and gutter at the intersection
- concrete sidewalk along Linden in conjunction with new storm drainage structures and pipe and concrete curb stops
- planted drainage swale and berm with trees along Linden
- enhanced and planted filtration pond at the SE corner with outlet storm structures to 138th St.
- asphalt path in conjunction with seating wall with planting and trees in SE corner, and asphalt path connection of 138th St.
- relocation of existing fence on three sides of water reservoir

### **Public Process:**

- Three public involvement meetings have been held for the project:
  - February 10, 2003 -Kick off Meeting (23 people in attendance)
  - June 26, 2003 -Schematic Alternatives Review (16 people in attendance)
  - September 17, 2003 -Preferred Schematic Review (25 people in attendance) Concerns expressed by citizens at the Sept. 17 meeting included the following: size of plaza and need for the "water pipe feature"; desire to drain all the intersection at Linden and 143rd; recent gas line improvements on Linden have increased drainage problem; using DON funds to do additional street/drainage improvements; concerns about seating wall and skate boarders; concerned about restricting parking but not eliminating it; concerns about security especially if there is limited or no lighting; overall, most people seemed to be happy with the preferred schematic design.
- Three presentations to the Design Commission
  - May 1, 2003 (concept design)
  - July 17, 2003 (schematic alternatives -no approval)
  - September 4, 2003 (preferred schematic)
 Design Commission at the Sept. 4 meeting approved the preferred schematic with the following comments: integrate 3 primary design elements -vertical water pipe, natural land forms, seating walls; lengthen and reinforce seating wall in SE corner; encourage artist to integrate art work into project; and link gathering point at NE corner with trail by adding a drinking fountain.  
 Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs has agreed to fund the artist in integrating the site's existing art into the project.
- The next public meetings with the community and Design Commission will be scheduled for mid-January 2004 for review of Design Development drawings.

### **Project Schedule**

- Completion of Design Development Phase: End of January 2004
- Completion of Construction Documents: Early April 2004
- Completion of Bidding: Late May 2004
- Construction: Mid-June 2004 through November 2004

**Project Budget:**

- Pro Parks Levy -\$489,725
- SPU Storm Drainage Division -\$470,000
- Department of Neighborhoods -Up to \$130,000

**Additional Information:**

- Tim Motzer, 206-684-7060, cell: 206-369-8462. email: tim.motzer@seattle.gov

**Verbal Briefing**

Tim displayed large aerial photos of the area, pointed out the proposed changes, and reviewed the written briefing paper.

**Board Discussion**

Kate asked for more information on the proposed location of the fence. Tim said that the fence is to be moved back as far as possible, which will create open space. James asked about the cover on the reservoir, which is a soft cover, and whether the reservoir might be buried in the future. Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Levy Manager, was in the audience and said the reservoir isn't scheduled to be buried.

Tim said that the community wants this area to be a passive, local open space and are not looking for ways to attract lots of users to the area.

The Board thanked Tim for the presentation.

**Update Briefing: Northgate Community Center Project**

Parks Department project manager Tim Motzer next gave an update briefing on the Northgate Community Center Project. The Board received a written briefing, followed by a verbal briefing. Both are included.

**Written Briefing**

**Action Requested:** This is a project briefing only. No action is required at this time.

**Background Information:**

- Project Elements:
  1. The Community Center Levy Program that was approved in November of 1999

and provided \$8,206,000 for acquisition and construction for a new 20,000 sq ft full service community center in Northgate.

2. The Pro Parks Park Levy that was approved in November of 2000 and provided \$3,000,000 for acquisition and \$1,031,000 for development of a Park in Northgate.

3. Libraries for All Capital Plan Bond Issue that was approved in November 1998 and provided \$5,139,000 for acquisition and construction of a new 10,000 sq ft branch library in Northgate.

- February 13, 2003 - Erin Devoto and Tim Motzer provided a briefing at the Park Board Meeting (see attached minutes) to review the background of the project and the site plan alternatives developed by ARC Architects that would be presented at public meeting scheduled for February 24, 2003.
- March 13, 2003 - Erin Devoto, Maureen O'Neill, and Tim Motzer provided a follow-up briefing at the Park Board Meeting (see attached minutes). Erin reviewed the two plan alternatives presented at the February 24 public meeting indicating that Plan A had surface parking and was in budget, while Plan B had underground parking but was not within budget. Park staff recommended Plan A with the understanding that there were issues related to the size and location of the parking lot and the amount of area shown as park. Board members voted to endorse Plan A (see attached drawing) with the understanding that alternatives would be explored related to the parking lot and increasing the amount of park area. Erin indicated that the firm, Miller Hull was selected from the four design firms interviewed by both Parks and the Library to provide all design services for the three major project elements.

#### **Approved Schematic Design:**

The schematic design (see attached plans) developed by Miller Hull is similar to the approved site plan related to the placement of the library and community center buildings but incorporated the following changes:

- Modified the design for the community center to eliminate the need for an elevator.
- Placed the child care facility at the north end of the Community Center to maximize ease of pick-up and drop-off and the ability to separate that operation from the rest of the center.
- Realigned the parking lot and reduced its size to allow the Community Center to be moved north to create more space for park elements.
- Relocated the parking lot entrance as far north as possible to push the Library further north, and to provide for future Library expansion to the south rather than the north. As a result, more open space area could be provided.
- Expanded the size of the plaza area between the two buildings to create more functional space for public gatherings and events.
- Provided established entry points to the north, mid-way and south of the site with emphasis on the mid-entry as the main pedestrian entry off of 5th to the Community Center and the plaza.
- Provided a path linkage in the SE corner from the site to Thornton Creek

- Provided details of the building facades, height changes, roof lines and overhangs, and building floor plans
- Coordinated project design with the 5th Avenue project which includes street work on 5th Avenue NE and NE 105th

**Public Process:**

- A project advisory team (PAT) has been created made up of eleven people with various backgrounds and interest from the community. The PAT started meeting in September 2003 and have met five times.
- Since the March 2003 Park Board meeting, there have been two public meetings.
  - May 21, 2003 -Kick-off meeting reviewing the accepted site plan
  - November 5, 2003 -Schematic Design review and comments. Both meeting were well attended with almost 100 people attending each meeting.
- Two presentations to the Design Commission
  - July 17, 2003 -Updated site plan
  - November 6, 2003 -Schematic Design review
- There have also been a number of Mayor Open House meetings regarding Northgate as well as project updates at the Maple Leaf Community meetings.
- The next public meetings will be scheduled for mid-February 2004 for review of Design Development drawings by the community and Design Commission.

A number of major issues have been identified at the various meetings involving review of the schematic drawings which include the following:

- Adequate separation between 5th Avenue and the multi-use open space area is needed to address potential safety issue between users and cars in the street.
- Maximize storage opportunities beyond what is required in the program for the Community Center.
- Re-evaluate and possibly redesign the footprint and the landscape area for the future Library expansion in order to reduce impacts to the Park. Maintain the 5th Avenue entrance to the Community Center, and minimize future disruption and redesign of the site. This was a major issue identified by all reviewing groups.
- Evaluate the landing on the long hallway in the community center to see if it will create congestions (a choke point).
- Evaluate the windows at the NW corner of the gym to see if they may create interior glare.
- Assess the conflict between the south community center entrance and the use of the patio as an outdoor extension of the multi-purpose room. The small size of the patio was also an issue.
- Is a vestibule needed for the north entrance of the Community Center in order to accommodate double doors and an interior door? The same issue may also apply to the south entrance in conjunction with changing the orientation of the door opening from south to west.

- the lawn area needed to be expanded by eliminating/reducing the width of paths and reducing adjacent paving. This issue was a major concern expressed by the reviewing groups.
- the need for fencing around the play area adjacent to the east and south banks, and visibility of the play area

### **Project Schedule**

- Completion of Design Development Phase: March 2004
- Completion of Construction Documents: June 2004
- Completion of Bidding: August 2004
- Construction: August 2004 through October 2005

### **Project Budget:**

- Community Center Development Budget: \$6,280,000
- Park Development Budget: \$1,031,000
- Library Estimated Development Budget: \$3,266,460
- SDOT 5th Avenue Street Improvements Budget: \$2,100,000

### **Additional Information:**

- Tim Motzer, 206-684-7060, cell: 206-369-8462. email: tim.motzer@.seattle.gov

### **Verbal Briefing**

Tim stated that tonight's presentation is an update briefing only and no action is being requested of the Board. At the Park Board's February 13 and March 13, 2003, meetings, Board members made a number of helpful recommendations. Tim displayed plan drawings that the Board supported at the March 13 meeting, with some reservations and he then discussed the Board's reservations.

Miller-Hall was since hired for the site design and to complete the design process. Tim displayed a large drawing of the new schematic design and perspective drawings, which incorporate the Board's suggestions.

### **Board Discussion**

The Board spent some time discussing the new design. Ken said that Simon Properties (which owns Northgate Mall) has agreed to re-align the Mall's west entrance to align with this new design. The design will allow better access to Thornton Creek. Kate observed that the plan looks better and seems to include more trees. Tim agreed and said that the trees on the steep slope will remain. Tim said that the City has adopted a 5th Avenue design and Seattle Department of Transportation will jointly redesign 5th Avenue (which

runs north to south between the park and the Mall) and 105th Street (which runs east to west and is north of the park.)

Kate asked if the number of parking spaces was reduced in the new design. Tim said that the peak hour requirement is 66. With the new design, there are 64 spaces, with a couple of "drop-off" temporary sites. The parking spaces may be slightly reduced.

James asked if the slope on the east side of the park is usable. Tim answered that the slope is very steep and requires lots of regulatory work if it is used. Designers are attempting to keep the buildings away from that area.

Joanna asked if any controversial issues remain. Tim said these were listed in the briefing memo (see above.) Miller-Hall has responded to these concerns in their latest drawing, which Tim displayed and pointed out the proposed changes.

James asked about the use of the green area in the drawing. Tim said this would be used for Frisbee, football, etc. The latest designs include a significant increase in open space area. The suggestions received at the public meetings were very helpful and were incorporated in the drawings. Tim stated that he is impressed at Miller-Hall's responsiveness to suggestions and creative solutions.

Ken asked if this latest drawing is going back before the public. Tim answered yes and that the drawings may be brought back before the Board again, if it would like.

Ken said he wanted to acknowledge Tim's efforts on this project and the great job he is doing, and Tim acknowledged the good support from the Mayor's Office.

Terry asked if the Library might expand "up", instead of "out". Ken and Tim answered that this is not likely, as the Library Board is adamant about not building up. Terry asked if there is any parking on 5th Avenue. Tim answered that a study is currently being made of non-peak parking on 5th; however, transit buses heavily use this street. Terry asked what will be used to buffer the playground from the parking lot. Tim answered that trees, shrubs, and other vegetation will be used as the buffer.

Bruce complimented the Parks staff and Project Advisory Team on its great job of working with the Library. He attended two of the public meetings, with 100 people at the first and 175 at the second.

### **Old/New Business**

- Vacant Park Board Commissioner status: Terry asked about the status of filling the vacant Board position. Ken stated that the Mayor hasn't yet submitted a name to City Council for confirmation.
- Parks staff will arrange a meeting between the Board members and new City Councilmember David Della. David will chair City Council's Parks and

Neighborhood Committee. This meeting will be a good opportunity for the Board to discuss its role and decision process with the Councilmember.

- Sarah suggested that a letter from the Board be sent to the teens at the Garfield Life Center thanking them for their enthusiasm and design work on the new Homer Harris Park and congratulating them on winning the \$500 grant for the healing garden.
- Joanna toured the Magnolia Boulevard walkway with King County Councilmember Larry Phillips earlier today. The Councilmember believes the public is losing use of public space, because the trees there are growing up and blocking the public's view. Ken will determine if the vegetation management plan for this area has been fully implemented and report back to the Board. A letter will be sent to Councilmember Phillips addressing his concerns. The Board asked that a list of the viewpoints in Seattle's parks be sent to them.
- Kate asked about correspondence the Board received today from Nancy Malmgren, requesting the Seattle City Council to adopt a Park Marine Reserve Ordinance and for the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission urging stronger protection of the State's saltwater beaches. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Park Board recently adopted the Marine Reserve Policy and this issue does not need to come before the Board again as an agenda item.
- Terry asked about the Madrona Woods Park correspondence between Peggy Gaynor, Douglas Jackson, and Judith Starbuck that the Board received copies.
- The Board briefly discussed the Bobby Morris Playfield project under new business at its November 11 meeting.  
[http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2003/11-13-03\\_Minutes.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2003/11-13-03_Minutes.htm)  
Since that meeting, Terry attended the most recent public meeting. The Board and Ken discussed what has since transpired with the project. A briefing/public hearing will be scheduled for the January 22 Park Board.
- As a follow up from the November 13 meeting, **Bruce moved that The Seattle Board of Park Commissioners would like to request that Eric Friedli, Director of Sand Point Magnuson Park (SPMP) consider the incorporation of a BMX Bike Jumping Area as the SPMP plan moves forward.**  
Kate seconded. The Board and Ken discussed that the SPMP plan only applies to a portion of the park and there may be areas outside of that area that could be considered. Joanna suggested that areas be looked at on a citywide basis, too. Ken will talk with Eric and come back to the Board with some possibilities. **Bruce withdrew his motion.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Bentley, Chair