



Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
100 Dexter Avenue North
April 10, 2008

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Neal Adams
John Barber
Terry Holme
Donna Kostka
Christine Larsen
Jackie Ramels, Vice-chair

Excused:

Amit Ranade, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Tim Gallagher, Superintendent
Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Commissioners approved the April 10 agenda as amended, the March 27 minutes as corrected, and the acknowledgment of correspondence.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Interdepartmental Graffiti Team Convened: A high priority for Mayor Nickels is how City departments respond to graffiti and, as part of the Mayor's Customer Service Initiative, a team was convened consisting of representatives from Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), City Light, Seattle Police Department, Parks, Seattle Center, and the City Law Department to explore the City's approach to graffiti abatement, education, and enforcement. The team has already developed a charter and scope of work and will meet every Thursday. Parks' and SDOT's property has been especially hard hit by graffiti. Departments will work to develop a uniform removal policy for the Mayor's consideration.

(During New/Old Business near the end of the meeting, Commissioner Barber stated that he recently surprised a person vandalizing park property with graffiti. He was very surprised that the offender was a 30-40 year old man and not a youth. Commissioner Barber volunteers in several parks and walks his dogs in them and agrees that the amount of graffiti is on the increase. He asked if a volunteer team can be recruited to help remove the graffiti. The Superintendent noted that the City has a 3-prong effort to combat graffiti: (1) remove it as soon as possible; (2) come down hard on anyone caught applying graffiti; and (3) prevention and education.

Vandalism at Cal Anderson Park: In response to the most recent act of vandalism at this popular park where vandals dumped buckets of paint onto the cone-shaped fountain, the Mayor convened Parks, Department of Neighborhoods, and Seattle Police staff to develop an immediate response. The paint has been very difficult to remove from the metal fountain. The response will involve working with the Capitol Hill Newspaper on a story about the impact of graffiti and vandalism on both the Park Department's budget and its ability to maintain the park. The story will ask citizens for their help to stem the problem. Parks is working with SPD at Cal Anderson Park to launch a program called "Park Watch," which will use tried-and-true "Neighborhood Watch" principles to engage citizens in policing this local park. Unfortunately, the surveillance camera at the park didn't record the vandalism. A second surveillance camera for the park will cost \$30-40,000.

Update on Magnuson Park

Building 27 and Arena Sports and Park Signage and Wayfinding: At its March 27 meeting, Commissioners requested additional information on Building 27 and signage at Magnuson Park. Superintendent Gallagher reported that:

- The Mayor has not sent the proposal for Building 27 to City Council to date.
- Parks currently doesn't have funding targeted for signage at Magnuson Park. The intent is to wait until later in the year and see which proposals are approved by the City Council. Parks will then approach partners about sharing in the costs of signage. In 2004 an overall signage and wayfinding plan was developed for the park, with an implementation cost of about \$500,000.

Building 30: Parks has started work on the Building 30 design, and the design team has had preliminary discussions with the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD). Initially, Parks hoped to renovate only the west side of the building to house arts programs. DPD's direction is for the entire building to be renovated, at a cost of \$6-7 million more than the renovation budget. Like most buildings at Magnuson, Building 30 does not meet current building codes, although it continues to be home to a wide range of events through event permits issued by the Fire Department. Parks is looking at how best to phase the necessary improvements.

Athletic Fields/Wetland Construction: This project is moving forward. Staff from the Aquarium will meet tomorrow with the Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance (MESA) and others to investigate the potential to relocate tree frog egg masses from Magnuson Park seasonal wetlands to the Aquarium. Potentially the egg masses could be held at the Aquarium and returned to the park following the current wetland construction.

Magnuson Park Misconceptions: Parks staff attended the Northeast District Council meeting last week where one of the agenda items included a discussion on the proposed Magnuson Park Building Concessions. It is clear that there is a fair amount of misinformation regarding the Magnuson Park Master Plan, the conditions of the concession, and Parks' requirement that the concessionaires subsidize public access for those unable to pay. The concession agreements require the concessionaire to contribute lots of its own capital, perform daily and ongoing maintenance, and provide scholarships and drop-in programs. The concession agreements will save the City millions of dollars. The park is not being privatized.

Pike Place Market and Victor Steinbrueck Park: The Mayor has announced a proposal for a \$75 million levy to renovate the Pike Place Market. Included in the proposal is \$2 million to renovate adjoining Victor Steinbrueck Park. Three community meetings will be held in May and June to discuss opportunities and concerns about the

park and to outline a design program for improvements. The first meeting will occur on the evening of May 1 on the Desimone Bridge. Other meetings will be on May 22 and June 12. Attendees will be asked what they like and don't like about Victor Steinbrueck Park and for their vision for the park.

Park Rangers: The Park Ranger hiring process is moving forward on schedule for the 7 park positions (5 full-time, 2 half-time). Nearly 170 applications were received, resulting in a number of good candidates. The final round of interviews was held this week and Parks anticipates that the Rangers will begin their duties by late-May.

Seattle Police Department (SPD) has approved allowing the Park Rangers to have radio access to their communication system in the West Precinct. This will be very helpful – both in giving Rangers an excellent communication tool and in sending a clear message to park users that the Rangers have a strong partnership with SPD. Rangers will receive training from SPD on appropriate use of the radios and standard operating procedures.

Strategic Action Plan: The second round of public meetings for the Strategic Action Plan is underway, and continues through April 24. Attendance has been low at the meetings; however, the feedback has been specific and helpful. The Department is also holding meetings for all Parks staff; two have been held this week and two are scheduled next week. Parks staff briefed the City Council Parks Committee on Tuesday and heard favorable comments on the Draft Plan.

Contract with Vulcan: Parks has received and will enter into a contract with Vulcan which describes their contribution of \$100,000 toward the completion of the Denny Park Play area project. Parks has committed to complete this project by the end of 2008.

Illegal Feedings at City Hall Park: Parks recently took action to stem un-permitted meal programs at City Hall Park. The feedings have resulted in unsanitary conditions and has attracted rats. In conjunction with Seattle Police, Seattle King County Public Health, and the City's Human Services Department, Parks led efforts to approach meal providers by issuing letters to groups notifying them that they were engaging in an illegal activity. Deputy Superintendent Williams assisted with the distribution of the letters to the meal providers on March 10. The letters also directed the meal providers to the City's authorized feeding location located at 6th and Columbia underneath the I-5 freeway.

Parks to Launch Healthy Parks Program in Late Summer: Parks staff continues high level discussions with the Seattle King County Health Department in an effort to launch our Healthy Parks Program. Parks is also partnering with Whole Foods and REI. In connection with this effort, the Department will host two community health and wellness fairs in Southeast and Southwest Seattle in the fall. The events will feature health screenings and include vendors and practitioners who focus on healthy eating and active recreation and fitness opportunities. As part of the Healthy Parks Program, plans are also being made to close some park roads to vehicles and encourage the public to use the roads for exercise and as a social event.

Division Director Interviews: Approximately 140 resumes were received for the position of director for three Seattle Park Divisions: Planning and Development; Parks; and Recreation. The pool of candidates has been narrowed to seven people. The next step in the interview process is scheduled for April 18 at the Seattle Aquarium where various Parks stakeholders will meet the candidates. All Park Board Commissioners were encouraged to attend to meet the candidates.

Ballard Park Acquisition: This week the City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee approved the acquisition of a 39,000 sq ft property located in Ballard at 7028 9th Northwest, at a cost of \$3 million. The Superintendent thanked Seattle Parks Property & Acquisition Manager, Donald Harris, for his quick work to secure this much-needed park property for in the Ballard area.

Washington Park Arboretum: Park Department, University of Washington, and Arboretum Foundation staff held an initial meeting to discuss fundraising policies for the Arboretum. Meetings will continue over the next three months to develop a solid fundraising policy that all three are in agreement with.

Occidental Park: Center City Parks staff briefed the Pioneer Square Preservation Board on the idea of installing a temporary ice rink in Occidental Park for the winter holiday season. Except for one dissenting opinion, the Preservation Board supported the idea. The next steps in pursuing the idea are to identify the physical requirements and associated costs needed to accommodate the rink and determine the level of support from surrounding businesses and landowners.

Outdoor Recycling Pilot Program Kickoff: April 1 marked the start of Seattle Parks' pilot program for outdoor recycling of glass, plastic, and aluminum at 42 of the Southeast and Southwest parks. Staff assembled, numbered, tagged, and placed the recycling bins in ballfields, picnic areas, and beaches. They will also record the amount of tonnage collected and operational costs to evaluate the program's effectiveness in diverting recyclables from the waste stream.

Code of Conduct Public Hearing: In July the Park Board will hold a public hearing and be asked for a recommendation on new and refined rules for a Seattle parks' code of conduct. The biggest recommended change will be a prohibition of tobacco products in parks, a policy that has been adopted by several other park systems.

Parks Receives Four Awards: Seattle Parks received four awards from the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA): (1) Northgate Community Center Design; (2) Dahl Play Field/Christine Larsen; (3) Clover Leaf/Mariners Legacy Field at Lower Woodland Park; and (4) and the Best Poster for City Hall Park. The WRPA annual conference is scheduled for April 24-27.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. Six people signed up to testify.

Sharon Levine: Ms. Levine spoke about perceived inequities in the Pro Parks Orphan Fund. Her understanding is that the Mayor is directing funds toward his preferred projects, such as Magnuson Park Playfield, Meadowbrook Playfield, and Jefferson Park amenities. Queen Anne Community Council [of which she is a member] had no opportunity to weigh in on how the fund will be used. She believes this is unfair and is advocating for a fair and equitable process.

Laurie Zettler: Ms. Zettler addressed a recent newspaper article that Seattle Public Schools plans to sell Webster Park. This park is very important to the neighborhood and she was surprised to learn of the sale. Little notice was sent from the School District to the community. Her understanding is that SPS is asking more than Seattle Parks has in its budget to buy the property.

Laura Leeman: Ms. Leeman is also concerned about the sale of Webster Park. She lives only a few blocks from the park and didn't receive any notice from SPS about the community meeting. This neighborhood park is well used by the community.

She is also the parent of a special needs child and asked Parks to please keep in mind that not all children are able to use the regular swings and slides installed in most playgrounds. She asked that other sources be looked at for equipment for the special needs children.

Erika Gardner: Ms. Gardner is also concerned about the sale of this park. It is a very important amenity for this neighborhood, which has many small children. The blacktop area is a great asset and children use it to learn to ride bikes and scooters.

[Donald Harris responded to these concerns during the Seattle Public Schools' Surplus Property briefing.]

Nancy Malmgren: Ms. Malmgren distributed a copy of an article in the April 2008 *Sunset Magazine* titled "A walk in the park", which lists Carkeek Park as a great place to walk in Seattle. The article lists Balboa Park in San Diego, William Land Park in Sacramento, and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco as "urban oases." The article describes Carkeek Park as "home to 5 miles of walking trails, legendary views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, and hundreds of spawning salmon each fall. Carkeek is one of Seattle's greenest getaways. Local Secret: Perched above the Piper's Creek Trail is Piper's Orchard, a 120-year-old cache of heirloom apple and nut trees. Stake out a patch of grass for a picnic under the apple blossoms or volunteer your green thumb on the third Saturday of each month." Ms. Malmgren is very pleased with Parks' support of this park.

Ellen Taft: Ms. Taft is very concerned with unleashed dogs at sports events in Seattle's parks. She stated that the sports leagues that schedule the fields are not enforcing the off-leash rules and sometimes it is the coaches themselves who let their dogs run free. In the past when she complained Parks staff gave her phone # to the teams and she was harassed. Her child has been injured by an off-leash dog and she read the unsatisfactory response letter she received from the sports coach. She asked that disciplinary action be taken against DISC Northwest and other sports leagues and that Animal Control do regular raids of the sports events. She asked to meet with Superintendent Gallagher to discuss the problem.

Briefing: Division Director Report, Project & Development Division

Kevin Stoops, Interim Director of Seattle Parks' Project & Development Division, briefed the Board on the Division's first quarter of 2008. Commissioners also received a written briefing prior to the meeting, included below.

Written Briefing

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1ST Q 2008:

In Planning:

- Asset Management Plan
- Wawona HABS documentation
- Lake Union Trail initial work by SDOT on Westlake
- Lake Union Trail consultant selection
- NMF Awards at Seward Park Play Area, SW Pool Fitness Room, etc

In Design

- Northgate Urban Center Park
- Ballard Corner Park
- Capital Hill Parks
- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum (peer review)
- Comfort Station Replacement at Atlantic City and Magnuson
- Leschi Moorage Renovation
- Volunteer Park Conservatory East Wing Renovation
- Jefferson Park-Beacon Reservoir

- Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements*
- Lower Woodland Tennis Court Renovation*
- Japanese Garden Entry Structure
- Southwest Pool HVAC
- Nike Building Demolition
- Lake Union Park Phase 2
- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Improvements
- West Seattle Stadium North Stands Renovation
- Magnolia Community Center Roof, HVAC
- Irrigation Upgrades: EC Hughes, Salmon Bay, Lincoln, etc
- Hiawatha Playfield
- Ballfield Lighting Replacement: Garfield and Interbay
- Ravenna Eckstein Play Area Renovation*
- Lake Washington Boulevard drainage

In Construction

- Georgetown Playfield*
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields
- Magnuson Park Boat Ramp Renovation
- Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections
- Ercolini Park
- Lower Woodland SkatePark
- Freeway Park Piggot Corridor
- Madison Park (NMF)

Completion

- Seward Park Audubon Center
- Volunteer Park Roadway Paving
- Stan Sayres Parking Lot Paving
- Westlake Park Electrical
- Ceasar Chevez Park

Acquisitions

- 12th Avenue Transfer
- Denny Triangle (Letter of Intent)
- Ballard Church Property

Other

- Northgate Community Center: WRPA Spotlight Award!

UPCOMING PROJECT ISSUES/HIGHLIGHTS

- Lake Union Park Phase 1 Opening in April
- Lake Union Park Phase 2 Groundbreaking in April
- Seward Park Audubon Center Opening in April
- Steinbrueck Park Planning (Pike Place Market Levy Project)
- Rainier Beach Property Acquisition and Site Planning
- Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs Planning
- Alki Statue of Liberty Design
- Magnuson Park Wetlands and Athletic Fields Injunction/Legal Challenge

UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION

School-Park Property Issue Review and Recommendation

- Southshore School and Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool
- School Property Dispositions

Park Plan Review and Recommendation

- Capital Hill Parks
- Morgan Junction Park
- Myrtle Reservoir Park
- Northgate Urban Center Park
- Lake Union Trail Master Plan

Policy Review and Recommendation

- Non Park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement

Status Reports/Briefings

- Alaskan Landing Master Plan
- 2009-2014 Asset Management Plan
- SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks
- Freeway Park Renovations
- Arboretum Pacific Connection
- Arboretum Japanese Garden Entry

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Stoops reviewed the information in the written briefing. He last briefed the Park Board on the Division's work in January. Since that briefing, Seattle Parks has re-organized and the Seattle Conservation Corp has been added to the Division.

Commissioner Adams asked about the Department's philosophy of acquiring new park property. Mr. Stoops answered that several years ago the Department prepared a Gap Analysis that shows where park green space is most lacking. In recent years the Pro Parks Levy, with some other grants, has been used to purchase green space properties in Urban Villages that have park deficiencies. A portion of the funds are used to buy hillsides, greenbelts, and stream beds that adjoin existing park property. Commissioner Ramels asked Mr. Stoops to send a copy of the Gap Analysis to the Board, as several of the commissioners joined the Board since the Gap presentation. Mr. Stoops agreed to do so.

Commissioner Barber asked about opportunities to acquire surplus school property. Donald Harris, who was scheduled next to brief the Board on surplus school property, answered that the City is being opportunistic to purchase surplus school property for the parks systems; however, these purchases depend on the available funds. Parks will continue to monitor the list of available property.

Commissioner Holme asked if the Department can accept donations from the public for Seattle Conservation Corp to buy nursery stock to plant in the parks. He believes this would be less expensive than the public purchasing a tree through Seattle Park Foundation to plant in a park. Commissioner Larsen, the Board's representative to the Seattle Park Foundation Board, noted that the Foundation's cost includes several years of maintenance for the memorial trees. Commissioner Holme clarified that he was thinking of informal mass plantings of native trees in greenbelts where a high number of trees might be required. Mr. Stoops will check on this suggestion and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Holme asked about the Department's comfort station major maintenance cycle. Mr. Stoops noted that the maintenance is always behind on the comfort stations, as there are 100+ of them and the Department

only has funds to do two a year. Commissioner Holmes encourages Parks to do more than two annually, as the public really notices the condition of the parks' restrooms.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Stoops for this quarterly update.

Briefing: Seattle Public Schools' Surplus Property

Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property & Acquisition Manager, presented a briefing on Seattle Public Schools' surplus property, some of which the Department is interested in acquiring for the park system. Mr. Harris prepared a written briefing, which was sent to the Commissioners prior to tonight's meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This is a briefing to provide information to the Board.

Project Description and Background

Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Seattle Public School District (SSD) have been cooperating on the use of property for at least 75 years, dating back to the Cascade Playground – School Resolution of 1934. Many, if not most, of the property agreements currently in place support School/Park joint use and operations. Others are in support of capital development programs of either Parks and Recreation or Seattle Schools.

We currently have in place 35 property agreements, leases or other land use arrangements, described in Attachment 1 to this briefing paper. Priorities for the issues being dealt with at any particular time are adjusted to respond to city wide priorities such as the city commitment to support the School District's Building Excellence Programs or our Pro Parks Levy program.

Surplus School Properties

An important point to be aware of is that SSD is obligated to obtain fair market value for any property surplus, for the benefit of public education. The city is currently dealing with five schools sites that have been declared surplus by the Seattle School District:

SCHOOL	MASTER TENANT	NEIGHBORHOOD
Allen	Phinney Neighborhood Association (PNA)	Phinney Ridge
Crown Hill	Small Faces Child Development Center	Crown Hill
Fauntleroy	Fauntleroy Children's Center	Fauntleroy
University Heights	University Heights Center for the Community	University District
Webster	Nordic Heritage Museum	Sunset Hill/Ballard

The Department is actively involved in discussions (although the Department of Finance is in the lead or is allowing existing non-profit school tenants to take the lead) about some aspect of three of those sites: Crown Hill, Webster and University Heights, as they would meet an unmet need for park space. We already have a park at Webster with 17 years left on the lease.

Additionally the School District has indicated that Martin Luther King, Jr. School is or will be surplus soon, and we have not yet determined whether or not we may have a role in the reuse of that site. There is a meeting with Bush School later in April to discuss this from their perspective.

There were several bills in the State legislature that may have been helpful in funding the conversion of surplus school properties to community uses, including park space. While the bills went nowhere, the State's capital budget includes \$4.5 million for the five sites listed above, plus Martin Luther King, Jr. School and Lincoln High School (which has not been surplus – yet). Currently identified funding from the City budget is as follows:

- \$2.5m Allen (Phinney Neighborhood Association) – not a Parks issue
- \$2.5m University Heights – in addition Parks has set aside approximately \$1 million in Pro Parks Opportunity Funds and \$1.35 million in King County Conservation Futures Tax has been allocated to this acquisition
- \$1m Crown Hill – in addition Parks has \$1 million+ in Pro Parks Levy Neighborhood Park development funds (which the Levy Oversight Committee has recommended by used for acquisition, if needed)
- \$1m Fautleroy – not a Parks issue
- \$1m Webster

The SSD's intent is to hold public hearings on these sites in the near future and hopes at a minimum to have letters of agreement or option agreements signed on all of the properties by summer.

Issues and Challenges

Some of the on-going issues and challenges in Parks/Seattle School District relationships:

- Many outdated, inadequate (i.e., lacking sufficient detail), or no longer relevant agreements or leases;
- Lack of adequate staff capacity in both Parks and SSD to update agreements or address problems before they become urgent;
- Structures or ground facilities that straddle property lines complicate permitting processes;
- Aging, shared mechanical systems requiring major repair or replacement;
- Determination of fair allocation of operation and maintenance costs;
- Lack of early notification from SSD of District's plans to re-develop school buildings that contain park facilities or are adjacent to parks; and
- Lack of early notification from SSD of District's plans to surplus properties.

Attachment 1

1. Alki Community Center/Alki Elementary School

Jointly constructed school and community center facilities with shared gymnasium; community center wing on park property, gym on school property; school portable and parking on Park property.

2. Ballard Pool/Ballard High School

Shared entrance and use of parking lot.

3. (OLD) Bitter Lake Community Center/Broadview Thomson School

Jointly constructed school and community center facilities with shared gymnasium on school property.

4. Brighton Playfield/Aki Kurose School

By recent Lot Boundary Adjustment, Parks traded park land that school building had occupied since 1950 under 99-year lease to District. Playfield is school's only recreation area.

5. Cedar Park

25-year lease (1999-2024) from District for school grounds (building leased to others).

6. Cleveland Playfield/Cleveland High School

7. **Coe Play Park/Coe Elementary**
Parks facility on District property under a 40 year lease (1982 – 2022)
8. **B.F. Day Playground/B.F. Day School**
Northerly portion of school property is hardscaped play area, improved and maintained by Parks; school turf play area is Park property.
9. **Dearborn Park/Dearborn Elementary**
Approx 2 acres of school property leased to Parks (portion of open space grass area and tennis courts); 40 year lease (1983 – 2023)
10. **(OLD) Garfield Community Center/Garfield High School**
Old community center built as a wing of school, straddling property line, now demolished; Lot Boundary Adjustment pending. District is providing a newly constructed Garfield Teen Center as part of its remodeling of Garfield High School. New facility is slated for availability in the fall of 2008.
11. **Hiawatha Playfield/West Seattle High School**
School bus roadway and loading area on Park property; school uses adjacent playfield.
12. **High Point Playfield/High Point Elementary School**
North 1/3 of Parks soccer field on District property with a 40 year lease (1978 – 2018)
13. **Hutchinson Playground/Emerson Elementary School**
School remodeled in approximately 1999, built steps and amphitheatre on Park property; playground is school's primary outdoor play area
14. **Interbay Playfield**
Portion of Parks soccer field on District property with a 99 year lease (1940 – 2039). The underlying fee interest in this property is to be conveyed to City as partial compensation for land needed by the District at Garfield High School
15. **Judkins Park/Washington Middle School**
Portion of park on District property with a 40 year lease (1975 – 2015)
16. **Laurelhurst Recreation Center**
Jointly constructed and maintained school and community gymnasium (across major arterial from Laurelhurst Playfield); Agreement for Construction of Gymnasium, 1950
17. **Lawton Park/Lawton Elementary School**
Joint use and maintenance of adjoining District and Parks property with playfield facility to be operated by Parks (agreement, 1955)
18. **Helene Madison Pool/Ingraham High School**
District and Parks trade use of properties under 1958 Agreement; wooded area of school property is maintained by Parks; Ingraham HS parking lot is on Parks property. District is currently planning to upgrade parking lot on park property.
19. **Magnolia Playfield**
District and Parks swap use of adjacent property through reciprocal 99 year lease agreements (1952 – 2051)

20. **Magnolia Community Center/Blaine Middle School**
Jointly constructed school and community center facilities with shared gymnasium on City property with a 99 year lease to the District (1952 – 2051)
21. **Magnolia Mounger Pool**
Pool is located on Park property under lease to District, back under Parks control via an expired Temporary Construction and Occupancy Agreement (1997)
22. **Maple Wood Playfield/Maplewood Elementary School**
Easement over south ½ (25 feet) of vacated S. Ferdinand Street granted by District to City in 1975 for road access to freeway and water main purposes; Parks maintains easement area as part of Maple Wood Playfield.
23. **(OLD) Meadowbrook Community Center / Meadowbrook Teen Life Center/ Nathan Hale High School**
Jointly constructed and maintained school and community center with shared gymnasium; facility sited on both City and District property; Agreement for Joint Construction/Use, 1963.
24. **(OLD) Miller Community Center/Miller Playfield/Meany Middle School**
Jointly constructed school and community center facilities with shared gymnasium (Agreement for Joint Construction/Use, 1963); District’s only outdoor recreation area is Park property; school uses Park property for staff parking
25. **T.T. Minor Play Area/T.T. Minor Elementary School**
Parks facility on District property; shared use children’s play area adjacent to the school (40 year lease: 2000– 2040)
26. **Nathan Hale Soccer Field/Nathan Hale High School**
Parks facility leased from the District to construct shared use soccer field (40 year lease, 1982 – 2022).
27. **West Queen Anne Playfield / Queen Anne Community Center/McClure Middle School**
School use of Community Center [then Fieldhouse] since approx 1964.
28. **Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool /South Shore School**
Jointly constructed and maintained school and community center facilities with shared gymnasium on combination of City and District property (1971); major alterations underway. Most of Southshore School has been demolished and District is about to begin replacement reconstruction.
29. **Ross Playground**
Southern portion of Parks playground on District property under a 99 year lease (1940 – 2039).
30. **Roxhill Playground/Roxhill Elementary School**
Parks playground constructed for shared use with the school on District property (99 year lease, 1960 – 2059).
31. **Southwest Community Center and Pool /Denny and Chief Sealth schools**
Lease from District to Parks for parking lots and circulation purposes; 11-year lease 2004 – 2015; thereafter lease requires City payment of Fair Market Value rent to District, estimated 2015 to be approx \$28K per month; appraisal required.
32. **Wallingford Playground/Hamilton Middle School**

Recent request for Lot Boundary Adjustment and exchange was denied by City Council.

33. Webster Park / Webster School building

School grounds leased to Parks; 25 years (1995 – 2020); no longer used as school; leased to Nordic Heritage Museum. District has asked for City to buy park area.

34. Wedgwood Elementary School

District lease to Parks for placement of portable building for use by Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center Advisory Council; 10-year lease (April 1998 to April 2008).

35. (OLD) York Playground (34th Ave S and S Hinds St) /Muir Elementary School

City park land, approx 95' X 368' "transferred" to District for school playground (1936); no deed.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Donald Harris introduced two other staff from Property & Acquisition: Terry Dunning, Manager of Major Transactions, and Marylou Whiteford, Senior Property Agent, and stated that the two of them do incredible work in acquiring property for parks and managing the 35 property agreements, leases or other land use arrangements that Parks has with Seattle Public Schools.

Mr. Harris next addressed the sale of Webster playfield. Seattle Parks has \$1 million in its budget to preserve Webster as a park. There is no question that Seattle Parks will successfully purchase this community-generated park and Mayor Nickels supports this purchase. The park is located at 30th and 67th NW in the Ballard area, just west of and adjacent to the Nordic Heritage Museum. For more information on the park, see http://cityofseattle.net/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=3894. Commissioner Ramels noted that the Ballard Tribune newspaper had a recent story on the sale of the park.

Commissioner Holme stated that he had just attended a meeting at Interbay where the agreement was discussed. He referred to the surplus of Martin Luther King Elementary, closed in 2006. He has heard that Bush School, located next door to the elementary school, has suggested it partner with Seattle Parks on the property.

Commissioner Holme asked if Seattle Public Schools is putting any pressure on Parks to quickly purchase the surplus property that the Department is looking to purchase. Mr. Harris answered that SPS wants a reasonably firm agreement, but is not requiring immediate payment.

Commissioner Barber commented that he is interested in the potential of the Martin Luther King School Elementary property. Could it be used to house some of the uses of the Museum of History and Industry [located near the north end of the Arboretum and which may be demolished when SR520 is rebuilt?] Mr. Harris stated that this is a great idea. Commissioner Ramels asked if the school's drainage problems remain and Mr. Harris noted that the property cannot be used as a drain field.

Mr. Harris next gave a brief summary of the agreements listed above in Attachment #1. Commissioner Ramels asked why neighbors didn't receive better notification of the public meeting on the sale of Webster Park. Mr. Harris answered that the SPS property team, which scheduled the meeting, is very understaffed.

Commissioner Kostka noted that for future briefings to the Board, it would be helpful to have a status report on the properties referred to in the agreements. Mr. Harris commented that his staff manages

the real estate aspect of 6,000+ acres of park land. Many of the agreements needs to be re-written and his staff do this as the properties undergo capital projects. He and his staff will come back to the Board in the future with another update. Commissioner Ramels remarked that Seattle Parks is fortunate to have such a strong property management unit and Superintendent Gallagher agreed.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Harris and his staff for the briefing.

Briefing: Seattle Public School's Joint Use Agreement with Seattle Parks

Dennis Cook, Seattle Parks' Senior Recreation Programs Coordinator, presented a briefing on the Department's joint use agreement with Seattle Public Schools. Mr. Cook prepared a written briefing, which was sent to the Commissioners prior to tonight's meeting.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This is an informational briefing on the Seattle Public School and Parks and Recreation's Joint Use Agreement.

Project Description and Background

Since the 1920's, the Seattle School District and Seattle Parks and Recreation have pooled their resources to meet continuous youth and community demands for more developmental and recreational opportunities. Over one third of Seattle's 95 five public schools adjoin Parks' land or facilities. The Seattle School District and Seattle Parks and Recreation have cooperated in planning and jointly using these separately-owned facilities and grounds for the benefit of students and community members.

While the supply has never quite matched the demand, the District/Parks partnership has effectively maximized the use of their respective facilities to meet community and student needs, beyond what either could do alone. In addition to creating more opportunities for their respective constituent groups, sharing facilities has led to greater efficiencies in cost and operations.

Purpose of the Agreement

The Joint Use Agreement lists the purposes of working together:

- A. Effectively and efficiently manage use of District and Parks facilities and grounds for the benefit of Seattle's youth and citizens;
- B. Encourage joint use of their respective facilities and grounds and give priority usage, after the owning agency's programming and/or on-going community obligations are met, to the requests submitted by the other agency;
- C. Provide facilities and grounds usable for District and Parks programs;
- D. Establish procedures to encourage cooperative working relationships between District and Parks personnel at all levels and to quickly resolve issues;
- E. Encourage joint and cooperative ventures, including facility maintenance and development;
- F. Equitably distribute the time and cost of the use of facilities and grounds; and
- G. Regularly report the outcomes of joint use to District and City personnel, elected officials and Seattle citizens.

Issues

The Joint Use Agreement is working well, especially in light of the magnitude of the two organizations. Our biggest challenge is to continue to work on the lines of communication between Parks and the School District.

- **Citizen Concern/Opposition:** Open access to the athletic field complexes and restrooms has been a major issue with the community field users. The School District secures their fields and restrooms when not scheduled.

Schedule

The current Joint Use Agreement expires in 2010. The renewal process starts in winter 2009.

Additional Information: The Joint Use Agreement is located on the Parks and Recreation website and the Seattle School District website at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/JointUse.htm> and <http://seattleschools.org>. For more information, contact Dennis Cook at dennis.cook@seattle.gov.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Cook reviewed information in the written briefing. He works with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) staff to jointly schedule use of school and park fields, gymnasiums, and swim pools.

Mr. Cook stated that, prior to the 2005 joint use agreement, there were some issues between the two agencies. However, staff from both work together for good solutions. Now, he hears comments from other cities on the cooperative relationship between SPS and Parks. Commissioner Kostka asked if the new superintendents of Seattle Public Schools and Seattle Parks have met. Superintendent Gallagher answered that they have. He added that he has worked for several other park systems and this is one of the best working relationships between parks and schools that he has observed. Commissioner Ramels commented that it is very helpful to the Commissioners to hear that perspective.

Mr. Cook commented that most of the problems now are minor ones. A few of the elementary principals believe that their programs override the joint use agreement. Parks sent a written reminder to one principal within the last 30 days. Commissioner Holme noted that SPS staff change frequently and it is a constant challenge to educate the staff at so many schools on the agreement. He asked how the maintenance is performed at the sites and Mr. Cook answered that SPS staff maintain their own fields and do a really good job.

Commissioner Ramels understands that the strength of the agreement rests on how each school observes the agreement. Mr. Cook answered that this is a good observation. He meets with each school principal on a one-to-one basis to discuss the agreement and he invites himself to other meetings to keep in touch with the principals. He believes they are a team and should work together.

Commissioner Holme asked about the cash flow from fees paid by users of the School's property. Mr. Cook answered that all the fees go to SPS, which then pays Seattle Parks for the cost of its scheduling staff. The schools use the property during the school hours and then Parks use their facilities during non-school hours. Commissioner Holme asked if rates for adults are higher at SPS sites and Mr. Cook agreed. Youth fees are the same amount.

Commissioner Larsen suggested the use of volunteers to help with field maintenance at the schools. University Prep has an amazing volunteer who scrapes the fields, etc., and has donated thousands and thousands of volunteer hours to the school.

Commissioner Adams noted that the Board has heard several mentions of Parks taking “hits” for problems at SPS facilities that Parks didn’t cause, such as school staff locking gates when Parks had scheduled events. Mr. Cook answered that he is working as closely as possible with school staff to ensure problems like this don’t happen again. Turnstiles have been installed to replace the locking gates.

Commissioner Barber asked what triggers a joint use agreement and there was a brief discussion about this. Commissioner Holme noted that some schools have both a land use agreement and a joint use agreement with Seattle Parks.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Cook for the informative briefing.

Old/New Business

City Council Considering New Parks Levy:

Earlier in the day, Commissioners were e-mailed the results of City Council’s survey on citizen support for a new parks levy. Superintendent Gallagher gave more information on the survey. Mayor Nickels has proposed a levy to fund needed improvements at Pike Market and Victor Steinbrueck Park.

Commissioner Adams stated that he has been asked to be on a citizen group to give City Council feedback and help determine the feasibility of a parks levy and he has agreed to do so. He believes there will be 20 members and it will be similar to the citizen’s committee that helped develop the first parks levy. Commissioner Ramels was a member of the first committee. Commissioner Adams will give regular updates to the Board on the committee’s work.

Cameras in Downtown Parks: Commissioner Holme asked if the City is considering adding additional cameras to downtown parks and the Superintendent agreed that it is.

Healthy Parks Initiative: As part of the Department’s Healthy Parks Initiative, Superintendent Gallagher stated that consideration is being given to additional vehicle-free events on Lake Washington Boulevard. And he has approached the Mayor’s office about a proposal to ban smoking from Seattle’s Parks, beginning with the athletic fields where youth are frequently present. The Mayors office is very interested in this proposal, which has been adopted at some parks in California.

Follow up for Tonight’s Citizen Testimony: Commissioners asked for additional information and follow up on the off-leash and Pro Park Levy opportunity fund at the April 24 meeting.

Code of Conduct: Commissioner Kostka asked if the Parks Code of Conduct will include language that “no soliciting for money” would be included in the code and the Superintendent answered that it would be included. The Board will hold a public hearing on the Code of Conduct at its July 10 meeting.

APPROVED: _____
Amit Ranade, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____