

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2012

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Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Antoinette Angulo
John Barber
Jourdan Keith, Vice-chair
Diana Kincaid, Chair
Yazmin Mehdi

Excused:

Megan Heahlke
Brice Maryman
Barbara Wright

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters, 100 Dexter Avenue North. Chair Diana Kincaid called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed members of the audience, and reviewed the meeting agenda. An ad hoc committee of the Park Board held a public hearing at its May 10 meeting on Non-Tennis Activity on Tennis Courts Pilot Project. Tonight the Board will discuss and vote on the motion and the Chair asked the agenda be revised to hold this discussion following the Superintendent's report. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the meeting agenda, as revised, and the acknowledgment of correspondence. There were no minutes to approve. Commissioner Angulo seconded. The vote was taken and unanimous in favor. Motion carried.**

Superintendent's Report

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following:

Parks Preservation Work Group: The final meeting took place on Friday, May 18, for the Parks Preservation Work Group. Parks staff prepared a draft summary letter to the Mayor and Councilmember Bagshaw that identifies options for consideration and highlights potential revenue ideas. Parks is incorporating the work group's comments and suggestions into the document and anticipate sending it on to the Mayor and Councilmember Bagshaw by the end of next week. Commissioners had further discussion during Old/New Business.

Seattle Parks Going Brown: The Parks Department will pilot a water use reduction program at 61 of its parks this summer. The media had a number of articles on the pilot. Parks will monitor the pilot over the summer and hopes to save \$350,000 annually. A new computerized irrigation system, controlled by sensors, has been

installed at landscape architect Karen Galt's work station. Responding to a question whether the selected parks were based on their water usage and whether the locations are spread evenly around the City, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered yes to both. Parks staff will send a list of the parks to Commissioners.

2013 Budget: The 2013 budget process is well under way. Parks submitted over 60 budget information papers (BIPs) to the City Budget Office. For more information on the City's budget process, see <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/>. Responding to a question from Commissioner Mehdi whether the BIPs may be shared with the Commissioners, Mr. Friedli responded not at this time. Once departments submit their proposed budget to the mayor, they are under a "cone of silence" until the mayor submits his proposed budget in late September.

Arboretum/SR 520: Commissioner Barber referred to a strip of land adjacent to the Arboretum that may be turned over to the City as part of the SR 520 widening mitigation and asked for a status report. Mr. Friedli will check on this and provide an update.

Youth Employment: Seattle Parks has several programs to employ youth: Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) employs student teens and has 60 positions; 163 applications were received. The Youth Employment Services (YES) has 63 positions and received 93 applications. The Summer of Service program has 180 positions and received 283 applications.

Teen Programming AmeriCorps: The Notre Dame AmeriCorps program will send two volunteers to Seattle Parks' teen programming for the school year 2012-2013. The Notre Dame AmeriCorps program was impressed by Park staff's commitment to provide support and creative outlets for the most underserved of Seattle youth, and its strong history of supporting and utilizing AmeriCorps members. The Youth & Teen Job Readiness program has been granted 10 Vista volunteers and 24 AmeriCorps volunteers for summer 2012. All summer staff will start work on June 18, assuming that all background checks are completed in a timely manner.

Trust for Public Lands: In a recent report released by Trust for Public Lands (TPL), Seattle's park system was ranked #9 in the nation. The rating was based on park use, size, and park acreage. In Seattle, 90% of the residents live within one mile of a park.

Opening Weekend at Mounger Pool: The pool brought in \$9,752.93 in revenue, more than twice the amount of revenue from opening weekend in 2011. The 2012 season also kicked off Mounger Pool's contract with "Simply Soulful", a concession site selling hot and cold beverage, ice cream, fresh fruit, healthy snacks, and much more. Parks is hopeful this will better serve the many customers who come to enjoy the facility.

North Passage Point Park Dedication: The dedication for the tugboat propeller, now an "industrial sculpture", took place on Sunday, May 20. Parks worked with the community to fabricate and install the propeller to honor the legacy of the Seattle-Alaska maritime industry.

Pier 57 Ramp Removed: The deteriorated orange ramp at Pier 57, which remained after its twin at Pier 58 was torn down several years ago, is now gone. Manson Construction began demolition on May 8.

Bell Street Park: This project converts one traffic lane and reconfigures parking to create a park-like corridor through the heart of Belltown. On May 4 staff submitted to Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) the required 90% Street Improvement Permit (SIP) documentation and SDOT scheduled its review meeting for June 4. Additionally, Seattle Parks and Recreation, along with other City agencies, have successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement that spells out the responsibilities of each agency for the long term maintenance of Bell Street Park. Construction will begin in late fall 2012 with completion at the end of summer 2013.

East James Court Woonerf: This project consists of the 12th Ave and E James Court Pro Park development project and a community-initiated project that was selected to receive funding through the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund. The new pedestrian-friendly park will be created within the street right-of-way

in conjunction with the park project. The site is just east of Seattle University. On May 10, staff and the project design consultant participated in the SDOT 60% Street Improvement Permit design guidance review meeting. Once the written meeting comments are sent to staff, the project consultant will begin working on the 90% SIP documentation.

Washington Park Playfield: Construction has started at Washington Park Playfield. The project will replace the old lights, replace the dirt field with turf, and make general site improvements. The renovated field is expected to open in September 2012. This project is funded by the Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

14th Avenue NW Park: Traffic consultant Fehr and Peers completed the supplemental parking memo for the four block area parking study. The memo supported and substantiated the initial parking memo completed in January. The approved schematic design, based on the revised 25 mph speed limit, will eliminate 89 parking spaces from the study area leaving an average of 311 open parking spaces. The project converts two full blocks of 14th Avenue NW to a new park between NW 59th and NW 61st streets, with transitions lanes to the park from the north and south.

Hubbard Homestead Park: Some plantings and trees in this park were not thriving and Seattle Parks conferred with the design consultant. It was agreed the best course of action for the failing trees would be to remove them and replace with other trees and plantings. This work has begun and drainage modifications will begin in early June.

Belltown Community Center: Construction is under way on this new community center. Major changes in the building, located at 415 Bell Street, will become more evident in the coming weeks. The plaster covering the exterior of the building will be removed during the next 2-3 weeks revealing the building's natural brick finish. Interior changes, such as seismic reinforcement, are already underway. The new facility will have a large community gathering/activity room along with two smaller activity rooms for classes and other small gatherings. Look for an opening of the new center in August of this year.

University Heights Open Space Improvements/University Heights South Lot Park: University Heights Community Center (UHCC) and the Parks design team met to kick off the design development and construction document phase. The refinements of the schematic design were discussed and some compromises were made in the design vision. The Parks team agreed to omit the mid-block entrance, which will make the design simpler, with a slight cost savings, and will allow more space for market stalls. Some of the park elements may also be rotated to allow more market or event space. UHCC is now reporting the park space still may not be adequate for use by the University Farmers Market because that market has so many unique stall configurations. The ideal space for the market is a flat parking lot. Design completion is targeted for the end of 2012.

Crown Hill Park: The opening celebration for this Parks and Green Spaces Levy development project was a success. Construction fencing has been removed from the north end of the site while fencing remains around the ballfield for turf establishment. The park features an open lawn area, picnic area, a skateboard mini-ramp, artistic play features, good pathway circulation, new landscaping, and a renovated ballfield.

Greenwood-Phinney Neighborhood Park Acquisition: The purchase of a 9,089 sq. ft. (.21-acre) property, located north of the Greenwood Library at North 81st Street and Greenwood Avenue North, was finalized on May 8. This acquisition (to be developed when monies to do so are identified) will fill a service gap in the Greenwood-Phinney Residential Urban Village. In the meantime, Parks will be the landlord to three small businesses — Quick Stop mini-mart, Manna Teriyaki Burger, and Aloha Ramen Noodle. Funding for this acquisition was provided by the 2008 Parks Levy and a 2011 King County Conservation futures grant.

Opportunity Fund Technical Workshops: Parks staff have launched the second round of the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund Public Process, with proposal letters due June 11. Up to \$8 million is available for allocation for community-initiated development or acquisition projects through a citywide nomination

process. The on-line proposal letter can be accessed through the Opportunity Fund webpage at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/levy/opportunity.htm>. Parks staff have hosted three public meetings over the last month and are now using social media to get the word out about the application deadline information.

Magnuson Tenant/Partner Meeting: On May 10, staff coordinated a Magnuson tenant/partner meeting. The agenda covered park security, a Strategic Development Plan update, project updates including the construction of the tennis courts, renovation of Building 30, shore and wetlands restoration, the Seattle Public Utility project, and Solid Ground's next housing addition. Summer camp information was exchanged, as well as other news from various organizations.

Purple Prom: Born This Way Kafé, a program that actively reaches out to and supports Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transsexual/Queer (LGBYQ) teens hosted the Purple Prom last weekend at Miller Community Center. The Purple Prom is an event for queer youth of color, all queer youth, friends, and allies, ages up to 20 years old.

International Migratory Bird Day: International Migratory Bird Day and the dedication of the Shore Ponds took place at Magnuson Park on Saturday, May 12. Over 300 people attended the event sponsored by Parks, Earth Corps, Seattle Audubon Society, and Magnuson Environmental Alliance. The event activities included a tour of shore ponds, nature walks, wildlife, and habitat presentations, and fun urban nature sessions for kids.

Virgil Flaim Park: In response to community concerns, North Park Resources Manager and the Northeast Crew Chief met with Seattle Police Department staff and approximately 50 neighbors of Virgil Flaim Park. Issues included homelessness, crime prevention, and sight lines into the park. Outcomes included: districts gardeners limbed and pruned several trees to prevent gathering and storage under trees and citizens were urged to call 911 and report all suspicious behavior and abandoned vehicles.

Friends of BMX: The North Park Resources manager and volunteer coordinator facilitated a meeting with friends of BMX at Lower Woodland. This productive meeting was the first step in creating an agreement with the community on organized use of this site. The partnership will move forward using best management practices and retaining the original site with an eye towards using the Neighborhood Matching Fund process to make future improvements.

Recycling: Recycle cans were placed at picnic shelters, play areas, boat ramps, and athletic fields in Magnuson Park and Northeast District Parks and all are being monitored for usage.

Green Lake Jamboree: During the week of April 17-19, North Central District hosted a "Jamboree" at Green Lake Park. Staff from shops, Natural Resources Unit, and the four north operations districts participated in prepping Green Lake Park for the summer. Over 80 staff spread 200 tons of rock on the outer path and 300 yards of mulch on tree groves. Other accomplishments include shrub bed maintenance, turf installation, drainage improvements, tree canopy pruning, painting, and installing cobblestones to turn shrub beds into sidewalks.

Van Asselt Community Center Wireless: Van Asselt Community Center recently started offering one of the few free wireless internet options in southeast Seattle, with five work stations. Teen visits to the community center have already increased, as they are using the resource to complete homework assignments. Many of the teens do not have computer access at home.

Bicycle Sunday Continues: Bicycle Sundays began on May 6 on Lake Washington Boulevard, with the roadway closed to motorized traffic from south of Mount Baker Beach to Seward Park, 10 am-6 pm. For the full schedule, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/bicyclesunday/>. On Saturday, May 12, Bike Works held its annual Bike Swap event and served 300 families at Rainier Community Center.

David Rodgers Park: Commissioner Barber referred to a recent news story that land adjacent to David Rodgers Park, which includes tennis courts, is being sold. He recommends the Parks Levy Oversight Committee try to acquire the property. Mr. Friedli responded the property belongs to Seattle Pacific University and has been offered at \$9-10 million. Parks isn't interested in purchasing the land, as the Department has tennis courts just across the streets. However, it is interested in ADA access at the land being sold.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained 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 two-to-three minutes each, will be timed, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. The Board's usual process is for 10 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Old/New Business. No one testified.

Alternate Use of Tennis Courts

At its May 10 meeting, a three-member, ad hoc committee of the Board heard a staff briefing, held a public hearing, and made a recommendation for the full Board's consideration at the May 24 meeting. Prior to that meeting, the ad hoc committee received a briefing paper including background information on the 18-month pilot at Cal Anderson and Judkins Parks.

Prior to tonight's discussion, Commissioners received a written briefing paper from Susan Golub, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, included in these minutes and available to the public on the Board's web page.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

An ad hoc committee of the Board recommended continuation of the pilot project regarding alternate use of tennis courts. The full Board is asked to concur with the ad hoc committee's recommendation:

Make permanent the pilot use of Tennis Court #1 at Cal Anderson Park and the tennis courts at Judkins Park for multiple alternate sports, including but not limited to dodgeball, bike polo, futsal, electric model car racing, in-line skating and tennis without nets.

Background

At the October 28, 2010, Park Board Meeting, the Park Board approved an 18 month Dodgeball/Bike Polo pilot program to be held at Bobby Morris Tennis Court #1 and Judkins Tennis Court, ending April 30, 2012. An ad hoc committee of the Board met Thursday, May 10 to consider the pilot. The meeting included a briefing by staff, a public hearing and the Board's discussion and recommendation. Fourteen people spoke during the public hearing: twelve spoke in favor of alternate use of tennis courts and two spoke against alternate use at the Judkins courts. Several of the speakers in favor of alternate use represented sports other than dodgeball and bike polo: futsal (hard court soccer), electric model car racing and in-line skating all requested time on tennis courts.

Based on both the public hearing testimony and written testimony, the Board concluded that the pilot should be made permanent, with the alternate uses expanded beyond dodgeball and bike polo. The question of whether tennis could be one of the alternate uses was raised but not specifically discussed. Because the alternate uses require removal of the tennis net, tennis *with* a net would not be possible. Parks athletic staff will work with the alternate use groups regarding scheduling time on the courts. It was noted by several speakers that shared use by bike polo and dodgeball at Cal Anderson has worked very well.

Also, a citizen requested Parks research possible restrictions tied to the initial development of Judkins Park to assess whether there was a requirement that the tennis courts stay in tennis use. The tennis courts are built within an "Air Space Lease" area owned by the State of Washington. The lease states:

No use other than the maintenance and operation of Premises for active recreation purposes including but not limited to tennis courts, sports fields, playgrounds, basketball courts, picnic tables and benches, art works, viewpoints and other similar uses or for the fenced screening of Tract 37 shall be permitted without the prior written approval of WSDOT.

All of the uses listed in the Board's recommendation are active recreation, so would be permitted by the State without requiring prior written approval.

Additional Information

Susan Golub: susan.golub@seattle.gov
684-7046

Discussion

Susan Golub, Seattle Parks Strategic Advisor, introduced herself and gave a brief summary of information in the written briefing paper. The Park Board held a public hearing 18 months ago and at the Board's May 10, 2012, meeting an ad hoc committee consisting of Commissioners Barber, Heahlke, and Maryman held a public hearing and voted on a recommendation to be brought to the full Board. Tonight the Board will consider the recommendation.

Commissioner Barber stated he has been troubled since the ad hoc committee meeting as to whether notices of the public hearing were sent to all the neighbors of Judkins Park. He reviewed the Department's public involvement policy and it calls for such notification whenever there is a change of use at a facility. One way to do so is to send notice to all neighbors who live within a 300' radius of the park. Ms. Golub responded that a large sign had been posted at the tennis courts for 18 months explaining the pilot. During those 18 months, the Department received four complaints. At the May 10 public hearing, 14 testified in favor of the alternate uses and 2 against. At the first public hearing, held in fall of 2010, the Department heard from many others. As a rule, staff distribute notices to park neighbors within the 300' radius for major projects, and not for a change of use at a park. Commissioner Barber doesn't think a notice at the tennis courts was a good way to let neighbors know of the potential permanent change of use.

Commissioner Mehdi asked how many other tennis courts are in the area. Ms. Golub answered there are many within walking distance, plus there are six outdoor courts at the nearby Amy Yee tennis center, which also includes indoor courts. Responding to a question from Commissioner Mehdi regarding the removal of nets, Ms. Golub stated that staff removed the nets during the pilot for the two sports of bike polo and dodge ball. The Department has now heard from other emerging sports that they, too, would like to use the courts.

Commissioner Barber stated the ad hoc committee's recommendation supports the alternative use of these courts; however, he thinks the park neighbors should have been better informed. He suggested extending the pilot for four additional months to give the neighbors more opportunity to submit testimony.

Commissioner Mehdi disagreed and recommends the proposal to make the alternate uses permanent move ahead. She believes the Department has followed its regular notification practice. The park neighbors haven't complained during the 18-month pilot, so why should the pilot be extended. Her experience is that public hearings aren't always a clear gage of the neighborhood's sentiment. Do not set a precedent of extending pilots.

Commissioner Keith acknowledged this is a significant change; however, she is comfortable moving forward with the motion. Commissioner Angulo supports the recommendation, while acknowledging Commissioner Barber's concern.

Commissioner Keith moved the Board recommend approval of the motion to **Make permanent the pilot use of Tennis Court #1 at Cal Anderson Park and the tennis courts at Judkins Park for multiple alternate sports, including but not limited to dodgeball, bike polo, futsal, electric model car**

racings, in-line skating and tennis without nets. Commissioner Angulo seconded. The vote was taken and unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

The Board is advisory to Acting Superintendent Williams, who will make the final decision. Commissioner Kincaid asked that Parks staff schedule a briefing to the Board on its public notification policy. Mr. Friedli agreed to this request.

Briefing/Public Hearing/Discussion: Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan

At its March 22, 2012, meeting Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks Department Partnership Unit and Magnuson Park Manager, presented an update briefing on the Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan. To hear the full presentation and Powerpoint and hear the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=6106> and move cursor to position 32.45.

At this meeting, Ms. Salinas presented another update and asked the Board to consider a recommendation on the Plan. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a number of documents, including a written briefing paper, included below. Three additional documents — updated timeline, comment form, and draft Strategic Development Plan — were also distributed to Commissioners.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

Staff would like the Board's input on the second draft of the Strategic Plan, with particular emphasis on the priorities, which have been refined since the first draft. The Parks Department will not be seeking a resolution from City Council on the plan; therefore they will be requesting a recommendation from the Board to the Superintendent in June.

Project or Policy Description and Background

Parks is nearing completion of a final draft of a Strategic Development Plan that reconfirms the vision of the park as a regional urban park, and provides direction for future park development, programming and near-term actions for building in the Sand Point Historic District.

There is an estimated \$60 million in unfunded capital improvements and major maintenance needing completion in order to continue implementation of the legislated development plans and support positive evolution of the park. Through the Strategic planning process, a Working Group, comprised of City staff and external stakeholders have selected the capital improvements and major maintenance needs on which, they believe, the City should focus over the next few years. Priorities fall under four categories: **Buildings, Land, Infrastructure, and Program/Events**. These prioritized capital improvements and programs will require funding and resources to implement. Exploring grants and other potential funding sources, as well as expanding current partnerships and finding new partners will be critical.

Public Involvement Process

Because public input has been critical to the park's successful development, and it is important that the park attract regional users, Parks felt it was extremely important to ensure a transparent planning process that engaged as many people as possible. All planning documents are posted on the Parks' Warren G. Magnuson website for public review. We have received comments electronically and written from over 100 interested individuals. In addition, there have been two well-attended public meetings. Tonight's meeting will also provide an opportunity for input from the public on the second draft.

Advisory Group Process and Priorities

The Working Group divided into four subgroups to deliberate on priorities for Buildings, Land, Infrastructure, and Programming. These subgroups considered priorities identified from the public meetings and comment forms. However, they did not want to base their decisions solely on the number of "votes" or positive

comments received on each capital need. The Group agreed upon a Vision statement for the Park and a set of Key Values to help guide decision making. Capital improvement costs and emergent needs were also factored into the prioritization process.

Summary of Selected Priorities

Buildings

In reaching priorities, the group weighed the need to balance the declining budget and increasing revenue needs of Parks, with that of protecting the Landmark designation. The group decided, it was most important to focus attention on the most historically significant buildings, especially those in most need of repair.

Group members agreed that Parks should consider public/private partnerships to develop buildings, but should adhere closely to the Department's policies to ensure partnerships are mutually beneficial and provide sufficient public benefits.

- 1. Firehouse (Building 18) - Implementation of a development strategy in the very near future. In the interim, the building should be stabilized to help to prevent further deterioration.**

Some group members felt that **Building 2** should also receive attention because of its historic significance and urgent maintenance needs. They felt that a new roof should be installed to slow down further deterioration (\$3M estimated cost). A few members, however, were very concerned by the large size of the hangar and the high cost of renovation and suggested mothballing or demolition should be explored as an option.

The Brig (Building 406), Magnuson Community Center (Building 47), and The Gatehouse (Building 138) were also discussed, but, because they are in current use and in relatively good shape, the group determined that they could be addressed in later years.

Land

The group debated the need for open space versus development of the additional sports fields included in the Master Plan. This same debate was reflected in the public meetings and written comments. However, when the group considered the key value of high levels of public access, along with the need to recognize and balance the diverse interests and needs of the public, sports fields rose in importance.

- 2. Preserve and Enhance Natural Areas by continuing to implement the Vegetation Management Plan. Also, maintain and preserve open space, especially in the north park area and south of the boat ramp parking.**
- 3. Develop sports fields in the Master Plan. (2 soccer, 1 little league, 1 baseball)**
- 4. Restoration of park shoreline-erosion control, debris removal, and addition of gravel in priority areas south of boat ramp and north of swim beach.**

Infrastructure

Group members believe that implementing priorities in this category is very important for the safety and enjoyment of park users, and to continue to attract potential partnerships for further park development and program provision.

- Improve traffic circulation and safety by opening the NOAA access road to provide a north entrance, and constructing improvements that provide coordinated access into the park and increase pedestrian and bicycle safety.**

- **Modernize historic campus electrical system by connecting all buildings to Seattle City Light system, and, where needed, increase electrical capacity to support future development.**
- **Construct a primary trail loop (similar to Green Lake) and provide landscape features, comfort stations, and commercial concessions where people can rest and enjoy the park setting.**
- **Install signage, such as wayfinding and directional signs, to make getting around the park easier. Also, install historic interpretive signs to educate the public about the historic significance of the park.**
- **Construct additional comfort stations (public restroom) at athletic fields, near off leash dog park, and children’s playground.**

Programming and Events

In prioritizing programming, the group focused on two Key Values: high levels of public access and being a good neighbor to the surrounding communities. They considered the need for programming that will draw regional users ,while also being attentive to traffic and other impacts on the neighboring residential areas. Group members recommended that Parks work closely with tenant partners and outside organizations to expand programming to the public.

Members are concerned that there is limited program space. Currently, the Brig (Building 406) is well-used by community organizations generating revenue for Parks (\$76,000 in 2011). The Magnuson Community Center (Building 47) has only one room, the gym, and the Theater, the latter managed by Seattle Musical Theater. The unfinished space in the south end of Building 47 would be one solution for expanding space for programming (estimated at \$3M for upper level).

There was a great deal of discussion around senior programming in the park, with some group members believing it should be a top priority. However, there was recognition that tenant partners also provide program opportunities for seniors, and there is currently some dedicated space in The Brig (Building 406) for senior programs.

1. **Expand environmental education opportunities in the park. Ensure that programming appeals to all ages.**
2. **Increase arts programming and arts-related events in the park**
3. **Expand senior programming and provide additional dedicated space during specific hours.**
4. **Increase partnerships with non-profit and private sector organizations to increase programming and ensure that all program providers are coordinating their efforts.**

Next Steps

In the Strategic Development Plan we have also included next steps in implementing the selected priorities. In particular we are proposing the items listed below to be completed over the next 12-24 months. However, if new resources or partnerships become available, additional priorities would be implemented.

Action	Who	Date
Building 18 – * Analyze new cost scenarios (renovation, demo & rebuild saving historic elements, stabilization)	* Assessment completed S. M. Stemper & Associates	* Expected end of May 2012

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Meet with Cascade Bicycle and establish deadline for their decision re: building development * RFP seeking developer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parks; Cascade Bicycle * Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 4th Quarter 2012 * 1st or 2nd Quarter 2013
<p>Infrastructure –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Include funding for the electrical system upgrade in Parks CIP Budget proposal * Pursue the opening of the NOAA access road more aggressively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parks * Parks, Mayor’s Office, OIR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2nd Quarter 2012 * 2nd Quarter 2013
<p>Programs/Events –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop an integrated program plan for the Park emphasizing environmental education, arts/music and senior programming * Actively seek partners to provide new and expanded new programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parks, Tenant Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3rd Quarter 2012; ongoing
<p>Land –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continue implementation of the vegetation management plan * Make safety improvements to the shoreline area surrounding the boat ramp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parks, Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2nd Quarter 2012; ongoing * 4th Quarter 2012 – 1st Quarter 2013

Verbal Briefing and Board Discussion

Ms. Salinas introduced herself and reviewed information in the written documents. Parks staff have held several additional meetings since the Board’s March 22 briefing, and documents related to the Plan have been available on the Magnuson Park web page. Twenty comments have been received from the public. The documents are still in draft form and Parks staff are still taking comments. Additional information has been provided in the indices.

This plan will help determine what to focus on for Magnuson Park during the next two years. Parks staff have received both written and verbal comments; however, this is not a “beauty contest” to select what receives the most votes; it is a balancing act. Participants have been asked to leave their personal agendas outside the process.

Ms. Salinas next reviewed information on the buildings, land, infrastructure, programming and events, and land issues (natural areas, sports fields, and shoreline restoration.)

Commissioner Keith asked if there is a public report on the needed shoreline improvements. Ms. Salinas answered there is a list of work to do on the shoreline and Park staff are working to better document the list. Part of the work is removal of the construction debris the Navy dumped in the shoreline. Responding to a question from Commissioner Kincaid whether the intent is to restore salmon habitat, Mr. Friedli responded that migratory fish go along the area and there is already gravel in place for this. Commissioner Keith wondered what role the National Park Service plays in decisions at the park. Ms. Salinas explained that when the Navy

turned Magnuson Park over to the City of Seattle, it included covenants that any non-park use would be challenged by the National Park Service.

Commissioner Angulo thanked Ms. Salinas for facilitating this ongoing process and engaging the public. She asked if any input has been received from the nearby immigrant population. Ms. Salinas answered that comments have only been received from Brettler Family Place [“a 51-unit project-based Section 8 housing program for formerly homeless families. Brettler is a diverse, multi-cultural community located in beautiful Magnuson Park.”]

Commissioner Barber spoke about the difficult balancing act at Magnuson Park and asked if there is any hard data suggesting more athletic fields are needed at this park. When he has observed the fields, they are always empty. Mr. Friedli responded the Department did a lot of analysis on the need for fields. During the season, there aren't enough fields; when it's out of season, the fields are empty much of the time. The leagues state the number of fields is still inadequate. Commissioner Barber believes there is opportunity to better schedule the fields on weekends. He also questioned whether a shortage of public open space in the Northeast Sector was considered in adjusting the priorities to include converting the two sports fields.

Commissioner Keith thanked Ms. Salinas for all the work on this plan. How was the infrastructure priority determined and why was traffic rated higher than the electrical system? Ms. Salinas stated some of the needed electrical work (\$700K-\$1.2M) can be completed by the Department's Capital Improvement Program (CIP); while finding an internal source for the traffic plan will be more difficult. Ms. Keith asked if there is a power failure, would the electrical system move higher on the priority list; Ms. Salinas agreed it would and it would move to the 2013 CIP.

Commissioner Keith asked why the revenue-generating buildings are last on the list for programs and events and wondered if those can move up the list. Ms. Salinas will take this request back to the working group. Commissioner Keith inquired if the National Park Service approval is needed if a building is used for food services. Mr. Friedli responded that food services cannot be located in the covered portion of the buildings and must serve park users. Commissioner Mehdi asked if food trucks are a viable option. Mr. Salinas stated the trucks have been tried and there wasn't enough traffic to sustain the service. However, Parks wants to consider it again and is looking at the best way to do so.

Commissioner Mehdi referred to the City's Landmark Preservation Board. When groups want to try something new at historic locations, they vet the idea before the landmark preservation board. Do Parks staff do the same with the National Park Service? Mr. Friedli answered that staff have done so in the past. Before issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to the public, Parks has asked the National Park Service to both review the RFP and the responses. Parks staff also discussed the possibility of a Magnuson Park film studio with National Park Service staff. The agency recognizes the challenges Seattle Parks faces at Magnuson Park.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Mehdi why Seattle City Light isn't funding the electrical upgrade, Mr. Friedli stated that when ownership was transferred, City departments stated they would not be responsible for the needed upgrades. City Light did fund the underground conduits, but doesn't believe its ratepayers should fund the upgrades. Consequently, the owners must fund them and it is a complicated process.

The Navy is obligated to remove contaminants along part of the shore. Parks cannot proceed in improving the landscape there until the Navy acts; however, the Navy has postponed doing so and there is no schedule for this to happen any time soon. Commissioner Barber supports the Navy fulfilling this obligation and asked how this can best move forward. Ms. Salinas replied it is time to go back to the Navy and get a commitment from them. In the meantime, Seattle Parks will continue making improvements as it can.

Responding to a question from Commissioners Barber and Kincaid on what is meant by a regional park, Mr. Friedli responded it is a park that attracts visitors from beyond Seattle, such as North King County and South

Snohomish County. Ms. Salinas referred to the Master Plan, which addressed “regional” planning. Commissioner Kincaid believes large events could result in traffic problems. She is pleased that Building 18 is a priority and asked if there has been any discussion of demolition. Ms. Salinas stated that Parks will continue working to get clear cost benefits so it can be good public stewards.

Public Hearing

The public hearing began. Commissioner Kincaid stated each speaker will have up to three minutes to testify. Four people spoke.

Julianne Ross: Ms. Ross is chair of Magnuson Park Advisory Council (MPAC), which was established 2-1/2 years ago. MPAC has three priorities:

1. preservation and restoration for buildings 18 & 2
2. Preservation of natural areas
3. global and unified design strategy

Ed Bronsdon: Mr. Bronsdon is the Executive Director of the Outdoors for All Foundation; an eight-year resident of the Magnuson Park area, and also a member of MPAC. He spoke on behalf of the Foundation and himself. Magnuson Park really supports the vision of recreation for all, including those with disabilities. The Foundation has reviewed the draft plan and is pleased with its breadth and depth, especially the broad uses of the park, and how it identifies key elements.

Carol Fisher: Ms. Fisher is a member of Senior Lifelong Recreation programs and has testified several times to the Board on the programs’ importance to Seattle’s seniors. She spoke on the history of the program at Magnuson Park and stated they lost the use of two rooms, which are rental rooms. However, of 420 hours the two rooms were available to rent, 380 of those hours went unused. The senior program would like to use them. Please consider the Seniors’ need for regular, allotted space for its programs.

Lynn Ferguson: Ms. Ferguson is on the board of the Sand Point Historical Society and lives a few blocks from Magnuson Park. She has had the privilege to see Magnuson Park developing and thanked Ms. Salinas and her staff for their work on the plan. The athletic fields and wetlands have been restored and now it is time to:

1. Restore the historic buildings. Don’t mothball or demolish any of them. She believes the \$27 million estimate to repair Building 2’s leaking roof is too high and asked the Department to get another estimate.
2. Restore the shoreline. This is cheap to accomplish, when compared to the athletic fields and wetlands.
3. Create a conservancy to support Magnuson Park.

The public hearing closed at 8:45 p.m.

Discussion

Commissioner Barber noted the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee has been working well. The Department also established a working group, however, not all MPAC members attend the working group. He asked how this arrangement is working. Ms. Salinas responded the working group includes three MPAC members and those who can’t attend the working group meetings have been submitting comments. Some meetings have had small attendance, but overall it has been a good process. She sees consistency in the conversations, with historic preservation and traffic two regular topics. She has recently observed new faces at the meetings.

Commissioner Barber referred to Ms. Ferguson’s request for a Magnuson Park conservancy and is disappointed that a representative of the Seattle Parks Foundation has attended only one meeting. Ms. Salinas stated she and Thatcher Bailey, Executive Director of the Seattle Parks Foundation, have been in discussions between the meetings. Mr. Friedli added that this plan wasn’t developed to set up a funding mechanism. Commissioner Barber asked to confirm that the plan is to develop the priorities and Mr. Friedli and Ms. Salinas agreed.

Commissioner Keith asked Ms. Salinas to respond to Ms. Fisher's concerns about space coordination and rental revenue. Ms. Salinas answered there is an on-site event scheduler for the Magnuson rentals. Some rooms are more popular than others and easier to schedule, while other rooms need some work to make them more appealing. Mr. Friedli added that when Seattle Parks received ownership of the buildings, the City budget stated it would not fund a janitor to run the buildings. Parks must be creative to make the rentals work. He referred to Ms. Fisher's statement that Parks staff hold the rooms and then they aren't rented. It is clear that Parks needs to revisit the overall programming of the rooms. This will be added to the list of recommendations and staff will focus on it for the next 12-18 months.

Commissioner Kincaid asked if Building 30 could be used for Lifelong Learning and other programming needs. Mr. Friedli responded that Parks is in the same situation with Building 30 – it needs to be generating rental revenue to help re-pay its debt. Commissioner Kincaid agreed that it is a difficult situation; however, the non-paying programs provide such a service to the public. She asked the Department to review the rental spaces it has at Magnuson and determine what it needs in both paying and non-paying uses.

Commissioner Kincaid asked about the funding priorities and the \$1.5 million from the Navy. Can this money be used to restore the shoreline? Mr. Friedli answered that the City must first answer the question "There is \$1.5 million available; is the shoreline the top priority on which to use these funds?" A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Mehdi referred to the closing of the environmental learning center at Carkeek Park and the potential opening of another at Magnuson Park, and questioned this potential spending.

Commissioner Barber asked how best to plan for a "global and unified strategy" for Magnuson Park. Ms. Salinas responded that a circulation and traffic plan would help a great deal with unifying the park. Commissioner Barber asked if there is a Magnuson Park Master Plan; if so, it isn't on the web. Mr. Friedli responded that a Master Plan was adopted in 1999. Commissioner Barber doesn't recall the athletic fields and wetlands being included. Mr. Friedli stated the Master Plan was modified later to include both those elements.

Ms. Salinas will send a draft of the mapping to the Board. Commissioner Kincaid suggested incorporating art into the overall design, such as the wetland walk and other areas most used by the public. Ms. Salinas agreed with this suggestion and added there will also be "themes" in the park.

The discussion returned to the shoreline restoration. Commissioner Mehdi asked if the Park Board should write letters to the Navy and NOAA to urge they fund the restoration. Mr. Friedli agreed; it would help to write congressmen, too. He noted that the Shore Ponds project received \$500,000 from the federal government; however, it took seven years of applying to receive the funds. He recommends getting a good plan for Magnuson Park in place (priorities, etc.), then write the letters to NOAA urging them to implement the restoration, then to the Navy and members of congress. The priority ranking of the shoreline restoration project will be known by that time. Commissioner Keith asked if any agencies require the shoreline restoration. Mr. Friedli answered that the City's own regulations require it and it does so as it gets the funds.

Ms. Salinas will make the agreed on changes discussed this evening and send a revised version to the Board for a future recommendation. Commissioner Kincaid thanked Ms. Salinas and the MPAC members for all their work on behalf of Magnuson Park.

Old/New Business

Parks Department Signage: Commissioner Keith noted the signage at Cascade People's Center, which is owned by Seattle Parks Department and operated by the Y, recognizes the Department in small lettering, while the Y's name is in much larger letters. She and Commissioner Kincaid believe it is important the Department's name be prominently displayed on all its property. Advertise that this is public park property! Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli will visit the facility and check the signage.

Parks Preservation Work (PPW) Committee: Commissioner Barber asked if this committee, which includes several Park Board Commissioners, has any documents it could share with the rest of the Board. Commissioner Keith is on the committee and gave a brief report. Lee Younger presented a very good briefing and Powerpoint; these should be sent to the rest of the Board. PPW members have suggested a number of approaches to generate revenue and have agreed to continue working on long-term issues. These issues (like the Tim Eyman initiatives that restrict funding mechanisms) aren't going away. Commissioner Kincaid agreed; new funding sources must be found to care for this park system that voters repeatedly state they want. Commissioner Mehdi added that the committee requested good data showing true operation costs and public vs. individual use at the facilities. A number of proposals were suggested to generate revenue, such as food service and vendors who generate more users to parks.

- 1) Shoreline Letter: Commissioner Kincaid will work with Parks staff to draft a letter to allow public access at the Northeast NOAA Drive and 63rd Avenue Northeast intersection.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

APPROVED: _____

Jourdan Keith, Vice-chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____