



Minutes

Joint Park District Oversight Committee / Board of Park Commissioners

100 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle 98109

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Commissioners:

Andréa Akita, Vice Chair

Dennis Cook

Marlon Herrera

William Lowe, Chair

José Ochoa

Tom Byers

Jessica Farmer

Evan Hundley

Kelly McCaffrey

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner McCaffrey calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Commissioners introduce themselves.

Public Comment

Tim Motzer – He asks about the status of the Park District financial plan with all the major reductions and shifts. How much that did not get completed in the first funding cycle, will become an obligation in the next? Tax rate did not go below \$.20. He is concerned about the money and capital line item for major park facility renovation.

Don Harper – Chair of Queen Anne Community Council Parks Committee and a Smith Cove Park advocate. He feels their ideas are ignored by SPR. SPR will only develop half the park; he wants to ensure there will be enough money for the entire park to be developed.

Don Harris – He brought the new “Olmsted in Seattle” book about the historic elements of Seattle Parks and Recreation. He mentions that there was an absence of Park Board members there. He implores the Commissioners to be vigilant; the Boards need to pay more attention.

Scott Daniels – Friends of Cayton Corner Park – 19th and Madison. They have been working on plans to develop the park. They are at 60% design, but need to raise money for construction of the park. They would like support from SPR to raise \$200,000.

Bill Pickard – Be’er Sheva Park – Founder of Rainier Beach Institute – He feels the processes and project planning and decision making could be more transparent – he doesn’t understand how the process works. Projects that are not fully baked yet will not make it into the strategic plan and therefore not funded? Is there a way to let the plan know that this cool thing is coming and that it promotes equity?

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

David Folweiler – There is a piece of SPU property at the end of 24th Avenue NW and he would like it developed into a park once SPU has finished putting in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). He suggests SPR and SPU should partner and do something unique there.

Donna Hartmann-Miller – She is concerned about the Park District. She wants to emphasize what Donald Harris said about the Board members being more actively advocating for SPR budget issues.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Aguirre Aguirre, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Superintendent Aguirre responds to public comment.

In response to public comment:

To Tim Motzer – Capital funding for projects will be carried forward; the only one still on the backburner is Loyal Heights; still trying to figure out what to do with that one. Initial assessment was much higher than anticipated; hard to know if there is enough money until they go out for bid. Superintendent Aguirre says that part of Park District funding is to deal with deferred maintenance. Some of the new approaches will talk about life cycle replacement.

Don Harper – There is not enough funding in the current pot for all of the amenities. SPR selected the west side to leverage grants for the athletic field. The entire project budget is double so they are taking the park in installments. They intend to finish the park as designed.

Donald Harris – Olmsted, trails, homelessness task forces will continue and they will educate the Boards to make sure their input is included in the Financial Planning process.

Scott Daniels – Superintendent Aguirre will figure out who he needs to talk to about his park project.

Bill Pickard – The process and timing are confusing; especially when one layers in the timing of various grant programs. SPR is trying to build more flexibility in the budgeting. Staff are creating a stage gating process to allow for more deliberate funding.

24th Ave NW – Superintendent Aguirre will look into it. Capital subcommittee – put it on the agenda and talk with Mami Hara at SPU.

Medgar Evers Pool will reopen on November 25.

SPR presented to Park District Board (City Council) – next Monday is the next Park District Board meeting where they will be adopting tax rate and budget.

Upcoming Events

- 30th Anniversary of Teen Late Night program – Friday, December 13 at Rainier Community Center;
- Green Lake Pathway of Lights – December 14 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm
- Denny Awards – Annual awards ceremony SPR holds to honor volunteers. Three of the winners align with SPR's values of: healthy people, healthy environment, strong communities. The awards

announced today. William Lowe, Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners is receiving the Superintendent's Award.

SPR Planning and Accounting moved to Elliott from the International District.

Next Door News –

- Jackson Park Golf Course – Superintendent Aguirre has not met with developers regarding selling Jackson Park Golf Course.
- Elizabeth Campbell posted on next door that Superintendent Aguirre supports the lawsuit to prevent housing at Fort Lawton. It is not true.

Old/New Business

PDOC met with Councilmember Juarez to unfix the assessment rate to the spending plan. This was articulated in the letter and in person to Councilmember Juarez. Councilmember Juarez suggested the Board communicate with all of the Councilmembers.

Commissioners Herrera, Copeland, Byers and McCaffrey were at the meeting. They stayed true to their message of the mid-term report. They talked about using the PDOC district representatives to interact with the City Council. The subcommittee worked well. Commissioner Herrera suggests forming a subcommittee to continue relationship building with councilmembers and being strategic with it. He suggests sending congratulations notes to new Councilmembers. Alex Pederson starts on the 26th. Superintendent Aguirre says SPR staff will take him on a tour of his district; invite commissioners to join him.

The subcommittee could identify staff on each team who will work on SPR issues. Deepa volunteers to work on the subcommittee with Tom, Dewey and Marlon. Potential to create specific opportunities for each district; the board discuss the Open Public Meetings Act and ensuring they are always mindful of it.

In terms of timing, it will be the end of January for Councilmember staff for SPR will be identified.

The Commissioners thank Commissioner McCaffrey for all of her efforts with the letter and coordinating the letter with Councilmember Juarez.

Commissioner Byers mentions the tax rate is confusing and the complexities of the Park District. He suggests coming up with an approach to teach the Park District to the new councilmembers. Marlon is happy to work on a visual. The Park District is recondite.

When will committee assignments be made? They will be made early in the new year. Subcommittee will find out new committee assignments.

Update on the Strategic Plan

Kathleen Conner and Selena Elmer, Strategic Advisors, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Superintendent Aguirre introduces the draft of the Strategic Plan; he is excited to get more feedback from the Board. This is based on much public and staff input.

It will guide the next planning; it reflects work they are already doing and work they will do as Seattle grows and changes. Thanks Kathleen for her work.

Break up for small group discussion; send written comments by December 1. Kathleen will send out the electronic tomorrow. It will be posted on the Park Board and PDOC websites also.

Kathleen reviews the draft Strategic Plan, which can be found [here](#).

There is a wealth gap and people of color are affected more dramatically with the changing city. This plan hopes to address these inequities over time.

The State of Play Report – only 19% youth are meeting the 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

The plan is such that people can pick up this draft plan and learn about the department and the vision for moving forward.

Any gaps? Something SPR overlooked? There are no projects named because that will happen during the financial plan.

Kathleen asks the Board to think about how they see the strategic plan informing their work with PDOC/Park Board or community volunteer work?

- Commissioner Sivarajan raised a point about pathway to equity informing strategies. She sees a clear connection between what we know and pathway to equity but not to the strategies. She suggests calling out equity in the strategies. Selena mentions the strategies will be color coding and suggests a symbol.
- Strategies need to be clustered (color coding?) to create memorable actions. Staff did a great job with the equity piece. There's another dimension – 25% of neighbors are brand new; equitable and welcoming city; building stronger communities could be elevated to make it more welcoming.
- Grouping strategies based on internal or external, giving it a sense of order or scale.
- Speaking to the growth and historical context, referring to the Legacy Plan and more in the introduction to add better context.
- Organizational excellence – included in 'Where We Are Going' but not in 'Who We Serve'?
- 'What We Offer', page 5 – include specialty gardens?
- Timeframe for the plan is not called out.
- Love to see numbering or lettering scheme.
- Looking to the future – it would be great if it touches on how people can remain involved
- Organizational excellence – public interface with find it, fix it; p.16; note that next step that this will be incorporated into work plan.
- There is a lot of staff retiring during the 12 years of this plan but recognize succession planning and retaining institutional knowledge.
- Strong communities – adapting to community needs over time.

Next steps: SPR staff will give community until December 1; send an email to Kathleen with edits.

Bring final plan in December to brief the Board.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 8:25pm.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____

Kelly McCaffrey, Chair
Park District Oversight Committee