



Minutes

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Via WebEx

Thursday, August 12, 2021

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

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Farmer calls the meeting to order and the Board members introduce themselves.

Public Comment

Ted Coulsen – He is a Magnolia resident. There is a new development that threatens the views at Ursula Judkins viewpoint. He asks for the Board's advocacy and support to oppose this.

Kieran Engstrom – Does SPS partner with SPR for development? SPS is intending to cut down a grove of Black Locusts in order to create a building. Rachel to forward the materials to the Board.

Superintendent's Report

- Cooling centers- SPR working with OEM to prepare for heat wave. SPR opening a few air-conditioned cooling centers. Thanks to the Recreation staff for staffing them.
- Smoke and drought season is upon us. SPR is encouraging people to avoid using charcoal grills and keep fire in fire rings.
- American Rescue Plan funds – SPR rec'd 3.2mil for childcare scholarships; 1mil to support enhanced maintenance and custodial support; \$200,000 supporting Rec N the Streets.
- Draft Park District Cycle End Report sent to the Board last week. Hoping for edits/comments by August 20, 2021 to David Takami.
- Reopening more facilities this fall!
- City Hall Park – partnership between City of Seattle, JustCare outreach, and King County to relocate residents from the park. It will be closed tomorrow for cleaning and maintenance. 50 individuals have accepted other temporary shelter options.
- Clean City Initiative Update – 242,000 pounds of trash removed and 5065 needles.

Parks & Environment Division –

- Redesign of GIS data system for trails – more efficient and is integrated into Asset Management Work Order System. Users collect data on site with cellphone app.

Planning, Development, and Maintenance Division

- Pier 58 play area design is complete after much public engagement. It is for all ages and abilities. Construction starts in late 2022.
- Lowman Beach construction starts in September to remove seawall and will restore the shoreline.

- Green Lake “Keep Moving Street” – W Green Lake Way was closed during the pandemic, but it is reopening to traffic this fall. Still no wheels on the inner path at Green Lake.
- Georgetown Comfort Station is reopened after fire damage.

Recreation Division

- Big Day of Play on August 21! Volunteers needed!

Policy, Performance, Property

- Approval to purchase land next to Duwamish Waterway Park and North Rainier acquisition.
- King County committee recommends \$7.5M fund for 4 SPR acquisitions

Commissioner Watts asked about the Green Lake Way opening. SDOT completed a multi-modal bike lane on the East side, and there was interest in keeping a connection between Woodland Park and Green Lake on the West side, which is why they decided to open it but create a multi-modal lane on that side.

Commissioner Akita inquires about how staffing concerns with beaches. Director Cutler responds saying that they closed Seward Park Beach because they prioritized Pritchard and Mt. Baker open due to steep in-water slope and proximity to other beaches.

During the heat wave, Commissioner Akita read about the lack of access to water fountains. Director Finnegan says there were some that were damaged and there were delays due to working conditions. Most were opened by the 4th of July and they are repairing the ones that are damaged.

Commissioner Farmer asks staff to send a reminder email to the Board for the deadline to submit comments of August 20, 2021 and request for volunteers for Big Day of Play.

Recreation Ramp-Up

Licensed Childcare and Preschool at 17 Community Centers and satellite sites, activity camps

Shower program at 5 community centers

Teen hubs + Summer of Safety, 4 late night sites

2 sites open to the bpublic for registered drop-in fitness

Goals for fall:

- Focus efforts on equity zones
- Rebuild recreation team – 25% decrease in staff
- Use ramp-up as an opportunity to innovate for impact and equity
 - Focusing on fitness programs
 - Equity-centered budget

Facilities- tiered reopen in September

- 10 sites at full pre-covid hours
- 8 sites at reduced hours
- 5 sites open for programs or rentals only with building monitor
- 3 sites fully closed, all with either school age care or rec programs at satellite sites

Operational changes due to covid-19 cases:

- Sites will only be open to registered childcare and recreation program participants
- Additional services will ramp up as pandemic evolves through the Fall and into Winter
- All staff, visitors, and program participants required to wear masks.

Services for Fall

- Licensed childcare and pre-school at 19 sites
- Hygiene program at 5 sites, providing mostly homeless participants the opportunity to take a shower
- Programs: integrated program planning process across units will generate the following in community centers.
 - Starting in September: lifelong, specialized, adult and youth sports programming
 - Starting in October: 1-3 fitness programs per site, 1-2 additional programs for youth per site
 - Welcome Back Seattle – grant programs, funding BIPOC community-based organizations to provide free, culturally relevant programs.

Changes due to Covid:

Ceased rentals for community spaces due to covid-19.

Drop-in will transition to registration-based programs (for contact tracing purposes)

Pools are opening gradually, all should be open by the beginning of 2022.

Discussion

- Commissioner Hundley would love to see data on the shower program.
- SPR provides gym space for public/private schools and will allow their use despite not allowing rentals during the pandemic.
- SPR will continue some virtual programming based on staff capacity.
- Director Cutler noticed there was pay disparity around the city also, so now instructors are being paid the same across the city.

Board Led Strategic Plan Engagement

- Share a quick update about engagement activities on deck
 - Engagement Plans
 - Park Ambassadors starting August 21
 - Community Engagement Ambassadors – surveys, community events, focus groups
 - Superintendent listening sessions
 - Online open house – launches August 27, translated in top 7 languages
 - Line of Business-led engagement – staff scheduling a range of activities
- Review current slate of Boards & Commissions meetings
 - Confirmed meetings with Urban Forestry, Immigrant & Refugee Commission, Women's Commission, Renter's Commission
 - Scheduling meetings with LGBTQ Commission, Commission for People with DisAbilities and the Youth Commission
- Discuss SPR staff & Commissioner roles at listening sessions

- SPR staff presence & role
 - Coordinate logistics & share materials in advance
 - Take notes
 - Brief presentation covering:
 - *Process overview*
 - *Acknowledgement of historical harms*
 - *Review of parallel crisis framework*
 - *Connection to Park District financial planning*
- Commissioner role
 - Introduce newly merged Boards
 - Discuss open Commission seats!
 - Facilitate Start, Stop, Continue activity
- Review next steps for signing up & facilitating listening sessions

Don't forget to volunteer for Big Day of Play! August 21 from 12-4pm.

Discussion

The board express concerns about the amount of time they will have to cover the materials and have productive conversations with the Boards they will visit.

Commissioner Akita mentions asks about the questions regarding racial equity. Focusing on SPRs realm of influence and ability to change. Trying to reach people not typically involved in these processes and want to avoid paternalistic question structures.

Commissioner Watts says he feels like each category questions are posed through an equity lens. He suggests having core questions about disparities and access within the categories. Language around soliciting input on SPR role through its mission, action-framing is more evocative and will help get people's brains spinning.

Old/New Business

- Upcoming Park Board/PDOC Meeting Schedule
 - September 9, 2021 next meeting
- August 26 – Written Report
- Retreat timing/Planning Committee
- Future meeting structure

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