



Minutes | Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Miller Community Center | 330 19th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Remote accessibility via Zoom

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Public Hearing: 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Baum (co-chair), Bakker, Kahn, Flinn, Werner, Chisholm Clare, Stonecipher, Williams, Nakamura (co-chair), Rasch, Diamond

Absent: Haile-Leul, Zhang, Lerer, Meng

SPR Staff and Presenters: Finnegan, Sheffer, Hoff, Clyde, Burtzos, Best (SPS), Shuldiner (SPS), Podesta (SPS)

Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

Baum calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and provides logistical instructions for in-person and remote attendees.

Commissioners and SPR staff introduce themselves.

Baum reads the land acknowledgement.

Briefing: Lower Woodland Park Athletic Field Proposal

Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent, Planning and Capital Development (SPR), and Richard Best, Capital Projects Director (SPS), deliver the briefing.

Sheffer notes that SPR's recommendation is for the BPRC to support the SPS proposal.

SPS is requesting Seattle Parks & Recreation allow the district to:

Proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to build a new, full-size, multi-sport athletic field at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North.

Continue planning, including design and permitting, for renovating the track at Lower Woodland Field #7 and adding field event practice spaces and storage.

SPS has identified a location at Woodland Park for a multi-sport athletic field for Lincoln High School and community use. The process leading to this proposal:

- Community-initiated location at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North
- Exhausted other options
- Meets criteria identified for the project
- Requires design and mitigation planning concerning tree removal and forest canopy impacts
- Joint use agreement started in 1920s to meet youth and community needs for recreational resources

The location search started with 20+ options, including parks and the Lincoln HS parking lot. SPS began outreach for Wallingford Playfield, but after community pushback, the community proposed other locations for study including gravel parking lot at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North. Lincoln High School athletics currently use Lower Woodland for some activities. Best provides an overview of the outreach process that has led to the current project iteration.

SPS has heard feedback from its public outreach sessions. The top takeaways include:

- Move forward
- Option B — broadest support Some preferring faster Option A or variations on Option C
- Concerns raised, especially tree impacts, open space, parking/traffic, pedestrian safety

SPS requests to proceed with the design, permitting, and construction a new, full-size, multi-sport athletic field at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North (with storage and restrooms). To be addressed during the design phase:

- Reduce environmental impacts and develop strategies for mitigation
- Develop field orientation and layout of supporting areas to build a strategy that preserves and enhances the tree canopy and forest floor of the entire park
- Plan to meet pedestrian needs, including ensuring ADA compliance
- Plan for storage space
- Collaborate to determine if existing restrooms need to be renovated to address need
- Negotiate agreements regarding field maintenance and future replacement of synthetic turf

Best presents the proposed permitting process and timeline for the athletic field project.

SPS also requests to continue planning, including design and permitting, for renovating the track at Lower Woodland Field #7 and adding field event practice spaces and storage.

This project will provide practice space for track and field events (4-lane track, shotput, discus, long jump), but will take Field #7 offline while constructing track. To address in planning phase:

- Design and locate portable field event equipment
- Develop storage, either as shared with existing or new space
- Evaluate and address restroom requirements
- Develop agreement on track and field event space maintenance

Best presents the proposed permitting process and timeline for the track project.

The next steps for both projects include:

- Seattle Parks & Recreation approval to proceed
- Begin design for field and track renovations
- Hire consultant to conduct EIS for multi-purpose field
- Community engagement

Sheffer provides additional detail about the EIS process from SPR's perspective.

Baum clarifies that Sheffer will be available for questions from BPRC members at the next meeting (August 13). Sheffer confirms.

Flinn asks about EIS scoping. Best clarifies.

Public Hearing: Lower Woodland Park Athletic Field Proposal

Hoff and Burtzos provide instructions for in-person and online comment for the Public Hearing.

Baum notes that BPRC members have received all written comments submitted to PKS_BPRC@Seattle.gov email address, and reminds commissioners to weigh written comments equally to oral comments.

BPRC members hear comments related to the Lower Woodland Park athletic field proposal.

Baum adjourns this special meeting of the BPRC at 7:47 PM.