



Park District Oversight Committee Meeting Summary- March 21, 2017

Welcome – Lylia Allala, Park District Oversight Committee Chair

City Councilmember Debora Juarez

City Councilmember and Park District Board Chair, Debora Juarez, spoke to the Committee about her priorities and responded to questions from Committee members.

- Kudos to Seattle Parks and Recreation for the diversity and Race and Social Justice Initiative work
- The City welcomes opportunities for new partnerships, such as with Friends of Seattle Waterfront for Waterfront park development
- And the Port of Seattle regarding use of their surplus properties for parks
- Geographic parity across the City is important
- With the Community Center Strategic Plan, the City added hours and eliminated drop-in fees
- This year the Council is funding a Recreation Program Evaluation
- And looking at data related to the Park District Programs for People
- We are all working towards the same goal: a great City where we can thrive and raise our families
- While we can't grow more land, we can do other things to respond to the pressures from increased density
 - Increase maintenance to respond to increase use and wear and tear
 - Cap the Bitter Lake reservoir to create new parkland
 - Protect what we have
- Decisions should come from the community up, and not be dictated from above

Public Comment

1. Susan Helf, Committee to save Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool: Parks and Recreation needs to release the \$4 million available to repair the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool. Don't privatize our building as is recommended in the Community Center Plan. The community strongly opposes this. Privatizing the center would be union busting; this would not be fair to our beloved staff who would be replaced with low-paid, part time staff. The City has the money to fix the buildings.

2. Sharon LeVine: Neighborhoods are begging for new off-leash areas. The 14 existing off-leash areas in the City are heavily used and many neighborhoods want more. The Park District provides about \$100,000 per year; so far the funds have been used for a study with no assurance of new off-leash areas.



In the whole Park District financial plan, off-leash areas get the fewest amount of anything. In the coming years, the Park District funding should be used to build new off-leash areas.

3. **Mitch Barker:** The privatization which has occurred at Magnuson Park is not good; for example, the tennis center has high rates and is more like a private tennis club – it doesn't feel public. We should preserve what we have – don't sell it off.

4. **David Bird:** I live in Magnolia but drive to Magnuson Park to use the off-leash area there because it is big and has water access. However, the foxtails at the Magnuson off-leash area almost crippled my dog. Maintenance needs to be increased. Seattle Parks and Recreation needs to use more than the \$100,000 provided by the Park District for off-leash maintenance, plus we need more beach access for dogs and lights at off-leash areas.

5. **Michael Cuadra, Green Lake Advisory Council Member:** Don't privatize parks. Since 2010 the community has been trying to get the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool fixed. The Community Center is very important to the community – don't give it up. If the City is looking for a partner, look for a partnership with the Associated Recreation Council (ARC). What are the next steps to get a new center and to maintain what is there now?

Park District 2016 Annual Report

Susan Golub presented the draft 2016 Park District Annual Report to the Committee and received feedback, including:

- Include the timing for developing the second 6-year Park District financial plan
- List the members of the Oversight Committee
- Do a better job describing what the Committee accomplished in 2016
- Provide more scholarship data
- Define activation
- Add a link to the survey results on-line
- Improve the graphic design

2017 Park District Oversight Committee Meeting Schedule

- The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 18. Students from the University of Washington's School of Public Health evaluated the Get Moving and Recreation for All programs and will be presenting their findings.
- The Committee's briefing prioritization exercise indicated highest interest in a briefing on the major maintenance backlog projects.

Oversight Committee Membership



Park District Oversight Committee
Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom
100 Dexter Avenue N
6:30-9:00 p.m.

- Trang Hoang, District 1 representative, has decided not to renew her term
- Jennifer Calleja, Immigrant and Refugee Commission representative, will renew for a second term
- Patt Copeland, Commission for People with Disabilities, will renew for a second term
- Jessica Farmer, District 5 representative, will renew for a second term
- Vacancies exist for District 1 and District 2 and for a Board of Park Commissioners position
- With the current composition of the Committee, there are two people of color among the existing 12 members