

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2003**

Present:

Bruce Bentley, Chair
James Fearn
Joanna Grist
Terry Holme
Sarah Neilson
Kate Pflaumer

Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Note:

Archived agendas and minutes from 2000 to present may be viewed online at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkboard>

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Terry requested a discussion of the Bobby Morris Playfield project under new business. **Sarah moved and Kate seconded that the November 13 agenda, October 23 minutes, and acknowledgment of correspondence be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Joanna requested further information on the needs assessment study the Department has for ballfield scheduling. The Board complimented Sandy's thorough minutes and her management of the Board's recent heavy volume of e-mail correspondence.

Superintendent's Report

Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds reported on the following:

Cal Anderson Park: 50 community members attended a problem-solving session hosted by the Friends of Cal Anderson Park. Staff from Parks, Police, Seattle Department of Transportation, Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Central Community College, and consultant Benita Horn participated. A cross section of the Capitol Hill community worked hard to come up with concrete ideas for making the park a safe, welcoming, and fun environment for all. Cal Anderson Shelter House will host the start of the Mayor's November 15 Capitol Hill Clean Seattle Initiative.

Property Donation in Rainier Valley: Monte and Diane Powell have donated a half-acre property at 3070 South Bradford Street to the Seattle Park Foundation. This small parcel has some nice view areas. Several years ago, Parks purchased the Hitts Hill Park property from the Powell family. Parks staff are preparing legislation to accept the property from

the Foundation. The Foundation has agreed to raise funds for development of the property and three years of maintenance.

Pro Parks Acquisition: After a public process and a recommendation by the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee, Parks staff are now actively pursuing acquisition of an alternate site at Summit and John, rather than the Bellevue Substation. The alternate site is better suited for park uses.

Cyclocross Event at Lincoln Park: Last weekend a cyclocross (mountain biking) event in Lincoln Park caused minor damage to 7,500 square feet of turf. Parks staff are working on estimates of the extent and cost of needed repairs. The permit issued to the Marymoor Velodrome Association specified that the cost of repairing any damage to the park will be charged to the user group. We are reviewing the event, which apparently has grown in scope each year, to determine whether Lincoln Park is the appropriate venue.

Christmas Ship Festival: Argosy Cruises kicks off the 2003 Christmas Ship Festival on December 1 with performances at South Lake Union and Gas Works Park. A schedule will be sent to the Board.

Cowen Park Tour: The Olmsted monthly tour will be held at Cowen Park on Saturday, November 16, beginning at 10 a.m., and leaving from the soon-to-be-renovated Cowen Park shelter house.

Yesler Community Center's Arts Corp: On November 18, the Yesler Community Center's Art Corp classes will be showcased at the Intiman Theater. Several youth from Yesler will participate in this event.

Madrona Playfield Dedication: On Saturday, November 8, there was a well-attended project dedication and ribbon cutting at Madrona. Of the \$673,000 needed to complete the project, the community donated \$400,000 through fundraising and volunteer efforts, including Neighborhood Matching Funds and financial support from Starbucks and others.

Bradner Gardens Building Wins Award: This project was awarded one of only six Citations for Design Excellence in the 2003 Honor Awards for Washington Architecture, sponsored by the Seattle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Carkeek Environmental Learning Center Earns "Gold": The U.S. Green Building Council announced this week that the Carkeek Environmental Learning Center has been certified at the "gold" level of its sustainable building rating, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). This makes the new learning center the highest LEED-rated building in Seattle and the first "gold" rating in the State.

Partnership Award for Tennis: The Pacific Northwest Section of the United States Tennis Association's Tennis Fest recognized Seattle Parks as the outstanding Parks and

Recreation Partner for 2003. The award is due to the outstanding work of the Amy Yee Tennis Center staff in creating community partnerships.

Seattle Management Association Awards Announced: For the seventh consecutive year, individual Parks staff have been selected as outstanding by the Seattle Management Association. A surprise announcement celebration was held today for the recipients: Josette Valentino, Ken's Administrative Staff Assistant, won in the Management Support Category, and Planning and Development Division Director Erin Devoto won in the Project Management category for her management of the Pro Parks Levy. In the Innovation and Change category, three members of the winning Janitorial Commodity Team that changed how the City of Seattle buys and uses janitorial cleaning products are Parks staff - Robert Verdecias from 100 Dexter and Central West Park Resources, Debi Belt from Bitter Lake Community Center, and Meg Miller from Southeast Park Resources.

Nations in Bloom Award: Ken displayed the crystal vase that was awarded to Parks at last month's award program in Apeldoorn, Netherlands. (On October 6, Seattle took second place and a gold certificate for the 200,000-1,000,000 population category in the competition. This annual international competition invites cities from all over the world to participate. Its objective is to encourage the best practices, innovation, and leadership that lead to a vibrant, environmentally sustainable, and lively community with a high quality of life.)

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Bruce explained that the general public comment portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had or are not scheduled for a public hearing. Testimony is limited to three minutes per speaker. One person signed up to give testimony.

Jack Tompkinson: Jack had previously mailed a letter to the Park Board and tonight came before the Board to request a discussion on designating a 2-acre site in Sand Point Magnuson Park for BMX (bicycle) jumps. The jumps are made from mounded dirt and would cost the City very little to create. Jack represents a group that built an outstanding jump site in Shoreline. Unfortunately, the site was built without permission on Water Department property and must now be re-located. He asked that the Board discuss the idea of locating the proposed jump site next to the Burke-Gilman bike trail that now runs through Sand Point Magnuson Park. This would be an accessible site for many bike riders.

Discussion: Kate questioned whether the Board of Park Commissioners is the correct place to begin. Ken stated that in previous talks between the Parks Department and Jack, the discussion centered on some type of temporary BMX site. A jump site was not identified in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the wetland/sportsfield area at Sand Point Magnuson Park. Currently, there is an "unofficial" jump site at Lower Woodland behind the playfields. Jack described the space needed as 1-2 acres, with progressively higher, linear jumps and gave a further description of BMX

jumping. It is best to separate skateboard parks from BMX parks, as the BMX bikes can scratch the smooth surface required for skateboards.

Jack said the kids are ready to help build the dirt track - it is just a matter of where to build.

Early Project Briefing: Ballard Civic Center

Cathy Tuttle, Parks Department project manager, came before the Board to give an early briefing on this project. No action is requested at this meeting. The Board received both a written and oral briefing, with both included below. Kathie Huus, Parks Department's Northwest Maintenance and Operations Manager, was also in the audience and answered some of the Board's questions.

Written Briefing

Action Requested

Parks staff will present an early project briefing on Ballard Civic Center Park development. A briefing, public hearing, and recommendation for this new park will be held in the spring of 2004. No action is requested at this time.

Project intent

The Pro Parks Levy provides \$2,474,000 to plan, design, and construct the Ballard Civic Center park at the northwest corner of 22nd Avenue NW and NW 57th Street.

Project Background

The site of the park for the Ballard Civic Center was purchased in response to the Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Plan that recommended the City provide "a 2-acre park within the hub urban village to accommodate additional residential density called for in the Comprehensive Plan." The City purchased the 1.4-acre site of a former Safeway in downtown Ballard in March 2001 for park development. The park is part of the Ballard Municipal Center Master Plan, approved by City Council in November 2000. In addition to the park, the Ballard Municipal Center includes the library and neighborhood service center.

The community identified possible design elements in the Ballard Civic Center Master Plan that are the basis for the park design. Those elements include a maritime theme, large lawn, central promenade, large "landmark" trees, circulation that utilizes the perimeter street sidewalks, and public art. Early concept designs will consider the existing skateboard park. A name for the new park will be chosen during the design process.

Design

Swift and Company Landscape Architects was selected in August by Seattle Parks and Recreation staff and Ballard community members as the design consultant for the development of the new Ballard Civic Center park. The firm has extensive experience

working on civic projects including the Seattle Civic Center Open Space, the Center House Plaza, and the landscape for the new Ballard Library.

Significant design issues to be resolved during planning include the relationship of the park to the larger Civic Center and a decision on whether to keep the existing and active skateboard park on the site. The skateboard park was constructed as a temporary use in 2001.

Public Process

More than 150 community members attended the Parks kick-off meeting on October 28, 2003, including seniors, neighbors, local business owners, and skateboard park users. The concepts of Place, Vision, and Program provided the framework for a lively Open House. Future community meetings are planned on January 13 and March 9, 2004, as progress toward a preferred schematic design evolves. Parks staff will return to the Parks Board for a briefing, public hearing, and recommendation on the preferred schematic design in the spring of 2004.

Parks has met with adjacent businesses, neighbors, and the Ballard District Council to address specific concerns. Parks also provides updates to a Seattle City Interdepartmental Team on the Ballard Civic Center and the neighborhood-based Ballard Civic Center Steering Committee.

Project Schedule

Construction documents will be completed October 2004. Park construction, including demolition of the Safeway building, will begin in 2005 and the park construction will be completed by the end of 2005.

Project Budget

Pro Parks funding for the project is \$2.47 million for planning, design, and construction, including demolition.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Cathy displayed a large map showing the location and possible layout of the park and a section of the Master Plan. Cathy will forward a portion of the Master Plan to the Commissioners.

Most of the discussion centered on the temporary skateboard park already at this site and the possibility of a permanent skateboard park to be included. The Master Plan, which was written in 2000, does not include a skateboard park. The temporary skateboard site came about in 2001 and started off with a few simple jumps. The community then succeeded in getting grant money to build an elaborate concrete "bowl". Of the 150 community members who attended the October 28 kick-off meeting, more than half were skateboarders and their families. There are many requests from the skateboard community to include a permanent skateboard park as part of this project so they can continue to use the high quality bowl, which cannot be moved.

According to Kathie Huus, several criteria are used to help determine skateboard sites. The location of this site rated high; however, the proportion of park space the bowl requires and its adjacency to nearby facilities is not rated as high. The property is 1-1/4 acres and a fully-developed skateboard park ideally requires 1 acre. A full-service skateboard park would use most of the site's green space. There is also opposition from the nearby multi-family housing because of loud, continuous noise from the temporary skateboard site.

The Ballard Civic Center is being designed as a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood core and includes a library that will be constructed across the street from the park site. The community has moved away from the original "passive" design envisioned for the park and is now willing to include more active elements at the site, but skateboarding may be more active than what the community wants.

At the project's next public meeting on January 13 in the old Ballard Safeway Building, Parks Department staff will go back to the community with conceptual plans. Some of these plans will include a skateboard park and some will not. Ken said that Parks is committed to looking for alternative skateboard sites in Ballard; however, an alternate site has not yet been identified. According to Kathie Huus, the Department's skateboard policy provides that if a new park is built, or a significant re-design occurs in an existing park, a skateboard park would be considered - depending on community input. Parks staff worked closely with the UW School of Architecture to come up with alternate locations and this information is still being examined. The Board suggested that vacant buildings be looked at as possible skateboard park sites. Ken said when the temporary site was chosen, several other sites were looked at as potentials (the City Light substation in Ballard, Golden Gardens Park, and underneath the 15th Ave Bridge); none of these sites have worked out. Kate said it is a given that Parks only has so much property and doesn't have funds to go out and buy additional property.

Terry suggested the Golden Gardens parking area (east of the railroad tracks) as a potential site. Ken said the space would be adequate; however, there are a number of issues with this site, including its proximity to the railroad.

Following additional discussion, Sarah said she feels strongly that a skateboard park should be accommodated. The Parks Department supports team sports and she believes it should also support this individual sport. Terry believes that the Park Department increased expectations when it allowed the temporary skateboard park to be located at this site and he doesn't want the permanent skateboard facility to be shelved.

Ken stated that the Department was very clear that this location was intended as a temporary site. Ken said this is a good example of competing uses in limited park space. It is also a good opportunity to create a space that meets multiple community needs - the question is what to create.

Kate said that this is similar to the recent off-leash area requested at Gas Works Park that the Board heard - there is a demand for a skateboard park, there is value in providing it, there is a good start at the temporary site, and there are no funds to build it elsewhere.

Ken asked Cathy and Kathie if the designers have considered the skateboard site being located inside a building or a partial building at the current site. This would be similar to a skateboard park in Renton that has a roof and 2-3 walls, which keep the facility dry. This would be a genuine alternative that could make the skateboard park work on this site. Cathy will suggest this to the designers, although she believes this would change the vision of the Civic Center.

More discussion followed. **Sarah moved that the plan for this site carry forward an alternative that the skateboard park continues to be reviewed in the public process. Kate seconded. The vote was taken with four in favor (Joanna, Kate, Sarah, and Terry) and one abstention (James.)**

Cathy stated that the preferred alternative will be brought back before the Board for a public hearing and recommendation in early April. The Board thanked Cathy for the presentation.

Briefing: Green Lake Alum Treatment

Parks Department project manager Kevin Stoops came before the Board to give a briefing on the proposed alum treatment for Green Lake. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. Both are included below.

Written Briefing

Problem statement: Green Lake is Seattle's most heavily used urban park. However, blue-green algal growth (Cyanobacteria) in recent years has impaired beneficial use of the lake. Closures in 1999 and 2002 precluded swimming, rowing, sailing, and other water contact recreational activities. The algal growth is stimulated by phosphorus in the water. An alum treatment is proposed in 2004 to inactivate the phosphorus and control the algal growths.

Discussion: Algal problems have plagued Green Lake since its earliest days as a public park. During the 1930's dredging and application of copper sulfate were tried to remove the phosphorus laden sediments and kill the algae, respectively. Beginning in the early 1960's, City drinking water was diverted to Green Lake to dilute phosphorus concentrations and manage the water quality.

By the late 1970's, with increasing demands on potable water and several drought years that precluded use of drinking water for dilution, a new management plan became indicated. In 1983 a Phase I diagnostic feasibility study was prepared to describe Green Lake's water quality problems after a year of monitoring and research into possible remedies. This was followed in 1987-1989 by a Green Lake Water Quality Restoration

Plan and engineering analyses of the potential use of groundwater, as well as lake water from Lake Washington and development of a Green Lake treatment plant, to create alternative dilution sources for Green Lake. These efforts also included further studies into stormwater controls, alum treatment, aeration, and other measures. This was, in turn, followed by an environmental impact statement process in 1989-1990. Prior to City Council adoption of the recommended plan in late 1990, a value engineering/peer review process was conducted to confirm that alum was indeed an appropriate and cost effective tool for inactivation of the phosphorus.

By Resolution 28248, the Green Lake Water Quality Restoration Program was adopted in November 1990. It provided for control of stormwater controls on the Woodland Park drain system, management of aquatic weeds with a harvesting program, an aluminum sulfate treatment, biomanipulation measures including waterfowl control and alteration of fish stocking practices, pre-design studies of a Green Lake Treatment Plant, and post restoration monitoring. This program was implemented as a Phase II water quality restoration immediately. Alum treatment occurred in late 1991, stormwater improvements on the Woodland Park drain and West Green Lake Way North in 1992, a new harvester was purchased and began operation in 1992, treatment plant pre-design and evaluation was undertaken in 1992 (not pursued due to high capital and operating costs), and water quality was monitored in the lake from 1992 through 1995. Waterfowl were relocated from Green Lake on several occasions, tiger-muskies were planted to crop the European carp populations after several fishery studies, and, later, Asian grass carp were planted to help control the milfoil.

A project completion report was prepared in 1995 after most of these measures had been accomplished to document the lake's response, and indicated a need to prepare for a subsequent alum treatment within five-to-eight years. A preliminary engineering report has been completed in 2003 to summarize recent water quality conditions, research altered alum treatment dosage methods, outline treatment specifications, and estimate the costs of such treatment.

Verbal Briefing

Kevin gave a verbal review of the written briefing. A public meeting was held on October 16 at the Green Lake Community Center, with 70-80 people present. In 1991, the treatment was requested by the Parks Department; now nearby residents are also requesting the treatment. The Mayor's proposed budget includes \$1.5 million for the treatment and, if approved by City Council, will go out for bid for the work to be done in late February-early March. Ken said there has been no indication that City Council would not approve this funding.

Board Discussion

The Board asked how the alum process works and Kevin said that the alum chemical binds with phosphorous and holds the phosphorous so it can no longer fuel the algae. The Board asked how long the treatment would be effective. Kevin answered that the 1991

treatment was effective for approximately five years. It is hoped that this treatment, which will be triple the strength used in 1991, will last for the next 10-12 years. The treatment will be applied in a slow fashion over several weeks and will be monitored. Kevin gave more details of the process and said that it is more effective to do the work in the winter, as the summer growth of milfoil would interfere with the process. He also described the "aquatic combine harvester" which is used to cut milfoil and other plants in Green Lake. The combine, which is a stainless steel boat that is 20 feet long and 8 feet wide, has a conveyor that lowers into the water and cuts back the underwater plants.

Terry moved that the Board of Park Commissioners support the proposal to do the alum treatment as per the Mayor's proposed supplemental budget. James seconded. The vote was taken with four in favor (James, Joanna, Kate, and Terry) and one abstention (Sarah). Motion carried.

The Board thanked Kevin for the presentation.

Briefing: Cheasty Park Vegetation Management Plan

Eliza Davidson, Horticulture Planning and Development Specialist, came before the Board to give a briefing on the Cheasty Park Vegetation Management Plan. The Board received a written briefing, followed by a verbal briefing. Both are included.

Written Briefing

Scope

This Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) addresses forest restoration for Cheasty Greenspace, which abuts - but does not include - Cheasty Boulevard. The Greenspace stretches 1.5 miles on a north-south axis between South Bayview Street and South Angeline Street and is comprised of 31 parcels totaling 43 acres. Many parcels are linked by undeveloped rights-of-way (property not owned by Seattle Parks), which also are covered under the guidelines of this VMP, and effectively expand managed area to 57 acres. The project budget is \$40,000.

VMP Format

The Cheasty Greenspace VMP is consistent in both organization and content with other recently-developed VMP's. It is divided into ten chapters:

1. Overview
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Plan Context (history, citizen concerns, park usage, related projects)
4. Assessment of Existing Conditions (soils, slopes, streams and wetlands, forest character, wildlife, human impacts)
5. Findings (description and evaluation of forest condition, issues and opportunities)
6. Vegetation Management Recommendations (long-term targets and prescriptions for six identified Management Areas)
7. Vegetation Management and Maintenance Practices
8. Implementation (priorities, strategies, budget estimate)

9. Monitoring Plan
10. Appendices (public process and comment, existing vegetation and birds, recommended plant lists, references, maps)

Public Involvement and Concerns

The public involvement process occurred between early spring and early fall 2003 and generated few comments germane to Cheasty Greenspace, as opposed to Boulevard and private view-related tree issues. Individuals expressed support for: reforestation, especially to reverse perceived neglect; improved habitat; management of invasive infestations; and reduction of the destructive, sometimes aggressive, presence of transients. Some were concerned about the magnitude of needed restoration versus the limited resources available. The public involvement process included:

- Two community meetings during the VMP development (June and July 2003), with very sparse attendance (2-10 citizens)
- A third meeting in conjunction with EarthCorps to stimulate volunteer involvement (March 2003)
- Significant participation by skilled volunteers in baseline data gathering for the VMP
- An early implementation contract to build community partnerships (neighbors, at-risk youth, elementary students) and monthly IvyOut work parties since April
- Public review period for the draft VMP, which received limited citizen input

Existing Conditions

Existing conditions were assessed based on 1/10 acre plot vegetation samples taken throughout the Greenspace by EarthCorps apprentices, under professional guidance:

Forest Canopy

- Maturing upland deciduous forest, mainly bigleaf maple
- Conifers virtually absent
- Tree size mostly 15" trunk diameter or less
- Snags and coarse woody debris present reflect this small-medium tree size
- Non-native Norway and Sycamore maples present as mature trees, saplings, and seedlings

Understory

- Invaded to varying degrees, English ivy most prevalent, then Himalayan blackberry
- Despite presence of non-natives, fairly intact native shrub layer diversity and cover
- Common native dominants found: hazelnut, Indian plum, snowberry, vine maple, red elderberry, rose, low Oregon grape, oceanspray
- Three riparian corridors and associated wetlands identified

Wildlife

- Cheasty Greenspace has notable existing wildlife value
- Extensive edge habitat due to geometry of greenspace
- Greatest habitat value lies in preservation of forested interior habitat
- Potential to connect habitat fragments that might otherwise be isolated

Human Use

- Numerous dump sites, encampments, and social trails
- Neighbors use and value Hanford Street steps, but safety is a concern
- Citizen stewardship activities have been limited in the past
- Surrounding land uses are changing: Rainier Vista, Sound Transit, private development all will increase urban edge and adjacent population density

Identified Issues

- Limited healthy forest regeneration
- Absence of conifers
- Invasive species eradication (understory and trees)
- Habitat preservation and enhancement
- Hazard tree management
- Human impacts (social trails, encampments, adjacent uses, encroachments)
- Fostering stewardship and positive use

VMP Goals

1. Improve overall forest health
2. Create and sustain, over time, a mixed deciduous/coniferous forest
3. Increase community stewardship
4. Improve wildlife habitat quality

Management Areas

map delineates:

- Quality Habitat - Patch - Ivy
- Blackberry/Ivy - Blackberry - Edge

See map at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/Cheasty/map3.DOC>

Recommended Actions

- Widespread native tree plantings to increase species diversity and conifer presence
- Remove non-native invasive species that threaten health of the greenspace - mainly ivy, blackberry, and invasive maple species - using both focused and long-term strategies

- Increase snags and coarse woody debris by girdling trees and importing large woody debris
- Rehabilitate human impact sites detrimental to greenspace health (dumps, encampments, and social trails)
- Increase community stewardship and volunteer base by establishing relationships with local schools, youth groups, neighborhood residents, and larger community to participate in restoration and grant-seeking for Cheasty Greenspace over the long term

Verbal Briefing

The Board received a map of Cheasty Park in their agenda packets. Eliza displayed a large version of the same map and pointed out the areas of the VMP. She also distributed a map which showed where slides have occurred in this park.

Eliza said that there has been some confusion between the Cheasty Park VMP and a concurrent project at Cheasty Boulevard right-of-way. The Boulevard runs through Cheasty Park, however, the Boulevard project is separate from this VMP. Three community meetings have been held for the VMP, with low attendance and little input, as this project isn't controversial. Eliza gave a verbal review of the written briefing.

Board Discussion

Joanna asked what defines a green space. Parks staff answered that this is a generic term used to identify the City's 13 greenbelts and 40 natural areas that the City has designated as worth preserving. James asked if trees are considered invasive just because they are non-natives. Eliza answered that invasive trees are those species that can re-generate in their own shade and exclude other species. Especially invasive species are Norway maples, which often seed underneath native Bigleaf Maples. Sarah asked for additional information on the perimeter of the VMP. Eliza said that perimeter management is more intense due to constant re-encroachment of invasives into the Park. Bruce asked where the funds come from for the work. Eliza answered that 80% of the work is done by volunteers, 10% by Parks staff, and 10% is contracted out.

The Board thanked Eliza for the presentation.

Briefing: Transfer of Jurisdiction Related to Lake City Library (Initiative 42)

Terry Dunning, Parks Department Manager of Major Transactions, came before the Board to give a briefing and ask for a recommendation on the transfer of park land at Albert Davis Park in Lake City.

Written Briefing

The Lake City Civic Center project adjacent to Albert Davis Park includes major renovations to the public library. The new library requires the use of approximately 1,000 square feet of land that is currently used as part of Albert Davis Park.

Transfer of this land to the Library Department will be accomplished by City Council action through adoption of an Ordinance transferring jurisdiction over the required property to the Library. The property being received in exchange consists of 8,388 square feet and was acquired by the City's Fleets and Facilities Department for \$299,000.

Changing the use of park land is subject to Ordinance 118477 (aka Initiative 42) which requires that such transfers can only be approved in limited circumstances and only after a public hearing of the City Council. Section 1 of Ordinance 118477 defines the criteria to be met in order to satisfy the requirements of Initiative 42. The replacement property, which meets the requirements defined in the ordinance, has been secured and will be transferred to Parks and Recreation. That property will provide a significant addition to Albert Davis Park and is shown as "Replacement Property" on the attached map. The property is superior in size, value, and utility to the property being transferred to the Library and thus meets the requirements for replacement property set out in I-42.

A hearing of the City Council will be scheduled at the earliest available date in 2004.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Board is asked to recommend that the City Council adopt an Ordinance transferring jurisdiction over the required property and, in exchange, accept property designated as "Replacement Property" on the attached map as satisfaction of the requirements of Initiative 42.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion and Recommendation

Terry displayed a large drawing of the site and described the two parcels of land. He gave a brief review of the written briefing and stated that the exchange will result in Parks getting a piece of \$300,000 property that is eight times larger than the piece it is exchanging. The Board held a brief discussion.

Kate moved to proceed with this exchange and that it satisfies the requirements of the ordinance. Terry seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business

- ***Bobby Morris Playfield:*** Terry initiated discussion of a \$1.6 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) at Bobby Morris Playfield. Ken gave a background of this project:

This controversial project will be coming before the Board, possibly at the December meeting. In 1997, the Parks Department replaced a cinder-based surface with a sports grass surface - a new technology which failed. For a variety

of reasons the sports grass surface was not used nearly as extensively as the previous surface. This lit athletic field is in an area of town that doesn't have many athletic fields. Now Parks wants to replace the sports grass with field turf and, in the process of doing that, staff are examining how to best relate the field to the rest of the park. There is controversy around the field relating to the pathway, where the fencing will be installed, and other issues. Parks staff are looking at alternatives and going through a public process.

City Council has been contacted by community members and Council proposed a budget proviso to take some funds from the project to do other work, which would result in inadequate funding for the fencing. That proposal was then changed from taking the funds from the project to not spending the project funds until the project design is brought back before the City Council. The Council has not yet acted on this proposal. The latest information Ken has is that it hasn't yet been scheduled on the Council's agenda since the issue was first raised two weeks ago.

Kate asked for clarification on what this means to the budget process. Ken said it means that City Council won't appropriate the 2004 funds that Parks has allocated to the project until Parks brings the design back to Council. Kate asked if this endangers the funds and Ken answered that it does in the sense that the funds are not appropriated and the project is put on hold until Parks staff come back before City Council. There is money appropriated in 2003 to do the design and City Council approved the project for 2003-2004. This is one of the Park Department's 130 CIP projects - many of which have controversial elements - and is the only one that Council has selected for possible review and decision making.

Terry disclosed that Ken D'Alessandro of Seattle Youth Soccer telephoned and e-mailed him requesting support of the Bobby Morris project as it was promised to sports groups. Sports groups were notified last week that this is happening in City Council. Terry said that similar projects follow a two year process, with the design being completed in the first year and construction in the second year. Usually the project wouldn't be extended past the two-year process, because it would result in loss of continuity of the public involvement process. Terry attended the first public meeting six weeks ago. The second one was cancelled, and is now re-scheduled for November 20.

After further discussion, it was agreed that it is appropriate for the Board to request City Council follow the usual process for this CIP project. **Kate moved that the Board of Park Commissioners urge City Council to maintain the budget support for the Bobby Morris Playfield project and also to acknowledge that the Board of Park Commissioners will thoroughly review all community input on design prior to the Board's recommendation to the Superintendent. Terry seconded. The vote was taken, with four in favor (Joanna, Kate, Sarah, and Terry) and one abstention (James.)**

- ***Sand Point Magnuson Park follow up:*** Joanna asked Ken to discuss two recurring themes that were included in e-mails the Board received on the Sand Point Magnuson Park (SPMP) project (which includes 11 new sportsfields):
- *(1) The Parks Department's sportsfield needs assessment was inaccurate:*
Ken said in 2002 the Department completed a survey to assess demand for sports fields. The survey had a 23% response. Opponents of the survey argue against the survey's quality and comprehensiveness. Ken has asked Fritz Hedges, Parks Department Policy Director, to do further work with the survey to explain the methodology and to draw conclusions from the information.
- *(2) The Department didn't look at alternate sites:*
Ken said that SPMP was part of the Joint Athletic Field Development Plan, which looked at Seattle School District and Park Department facilities. The Department didn't go out and look at properties it doesn't own or control, such as Pier 91 - one of the alternate sites suggested in some e-mails. Ken had previously approached the Port about this 22-acre property, without success.

The Sand Point Magnuson Park project will go before City Council in the first quarter of 2004 and the Council will have several new members. Joanna believes there won't be as much support for the Sand Point Magnuson Park project. She suggested that the Board of Park Commissioners schedule a meeting with the new City Council members to discuss the Sand Point Magnuson Park project. Parks staff will send a letter to the Council members to request this meeting.

- Bruce suggested that further discussion of BMX track be held at the next meeting (under "Old Business.")

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair