

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2005

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present: Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Joanna Grist
Debbie Jackson
Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Amit Ranade

Excused:

Terry Holme

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commission Chair Kate Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Belbeck moved approval of the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, the July 28 minutes as presented, and the August 11 agenda as amended. Commissioner Collins seconded. The vote was taken and passed unanimously.**

Superintendent's Report

Ken Bounds, Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, reported on the following:

“Impact fees” for Open Space: Mayor Nickels announced on August 2 a bold proposal to impose a new fee on developers to help pay for parks and open space in some of the city’s fastest-growing neighborhoods, including downtown Seattle. This is a significant and far-reaching plan that will help address the deficit of downtown open space and in other crowded urban areas of the city.

Commissioners Collins asked if this proposal has the potential to raise serious amounts of funds and the Superintendent answered yes. The Board will be briefed on this proposal as it develops.

Elliott Skatepark: Parks will host the first of two community meetings tonight (August 11) at Queen Anne Community Center for the Elliott Skatepark and Basketball Court. The goals of the meeting are to present the general scope of the project, help determine what percentage of the skate area is street skating vs. bowl skating, and brainstorm skate features. Staff will also discuss the process used to locate the site. The location is controversial and a protest has been scheduled at this meeting by Kate Martin of Parents For Skateparks. Grindline has been hired to design the skatebowl and Parks is excited about this.

Cal Anderson Park: On August 9, Parks staff attended a community meeting with the Mayor's Office staff and other City staff to give the community an overview of the Seattle Police Department/Parks Safety and Security Plan. The plan focuses on special events, programming, maintenance security, Animal Control enforcement, and potential community and business partnerships.

Parks in the News: Recent stories in the daily newspapers featured Columbia Park, picnic reservations, the canoe and kayak championships at Green Lake, the Ravenna Playground renovation, and Jefferson Park lawn bowling.

Pro Parks Plymouth Pillars Park (formerly Boren Pike Pine): Construction will start August 15 on this park renovation and should be completed by the end of 2005.

Sportsfield Use: The first week in August saw heavy sportsfield usage, with 504 scheduled games (baseball, soccer, etc.) and 509 practices. The total hours of use was 2,130 and represents approximately 25,000 sports participants using Parks fields during the week.

Summer Swim League Championships: Madison Pool hosted the All City Swim Meet on August 6. This event was the finale of this year's Summer Swim League program. Approximately 400 swimmers from nine Parks pools qualified for the event, which is about half of the overall participants.

Summer Rowing Extravaganza: This past Saturday, Parks and the Green Lake Rowing Advisory Council pulled off one of the largest summer rowing regattas in Green Lake history. The 44th annual rowing regatta kicked off at 6:45 a.m. and ran nonstop until 5:00 p.m., with races starting every seven minutes.

Beach Naturalist Program: The Aquarium's beach naturalist program ended with 13,247 educational contacts with the public on seven beaches since Memorial Day weekend.

Mariners Donation: The Mariners notified Parks this week that they would be giving the Department all of the used baseball equipment brought by fans to Safeco Field on Sunday, August 14, as part of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund Equipment Collection Day. A member of Parks staff will accept the donation in a pre-game ceremony. Each year a different agency is selected as the recipient and Parks was very happy to be this year's selection.

26th Amy Yee Tennis Classic: The Tennis Center was the site of two junior tennis tournaments on August 7-14, with nearly 300 young players ranging in age from 7 to 18 years old. Players traveled from as far away as New York and Southern California to attend the event. Proceeds from all events support junior tennis in the Seattle area.

South Park Baseball Diplomacy: A group of youth from the Dominican Republic played a group of R.B.I. All-Stars at the South Park field on August 9-11. R.B.I. is the "Mariners and Major League Baseball's Reviving Baseball in Inner City" program. Carmen Martinez, South Park Community Center Teen Development Leader, partnered with the Boys & Girls Club to field two R.B.I. teams with youth players from the South Park area.

Jack W. Rose Award: The Jack W. Rose Memorial Award is presented annually to the Outstanding North American State Chair/Provincial Coordinator of Hershey's Track and Field Youth Program. This year's recipient was Parks' own Dennis Cook, Senior Recreation Program Coordinator for Citywide Athletics. Congratulations to Dennis for his hard work, giving back to others in such a positive manner.

Golden Garden Bathhouse in High Demand: Ballard Community Center staff have substantially increased community usage of the renovated bathhouse with 121 events booked through October 27.

Oxbow Park Dedication: Parks staff will join the Georgetown community on Saturday, August 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m., to celebrate the dedication of Oxbow Park. The park includes the Hat 'n' Boots icons that were salvaged from an old gas station on E Marginal Way. The acquisition of the new park was funded through the Pro Parks Levy. Development of the park was paid for by Pro Parks and by private donations, including Starbucks.

Benefit Park: The Sonics and Storm Foundation made improvements to the basketball court at Benefit Park and an unveiling event is set for Wednesday, August 17. The project consisted of resealing the courts, replacing the stanchions, backboards and hoops, re-stripping a full and a half basketball court, and adding benches.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. Two people signed up to testify.

Tracy Goodwin: She is President of Queen Anne Park Stewards. She testified to the Board approximately one year ago on the Department's Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) guidelines and expressed concerns with whether the VMP properly balanced the goal of removing vegetation with the impacts on nearby properties. Queen Anne Park Stewards have been following the issue closely over the last year. The Stewards made comments during the SEPA process and recommended some additional goals and objectives. They are very pleased to see that Parks staff have included those additional goals and objectives in the guidelines. She expressed thanks to one particular Parks staff person who has reached out recently to the community. Queen Anne Park Stewards is looking at the guidelines as a whole, for all locations. Most of the viewpoints that are recommended for vegetation removal are located in environmentally critical areas. Her organization can support the goals of the Plan — the key, however, is how the plans are implemented. She urged that each plan have the proper budget to fully address all components to ensure the plans' success. She also urged the Commissioners to look closely at each plan as they are brought forward.

Brian Livingston: He lives at 1132 Queen Anne and is a member of the Queen Anne Park Stewards. He is pleased with the changes that have been introduced to the Vegetation Management Plan. Because many of Seattle's favorite parks are on steep slopes, extra care must be taken to ensure they are preserved for generations to come. Some of these parks already have eroded areas and he thanked the Department for including the monitoring/restoration of eroded areas in the Vegetation Viewpoint Plan.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Dahl Playfield Skatespot

Pamela Kliment, Seattle Parks' Neighborhood Matching Fund project manager, briefed the Commissioners on a proposal to include a skatespot at Dahl Playfield. The Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing, with both included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

A public hearing and Parks staff briefing on the skatespot proposal at Dahl Playfield will be held on August 11th. On August 25th, the proposal will return to the Park Board for a recommendation on whether Parks will support the addition of a skateboarding area at Dahl Playfield.

Project Description and Background

Dahl Playfield, located at 7700 25th Avenue NE in Wedgwood, currently has a small old play area, comfort station, four ballfields and an informal path that goes partway around the park (see attached aerial). It is 14.50 acres.

The project the Board is being asked to consider is the addition at Dahl of a skatespot of approximately 3,600 square feet. The project has been proposed by a group of Wedgwood skateboard supporters, Boarders for Parks. A skatespot is a small skateboard park. An example (designed by Grindline, a local skateboard park designer) is attachment 1. Boarders for Parks have suggested two possible locations at Dahl for the skatespot (attachment 4).

Parks evaluated Dahl Playfield with the locational criteria of the Skateboard Park Policy and found that it met the siting goals of the Policy: it is located within an existing park with services, has parking, is visible from the street, and is a location where the impacts of the use can be adequately mitigated.

Opposition to the project has been raised by the Friends of Dahl Playfield (FODP) organization, leading to Parks' decision to bring the skatespot project to the Board for an airing of the issues and a Board recommendation.

Issues

Compatibility with Planned Park Improvements: The compatibility of a skatespot with the Friends' sponsored park improvements is a primary issue raised by citizens. Friends of Dahl is undertaking a major Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) project which will redevelop the play area, add a gathering space, a bog planting area, restore the perimeter path and make ballfield improvements such as backstop replacements and dugout benches. This project has been through a public planning process and preliminary design development is complete. Considerable community time, effort and funds have been devoted to the NMF project.

The skatespot proposal was aired at the November 2004 Parks' sponsored public meeting about the Friends' improvement project. At the time it was proposed, the FODP plan for that area of the park was in the formative stage; the specific plans for the area which include the bog and public art have been developed since the initial proposal for a skatepark.

General Skatepark Opposition: In addition to the issue of the compatibility of a skatespot with the FODP plan for the park, opponents are concerned about issues often associated in the public's view with skateboard parks: late night use, crime, loitering, trash, and adding one more activity to an already busy park. Boarders for Parks counter that the small size of this facility and the fact that the skate features will be geared to beginning and intermediate skaters will ameliorate these problems.

Design: The Parks ProView Committee has approved the design development created by Siteworkshop for the play area, ballfield and path improvements. Pam Alspaugh, Parks landscape architect, has reviewed the suggested skatespot locations in the context of the approved Dahl Playfield development project. She thinks that the addition of the skatespot, primarily for younger children, would fit in well with the larger improved nearby play area and new gathering space and that the proposed location next to the parking lot is a good one. Pam was concerned that the second proposed location, in the parking lot, might trigger circulation issues. In addition, there may be other potential spots in the park where a skatespot could be located. If the skatespot project idea is approved, it would go through a normal Parks design process and the best location could be determined. The current approved schematic design for the NMF project is attached. (attachment 3)

Public Involvement Process

There have been two parallel sets of public processes; one led by Friends of Dahl and the other by Boarders for Parks. This is a community that cares about this park and every meeting was extremely well attended. BFP conducted two public meetings in February and March to talk about the project and gauge community support. About a third of the people who came to the meetings were children. FODP held five public meetings to generate ideas and community enthusiasm. For the NMF project, Parks mailed out 2,000 fliers, and a large project sign has been displayed at the site since June 2004. In addition, because of the controversy the skatespot proposal has generated, the Wedgwood Community Council will facilitate a community meeting August 16 and will report the meeting outcome to the Board on August 25th.

Budget

If the skatespot idea is approved, Boarders for Parks will apply for a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple grant for design and for development of a cost estimate

Schedule

BFP plans to apply for the NMF Small and Simple award in October. Funding will be available in late November 2005. The rest of the schedule will depend on how soon design can be completed (with appropriate public process) and fundraising. The playfield renovation project has an approved design development plan. Construction drawings will be completed by the end of 2005, and construction is planned for summer 2006.

Additional Information

Pamela Kliment, Parks Neighborhood Matching Fund Planner, 684-7556

Pamela.Kliment@seattle.gov

[Note: Due to file size, attachments are not included in on-line version of minutes.]

Verbal Briefing/Board Questions & Answers

Ms. Kliment displayed a large map and schematic drawing of the park and reviewed the information in the written briefing. Chair Pflaumer asked for clarification on whether the shape of the baseball diamond is being changed and Ms. Kliment stated that it isn't.

Commissioner Jackson asked if the Skate Park Advisory Committee (SPAC) has weighed in on this site yet. Ms. Kliment answered that they are aware of the proposal but haven't yet weighed in. Parks staff person Susan Golub is keeping SPAC apprised of the proposal.

Ms. Kliment stated that there is both community opposition and support for the skatespot proposal. Tonight the Board is being asked to help determine whether adding a skatespot to Dahl Playfield is a good idea, and isn't being asked to determine where a skatespot should be located.

The Board spent time discussing the proposed skatespot and how that fits with the current community design [by Friends of Dahl Playfield] that does not include a skatespot. Commissioner Belbeck asked if the skatespot is approved, would it be included in the current project or be developed as a separate project. Ms. Kliment answered that Parks would move forward with the original design and the skatespot would be a separate project. It has been made clear to the community that the original design will move forward, separately from the skatespot. Commissioner Belbeck asked how the skatespot, if approved, would be accommodated in the larger project — how to avoid completing the re-design, then building the skatespot on a newly-rebuilt part of the park. Ms. Kliment answered that there would be phasing to accomplish the Friends of Dahl Playground design and the skatespot design. Commissioner Collins commented that the location of the skatespot makes a big difference in the Board's discussion process. He doesn't want the Board to micromanage Parks' projects, but the Board must make its judgment based on the location. Ms. Kliment commented that she cannot say at this point where it will be located. If a skatespot at Dahl is approved, the project would then go through a community design process. Ms. Kliment then pointed out two of the most likely sites. One is in a parking lot and the other is in a grassy area.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing began. The Chair reminded the audience that each person has up to three minutes to speak and will be timed. A total of 24 citizens testified; a very brief summary of their comments follows.

Richard Korry: He lives 4 blocks away with his wife and two children. He urged that the skatespot not be located at the wetlands and listed reasons. Respect the community's efforts — it is unfair to change the project at this late date. There are better alternatives, such as the tennis court at Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center or at Magnuson Park. Consider the community's trust and don't insert a controversial element into this project.

Kiki Hansen: He thinks skateboarding is cool and this site is near his home. Streets are bumpy and dangerous for skaters.

John Hansen: He thanked both the proponents and opponents of the skatespot. He is a member of Friends of Dahl Playfield and is really impressed with kids at the community meetings and here tonight and thanked them for their involvement. They want a skate park and came and the asked Friends of Dahl Park. He was a skateboarder when he was a kid. He is fully behind beautification of this park and described how the two possible sites for a skatespot were selected. They do not want to put concrete over an existing idea of the Friends of Dahl. He described lots of interest from skaters at Wedgwood School in this proposed skatespot. This is a low-impact area for a skatespot — please support.

Brenda Winter: Now is time for the Wedgwood community and the City of Seattle to show support for kids. Skateboarding is a positive influence and she is excited about the prospect of the skatespot where for years to come, kids will want to be outdoors skating and not indoors watching tv. Please do the right thing!

Riley Kerr: He has been skating for five years and is sick of not having a place to skate. Dahl is a good place near schools and he and his friends live in that area. There are many good sites outside Seattle, but not in the city.

Robin Lazar: She represented Christine Larsen, who is the Chair of Friends of Dahl Playfield and could not be at the meeting to testify. The question isn't whether skateboarding is good or whether a skateboarding area is needed in Northeast Seattle. The answer to those questions is yes. The question tonight is whether Dahl is the correct site for a skatespot and the answer is no. This design project is a product of 2,000 community design hours, \$30,000 of City grant funds, and over a years worth of planning. About 20 years ago, a similar design process happened and an unwanted element was proposed at the last minute. The community opposed it and donations could not be secured, so the project was shelved. Please don't let that happen to this project. Skate parks never emerged as a priority in the community process and the community felt that teens were already well served at the park. Friends of Dahl have already secured \$275,000 in cash donations and volunteer hours and are more than halfway to the goal of \$450,000. Adding a skatespot at this time would betray the trust of those who have worked or donated to the project. She pointed out the possible sites of a skatespot and listed reasons against. Don't sell out the community — there is no compelling reason why Dahl Playground should be the only Northeast Seattle skatespot.

Meg Goldman: She has lived near the park for nearly 12 years and is Vice Chair of Friends of Dahl Playfield. A skatespot at Dahl is not appropriate. In May 2004 at the first community meeting, she suggested a skate area be considered, as there is a need for a skate area in Northeast Seattle. She encouraged the group to investigate the skate parks in both Kirkland and Shoreline. This was done and the research was duly reported back to the community. The Friends of Dahl carried out a 10-month design process on how to best serve many ages and needs. The skate area, along with several other ideas, didn't get included and she listed the reasons why. It is always a challenge to prioritize elements and let some go. She displayed several large drawings and described the art components. Please acknowledge and respect the work that has gone into the original design.

Teresa Sumearl: The Boarders learned of the Dahl Playground project in November 2004 and became involved. Many Boarders are here in the audience tonight. It was not a democratic process, as the existing group had a vision and was not accepting of the new idea of a skatespot. She then talked to Pamela Kliment who suggested that Boarders for Parks prepare a parallel design. She described possible locations for the skatespot and why they were selected. At that time, Friends of Dahl had not made plans for those sites in their design and Boarders was trying to be deferential to Friends of Dahl Playfield's vision. They prefer the parking site, which would result in removal of seven parking spaces and replacing concrete with concrete. The average age of skateboarders is 13 and these kids are not thugs. Most kids don't go jogging and, other than team sports, there aren't many activities available to them.

Sam Daggett: He is 14 and lives 6 blocks away. He is a former student of Eckstein Middle School and will attend Nathan Hale High School this fall. He likes skateboarding and would like a skate area in his neighborhood that he could walk to. Currently his parents must make a 10-15 minute drive to take him to a skate park.

Heidi Sando: She has lived next to Dahl Playground for 20 years and is a member of Picardo P-Patch garden. This is a quiet neighborhood and park, which has baseball and soccer at the north end. Of great concern to the gardeners is the amount of subsoil moisture. She enjoys the open green space.

John Hoge: He is the artist commissioned by Friends of Dahl Playground and the design works well with the bog restoration. He displayed a large drawing of the design. His son skates, but he asks that the community process be respected and no skatespot be included at Dahl.

Ted Finkle: He favors a skatespot at Dahl. His son has been skateboarding for six years and most skaters are good kids who are considerate of each other and have a good sense of camaraderie. He invited everyone to go to some of the skate parks and observe the skaters. He and other parents must do lots of driving to get their kids to these parks. Cities and towns all around Seattle have built skateparks and it would be nice if there was one in the neighborhood. Other recreation opportunities are included at this park – football, soccer, playground, and wading pool – and it would be nice to include a skate park in the neighborhood.

Macklin Loveland: He has lived in the Ravenna area all his life. There is already a soccer field and wading pool at Dahl and a baseball field is planned. Music and skateboarding are his main activities. The current skateboarding sites are crowded, so kids skate on private property. He listed three reasons to locate a skatespot at Dahl: (1) there is room; (2) Metro buses run nearby; and (3) it would keep kids off the streets. Most skaters are good kids.

Ellen Anderson: She has been a gardener at Picardo P-Patch for the past 25 years. She gave a history of the bogland and urged that it be nurtured and preserved. Respect and live in harmony with it. She described long, deep cracks that have developed in the P-patch area – which is near one of the two possible areas the skatespot would be erected. She asked that the subsoil moisture be restored to the garden area. She is not against exercise but thinks that the skatespot would bring noise and some recklessness to the park, which is scary.

Jim Mathieu: He lives in Northeast Seattle, does some skateboarding, and has a 14-year-old son who is a skateboarder. He supports a skatespot at Dahl and believes it would be a safe location. He also respects the environmental concerns; however, he believes the skatespot can co-exist with the new design for the park. Dedicating public space for skateboarding sends an important message to these kids. Please support.

Roby Daggett: Her older brother and sister skates and she may be a skater someday, too. Dahl is within walking distance of their home. She supports the skatespot.

Marietta Foubert: She is a gardener at the P-Patch and is representing the Seattle Community Council Federation which is unanimously opposed to locating a skatespot at Dahl Playground. It is inappropriate to the unique bog and wetland nature of this area. She described the history and soil of the P-patch and read a lengthy letter from the Federation. Friends of Dahl Playground raised \$275,000 for their project. It is premature to approve a skatespot at this time and she asked that the Board not approve the proposal.

Will Nettke: He has been skating for six years and has skated all over Seattle. He built ramps and set them up at the community centers and they were taken away. There is hardly anywhere in Seattle for skaters to skate. Dahl Playground is safe and is visible from 25th Ave. He has never seen fights or drugs at skate parks and believes skating is a clean and positive activity for kids.

Andrea Baumgarter: She lives near Dahl Playground and presented a petition which opposes siting the skate park at Dahl, signed by 116 neighbors of the park. She asked the Board to visit the site and see that is a very dark space, with many law enforcement issues. Police often drive slowly down 25th at night and shine spotlights into the park, but the offenders lie flat and cannot be seen. She appreciates the kids, but please don't approve the skatespot at Dahl.

Diane Carney: She lives near Dahl and walks her dog there and hasn't seen bad behavior. She teaches at Seattle University, tutors, skates, and helped develop the Everett skate park. She believes the Borders for Parks plan is compatible with the Friends of Dahl Playground plan. She believes there is a negative stereotypical view of kids that skate and that is not the case. She asked that the proposal move forward.

Barbara Luecke: She is a Northeast resident and is a skateboarding fan. She believes she can give a broader perspective on the issue as she is a construction project manager. Friends of Dahl Park have executed an exemplary project that is complicated and well designed. They have followed all the rules in involving the public. Everything works well. The City is behind in getting skate parks but she cannot see a good area to site one at Dahl. If a skatespot is approved, she urged that a caveat be added that the proposed public art sites not be affected.

Laura Prauss: She is a neighbor of Dahl Park and favors a skatespot. She is a hydrogeologist and stated that there is no validity to concerns that this skatespot will impact the subsoil — it would have its own drainage system to put the water back into the soil.

Nick Dallett: He lives on the east side of Lake Washington and has been a skate boarder for over 30 years. Skate boarding is very underserved nationwide, but especially in big cities like Seattle. The only one in Seattle [near Seattle Center] is being demolished. Other sites have been considered and rejected.

The public hearing concluded at 7:30 p.m. The Board thanked the public for attending and for its testimony on this issue. At its August 25 meeting, the Board plans to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Additional Board Question & Answers

The Board thanked Ms. Kliment for the briefing and the public for attending the meeting and giving testimony. The Board will discuss this project at its August 25 meeting and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Briefing/Discussion/Recommendation: Vegetation Management Plans Guidelines for Viewpoints

Mark Mead, Senior Urban Forester, gave a briefing on the Vegetation Management Plans Guidelines for Viewpoints. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. The Board was asked to make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

An informational report on the Vegetation Management for Seattle Parks Viewpoints (VM) document was presented to the Board in 2004. The Board is asked to recommend the approval by the Superintendent of this document with staffs' recommended changes. The changes are few and are attached to this paper. The complete document (all 90 pages) is available at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/Viewpoints/VMP.htm>.

Project Description and Background

An informational briefing on the Vegetation Management for Seattle Parks Viewpoints (VM Guidelines) document was presented to the Board in 2004. The VM is part of an ongoing Capital Improvement Program funded project currently funded at \$42,000 per year. The VM is intended to provide overall goals and guidelines to work at all of the viewpoints, with more detailed project descriptions developed at each site as the work progresses.

Viewpoint Vegetation Management is an effort to consistently apply practices which reduce maintenance demands, improve views and protect property at 25 of Parks designated public viewpoints. The VM outlines the range of Best Management Practices (BMPs) Parks will employ to obtain the goal of viewpoints which provide all citizens of Seattle outstanding vistas framed by sustainable landscapes. The VM document provides basic guidelines, practices and scopes of work for all of the viewpoints.

The guidelines and related BMPs are the culmination of over 20 years of on site work and research. Parks professional staff has formalized current practices and objectives which address view sheds, slope protection, erosion control, aesthetics, citizen safety, and community concerns. Parks considers the VM guidelines as a method of discharging the duties of a resource manager, providing for the management objectives of the site through appropriate and considered practices.

Action was to be taken on the first viewpoint, Betty Bowen Viewpoint in Marshall Park, but has been delayed until the VM Guidelines could be adopted. An Environmental Checklist was developed for the VM and was submitted to the

Superintendent for a Threshold Determination. A Declaration of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued. Public comment regarding the VM and DNS has resulted in the staff recommended changes to the VM.

Public Involvement Process

The VM is intended as a compendium of current practices and overall guidelines for the entire City. Public meetings will be held at each Viewpoint prior to specific project implementation. The Board has heard citizen input on the Betty Bowen Viewpoint Management Plan and the VM Guidelines in late 2004 and early 2005. The DNS issued for the VM included a fourteen (14) day public comment period and a seven (7) day appeal period. Parks staff did receive comments, but no appeals were filed. Changes and corrections to the VM document are recommended by staff based on the comments received. (See attached comments and changes.)

Issues

The VM has been reviewed by neighbors in the context of Betty Bowen Viewpoint. The citizens voiced concerns regarding slope stability, negative environmental impacts and compliance with SEPA and City ordinances. The comments directly related to the Betty Bowen Viewpoint VMP will be addressed as that project specific VMP goes through its environmental review and comes before the Board of Park Commissioners, scheduled for fall 2005.

Budget

The current annual CIP funding for the Urban Forestry Viewpoints Maintenance Program is \$42,000. After approval of the VM by the Superintendent, all funding will be directed to implementation at specific viewpoints.

Schedule

Upon approval by the Superintendent, the VM Guidelines portion of the Viewpoints Maintenance Program will be complete. All funding will then be directed toward the development and implementation of work at specific viewpoints. Work at Betty Bowen Viewpoint was scheduled to begin in late summer of 2005; however, environmental review and weather may postpone this project until spring 2006.

Staff Recommendation

The Board is asked to recommend the approval by the Superintendent of the changes underlined on the attached sheets.

Additional Information

Mark Mead, mark.mead@seattle.gov, 684-4113

David Graves, david.graves@seattle.gov, 684-7048

Changes in Goal Statements Page 1,2

Goals and Objectives

In finding a balance between natural resource conservation and view preservation, the SPR's primary goals for developing a Vegetation Management Plan for viewpoints are:

- to protect designated public views
- to protect steep slopes **and neighboring properties** from erosion and surface water run-off
- **to protect native wildlife habitat, as is possible, throughout the process**
- to provide maximum native habitat value for wildlife
- to minimize hazard potential, **negative vegetation and visual impacts** and optimize public safety **for users and adjacent property owners.**
- to provide consistent, pragmatic management direction to establish and maintain sustainable **and appealing** vegetation for all viewpoints
- to derive the initial project needs for each viewpoint
- to provide a baseline for the development of specific plans that address both neighborhood and citywide needs and concerns.
- **to develop VMPs that are consistent with applicable practices and policies.**

Changes designated with red text and underline.

Verbal Briefing/ Board Discussion/Recommendation

Mr. Mead gave a brief overview of the changes made to the Viewpoint Vegetation Management Plan Guidelines since the Board reviewed the document last year. Commissioner Collins commented that two citizens who spoke earlier in the evening during Oral Communications complimented Parks staff efforts on the Guidelines.

After a brief discussion, **Commissioner Collins moved to recommend approval of the Vegetation Management for Seattle Parks Viewpoints Guidelines with the designated changes included. Commissioner Jackson seconded. The vote was taken with Commissioners Collins, Jackson, and Ranade voting approval. Commissioner Grist abstained. Motion was approved.**

Board of Park Commissioners' Business

- Commissioners gave brief verbal updates on the various committees they serve on, including City Hall Park Advisory Committee (Ranade); Waterfront Partners Group (Belbeck); Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (Collins); Seattle Parks Foundation (Grist); and Parks Naming Committee (Jackson).

New/Old Business

- Commissioners and the Superintendent briefly discussed the Mayor's proposed Impact Fees.
- The Superintendent will announce his decision on the Loyal Heights Playfield project on Friday, August 12.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____