

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2006

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Terry Holme
Debbie Jackson
Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Jackie Ramels
Amit Ranade

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

B.J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commission Chair Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. **Commissioner Holme moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded approval of the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, the July 13 agenda, and the June 22 minutes, as corrected.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bounds was out of town. Deputy Superintendent Brooks reported on the following items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, please visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Public Involvement Policy Audit: Deputy Superintendent Brooks asked that the Board discuss the City Council audit of the Department's public involvement policy during Old Business and the Commissioners agreed.

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Congress and Exposition: This national conference will be held in Seattle October 14-18, with several thousand attendees expected. All Commissioners are planning to participate. Deputy Superintendent Brooks will present more information at the Board's August 24 meeting. For more information, please see <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=553>.

Late Night and Youth Programs in Southeast Seattle: The pilot Late Night Program and free swim at Rainer Beach Community Center, and the programs at John C. Little Park are huge hits with kids in the neighborhood. More than 300 youth took advantage of the Late Night activities and free swim on opening night at the Community Center. The summer playground program at John C. Little has had more than 100 kids attending daily. For more information on the Late Night Program, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/teens/latenightrec.htm>

Seattle Prep Proposal for Funding Baseball Field at Magnuson Park: Parks met with representatives of Seattle Prep to discuss their proposal for funding the development of a baseball diamond at Magnuson Park. Since discovering that the baseball diamond at Montlake is technically all a wetland, greatly limiting its potential for improvements, Seattle Prep has been looking at alternative locations. Prep will prepare a formal proposal outlining what it is interested in funding, and is asking for a commitment to schedule the same amount of hours at Magnuson that the school currently schedules at Montlake. For more information on Magnuson Park, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/default.htm>

Proposal to Change John C. Little, Sr. Park Operation Hours: During the third week of June, the Department received two letters requesting to change the hours at John C. Little Park, to close at 10:00 p.m., instead of the current 11:30 p.m. The letters were from the Director of the Seattle Housing Authority and a block watch captain at the New Holly housing community. The letters cited loud activity on the basketball court as well as illegal drinking and fighting. A briefing and public hearing is scheduled for the Park Board's July 27 meeting, followed by a discussion and recommendation to the Superintendent at the August 24 meeting. For more information on John C. Little, Sr. Park, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/LittlePark.htm>

Lifeguards Save Lives: Last week saw a record number of 25 rescues by the Department's lifeguards. The average opening week rescues has been about five.

Upcoming Events

Northgate Community Center, Park, and Library – Grand Opening Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 15, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. For more information, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/centers/Northgate.htm>.

Starbuck's Grants to be Awarded, Saturday, 10:00 am: Seattle Parks will be the recipient of eight \$15,000 awards during this presentation. For more information on Starbuck's Parks' program and a list of the awards, please see <http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/4031.html>.

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. Five people testified regarding a permit issued to Lake Sawyer Hawks Model Airplane Club: Dick Weaver and Allan Poinsett, Tom Richards, Dennis Sivak, and Loren Sisley. Three people testified, just before New/Old Business, regarding Dahl Playfield. A very brief summary of testimony follows.

Dick Weaver and Other Members of Lake Sawyer Hawks Model Airplane Club: Mr. Weaver and four other members of this club testified for more than 15 minutes. They stated that, due to five complaints, Seattle Parks has revoked the Association's permit to fly their motorized planes at Ferdinand Street Boat Launch, on Lake Washington. Mr. Weaver distributed a notebook to all the Commissioners and he and other members read portions of the written testimony and gave a history of the permit and their issue, as follows. Float plane models have been flown at the boat launch for over 20 years. The Club began flying there in February 2005 [without a permit] and met there every Thursday until September 2005. In October 2005, Seattle Parks installed a sign reading that it was unlawful to operate powered models in the park, except by permit from the Park Superintendent. In November Mr. Weaver requested a meeting with Seattle Parks to discuss securing a permit. On March 3, Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks' Enterprise Division Director, Kevin Bergsrud, Enterprise Division Planning and Development Specialist, and Charles Ng, Concessions and Grants Manager, met Mr. Weaver and members of the Club at the boat launch and viewed a demonstration and asked questions of the Club members. In April, the Club received its permit. The permit allowed the Club to use the boat launch area to start and launch the float planes to fly over Lake Washington, which is not park of the park. Signs remained in the park that flying the planes is unlawful.

On June 20, he received a letter from Mr. Friedli stating that Seattle Parks had received five complaints regarding the planes in three months, and that the permit was only authorized as long as it did not generate any negative feedback or impact to the park, its patrons, and the surrounding community. Mr. Weaver stated that the permit did not contain such language. He further believes that the complaints may be generated by the fact that the signs remain in the park and that a neighbor of the park has been going door-to-door, asking people to complain about the planes.

The notebook contained written copies of much of the testimony received tonight, as well as a comment log provided to the public by the Club from June 8 to July 13. He stated that only one negative comment was recorded, with 30+ comments included. He asked the Park Board to intervene on the Club's behalf and allow them to continue to use the site to launch the planes.

At the conclusion of their testimony, **Commissioner Collins made a motion to request Superintendent Bounds to review the records and testimony received by the Board. The motion was seconded and approved.** It was clarified that the Board is not asking that the revoked permit be extended during this review, just that the Superintendent review the testimony and records.

The Chair stated that the first session of Oral Communications (15 minutes maximum) had concluded and others signed up to speak could do so after the completion of other agenda items and just before Old/New Business.

Briefing: Pratt Fine Arts Center 30th Year Anniversary

Michele Bufano and Earl Sedlik, from Pratt Fine Arts Center, briefed the Commissioners on the Fine Arts Center. Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This briefing is for informational purposes only.

Project and Description and Background

Pratt Fine Arts Center (Pratt) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts and education resource center located in Seattle's Central District on the edge of Pratt Park. Pratt was founded in 1976 by the City of Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation to provide visual arts training in the neighborhood and beyond. Due to City budget cuts in 1982, Pratt changed from a publicly-funded organization to a private nonprofit organization. Since then, Pratt has grown to serve over 3,200 students and over 500 working artists each year.

Pratt Fine Arts Center was named after Edwin T. Pratt, a civil rights activist who served as Executive Director of the Seattle Urban League from 1961 to 1969. Edwin T. Pratt was assassinated at his home in the Central District in 1969. Now celebrating its 30th year, Pratt Fine Arts Center is proud to serve as a lasting tribute to a man who devoted his life to improving the quality of life for all people.

Pratt Fine Arts Center's mission is threefold: to provide art instruction in a variety disciplines, to provide access to specialized equipment and tools for making art, and to reach out to the community with programs, such as free art instruction for children, artist lectures, and more.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has recognized its relationship with Pratt Fine Arts Center as a partnership with an independent organization that helps the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department fulfill its mission on their property. A new 10-year lease agreement between Parks and Pratt has just been approved by the City Council.

Additional Information

Michelle Bufano, Pratt Fine Arts Center, 1902 South Main Street, Seattle, WA 98144. 206.328.2200 x 32, mbufano@pratt.org, www.pratt.org

Verbal Briefing

Mr. Sedlik introduced Ms. Bufano and himself. He was formerly a Park Board Commissioner and became Executive Director of Pratt in December 2004. The building was an abandoned truck repair center when Seattle Parks obtained it. Prior to Pratt Fine Arts Center taking over the building in the 1970's, the restroom was open and was abused by some members of the public. Once Pratt took over the building, the abuse stopped. He thanked the Parks Department for the successful partnership. The Center has been very successful, with over 300 artists teaching 500 classes yearly at the center. Thousands are served each year by the small and hardworking staff. At the most recent yearly auction, \$600,000 was raised.

Ms. Bufano referred to the new ten-year lease and stated that over 500 kids from the Central Area are served yearly, master artists come from all over the world to give free lectures, and Pratt gives \$30,000 yearly in scholarship and tuition assistance to help students afford classes. She distributed a handout listing Pratt's achievements.

Commissioner Ramels asked for more information on the relationship of Pratt and Seattle Parks. Ms. Bufano answered that Pratt is a non-profit tenant and leases the building, which belongs to Parks and is located in one of Seattle's parks. Pratt Fine Art Center has recently purchased property just south of Pratt Park and will expand to that site; however, the program at Pratt Fine Arts Center is expected to remain at its current level.

Deputy Superintendent Brooks voiced praise and thanks for the leadership at Pratt Fine Arts Center and for the auction results. She commented that when Mr. Sedlik became the Center's Executive Director in 2004, he greatly improved the relationship between the Center and Parks. Mr. Sedlik commented that Pratt is committed to its new lease and is proud to be a part of the Central Area revitalization. The Fine Arts Center is an important regional and national asset.

Commissioner Holme asked how the kids are prioritized for the scholarships. Ms. Bufano answered that kids who live nearby receive first priority — there is always a waiting list. Mr. Sedlik referred to an article in the Seattle PI, describing how beneficial the program has been and how it has changed some kids' lives for the better.

The Board thanked Mr. Sedlik and Ms. Bufano.

Briefing: Woodland Park Zoo Annual Briefing

Bruce Bohmke, Woodland Park Zoo Deputy Director, presented the Zoo's annual briefing. Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing, with both included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action: No action is requested. Reports to the Parks Board are required on a quarterly basis per Section 20.2.1 of the management & Operations Agreement. Since third quarter 2004, written reports have been submitted. For second quarter 2006, Woodland Park Zoo was invited to provide a briefing directly to the Parks Board. This briefing paper contains a great deal more information than that which the Deputy Director Bruce Bohmke will give during his ten-minute presentation.

Project Description and Background:

ZOOMAZIUM: Zoomazium is the newest addition to Woodland Park Zoo. World-renowned for its naturalistic animal exhibits and education programs, the zoo now provides an indoor, all-weather facility that incorporates spectacular multimedia features with fun, interactive nature-themed areas devoted to play and learning for children 8 years of age and under. All the exhibits within Zoomazium have been designed for whole-bodied, imaginative play, as well as integration with existing zoo programs. Zoomazium also houses the offices and work areas for Zoo Corps, the zoo's popular teen volunteer program. Alongside professional educators, the teens work in Zoomazium as trained naturalists, storytellers, program designers, and video/theatre producers

Zoomazium was built with \$9.4 million in private donations. All of the programs in Zoomazium are designed to enhance the zoo experience for children. In contrast to typical zoo programming based on a show-and-tell format, Zoomazium pushes kids to the next level of interaction to discover something new on their own. Elements include:

- **Nature Exchange**

Zoomazium's most complex program is the Nature Exchange, where kids discover nature at their own pace and trade their observations for prizes. The interactive program encourages kids to take learning into their own hands and become researchers out in the field, whether it's in Zoomazium, out on zoo grounds or in their own backyards.

For example, kids will visit the Nature Exchange inside Zoomazium before touring the zoo and choose a quest to learn more about the jaguar's natural habitat. While exploring Zoomazium, they discover a video featuring a jaguar and then walk outside to the jaguar exhibit less than 100 yards from Zoomazium's door. The zoo allows the kids to see the animals in natural settings and return to Zoomazium to share newfound knowledge and receive points they can trade for cool nature prizes.

- **Shows, Plays and Interactive Experiences**

With dozens of shows and presentations already planned, the opportunities for Zoomazium's stage are endless. Kids can star in an animal play or create a puppet show, touch a snake or see firsthand how the zoo cares for its birds of prey. In the future, kids could have the opportunity to meet real researchers just in from Africa or Papua New Guinea to see and hear about the amazing work being done all around to save wild animals and their habitats. It's a little known fact that Woodland Park Zoo supports 45 field conservation projects in more than 29 countries around the world, and Zoomazium will offer a forum to present and discuss this important work.

- **Interactive Exhibits**

Every corner of Zoomazium is filled with interactive surprises and learning tools to engage young minds. Animal map plush games, felt forests and a nurse log help tots place their favorite creatures in the correct setting. Older children can explore and discover new animals just like real biologists, unlock hidden secrets with their nature knowledge and travel across terrain to exchange their new awareness for nature points.

- **Zoo Corps**

Teen volunteers known as Zoo Corps will set up shop behind the scenes at Zoomazium. The building will serve as the home base for the teens, providing a critical workspace for them to help with video production, programming, and curriculum. Zoo Corps will be an integral part of the Zoomazium experience, helping foster intergenerational teaching between young kids and parents. They will also be the mentors for their younger counterparts, ZooKids. In the process, teens build self-confidence and begin their personal journeys toward careers they may never have considered without this amazing opportunity to learn and grow.

- **Rainy Days**

Zoomazium offers a fun, educational destination for kids any time of year, rain or shine. Many zoos slow or stop programming during the winter, but all Zoomazium activities are in full swing year-round.

Project Cost: \$9.4 million, privately funded.

CAROUSEL, PHASE I: Woodland park Zoo's North Meadow will be the permanent home for 48 classic, hand-carved wooden carousel horses and the lovely restored vintage 1918 carousel they call home. This carousel, PTC#45, was the 45th carousel constructed by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. Famous for its

dedication to engineering masterworks and exquisitely carved horses — most hand-carved by master craftsman John Zalar — the Philadelphia Toboggan Company produced some of the most beautiful carousels ever constructed.

This historic carousel was donated to the zoo in 1999 by Linda and Tom Allen of The Alleniana Foundation. The Allen's goal in making this gift to WPZ was to provide generations of carousel riders the opportunity to experience a celebrated piece of American history, provide support for the zoo's education and animal care programs through ticket sales, and offer the zoo's families another way to have year-round fun while visiting the zoo.

The carousel will be located adjacent to the zoo's North Meadow, a popular active space that currently accommodates large-scale community events, concerts, family, and corporate gatherings and other activities. Makers Architecture (Seattle) designed the 80-foot diameter pavilion, which evokes the classic carousel houses built in the 1910s and 1920s. The structure will offer special event spaces for birthday parties, weddings, and other celebrations.

Phase I of this project, which provides for the construction of the pavilion shell and installation of the carousel, will be complete with the public opening scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2006. It will close for the season September 30, 2006 to allow completion of the exterior construction of the pavilion and the accompanying special event spaces. The carousel will reopen summer 2007, in time for the national carousel conference; it will remain open year-round. A ticket to ride PTC #45 will cost \$1, with proceeds to be dedicated to WPZ children's education programs, animal care, and maintenance of the carousel's mechanical and artistic features. PTC #45 is sure to provide generations of carousel riders the opportunity to have fun while supporting a great community cause at the same time.

Project Cost: Carousel and pavilion: \$3.2 million privately funded.

ANIMAL COLLECTION/ELEPHANTS: The animal collection remains in excellent condition with a number of hatchings and births over the last year. Of particular interest is the movement by a local animal rights group, Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN).

A year ago, the decision was made to send WPZ's Asian elephant, Bamboo, to Pt. Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. This decision was made as a result of a new commitment and policy established by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. WPZ committed to not only retaining elephants, but to being a breeding facility as well. Pt. Defiance committed to being a holding facility, however, the guidelines suggest that a holding facility contain three elephants. It appeared to be positive for both herds when Pt. Defiance contacted WPZ about moving Bamboo to join their two elephants. This move would enable them to meet the guidelines, it was a short move, visitors, and staff could visit Bamboo whenever they liked, and it was highly likely that she would have a good rapport with two Asian elephants about her age.

Unfortunately, the two elephants at Pt. Defiance that had had some differences prior to Bamboo's arrival decided that their relationship would become closer and exclude Bamboo's joining. When it became completely obvious that the three animals would never bond, the decision was made to return Bamboo to WPZ and that was accomplished in early June 2006.

Throughout this process NARN has been agitating for Bamboo to be moved to a sanctuary in Tennessee. WPZ does not believe that moving Bamboo to this facility would be in her best interests and have declined to do so. On May 4, 2006, a petition was filed on behalf NARN with the state's attorney general's office. On June 5, 2006, a lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court of the State of Washington on behalf of NARN. WPZ counsel has reviewed all the information and on June 23, 2006, a Motion to Dismiss was filed in Superior Court. On June 28, 2006, NARN filed for an amendment to the original complaint. A hearing date has been set for early July 2006.

It is likely that NARN will continue to make an issue of Bamboo inasmuch as WPZ is not the only zoo in the nation that is being attacked about elephant care as well as being urged to send elephants to sanctuaries. This effort is actually a national one with the ultimate goal being the elimination of elephants from zoos and eventually the closure of all zoos.

WPZ has no intention now or ever to send any of its elephants to a sanctuary. None of these sanctuaries are accredited nor do they have staff with the decades of experience in caring for elephants that WPZ does. This will, however, undoubtedly remain an issue for some time to come. WPZ board members and staff are always available to answer questions and/or provide a tour of the facilities.

PARKING GARAGE: The proposed parking garage is a major component of the zoo's planned solution to the current traffic and parking problems caused by insufficient parking on zoo grounds. The parking garage will displace the current employee surface lot and administrative offices in the northwest part of the zoo, providing approximately 700 visitor parking spaces and increasing the zoo total to approximately 1,360. The garage will be built entirely above ground, with one level at grade and three levels above grade.

The garage will be designed to be within the guidelines for single-family zoning which are: maximum 30 feet tall; shafts for ventilation, stairwells and elevators that can extend up to an additional 15 feet; and planters or screen walls on the top deck that can be up to 4 feet tall.

Vehicular entry and exit will be directly off of Phinney Avenue North between North 56th Street and North 57th Street, and will provide access to the new west parking and the existing north parking lots. The garage will be set back from Phinney Avenue well over 100 feet, utilizing existing vegetation buffers and additional landscaping designed into the project. Pedestrian access from Phinney Avenue North will connect Metro bus stops to a gateway and path to a new West Entrance located slightly north of the zoo's existing West Entrance. Access from the north parking lot will include a gateway and path to the new West Entrance.

Public involvement has been facilitated through two design workshops—the first in January 2006 and the second on February 25, 2006. In addition, two open houses have been held—one in April and the second in May. Design is progressing with final approval by the Seattle Design Commission in July 2006, application for the Master Use Permit in July.

Project Cost: \$16.2 million. 75% City of Seattle and 25% Woodland Park Zoo privately funded.

Issues: A small neighborhood faction continues attempts to get City Council members to revisit the garage project, however, none of the council members are interested in doing so.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: Woodland Park Zoo offers a variety of programs throughout the year. Following is a list of programs that are held from June 24 through September 4, 2006, except as noted. Locations of programs are posted for visitors at South, West, and North Entrances.

African Savanna Safari — 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, through July 23. Join our African Savanna specialist for a walk around the zoo's African Savanna. He'll share amazing stories of his personal encounters with African wild dogs, hippos, lions and other wildlife.

African Village Exploration — 3:00 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, through July 23. Explore the seen and often unobserved elements of the African Village with zoo staff. See how this exciting exhibit illustrates life in an East African village.

African Village Theater — 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, through July 23. Share a memorable experience of African culture through storytelling.

All Birds Great and Small — 2:00 p.m. Mondays. Learn interesting facts about the beautiful birds in a quiet corner of the zoo. Listen for their fascinating bird calls and meet them up close as a keeper feeds them. Discover more about bird habits and habitats.

Animal Contact Experience — 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily. Touch domestic farm animals and learn more about them in supervised areas at the Family Farm. *Subject to cancellation due to weather and animal availability.*

Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden — 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Zoo horticulture staff discuss how to attract a variety of beautiful butterflies to your garden.

Black and White Colobus — 1:30 p.m. Fridays. The roar of a male black and white colobus monkey can be heard up to a mile away! Meet zoo staff to learn more about these amazing animals.

Brown Bears — noon Tuesdays and Thursdays. How much does a brown bear weigh at birth? Does the brown bear really hibernate? Meet zoo staff to find out answers to these questions and learn more interesting facts about the mighty brown bear.

Conservation Connections

Learn more about Woodland Park Zoo's connection to conservation programs around the globe and the region. Docents share how the zoo and you can actively participate in ongoing efforts to conserve wildlife, from snow leopards to wild dogs.

Croc Talk — 1:30 p.m. Mondays. Are crocodiles endangered? Do they eat everything in their sight? Learn more about these impressive African reptiles, and meet a zookeeper as they feed the crocodiles.

Elephant Talk — 2:00 p.m. daily. Meet the elephant keepers and learn about the zoo's magnificent elephants. Discover how the zoo supports elephant conservation in the wild and what you can do to help create a sustainable future for wildlife.

**Gorillas — 10:30 a.m. Thursdays
11:30 a.m. Tuesdays**

Did you know that gorillas are more closely related to humans than they are to orangutans? Meet zoo staff and discover more about the remarkable gorillas.

Habitat Ramblers: Look for the "Ask Me" button

Be on the lookout for a Habitat Rambler wearing an "Ask Me" button. With a variety of animal props and enrichment items used by keepers, volunteer Habitat Ramblers provide information about bioclimatic zones, animal enrichment activities, and conservation efforts.

Hippos — 10:30 a.m. Saturdays. Here's your chance to see the zoo's hippos up close and ask staff questions about these immense animals.

Hornbills — 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Learn more about the hornbills at Woodland Park Zoo. Discover how the zoo and you can help them in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See other exotic birds up close.

Jaguars — 2:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The reclusive jaguar is the largest feline in the New World. Did you know that jaguars are strong swimmers and follow their prey into water during the chase? Join zoo staff and learn more about this incredible predator.

Jaguar Quest — noon and 2:30 p.m. daily. Join a zoo interpreter in this reenactment of a day in the life as a jaguar researcher. Discover “tricks of the trade” researchers use to study the elusive jaguar and its tropical habitat. Hear amazing stories of close-up encounters with wild animals.

Jive On Jaguars — 1:00 p.m. daily. Join zoo staff on a tour of the fabulous jaguar exhibit. Discover hidden secrets about the exhibit that most visitors never notice. Learn about the zoo's jaguar and jaguars in the wild.

Lion-tailed Macaques — 1:30 p.m. Saturdays. What advantages do lion-tailed macaques have by living in large family groups? Why do they groom each other? Meet with zoo staff to find out the answers to these questions and discover more about these highly endangered primates.

Malayan Tapirs — 11:30 a.m. Sundays. Is a tapir related to a pig? How do Malayan tapirs dive deep under water to evade predators? Talk to zoo staff and discover more about this highly endangered species.

Orangutans — 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. In the Malay language, orang means “people” and utan means “forest,” thus orangutan means “people of the forest.” Meet zoo staff and discover more about these outstanding animals.

Penguin Feeding — 11:00 a.m. Fridays. Talk with zoo staff and watch as they feed live fish to the endangered Humboldt penguins.

Piranha Feeding — 11:15 a.m. Fridays. Here’s your chance to talk with zoo staff and watch as they feed live fish to the piranha. You’ll learn about the natural history and captive management of this astounding predator.

**Raptors — 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**

Keepers will introduce you to our resident raptors. Learn more about these hunters of other birds, mammals, and fish. *Subject to cancellation due to weather.*

Reptiles on Wheels/Bugs on Wheels

While visiting the zoo, look for special carts with banners titled Reptiles on Wheels or Bugs on Wheels. Stop by and see strange and beautiful reptiles or bugs up close.

Snow Leopards — 10:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Did you know that snow leopards can spring on prey up to 30 feet away? Meet zoo staff and learn other interesting facts about these shy, nocturnal, and virtually unknown animals.

Wolves/Elk — 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Here’s your opportunity to learn how these predators and prey co-exist in their wild environment and with humans.

Fee based programs at the zoo include:

Bug Club

Do you think crickets are cool and ants are outrageous? Then join Bug Club! Bug Club is for children 5 years and older who love bugs! Bug Club meets one Sunday per month. For information or an application, call 206.684.4841 or see the Web site at www.zoo.org.

Butterflies & Blooms Reopening, through September 30, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily.

Back for its eighth year, the serene experience treats visitors to a vibrant display of nearly 1,000 free-flying butterflies representing at least 15 North American species at all times. Experience a colorful explosion of

flowering plants in bloom and an outdoor conservation garden. Cost: \$1 in addition to zoo admission; free for kids 2 and under.

Classes and Camps

A wide variety of classes for children, families, and adults are offered on weekends throughout the year. From Early Bird Zoo Tours that take you behind the scenes with a keeper to Evening Story Safaris for preschoolers to photography at the zoo for adults and teens...there are many exciting opportunities for individuals or the whole family! Zooper Day Camps, for children ages 4-13, are offered during school vacations throughout the year. For information or an application, call 206.684.4841 or see the Web site at www.zoo.org.

Washington Mutual ZooTunes Concert Series, June 28 – August 23

It's the 23rd year for the ever-popular summer concert series that continues to offer the best concert bargain in the Pacific Northwest Pop and singer-songwriter artists perform outdoors in the zoo's North Meadow with festival seating. Blankets, low-backed chairs, and picnic baskets are welcome. Tickets are on sale at all Metropolitan Market locations: Sand Point, Queen Anne, West Seattle, Dash Point and Proctor, from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Visit www.metropolitan-market.com for store locations. A \$2 service fee is added, with 90% of the fee coming back to the zoo. Kids 12 and under are free. Tickets sell out fast, so purchase early! A limited number of tickets are available at Woodland Park Zoo gates during zoo hours. A limited number of tickets are also available on www.ticketweb.com. If available, day-of-show tickets are sold at Woodland Park Zoo only. Call the Washington Mutual ZooTunes hotline at 206.615.0076 for the newly announced lineup or visit the zoo's Web site at www.zoo.org.

Willawong Station – The Bird Feeding Experience, open for feeding through September 30.

This walk-through bird feeding experience transports visitors to the world of the Australian parrot and the Australian grasslands habitat. Willawong Station is a fun opportunity for the whole family to get up close and feed birds in a controlled, safe environment while learning about responsible care for them both in the wild and at home. The aviary includes approximately 150 free-flying birds, primarily small colorful Australian parrots. Cost: in addition to zoo admission, \$1, which includes a seed stick to feed the birds; free for kids 2 and under; \$1 for each additional seed stick. Open during regular zoo hours.

Zoo Overnight and Evening Adventures

Grab your sleeping bag and stampede to the zoo for the wildest sleepover in town! Join zoo staff to prowl the zoo grounds on guided tours and get the inside scoop on our amazing animals as they snort, growl, and fluff themselves to sleep. Enjoy cool activities and more as you have a ton of fun! Pick up a flyer at the Education Center or call 206.684.4839 for reservations. Information and registration are also available on our Web site at www.zoo.org.

Verbal Briefing

Mr. Bohmke displayed a large map of the Zoo and pointed out various locations referred to in the written briefing, including that of the new carousel, and reviewed information in the briefing. He stated that the zoo has 270 full time employees and 700 volunteers. Zoo staff are very excited that the new Zoomazium had 118,000 people go through during its first 1-1/2 months of operation. The zoo continues to enjoy very strong community support. The animal collection is in great shape. Staff expect 100,000 kids to participate in the Zoo's public programs this year.

A small group of citizens have opposed the garage, which is far along in design. Four public meetings were held in 2006, with an oversight group that meets quarterly. Zoo staff are pleased with the progress.

Board Questions & Answers

Commissioner Belbeck asked about the location of the carousel and where the birthday party rooms are located. Mr. Bohmke pointed out the carousel; the birthday rooms are nearby.

Commissioner Collins commented that his grandson loves the Zoomazium and his son commented that it is a great rainy day activity for small children. Mr. Bohmke stated that the Zoomazium is targeted for a winter audience and the zoo is very excited with the possibilities.

Commissioner Ramels referred to the June 1 Seattle Design Commission minutes, where the Commission didn't approve the garage design by a vote of 6-1. Mr. Bohmke answered that the Commission met again on July 6 and approved the design, by a vote of 6-3. The zoo staff will meet two more times with the Design Commission.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the zoo is now ramping up its efforts to prepare for the end of the zoo levy. Mr. Bohmke answered that the zoo will have a budget gap when the levy ends, but will have a couple years before that happens to strategize.

Commissioner Holme referred to a letter from citizen Irene Wall commenting on the zoo's annual report and stating her expectations that the report should be more self-critical. Some comments stated that more information should have been included on the affects the end of the zoo levy will have. Commissioner Holme also referred to her comments about a lack of reason why the design-bid-build process was selected. Mr. Bohmke commented that it helps control the price and described the community involvement process and direction from City Council to choose this method.

Commissioner Holme asked if the carousel will be operated year round and Mr. Bohmke answered yes. This project is two phase. Phase I is underway, with the carousel operating this summer and fundraising continuing for Phase II. In October the carousel will be closed, Phase II will then be completed, and the carousel will re-open on a permanent, full-time schedule.

The Board thanked Mr. Bohmke for the briefing.

Briefing: Dahl Skatespot Design

Pamela Kliment, Seattle Parks Neighborhood Matching Fund project manager, provided the Commissioners with a briefing on the design for this Neighborhood Matching Fund skatespot. Commissioners previously heard a briefing at its August 11, 2005, meeting, immediately followed by a public hearing. At its August 25 meeting, the Commissioners discussed the project and recommended to the Superintendent the skatespot be approved and recommended a location. Minutes of these meetings are available online at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2005/08-11-05.pdf> and <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2005/08-25-05.pdf>. The Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing, with both included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

None, this is a briefing.

Project Description and Background

Dahl Playfield, 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. It is 14.5 acres. The Friends of Dahl Field recently completed plans and have gone out to bid for a fairly comprehensive project to improve the play area and ballfields.

The idea for a skateboarding area surfaced in November 2004, when a group of neighborhood skateboarders and their parents who wanted to add a skateboarding area to Dahl Playfield contacted Parks. They formed an organization called Boarders4Parks (B4P) and proposed a 3,600 square foot "skatespot." This skatespot will be a concrete above ground skating area with no elements above 36 inches.

Before hiring a consultant, B4P hosted three public meetings to talk about the project. In addition to local outreach, the meetings were announced at the Friends of Dahl Field public meetings. The Wedgwood Community Council also hosted a meeting to hear from the Friends of Dahl Field and B4P.

During the next nine months, members of Friends of Dahl Field and other community members raised opposition to the project. This led to an airing of the issues at a public hearing before the Board of Park Commissioners on January 27, 2006, and a recommendation by the Board to allow the project to move forward. At that time, the Board asked to see the schematic plan and to hear about the public process that created the plan before the project was built.

B4P received a Neighborhood Matching Fund award in November 2005 and hired Bob Droll and Associates as the landscape architect and Skateparkitecture as the skatespot designer. Parks required that the group hire a landscape architect in addition to the skatepark specialist, to make sure the design fits into the landscape.

The consultants led three public meetings. There were two goals for these meetings: to work out the elements of the actual skating area with the kids, and to design and locate the skatespot.

Many parents of skateboarders attended these meetings, as did many members of the Friends of Dahl Field. There were about twice as many children as adults. At the first meeting, the consultant, along with the community members, created criteria specific to Dahl and chose five potential sites (see Attachment B). The group reviewed the pros and cons of each site (Attachment C) and chose two potential sites, shown as sites 3 and 4. These sites and associated design elements were reviewed at the second meeting. A single site was chosen, site 4, and the landscape architect prepared a schematic plan (Attachment D) that was reviewed at the third public meeting. Since then, the Friends of Dahl Field have formally supported the skatespot project.

Parks' internal ProView Committee approved the design. B4P, the Friends of Dahl field, a University Preparatory School representative, and other interested people will meet late this summer with North/Central East Park Resources Manager Royal Alley-Barnes to work out a stewardship plan.

Issues

In the next steps, the consultants will refine the design and prepare construction documents. It is difficult to split the project into phases, since the actual skatespot is a single unit and associated elements are important to the look and fit of the skatespot. B4P is actively fund raising. One obstacle to fund raising is the size and level of difficulty of the skatespot; many skateboarding foundations prefer to fund larger, more difficult facilities.

Public Involvement Process

Parks did a mailing to about 1,500 addresses. In addition to the public meetings and this mailing, B4P has gone door to door to visit the immediately adjacent neighbors and have briefed the Northeast District Council and the Central Seattle Community Council Federation. The principals of Eckstein Middle School and Wedgwood Elementary School support the project. B4P has support from many local businesses including Jet City Pizza and the University Tutoring Service. The University Prep student newspaper published an article on the project. B4P created a web site, www.boarders4parks.org, which includes minutes of all the meetings and an opportunity to comment on the project.

Budget

B4P has received a \$15,000 Small and Simple Neighborhood Matching Fund award for design and a \$100,000 Large Project Fund award for construction. Total cost estimate is \$200,000.

Schedule

The schematic design has been approved. Construction drawings should be completed by the end of 2006, and construction is planned for summer 2007, pending successful fund raising.

Additional Information

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

Pamela.Kliment@seattle.gov

Verbal Briefing

Board members were unable to open the electronic maps and drawings forwarded by Ms. Kliment. Commissioner Holme requested copies of all four be sent and Ms. Kliment agreed to do so.

She displayed drawings and maps of Dahl Playground and reviewed information in the written briefing paper. In July 2005, the Park Board held a public hearing on the proposal to locate a skatespot in this park. At that time, two possible locations were discussed. The Board subsequently recommended approval of the skatespot and, of the two proposed locations, that it be built at the parking lot site in the northern area of the park.

Following the public hearing, Boarders 4 Skateparks (the group who was awarded the Neighborhood Matching Fund money for the skatespot) hired a landscape designer and three public meetings were held. From those meetings, five possible sites were analyzed and a final selection was made, site #4. The Board asked Ms. Kliment to point out the five sites on the large map and she did so. The proposed skatespot will be 3,400 sq. ft. Ms. Kliment described the project as a simple design, with lots of entrances and many seating areas.

Seattle Parks mailed information to 1,500 area resident. In addition, Boarders for Skateparks went door to door, distributing flyers. The earlier controversy became a positive element, as it helped garner support for the skatespot.

The next steps are fundraising and securing the construction documents. The Neighborhood Matching Fund's Large Project Fund has awarded the project \$100,000 for construction. Most members of Boarders 4 Skateparks are kids and working parents and raising the funds will be a big effort for them. This will be the first skatespot in Seattle's parks.

Recently, the Friends of Dahl Playfield, who are doing another Neighborhood Matching Fund project at this park, sent Boarders 4 Skateparks a formal letter of support.

Board Questions & Answers

Commissioner Holme asked if the project would impact the Dahl ballfields for fall season. Ms. Kliment answered that John Bates, Seattle Parks' ballfield scheduler, has confirmed that the ballfields, including soccer, will not be affected. Commissioner Holme asked if there is any conflict between the two landscape architects and Ms. Kliment answered no.

Commissioner Holme referred to a long-term problem at Dahl ballfields, as there is 40' of peat under the fields. He asked if there is a geotechnical study on the soil conditions under both the skatespot and the basketball court. Ms. Kliment answered that Seattle Public Utility has supplied soil borings for the skatespot and the Friends of Dahl hired a geotechnical engineer for the basketball court. The City requires that its engineering division approve the skatespot design for the soil conditions. Commissioner Holme asked what the total budget for the project is and Ms. Kliment answered \$200,000.

Commissioner Collins commented that this project has progressed tremendously and he commended Ms. Kliment for bringing the neighborhood together on this since the Park Board's public hearing on the project. Ms. Kliment commented that credit should also be given to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Holme moved that the Board state its consensus for the proposed site for the Dahl Playground skatespot. Commissioner Ranade seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved, with Commissioner Ramels abstaining.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience – 2nd Segment

The Chair thanked the three speakers who waited until this segment of the meeting to address the Board.

Marietta Foubert: She is a member of the Picardo P-Patch, located near Dahl Playfield, and a member of the Seattle Community Council Federation. She stated that the Federation unanimously voted to oppose a skatespot at Dahl as the current siting does not consider the environment. The public process was compromised and there is no compensation for the loss of open space. She urged the Department of Neighborhoods to reject the use of Neighborhood Matching Funds to construct the skatespot at this park, as it will negatively affect the P-Patch. She requested that the Skatepark Taskforce first complete its study and be endorsed by City Council before skate sites are determined. She distributed two handouts and stated the siting of the skatespot at Dahl violates State law and policy.

Ellen Anderson: She has gardened in Picardo P-Patch for 20 years and stated that a P-Patch requires water. She talked about the history of soil at this site — P-Patchers built a small lake at the P-Patch and ducks used it. Then a large crack appeared and the water drained away. It was later learned that the sub-moisture was draining into the City's sewer system. Now trees will be cut down and a concrete skateboard pad will be added, further diminishing the available water. She stated that she loves the garden and her P-Patch and suggested that skaters volunteer to help pull the invasive knotweed from the park.

Teresa Sumearll: She is a member of the Boarders for Skateparks, which supports the skatespot at Dahl Playground. She stated that the Friends of Dahl Playfield, Wedgwood Community Council, and University Prep have all now endorsed a skatespot at Dahl. One of the parents in Boarders 4 Skateparks is a geo-technical engineer and she distributed a topographic map of the park.

Oral Communications concluded. Commissioners asked whether the groundwater at the Dahl skatespot will swale into the sewer system. Ms. Kliment said that it will swale into the ground. In response to the suggestion that skaters pull the invasive knotweed, she stated that a stewardship meeting is planned and she will take this suggestion to the group.

Old Business/New Business

City Council Charter Amendment: Copies of the letter sent to City Council from the Commissioners were distributed and Commissioner Pflaumer reviewed the schedule posted on City Council's website. It was clarified that all City Department heads who currently must be re-confirmed every four years are testifying before Council tomorrow; those who currently aren't re-confirmed will be asked to testify to Council at a later date. Commissioner Ramels stated that she has listened to the proceedings thus far and has learned that, if the amendment receives voter approval, Council wants to restructure how individuals are appointed to Boards and Commissions. Currently, the Mayor appoints all seven members of the Park Board, with the City Council giving its confirmation. One suggestion for the new process would be for the Mayor to appoint three and City Council appoint three. The six Commissioners would then select a seventh member.

Central Waterfront EIS: The Board has held several discussions to determine its best course to follow during the Central Waterfront Environmental Impact Statement. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commissioners would hold a public hearing in late October, after the preferred alternative is made public, and make a recommendation to the Superintendent in early November. The Commissioners want to ensure that both the public and the Commissioners have an opportunity to weigh in on the preferred alternative. Kevin Stoops and David Graves, Parks staff members, stated that the Board may recommend any one of the four alternatives that are currently under review, even if the alternative wasn't selected as the preferred one by the Department.

WSDOT SR520 Project: Commissioner Collins summarized the most recent Mayor's Task Force for this project. The final meeting is on August 8 and he will be out of town. Commissioner Belbeck, as his alternate, will attend. Commissioner Collins asked that the Board support neighborhoods who are urging for a tube alternative [to run under Lake Washington, rather than a bridge to be built over it.] He commented that the UW President recently took citizen Lucy Steer's 18-page letter to Governor Gregoire. The Governor stated she was unaware of the support for a tube option before reading this letter.

Public Involvement Policy: The City Council has called for an audit of Seattle Parks’ public involvement process. The Auditor will be assessing Parks’ internal policies through the end of the year, and then will move on to its external policies. The Deputy Superintendent and Board agreed that the Department need not wait until the audit is completed before making improvements to the process. The Auditor will be informed of any improvements. Commissioners Pflaumer and Ramels will work with the Auditor to review the Board’s processes and role.

MOHAI Resolution: Deputy Superintendent Brooks distributed a copy of a proposed resolution “supporting the development of a museum dedicated to the history of Seattle, King County, and the Pacific Northwest in the former Naval Reserve Armory Building at South Lake Union Park, and supporting negotiations between the City of Seattle and the Museum of History and Industry to establish its primary public venue at the Naval Reserve Armory Building.”

Volunteer Park Restrooms: Commissioner Pflaumer stated that the restrooms are often locked at this busy park and visitors are relieving themselves in the wood. The restrooms at the amphitheater seem to be locked at all times. She asked that Department staff look into this.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____