



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held at 100 Dexter Avenue North
October 11, 2007

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Jackie Ramels
Neal Adams
John Barber
Terry Holme
Christine Larsen
Amit Ranade, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Susan Golub, Strategic Analyst
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Commissioner Ranade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Adams moved, and Commissioner Ramels seconded, approval of the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Ramels moved, and Commissioner Holme seconded, approval of the September 27 minutes as presented. Motions carried.** The Record of Correspondence [correspondence received by the Board since the September 13 meeting] will be approved at the October 25 meeting.

Discussion/Recommendation: Permanent Change in Operating Hours at Pier 62/Pier 63 and Waterfront Park

At the October 11 meeting, Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks Enterprise Division Director, briefed the Park Board on the request to change the operating hours at Pier 62/63 and Waterfront Park. Seattle Police Department staff assisted in the briefing. Commissioners asked for additional information before tonight's discussion and recommendation. Mr. Friedli and Victoria Schoenberg, Seattle Parks' strategic manager, sent the following information to the Board:

Follow-up Memo to Board Regarding Proposal for Modification of Operating Hours for Waterfront Park and Pier 62-63

At its September 27 meeting, the Board requested some follow up information regarding the proposal to modify the operating hours of Waterfront Park and Pier 62-63. The Board also requested a revised proposal incorporating seasonal variation to the modified hours. This memorandum is to address those requests.

Requested Board Action

Recommend operating hours for Waterfront Park and Pier 62-63.

To support the Seattle Police Department in their enforcement efforts along the downtown waterfront, *Parks staff recommends changing the closure time for Waterfront Park and Pier 62-63 to:*

- *6 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 1 through September 3,*
- *6 a.m. to 9 p.m. October 1 through April 30.*

The current operating hours for these two parks are 6 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Parks staff does not recommend closing the parks any earlier than 9 p.m. in the winter months so as to allow dog-walking, jogging and other positive uses that may occur in the early evening hours.

Responses to Questions from the Board

Aquarium operating hours and after-hours events: The Aquarium is open 365 days a year from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. After-hours events range from volunteer meetings to trainings to private rentals, usually end by 9 p.m., and occur as much as 200 nights out of the year. Exiting the Aquarium after hours does not require use of either park.

Standard vs. non-standard operating hours in Seattle parks: See attached.

Park exclusion zones: See attached. Any park not listed in a zone is treated as a single entity and is not associated with other parks in regards to park exclusions.

Multi-park exclusion zone for Waterfront and Pier 62-63: The Downtown Zone #6 already includes Waterfront Park, as well as Victor Steinbrueck and others. Pier 62/63 could be included in this zone as well. Such an action would require the same steps as required for a change in operating hours: a public hearing with a public notice published at least 14 days prior, a Park Board briefing, and Park Board recommendations to the Superintendent.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion/Recommendation

Ms. Schoenberg briefly reviewed the information included above and sent to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Barber asked if closing the parks at 9:00 pm in the winter months is an aggressive action to take and noted that this is an earlier closure time than any other Seattle park. Ms. Schoenberg answered that Seattle Parks doesn't encourage an early closure; instead, it tries to program and activate the park. However, these parks are isolated, exposed to the elements, and difficult to program. The adjacent neighbors have asked for an earlier closure. Sgt. Gracy commented that Seattle Police Department agrees with the earlier closure; the 9:00 pm closure could be on a one-year trial and revisited after that.

Commissioner Larsen wondered if 9:00 pm is early enough. She lived next to the parks for a year and would not go into them after dark. Ms. Schoenberg answered that the City is trying to strike a balance. There are some legitimate uses of these parks on winter nights, such as when there is a full moon and people like to go out to the end of the piers and watch the ferries on the water or view the moon. Parks staff will continue to work with SPD for the best solution.

Commissioner Holme asked about the hours of operation for nearby Victor Steinbrueck Park. Ms. Schoenberg answered that this past summer, in response to community concerns, the hours were changed under an emergency 90-day permit to 10:00 pm. The permit has now expired and Parks is working to activate the park, rather than closing it earlier.

Commissioner Ramels moved that the Board recommend changing the closure time for Waterfront Park and Pier 62-63 to 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 1 through September 3 and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. October 1 through April 30. Commissioner Adams seconded. Commissioners Holme and Barber each made an amendment to change the April 30 date to March 31, due to the earlier daylight savings time change, and that staff are to report results of the change in hours to the Park Board in one year for further consideration. The vote was taken and the motion passed as amended.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Schoenberg and Sgt. Gracy for the additional information and will look forward to a report in October 2008.

Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Christopher Williams is out of town. Ms. Golub reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Hamilton Middle School: Parks has made significant progress on negotiations with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) on the Hamilton Middle School renovation. Three public meeting dates have been set for October 18, November 13, and December 4. These meetings, to be run by a third party facilitator, are for the public process for spending mitigation funds that SPS will be providing. The facilitator was chosen by Parks, SPS, and a community representative and will be paid for by SPS. City Council will hold a public hearing on the lot boundary adjustment on October 23. Parks is still negotiating SPS costs for repairing and restoring portions of the park disturbed by construction and mitigation.

Pool Closures: Two pools have been closed. Queen Anne Pool will reopen on November 5 and swim lesson registration will begin on October 22. Evans Pool will reopen on October 22 with some new partnerships. Two Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Clinics are sending their customers to the pool and will subsidize the fees.

Lower Woodland Skatepark: The skatepark is in its second week of construction and moving forward nicely.

Brighton Playfield: Work on this Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund site is nearing completion. Parks and the United Parcel System (UPS) Foundation will construct new science-oriented elements in the park including the Solar System path with mosaic tile planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, and a display that explains the outer planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune). Plans are for more science exhibits in future as funding becomes available.

Lower Kinnear Park Dog Off-Leash Area: Seattle Parks' ProView Committee reviewed and approved the design development for this project. Commissioner Ramels asked when the development will begin and Colleen Browne, Interim Pro Parks Levy Manager, answered that it will go out to bid in December, with construction in 2008.

Magnuson Park Wins Award: The Magnuson Outdoor Learning Laboratory, a partnership between Seattle Parks, Earthcorps, and The Burke Museum, has received a Community Catalyst Award from the Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW). The award will be presented on the final day of the annual EEAW conference on Saturday, November 10, in Seattle.

Aquarium Wins Award: The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) recently presented the Aquarium the 2007 Best Poster Design award at the AZA annual conference in Philadelphia.

Queen Anne Boulevard Improvements Project: Contract documents are underway for the development of new sidewalks and replacement of existing sidewalks on the Boulevard. This project will go out for bid by November 17. Parks' crews will begin construction of crushed rock pathways on Bigelow Avenue in two weeks. Parks' staff continues to work with neighbors to resolve removals of private improvements on project areas.

ARC Helps School Age Care Scholarship Program: The school age care scholarship program has successfully moved all wait list participants for authorized funding. Currently there are no applicants on a scholarship wait list; however some

sites do have enrollment waitlists due only to program capacity. The Associated Recreation Council (ARC) approved supplemental funding to support School Age Care scholarships which aided in resolving the wait list.

Teen Signature Programs: Teen Signature Programs encourages teens to actively take on leadership roles in their community. The Program, in partnership with the Warren Miller Freedom Foundation, created the Young Entrepreneurs program. More than 23 students took part at Miller, Yesler, and the Meadowbrook Teen Center this past week.

Picnics and Ceremonies in Seattle's Parks: There are only 22 remaining picnics booked for the rest of the 2007, which ends this month. This closes out a season of 3,458 paid picnics in Seattle parks — an increase of 205 picnics over 2006. Event Scheduling staff are now gearing up for 2008 scheduling. Parks already has 30 weddings reserved and paid for in 2008, with many more to come! Commissioner Ramels asked for cost information on picnic scheduling. Staff will send to her.

Upcoming Event

December 3: Save the Date! Seattle Parks will hold a party at Seattle Aquarium on Monday, December 3, to introduce the Department's new Superintendent, Tim Gallagher, to the community. More details to follow.

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. Four people signed up to testify.

Nancy Malmgren: She has been a member of the Carkeek Park Watershed at Pipers Creek since 1979. She distributed information to the Board that was sent to City Council in support of another parks levy and asked the Park Board to send a formal letter of support to the Council. She believes that Seattle cannot depend solely on general funds to support its park system. She also distributed some public health information on fecal coliform and stated that this has been found in Pipers, Thornton, and Longfellow Creeks in the parks' system. She invited the Commissioners to an October 25 meeting of the Pipers Creek Watershed Council.

Kim Wells: She testified in response to the September 27 Magnuson Park briefing heard by the Park Board. Tonight she distributed several photos to the Board of sites to be filled. She stated that 95% of manmade wetlands fail due to lack of budget support for ongoing maintenance. She asked the Board to ensure that money is included in the project budget to monitor and maintain the wetlands. She also has concerns with truck construction impacts at the site and silt washing into the lake and she asked that safety improvements be made at the 65th Street entrance. She showed photos of several dead/dying trees at the project site and stated that these were mitigation for the project and are now dead. She also asked Parks to post better photos of the project site on the web.

Commissioner Holme asked for additional information on the testimony that the dead/dying trees were planted as mitigation. Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks Enterprise Division Director, reported that the trees were planted as part of the project, but not as mitigation. Staff will check on the trees.

Commissioner Larsen asked if the suggested safety improvements at the 65th Street entrance could be completed before the rest of the project [which has been delayed due to the Army Corp of Engineers' 1-1/2 year review of the permits.] Mr. Friedli answered that this project is scheduled for completion during Phase II and will be bid as one project. Bidding the work as one project is much less costly than having two separate projects.

Sharon LeVine: She distributed invitations to the upcoming off-leash area celebration at Genessee Park. Last year 300 dogs, in Dog-O-Ween costumes, and 500 humans attended.

She also referred to a rumor about the Pro Parks Levy fund having funds that were given to Magnuson and South Lake Union Parks. If this rumor is true, the public should have known about this process. There are other projects that need funding, too.

Warren Perkins: He is a member of the Magnuson Park Project Advisory Team and believes the project has achieved a very good balance, with mitigation for the project's impacts to the park. He believes it is a good project.

Semi-annual Briefing: Associated Recreation Council

Bill Keller, Executive Director of the Associated Recreation Council briefed the Board on the Council's recent activities and programs. Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing.

Written Briefing

Purpose of Briefing: Regular briefing of Board of Park Commissioners on the current status of the Associated Recreation Council system, projects and activities.

Background:

Advisory Councils: Advisory Councils (AC) are a vital part of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) program delivery system. DPR relies on hundreds of volunteer AC members for advice, assistance and representation in establishing and running programs throughout the City. Currently there are 38 advisory councils operating within the City of Seattle; examples are Queen Anne Community Center Advisory Council and the Amy Yee Tennis Center Advisory Council.

Approximately 400 advisory council members volunteer their time throughout the system. The City owns the recreation facilities in which most advisory council programs operate. DPR and the local advisory council share those facilities for their programs. DPR staff supervises the Advisory Council employees in each location.

Advisory Councils have been part of the citizen involvement process with the Seattle Department of Park and Recreation for over three decades. Original advisory councils were primarily concerned with recommending activities, programs and classes to be offered in their respective communities. They served as volunteers for recreation events, and reviewed programs and project plans with their Department counterparts. Their financial activities were very limited.

In 1971, DPR expanded the Advisory Council's financial role. They became responsible for handling most of the funds generated by the programs they sponsored. The collected funds were then expended back into programs without becoming part of the City's budgetary process. The responsibilities included sponsoring classes, activities and programs; hiring staff as instructors, child care workers, sports officials, etc. and making these decisions in partnership with DPR staff.

In 1976, Seattle City Ordinance 105655 was passed, authorizing the DPR Superintendent to officially recognize Advisory Councils. Documents formally established the relationship between DPR and Advisory Councils.

The Associated Recreation Council (ARC): ARC was formed in 1976 as a recommendation from the State Auditor. It is an independently organized non-profit organization. ARC provides an accounting and leadership support structure for Advisory Councils. The underlying purpose of ARC is to provide high quality, community supported programs and services within Seattle park facilities. ARC operates a standardized accounting system for handling the ACs' funds that meets both City and State legal requirements. Currently, ARC is comprised of a volunteer board made up of fifteen Advisory Councils' representatives and at-large members. ARC supports a staff of 18 that includes field supervision, school age program staff, human resources and an accounting staff that handle financial transactions and record keeping for its member Advisory Councils.

Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Associated Recreation Council (ARC), and its 38 advisory councils are celebrating the 31st anniversary of our partnership. The partnership has grown from its modest beginnings in 1976 to encompass programs at 26 community centers, 4 environmental learning centers, 3 citywide programs, 1 tennis center, 2 boating

facilities, and 2 arts and culture facilities. Fees and charges generated by these programs and funds from special events and capital campaigns flowing through ARC total \$10 million a year.

2006 Audited Financial Report

The Associated Recreation Council system had an active and successful year in 2006. Total support and revenue produced for the year was \$10,473,803. The system invested \$10,204,378 in Program expenses. \$892,945 was fund raised in grants and donations. The system employed 1,100 staff for the year working in over 30 locations throughout the City.

Representation:

In 2006 the Associated Recreation Council system represented 38 advisory councils, 17 fiscal sponsorships and 31 restricted fund accounts. Of the 48 accounts in addition to the advisory council operating accounts we supported the following playground, park and building projects:

- 4th & Ward Park
- Annie's Playground
- Art in Ravenna Park Project
- Bayview-Kinear Park
- Beer Sheva Playground
- EC Hughes Playground
- Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery
- Japanese Garden Fountain
- Karen's Playground
- Laurelhurst Community Center Expansion
- Meadowbrook Community Center Annex
- Montlake Community Center Building Fund
- Mt. Baker Building Expansion
- Pinehurst Playground
- Ravenna Eckstein Playground
- Ravenna Playground
- South Portage Bay Park Project
- Ursula Judkins Viewpoint Development
- Van Asselt Community Center Expansion
- Whale Tail Park

In addition, we supported the following community projects:

- Cal Anderson Park Alliance
- Borders 4 Parks
- Step Program (Steps Toward Environmental Partnerships)
- RecTech Community Center Computer Labs
- Heron Habitat Helpers
- Langston Hughes African Conexion Partnership
- Rainier Beach Back to School Bash
- Rainier Beach Project for Community Empowerment
- Puget Sound Alliance for Community Technology

Financial support:

In 2006 the Associated Recreation Council system provided the following financial support to the partnership:

- \$316,983 in Class Participation Fees
- \$ 98,549 in Child Care scholarships

- \$120,000 support of the Pyramid Project(CLASS Recreation software)
- \$ 13,400 in support of the Community Learning Centers
- \$ 40,000 in support of Summer Playground Projects
- \$ 96,817 in Opportunity Fund grants

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| Carkeek Park | Homewaters Mapping Project | \$5,000 |
| Delridge | Youth & Seniors Programming | \$7,500 |
| Discovery Park | West Point Archeology Kits | \$8,000 |
| Garfield | Technical & Instructional/Lab | \$5,000 |
| High Point | Guiding Academic Motivation/Teens | \$9,187 |
| Japanese Gardens | Mondays in the Garden | \$6,500 |
| Langston Hughes | African American Masters | \$5,000 |
| Loyal Heights | Kitchen Remodel | \$6,000 |
| Magnuson | Gym Scoreboard | \$4,800 |
| Rainier | Computer Lab Monitor | \$5,000 |
| Ravenna-Eckstein | Teen Program Aide | \$2,500 |
| RecTech | Grant Writing/fundraising | \$7,500 |
| South Park | Teen Emergency Plan/Intro to Learning Storytelling | \$8,000 |
| Van Asselt | Summer Playground | \$2,200 |
| Yesler | Field Trip Program for SPS classes | \$8,630 |
| Carkeek Park | Special Olympics Basketball Tournament | \$4,000 |
| Special Populations | | \$2,000 |

Community Technology Centers:

In August of 2005, ARC, on behalf of the RecTech Coalition (Advisory councils representing; Rainier, Rainier Beach, Miller, Garfield, Delridge, South Park & Southwest Community Centers), submitted a grant request to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in order to provide Community Technology Centers (CTCs) at each of the sites. A primary purpose of the grant request was to provide academic support to the many youth who use the community centers for recreation. The curriculum was aligned with the Community Learning Centers and the Seattle School District. In March of 2006 we received the notification of the two year grant award of \$377,950. The first year award was \$149,000 with the balance of \$228,950 to be paid in April of 2007.

In addition we received a Communities Connect grant award of \$105,000 for the Community Technology Center at Yesler Community Center also from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As an additional windfall we received \$100,000 from the Microsoft Corporation for software and software upgrades. The installation of hardware and software has occurred and we are operational. The Department of Information Technology provided \$31,000 for technology support as we developed our own in-house technology support staff for the technology centers.

Recently, the Stuart Foundation supplemented the project with a two year grant totaling \$175,000 targeting the Rainier and Rainier Beach Community Center technology labs. In addition, at year end we were awarded \$178,000 for 2007 through the City Council to deliver a Digital Media Skills Program at the South Park & Rainier Beach Community Center technology labs. \$75,000 will be awarded in 2008 for the second year of the Program.

In total the RechTech Coalition has been awarded over \$1,000,000 in support for this important community technology effort.

Modernization:

We are involved in a process to update and “modernize” our partnership to better meet the evolving needs and demands of our recreation business relationship.

In 2003 Superintendent Ken Bounds launched an initiative with the ARC Board and the advisory councils to modernize this partnership. We convened a Steering Committee composed of Department, ARC and advisory council members that worked together to create a strategic plan for the delivery of recreation services. This has been successfully accomplished with agreement on four primary goals:

1. increase the number of people served;
2. develop sustainable financial resources;
3. develop infrastructure systems that will allow us to better market and conduct recreation programs; and
4. provide connections to Seattle's neighborhoods and communities.

Currently, the defining documents are being reviewed by the City Law Department in order to begin the legislative process necessary for the completion of the modernization effort.

Additional Information: Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director: bill.keller@seattle.gov.

Verbal Briefing & Board Discussion

Mr. Keller briefly reviewed information in the written briefing. Commissioner Ramels, formerly on the ARC Board, stated that the written briefing paper was the best summary of ARC that she has read. She asked if ARC has received any feedback from the Mayor's office on its Modernization Memorandum of Understanding (MOU.) Mr. Keller answered that ARC staff were diligent in working with the City Law Department before sending the MOU to the Mayor, which will help streamline the process. The agreement has been pared down from 72 pages to 38 pages. He will have a copy of the most recent version forwarded to the Board.

Commissioner Larsen thanked ARC for all its hard work and especially for sponsoring "Friends of Parks" groups. ARC's support enables these groups to do park projects and ARC frequently helps with Neighborhood Matching Fund projects. Mr. Keller commented that ARC works closely with community members and offers counsel and has helped complete many projects over the past three years. Mr. Keller stated that ARC has many inquiries from other cities on how to develop a structure similar to ARC. Just this week, Ventura, California, contacted his office for assistance.

Commissioner Holme asked how ARC salaries are determined. Mr. Keller answered that some employees work for both the City and ARC. ARC is a 501c3, is separately incorporated from Parks, and is a separate employer. Parks staff cannot work for both Parks and ARC at the same facility, to avoid an inherent conflict of interest. However, they can work for Parks at one facility and for ARC at another. Currently, less than 300 of the 1,100 employees work for both. Of those 1,100 employees, many work part-time and being allowed to work for Parks helps supplement their incomes.

Commissioner Barber stated this is his first briefing on ARC and he is very impressed. He asked for more information on ARC's full time, administrative staff. Mr. Keller answered that the administrative staff consist of him as Executive Director, an accounting manager and staff of five to oversee the \$10.5 million budget, 6 field supervisors, 1 project staff person, and two human resources staff. He briefly described the role of the field supervisors.

Commissioner Barber asked about the nearly \$1 million referred to in the financial report. Mr. Keller answered that this money comes from grants and donations.

Commissioner Larsen asked if ARC sponsors summer programs in the parks. Mr. Keller answered that ARC supplemented the summer programs until 2005, when Seattle Parks was able to fund the programs without ARC's assistance. ARC's role was a companion to the summer sack lunch. Kids waiting for a free summer lunch program were an ideal group to offer games and art programs. The summer day camp programs served 1100 children weekly. Commissioner Larsen commented that the summer programs were cut at some sites and are sorely missed.

Commissioner Ramels asked for the schedule for the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Keller answered that it is currently in the Mayor's office for review and is scheduled for a December 5, 2007, vote at City Council's Parks, Education, Libraries & Labor (PELL) Committee. A full City Council vote is scheduled for December 10. The MOU would go into effect 30 days from full Council approval, early 2008. He will keep the Board posted on the developments.

Commissioner Adams asked why the State Auditor formed ARC in 1976. Mr. Keller answered that the advisory councils were in existence for some time before 1976. Each worked individually with Seattle Parks and was responsible for paying its own taxes, etc. The Auditor determined that this needed to be done in a more accurate and timely manner. ARC took over as fiscal sponsor and eventually took over the programming portion to make that uniform. During the last 10 years, the ARC-sponsored Pyramid Project and CLASS have opened up a world of information that allows ARC to be more responsive to the community's needs. Commissioner Ramels commented that in 1976 ARC was broken and Mr. Keller came on board and fixed it. She thanked Mr. Keller for so much good work and commented that he has worked many long hours to develop ARC into a better partnership with Seattle Parks.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Keller for the briefing.

Update Briefing: Pro Parks Levy

Colleen Browne, Acting Pro Parks Levy Manager, briefed the Board on the status of the Pro Parks Levy. Commissioners received a written and verbal briefing.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

None. This is a briefing.

Project Description and Background

Through 2006, Levy spending and income are close to the original plan developed in 2000. In addition, the Levy has leveraged more than \$28 million in project funding and in-kind donations.

Citizens are benefiting from programs and projects in nearly every neighborhood in the city. More than 41 acres have been acquired to preserve green space and to create parks in densely developed areas. New parks are opening in many neighborhoods, and parks are being improved throughout the city, with the completion of 68 park development projects through mid-year, 2007.

For more information about individual Levy projects and programs, and to see an interactive map of Levy projects, visit the web at www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/

Public Involvement Process

Partnerships with the community are critical to identifying priority properties, potential uses of acquired sites, and additional resources. Citizens participated in dozens of public processes related to development projects in 2006 and 2007. They participated in project advisory teams, attended public meetings addressing project planning and design, and joined in groundbreaking or dedication celebrations at newly opened or improved parks.

The 14 projects completed in 2006 were: Brandon Mini Park, Columbia Park, Greg Davis Park, John C. Little Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Montlake Community Center, Northgate Park, Northlake Park, Occidental Park, Olympic Sculpture Park (lower Queen Anne pedestrian connection), Puget Boulevard Commons, Ravenna Creek Daylighting, and Ross Shelterhouse. Twenty-four parks are on track to be completed by the end of 2007, with substantial public involvement in all of them. Grand opening celebrations this year include Loyal Heights playfield, Laurelhurst Community Center, Ella Bailey Park, Pinehurst Pocket Park, Maple Community Garden and I-5 Colonnade Development.

The UPS Centennial Day event on Aug. 28, 2007 was a huge success with more than 300 UPS volunteers showing up at Brighton PF for a major community service project. The 100-year anniversary of United Parcel Service was celebrated by UPS staff from all over the country. Major work items were completed by the volunteers including the Solar System Path which is a major element of the Brighton Science Park Project.

Budget

Development Program Leverage of Supplemental Funding – To date, the Levy development projects have received \$13.2 million in donations and grants. Of this, \$5.35 million was leveraged in 2006, including funding from the Seattle

Parks Foundation, the Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund and private grantors such as the Starbucks Foundation. As noted in last year's report, the most significant leveraging is for Chief Sealth Trail, where a contractor for light rail in Southeast Seattle provided an estimated \$5.4 million in services for trail construction.

Schedule

18 projects are currently on track to finish this year and the next despite a continuing increase in overall construction costs due to Seattle's excellent construction atmosphere. A significant delay in receiving permits from the Army Corps of Engineers on Magnuson Park sports field and wetlands projects means that the projects will advertise late in the 2007 for work in 2008-09 construction seasons.

Staff Recommendation (if applicable)

Not applicable.

Additional Information

For more information about individual Levy projects and programs, and to see an interactive map of Levy projects, visit the web at www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/

Verbal Briefing

Ms. Brown distributed a copy of the Pro Parks Levy 2007 report. At the end of 2006, 64 Pro Parks Levy projects were complete. Another 24 projects will be complete by the end of 2007. There is enough funding to complete most of the projects. Of the projects not yet complete, almost all are waiting for property acquisition or for other agency's action. She referred to earlier testimony about Magnuson Park and stated that her latest information is that the Army Corp of Engineers will issue the permits for the Habitat/Wetland & Athletic Fields project by the end of October, the project will go out to bid before the end of 2007, and construction will begin in 2008. She also stated that a company will be hired for long-term wetland oversight.

Much of the remaining discussion focused on the Mayor's Supplemental Budget Proposal in regards to the Pro Parks Levy:

*[From Mayor Nickels' 2008 Supplemental Budget Proposal Summary: **"ORPHANED PARKS WISH FUND"** In his proposed budget, Mayor Greg Nickels added approximately \$7 million to the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund for park development. Called the "Orphaned Parks Wish Fund," this one-time fund source will be offered to neighborhood groups to apply for funds to improve their neighborhood parks. The Mayor also proposes that the General Fund pay to continue programs already funded by the Pro Parks Levy, which will end in 2008.*

The \$7 million fund is a new one-time program to improve and develop parks that have been only partially funded with Levy resources, or that have had difficulty in securing community funding. Applicants for funding will go through the existing Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund competitive process.

The Pro Parks Levy – formally known as the "Neighborhood Parks, Green Spaces, Trails and Zoo Levy Lid – was approved by Seattle voters in 2000 and expires in 2009. The Levy provided eight years of funding for various parks-related projects and programs. About \$9 million would need to be found starting in 2009 if all of these programs were continued. The Mayor has proposed shifting this cost to the General fund in 2007 (except for the Zoo portion that will come from the County Parks Levy). This builds these programs into the base General Fund budget to allow continued funding after the Levy expires. Shifting this cost to the General Fund also allows the 2008 Levy money to be used for the \$7 million "Orphaned Parks Wish Fund."]

Ms. Brown referred to citizen testimony made under tonight's "Oral Communications" and stated that she has not been at any meetings or heard of any instances where side deals were made to give extra Levy dollars for particular parks. The

recommendation is that the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee would determine criteria for which projects get any surplus dollars and would be done under a public process.

Commissioner Holme believes that Ms. Levine was referring to the Mayor's proposed budget (above) in relation to the Pro Parks Levy. There is some speculation that if the budget recommendation is adopted by City Council that there would be a block of funds injected into the Pro Parks Levy. He asked Ms. Golub to explain more about the levy language in regards to funding for ballfields. Ms. Golub answered that there is some money left in the ballfield fund and only the athletic fields at Magnuson are unfinished. Money for South Lake Union Park is allocated from the major parks fund. The Pro Parks Committee, in open meetings, was briefed by staff, deliberated, and approved reallocation funds to Magnuson and South Lake Union Parks, in compliance with the Levy language.

Commissioner Holme commented that the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee holds open and public meetings. It discusses Levy recommendation at one meeting and votes at the next, leaving time between for public comment. Commissioner Ramels asked if the Oversight Committee has jurisdiction over the excess funds. Commissioner Holme answered that the Oversight Committee makes recommendations only; City Council would vote on any final action. His main concern is that the Pro Parks Levy is ending and some projects are extending beyond the Levy's end. The Oversight Committee wants to be involved in any process to assign the excess funds to a particular project and to do this through a public process.

Commissioner Barber asked how the public can find out where the Pro Parks Levy money has gone. Are spreadsheets available? Ms. Browne answered that the spreadsheets are updated monthly and she will send to Commissioner Barber. These include construction, staff, and permit costs. Ms. Golub said staff will prepare an explanatory packet and send to the Board.

Commissioner Ranade asked how people can find this information. Commissioner Holme answered that the Oversight Committee keeps close oversight on the Levy. It receives regular reports which are relatively problem free. The Department publishes an annual report and the information also goes to City Council. There is a substantial paper trail on spending.

Commissioner Ramels was on the Oversight Committee early in the process and asked what happens when the Levy ends. Are there any funds earmarked for maintenance on these new projects. Commissioner Holme answered that the Mayor's budget proposal would supply the maintenance funds and gave additional information on how the process would work.

Commissioner Barber asked about the process to restore/renew the levy and whether there are legal constraints for Parks employees to prepare a new list of levy projects. Commissioner Ranade answered that City staff cannot work on ballot propositions on City time. Commissioner Holme added that the first Pro Parks Levy was prepared by private citizens.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Browne for the briefing.

Old/New Business

Committee Reports:

Lake Washington Boulevard Vegetation Management Plan Project Advisory Team (PAT):

Commissioner Barber is the Park Board's representative to this PAT, which met on Tuesday morning. He gave a detailed report of the meeting. The PAT is working with a consultant and adopted a set of goals and objectives at the meeting. Commissioner Holme asked if this VMP will be brought forth to the Park Board for a briefing and public hearing and staff agreed that it would.

Seattle Parks Foundation: Commissioner Larsen volunteered to serve as the Board's representative to the Seattle Parks' Foundation and will begin her term with the Foundation's November 7 meeting.

Association Recreation Council: **Commissioner Ramels moved that the Board approve appointing a Park Board member to the Associated Recreation Council's board. Commissioner Adams seconded. The vote was taken and motion approved.**

Outdoor Pools: Commissioner Larsen asked for a brief discussion on Board support of the Outdoor Pool Initiative that she is leading. Commissioner Larsen joined the Board at its September 27 meeting as a voting member. Prior to her being confirmed by City Council, she was approached by members of the community and asked to lead the initiative to study the feasibility of adding additional outdoor pools to the two that are already in Seattle's parks system. She will testify before City Council at its next meeting. **Commissioner Larsen moved that the Park Board endorse the concept of an outdoor pool feasibility study requesting \$200,000 of the Mayor's proposed budget for 2008 to be used for the study. Commissioner Barber seconded.** If the motion is approved, Commissioner Larsen would then testify before City Council that she has the Park Board's support. She has been in contact with Wayne Barnett, Executive Director of the Ethics Commission. His advice was to either testify as a Park Board member, with the Board's support, or testify as a private citizen. Because this initiative affects the Parks Department that Commissioner Larsen is now an appointed advisor to, it is problematic for her to testify as the outdoor pool supporters' spokesperson.

Commissioner Ramels praised the worthy effort, but wondered whether Council would decrease some of the mayor's budget recommendations for parks to find the \$200,000. She agrees with all of the Mayor's park proposals for the 2008 supplemental budget, especially the park rangers, and is concerned where the funds would come from to fund the study. Commissioner Larsen responded that the Mayor made his budget decisions months ago, while the outdoor pool study is a relatively new idea. This is a tremendous opportunity for Seattle Parks to be on the leading edge and not be reactionary — as it was with the need for skate parks. There was some discussion on private funding for the study and Commissioner Larsen commented that private groups usually won't fund studies.

Commissioner Holme asked to clarify that the study would focus on the need for outdoor pools on the east side of Interstate 5. He favors recreation but knows that the greatest challenges faced by Seattle Parks is the high construction, operation, and maintenance costs for buildings. The indoor pools are among the highest of these for maintenance costs. He suggested that effort be focused on a new levy for both the existing and aging indoor pools and for new indoor and outdoor pools.

Commissioner Larsen stated that in a conversation with Interim Superintendent Williams, he said that "Parks considers outdoor pools to be cost effective" and "outdoor pools are in Seattle Parks' Comprehensive Plan." She also had a conversation with Cathy Whitman, Seattle Aquatics Manager, about Mounger Pool [in the Magnolia area.] Ms. Whitman stated that outdoor pools can be cost effective. Mounger cost \$3 million to build, \$400,000 annually to operate, and has a 95% cost recovery rate. When the pool was built, the community raised \$500,000 to fund the maintenance and does this on the interest alone — the principal is not used.

Commissioner Adams wants to know Seattle Parks' thoughts on this initiative before he votes for the Park Board to support it. Does it fit with the Department's plans, strategy, and long-term goals? Ms. Golub answered that she will check with staff and report to the Board at the 10/25 meeting.

Commissioner Barber asked if a committee has been formed in support of the proposal. Commissioner Larsen answered that it is not a formal group; however, she has heard support from many in the neighborhoods. There are long wait lists for people at private pools and a real need for public pools.

Commissioner Barber stated that usually the Board hears a briefing on new proposals and hears public testimony. Commissioner Ranade commented that the Board is being asked to endorse a study only at this time and asked if Commissioner Larsen has taken this to the Mayor and, if so, what was his reaction. Commissioner Larsen answered that the intent is to present it to him in the next two to three weeks.

The motion was tabled until the Board has further information from the Department at its October 25 meeting.

Annual Retreat: The Board's annual retreat is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2-8:00 pm, location to be determined. There are a number of agenda items and an independent facilitator will be hired. Commissioner Ranade reported that he had his monthly meeting with Councilmember David Della on October 10 and the Councilmember would

like to attend a portion of the retreat. Commissioner Adams suggested he be invited to attend the earlier part. The Board voiced its support for Commissioner Ranade's attending these monthly meetings.

Thank You Letter: Commissioner Ramels prepared the thank you letter to former Interim Superintendent B.J. Brooks on behalf of the Board, thanking her for her service to the Department and to the city. All Commissioners signed the letter.

October 16 Special Meeting: Commissioner Ranade reminded the Board that the Special Meeting is the first public meeting for the Board to discuss its process to select its 7th member. The goal is to adopt at least a portion of the procedures. Commissioner Ranade will be out of town and Commissioner Ramels will chair the meeting. Ms. Golub reported that the draft decision paper, which will be used by the Commissioners during their discussion, is under review at City of Seattle's Law Department.

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

APPROVED: _____

Jackie Ramels, Acting Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____