

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2011

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
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<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Antoinette Angulo
John Barber
Terry Holme, Chair
Donna Kostka
Jackie Ramels

Excused:

Diana Kincaid
Jourdan Keith

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee Staff

Philip Roewe, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Holme, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the June 23 agenda, and the May 12, May 26, and June 9 minutes. Commissioner Kostka seconded. The vote was taken with Commissioners Angulo, Barber, and Kostka in favor. Commissioner Ramels abstained as she was out of town. The motion carried.**

Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent Williams reported on the following topics. To listen to the report, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591154> and move cursor to position 1:20.

Magnuson Park Building 11: City Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee (PASC) met last week to discuss the Building 11 lease amendment. Approximately 75-100 people attended the meeting to testify and hear the discussion, with testimony fairly evenly divided between those who oppose the lease amendment and those who support it. Acting Superintendent Williams spoke and stressed that the Parks Department has \$250-300 million in major maintenance and capital deferred maintenance and that is not a small problem. The terms of the lease direct Building 11 LLC to fund \$10 million of this amount. PASC will reconvene on July 7 and hear additional testimony. The original lease remains in effect; however, the amendment may be altered. An agreement has been reached with the artists and Sail Sand Point is close to signing a lease with the LLC. Most of the hurdles are out of the way to turning Building 11 over to the LLC. For more information on Magnuson

Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>. For more information on Building 11 and the lease agreement amendment, see http://www.seattle.gov/council/bagshaw/building11_qa.htm.

Upcoming Trends in Parks: Leon Younger, founder of PROS Consulting, LLC, a full-service management consulting and planning firm focusing on services to government and not-for-profit agencies. The firm was formed in 1995 to serve the park, recreation, and leisure services industry. Mr. Younger is a superstar in the park and recreation world and visited Seattle last week. Acting Superintendent Williams and Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli met with him and came away with helpful information. When asked what the next trends in parks and recreation might be, Mr. Younger stated that the two most recent trends have been health and environmental issues. He believes the next will be putting a price on the value of parks and how they benefit a city. Fortunately, Seattle Parks and the Seattle Parks Foundation recently funded the Trust for Public Lands to prepare this information for Seattle's parks. The report is available at http://www.seattleparksfoundation.org/TPL_EconomicBenefits.pdf.

Mr. Younger stated that, due to budget problems, the Los Angeles community centers now only operate three days per week. Denver and New Orleans' park systems are similarly challenged. He noted that park systems must cater to adult sports, such as rock climbing, rope climbing, etc., as most of the sports revenue is paid by adult activities. At the same time, park systems must provide equally for youth.

To help cope with budget issues, public-private partnerships are being developed between park systems and private companies around the country. Expanded roles are being developed for volunteers, as many want to help their struggling park systems. Effective systems for best utilizing these volunteers must be developed. Some cities are using volunteers to do unskilled labor in the parks, such as litter pick up and work that requires using small power equipment.

Viretta Park Update: A small group of people, who do not live near the park, have asked to install a memorial to Kurt Cobain at this small neighborhood park, located near Mr. Kobain's former home. The park's wooden benches are covered with graffiti messages to the rock icon. Acting Superintendent Williams met with the group recently and stated firmly that Parks will not approve a memorial. The park neighbors have complained to the Department that tour buses unload tourists who sign the bench, walk around the park, etc. Parks is working with the neighbors to develop a Friends of Viretta Park group. To read more about Viretta Park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=3098.

Commissioner Barber added that park neighbors agree with the Department's approach. Commissioner Holme stated the park is located in a quiet neighborhood. He has visited the park and found it looking worn from the heavy usage. He hopes the Friends of Group will help spruce up the park. Acting Superintendent Williams agreed.

Athletic Field User Summit: A public outcry ensued when the Department increased its athletic field fees and resulted in many calls/e-mails to the Mayor's office. An athletic field user summit has been scheduled in the Mayor's office on July 25. Maintenance, scheduling, fees, and plans for replacing aging synthetic fields are all topics of discussion.

The Department has invited a large group of athletic field users. Commissioner Ramels suggested that private schools using the Department's fields be invited to the summit. Commissioners are also invited to the summit.

Mid-year Budget Reduction: The Parks Department has been asked to come up with a \$2.4 million mid-year budget reduction for 2011. Most other City of Seattle departments have been hit harder than Parks in this budget reduction.

State Route 520 Project Final EIS: The Washington State Department of Transportation recently released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the SR 520 replacement project. For more information on the project, see <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/EIS.htm>. Acting Superintendent Williams and

several Parks staff will tour the mitigation area at Washington Park Arboretum and meet with Fran Conley, a community activist involved with the project.

Cascade People's Center Update: The YMCA staff have now moved into the building and engaging with the Cascade community. Parks staff will move to a new location at the end of August and YMCA staff are working to lessen storage needs so the building can be more effectively used for programming. After initial controversy over the Y moving into the building, the situation appears calm.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels on the length of the contract, Acting Superintendent Williams answered that the YMCA and Seattle Parks have a five-year contract.

Jimi Hendrix Park Project: Design for this project was funded through \$76,000 in Neighborhood Matching Fund money. Murase and Associates were hired to develop a schematic design, using a public process in coordination with Seattle Parks and Recreation. Tonight the second of three meetings is scheduled to discuss possible design alternatives. In addition, \$500,000 from the Parks and Green Spaces Levy was allocated to build the project. There was also a \$20,000 private donation from the Hendrix family. For more information on the Jimi Hendrix Park project, see <http://www.jimihendrixparkfoundation.org/>.

Commissioner Holme expressed concern that the community, rather than the Parks Department, is managing the public meetings and urged that the Department ensure its public involvement process is followed. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that Parks' Neighborhood Matching Fund project manager, Pamela Kliment, will provide this oversight.

Park Naming: During the Thornton Creek Park Naming process, there was significant support to honor Alice Bryant, a former local peace activist. In response to that request, since the park site was ultimately named Beaver Pond Natural Area on Thornton Creek, Parks staff met with Ruth Williams, Ms. Bryant's granddaughter, at Peace Park to discuss honoring her legacy. Ms. Williams was not enthusiastic with the Peace Park location. Parks staff suggested the existing Peace Garden at Seattle Center as an alternative. Ms. Williams visited the Peace Garden and is now interested in recognizing Alice Bryant at that site. Parks staff will assist her in exploring that possibility. If Peace Garden is not feasible, Parks will continue to work to identify a suitable site in the parks system. For more information on Seattle Center's Peace Garden, see http://www.seattlecenter.com/attractions/garden_new_detail.asp?GA_gardenum=2.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained 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 two-to-three minutes each, will be timed, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. The Board's usual process is for 10 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Old/New Business. No one testified.

Discussion/Recommendation: Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan

At the Board's June 9 meeting, Kathleen Conner, Seattle Parks Senior CIP Planner, presented a briefing on the Department's 2011 Development Plan, immediately followed by a public hearing. To hear Ms. Conner's presentation, the full public hearing, and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591154> and move cursor to position 33.00. Following the Board's discussion, Ms. Conner edited the plan with comments/suggestions from the Commissioners. She forwarded a summary of these changes to the Commissioners, as shown below. [The referenced attachments are not included in these minutes.] Her responses are shown in italics.

Written Briefing

At the June 9 Board of Park Commissioners meeting, there were a number of comments and questions that required follow up from staff. The pages that contain the proposed edits to the document are attached. There are other attachments as noted in the staff responses.

1. Provide the link to Seattle's Park and Recreation 2011 Development Plan to the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee to provide context for the capital projects list.
Staff will send a memo with a link to the Development Plan to Susan Golub, the Levy Oversight Committee staff coordinator, to pass on to the Committee.
2. Open space is not defined adequately on page 16 and greenspaces also are not defined adequately on page B-2. These areas provide ecological functions to the City which should be detailed, i.e., watershed protection, climate control, tree canopy, wildlife habitat, etc. The text should reflect it is important to acquire and restore these areas regardless of their GAP values because of their geography and function. Please make edits to reflect these values.
The definitions on pages 16 and B-2 include examples of elements considered open space or greenspaces to help the reader understand what was included in those categories for the Development Plan and Gap Analysis Report. The definitions were not intended to provide explanations of the values and importance of open space or greenspaces. While the definitions weren't changed, revisions are proposed on pages 5 and 7 per the comment above.
3. On page A-6, 2011 Park and Open Space Inventory, the name and acreage for Kiwanis Ravine is incorrect. The composite name is "Kiwanis Ravine" and the acreage is 16 acres. The Inventory should be corrected.
Parks' Property Management staff has been contacted about this comment and will check on both the name and acreage. Once the correct information is confirmed, it will be inserted on page A-6 of the document. In addition, Paula Hoff, in the Superintendent's office, reports that she will begin work in the fall on consistency in the naming of the Kiwanis parcels.
4. The Gap Analysis report should list UW as non-City Park and Open Space.
UW has not been counted in the analysis, although there are sections in the Plan where it is acknowledged that it provides open space benefits. Page B-5 (Appendix B Gap Analysis Update) of the draft 2011 Development Plan the existing Open Space Amenities section has been revised to reinforce that resource. Once we have additional Census information and are updating the Analysis, Parks will look again at the offsets, including UW, and reconsider how they should be addressed.
5. What are "offsets" in the Gap Analysis and how are they treated in the analysis?
The "offsets" in the Gap Analysis are open spaces that are not owned by Seattle Parks and Recreation but they are still used or experienced similarly to Seattle-owned parks and open spaces. These include University of Washington, school grounds, "green streets," etc. In most cases, these "offsets" are not included in the calculations for breathing room or usable open space in the Gap Analysis. A brief discussion on off-sets has been added to page 5 of the draft 2011 Development Plan. Also, attached is an excerpt from the full 2011 Gap Analysis which lists what was counted and not counted for "Breathing Room" as open space and "Usable" open space. (See Attachment B.)
6. Is it possible to overlay crime areas on the gap maps to help target certain gaps for future park open space or park development?
For this version of the Gap Analysis, the use of crime data is not a criterion. It is a concept that Parks can investigate for future reports.
7. Can the full Asset Management Plan be put online? This will help the public understand the methodology of the ranking system and how projects are prioritized.

Yes. The 2011-2016 Asset Management Plan will be posted online and staff will also provide the link to the Parks Levy Oversight Committee. There will be a link to the Asset Management Plan on the Development Plan page: <http://seattle.gov/parks/Publications/DevelopmentPlan.htm>

An excerpt of the 2011-2016 Asset management Plan is Attachment D.

8. There is a shortage of tennis courts in Ballard and West Seattle and in other areas. Will these "gaps" be addressed in the future?
Parks will continue to look at recreation needs throughout the City especially after more 2010 Census data becomes available.
9. How are grants holding up under tax pressures? How is Parks doing in getting the grants?
There has been a reduction in funding for State grants. For the Recreation and Open Space Grants, Parks has received nearly \$7 million in the past decade. Parks has continued to be successful in obtaining King County grants despite the reduction in available grant dollars. Attached are three documents related to capital grants: 1) King County Youth Sports Facilities Grants information; 2) Non-Government Grant Sources; and 3) Summary table of Grants for Outdoor Recreation. See Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. *Proposed Plan Revisions Pages*
- B. *Gap Analysis "Offsets" – Counted and Not Counted*
- C. *Funding Sources Information (3 documents)*
- D. *Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011-16 Asset Management Plan Excerpt*

Supplemental Questions from Commissioner Barber

"Following up on Commissioner Holme's query at the last meeting about how priorities are set for use of capital funds, specifically for major maintenance, restoration, and replacement. Is a geographic distribution applied to the prioritization of this type of capital fund? If not, why are Magnuson Park historic buildings apparently not covered?"

No, at this time geographic distribution is not a criterion for project prioritization for major maintenance projects in the Asset Management Plan. The seven criteria are as follows:

- Priority 1: Code Requirements*
- Priority 2: Safety*
- Priority 3: Building Envelope*
- Priority 4: Facility Integrity*
- Priority 5: O & M Cost Reduction*
- Priority 6: Water and Energy Savings*
- Priority 7: Other*

While there were no Magnuson Park historic buildings funded in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2011-2012, there are 10 projects that have been identified in the 2011-2016 Asset Management Plan and they are awaiting funding in a future CIP budget. Please see Attachment D (2011-2016 Asset Management Plan) to the memo to the Board in your current packet on the 2011 Development Plan. In the prioritization for 2011-2016, Building #30 was priority #34 and Building #12 was priority 134 (see pages 1 and 4). There are an additional eight Magnuson historic buildings on the list, primarily on pages 8 and 9.

"When building repairs or restoration are included in the six-year Development Plan, does that mean that the work described will make them usable structures for parks and recreation uses, or will some of those buildings need more work in the next six-year plan?"

Yes. Due to the number of facilities and the funding levels, Parks typically undertakes renovation projects that address one "system." Typical major maintenance projects for a building might be a new roof, seismic improvements, new boiler and HVAC equipment, new electrical wiring or panels, or lighting upgrades. Other than a brief closure to undertake the construction, the facilities continue their parks and recreation operations and programming in them. Some of these buildings will have additional work in future years. For example, we might replace a roof in 2011 and in 2015 the boiler or an electrical panel may need to be replaced, and in another year we might upgrade to energy efficient lighting. It is an ongoing process and Parks is continually updating its assessment information to make sure that the right projects are done at the right time.

Discussion/Recommendation

Ms. Conner introduced herself and briefly reviewed the Development Plan and the changes made since the Board's June 9 meeting [see above.] The Board is asked to recommend approval of the Plan, as presented, to the Superintendent.

Commissioner Kostka moved that the Board recommend approval to the Superintendent of the 2011 Development Plan as amended. Commissioner Ramels seconded.

Commissioners focused on the Department's major maintenance projects as reflected in the Development Plan, including how they are ranked and how they are funded. They noted that some on the list seem in priority order, while others lower on the list are in alphabetical order. This is confusing. Ms. Conner responded that the Department prioritizes the top 150 or so projects, with the remaining ones shown in alphabetical order. Each year the Department does major maintenance on some roofs, some roads, etc. Ms. Conner gave additional information on the ranking order and funding for major maintenance – the City's Real Estate and Excise Tax (REET) and Cumulative Reserve Subfund (CRS.) [The Cumulative Reserve Subfund of the [General Fund](#) is a reserve fund authorized under Washington State law and is used to accumulate money until it is spent, primarily for maintenance and development of City capital facilities.]

Commissioner Holme summarized the Board's concerns that the ranking system be transparent and easily understandable to the public. It also needs clear criteria on why a project was ranked/not ranked.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels whether Seattle Aquarium and Woodland Park Zoo perform their own major maintenance, Ms. Conner responded that the City has an obligation of \$8 million for Zoo capital projects for five more years.

There being no further questions, the vote was taken and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Conner for the excellent work on the Development Plan.

Update Briefing: Summer Guide

Sue Goodwin, Seattle Parks Director of Recreation, briefed the Board on the Department's many offerings for summer fun in Seattle's parks and recreation centers. To view a downloadable version of the Summer Guide and list of many free and fun events, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/SummerGuide.htm>.

Ms. Goodwin described the multitude of programs offered by the Seattle Parks Recreation Division through a Powerpoint presentation. To hear the presentation and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591154> and move cursor to position 61.00.

Ms. Goodwin pointed out that Seattle's parks create community by providing community gardens, holding the annual and free Big Day of Play, scheduling recreation classes, providing a teen mentoring program, providing out of school time for kids, as well as scholarships, and partnerships with several organizations. Recreation staff are divided into a South and North division. They provide staffing and programming at community

centers, environmental learning centers, Citywide Athletics, Aquatics, Lifelong Recreation, Specialized Programs, Summer Guide, STEP-youth employment, YES program, Summer of Service, Golf, Tennis, and scheduling for weddings and summer picnics.

Commissioner Ramels voiced concern that 2,000 youth applied for the available 325 scholarships to participate at low/no cost in the Department's activities. Ms. Goodwin noted that many of those who don't receive scholarships from Seattle Parks apply with other agencies.

Commissioner Angulo commended Ms. Goodwin and the Recreation Division on the breadth of programs provided. She suggested the teen centers also provide some health care and staff could apply for health grants as reimbursement.

Information from the 2011 Summer Guide includes:

- *Out to Lunch Concert Series*: Various bands present free performances, June 15-September 2, at Westlake Park, Harbor Steps, Occidental Square, Bank of America Plaza, Freeway Park, Waterfront Park, Occidental Square, Federal Courthouse, and Two Union Square.
- *Seattle Presents*: Free lunchtime performance series at City Hall Plaza
- *Dancing in the Park*: 18 Glorious Nights of Dancing Outdoors in Downtown Seattle Parks
- *Family Fun Days*: includes Free Family Concert at Freeway Park; Noon Tunes Concerts for Kids; Children's Arts Program; and Family Table Tennis
- *Festivals and Celebrations* including 2011 Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival; Pioneer Square Fire Festival and Dragon Festival in Chinatown-International District
- *Arts, Crafts and Farmers Markets*: First Thursdays Art in the Park; JamFest; Seattle Square Thursday Market and Street Food; Chinatown-International District Night Market
- *Activities*: Grow Food in the Center of the City; Drop-in Bocce and Chess; Seattle Public Library Used Book Sales; Dog Off-Leash Area; Playgrounds; and Park Ranger Program
- Bicycling helmets and life jackets discounts, Fun Run/Walk, Exhibition Booths; Bicycle Sundays
- It's a Walk in the Park; Summer Streets Family-Friendly Events
- Everyone into the Water! Beaches, outdoor pools, wading pools, spray features, Green Lake Small Craft Center, competitive and open water swims
- Great Outdoors Playground Art in the Parks Program at Camp Long, Carkeek Park, and Discovery Park; Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center
- Woodland Park Zoo, Lawn Bowling, Bard in the Park
- Farmers Markets; Family Fourth of July; Peace Concerts; Let There be Music!; and Zoo Tunes
- *Gorgeous, Glorious Gardens*: Woodland Park Rose Garden, Kubota Garden, Parsons Garden; Japanese Garden; Volunteer Park Conservatory; Washington Park Arboretum

Commissioners thanked Ms. Goodwin for the briefing. Everyone is invited to get out and enjoy all the great offerings provided by their park and recreation system.

Briefing: Community Center Statement of Legislative Intent

Carol Everson, Seattle Parks Finance Director, next presented a briefing on the Community Center Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI). Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing paper and copy of the Statement of Legislative Intent, included below. To hear the full briefing and discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5903> and move cursor to position 2.00.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

No action of the Board is requested.

Background

The Board will receive a briefing on the Community Center Operations project from Carol Everson at the June 23 meeting. Background materials for the briefing include:

- the City Council's Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI);
- the nine options developed through the Community Center Advisory Team process; and
- the survey Parks is using to collect community feedback on the nine options.

In January Parks assembled an advisory group to help form a response to a City Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) calling for the Department to evaluate community center operations. The Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT) met twice a month from February to early June, learning about community centers and discussing ideas for changing operations. CCAT membership includes community members, Associated Recreation Council (ARC) representation, two Park Board Commissioners, community center staff, labor representatives, a member of Councilmember Bagshaw's Office and a City Budget Office analyst. The CCAT received detailed briefings on how community centers currently operate, partnerships, and how other jurisdictions are operating community centers during challenging budget times. Several meetings were devoted to developing and discussing options.

A staff working group worked concurrently with CCAT, preparing the background information and developing the options. The staff group includes members from the City Budget Office and City Council Central Staff, as well as Parks staff.

Public Process

A public meeting was held in early February with about 70 people attending. The meeting format was a world café where participants rotated through five tables, discussing a different question related to community center operations at each table. A consistent message from the public was to tailor community centers to the neighborhoods where they are located – no cookie cutter approach.

Two additional public meetings are being held: June 15 at Bitter Lake Community Center and June 16 at Jefferson Community Center. Approximately 70 people attended the Bitter Lake meeting. The format included a presentation of the options and a question and answer session.

Comments from the public on the options are being collected via a survey, available on-line and in paper copies. To date approximately 260 responses have been received. The survey will be open until July 1 when the SLI response is due to the Council. Results will be tabulated and presented to the Mayor and City Council.

Additional Information

Information about the community center operations project and a link to the survey on-line is available on the Parks web page: <http://seattle.gov/parks/centers/operations.htm>

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Parks Department – working closely with their established community leaders and recreational partners (including the Associated Recreation Council and the City's Advisory Councils), the City Budget Office, the City Council, and Parks Department employees – conduct research and analysis on:

1. Increased partnerships for the management and operations of the City's Community Centers,
2. Increased partnerships for planning and fundraising for the City's Community Centers,
3. Alternate management, operational and staffing models for the City's Community Centers.

This analysis should have the end goals of (a) increasing the public's utilization of Community Centers, (b) reducing the Community Centers' (almost complete) reliance on General Subfund support, (c) enhancing the Community Centers' ability to attain both short-term and long-term financial stability and (d) enhancing the Community Centers' flexibility to make changes to operations to better address the needs and desires of their users.

This analysis should include a review of the following questions and/or issues:

- A. What are the historic and anticipated funding trends for the City's Parks Department and for Community Centers? The assumption is that the General Subfund support is likely to become scarcer.
- B. What opportunities are available for expanding partnerships with Parks Department's long-term recreational partner, the Associated Recreation Council, to operate and manage Community Centers?
- C. What opportunities can be developed for expanding partnerships with other recreational, community or volunteer groups, such as the Boys' & Girls' Clubs, the YMCA, other community non-profits or community associations, to operate and manage Community Centers?
- D. What alternative operational models have other cities, counties and governmental entities implemented for their community or recreation centers?
- E. How can the Parks Department work more closely with its employees, their labor representatives, neighborhood leaders, and the City's Advisory Councils to find and implement efficiencies and to complete an analysis of Community Center operations?
- F. Encourage the Parks Department to find efficiencies and alternative schedules to effectively staff the Community Centers. For example, can one Community Center Coordinator manage two Community Centers, instead of the one-to-one ratio in the Parks Department's current staffing model? As another example, do all Community Centers need the same basic structure and amount of staff (4.00 FTE Recreational, plus 1.00 FTE Custodial)?
- G. Encourage the Parks Department to find efficiencies in the operational model for Community Centers. This might involve different drop-in hours at different Centers based on demand and need for services, or different drop-in hours depending on the time of year.
- H. Encourage the Parks Department, in cooperation with Associated Recreation Council, to develop consistent methodologies for collecting data on all community center users, including drop in use, classes or activities of interest to users, etc. and consider the use of current technologies in the collection of such data.
- I. Encourage the Parks Department to pursue a different pricing model for Community Center services and charge higher entry and enrollment fees to some users, to generate additional revenue to support Community Center operations.
- J. Encourage the Parks Department along with Council Central Staff and City Budget Office staff to review the upcoming analysis by the Seattle Parks Foundation regarding long-term parks funding issues related to the operation and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities as applicable to community center operations.

The City Council expects that Council Central Staff will work closely with the Parks Department and the City Budget Office on this analysis, and that the Parks and Seattle Center Committee will review the results of the analysis beginning on or around June 2011, including any proposals for 2012 implementation.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Seattle Center

Date Due to Council: June 1, 2011

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

Ms. Everson, who has led the team the past five months, introduced herself and reviewed information in the briefing paper and Statement of Legislative Intent. The SLI calls for the outcome to increase community center usage while decreasing community center dependence on the general fund. She noted that most of the commissioners attended one of the two community meetings. At these meetings, the nine options were

reviewed and participants were asked to fill out the survey. To date, 329 people have filled out the online survey and another 50 submitted hard copy responses. The survey will remain open through July 1. The results will be tallied and shared with the Mayor and City Council for consideration in budget preparation and deliberations. Acting Superintendent Williams complimented Ms. Everson and Ms. Goodwin for their leadership of the CCAT group.

Commissioner Holme asked Ms. Everson to forward the SLI timeline to Commissioners. Commissioner Kostka noted that people at the public meetings do not want a “cookie cutter” approach. She doesn’t think a geographic approach will work. Ms. Everson gave more details on a geographic approach. Commissioner Kostka asked if the combination community centers have yet been determined. They haven’t, as that level of detail will be developed over the summer. Ms. Everson added that the Association Recreation Council will be considered in any combination proposals. Commissioners asked a couple more questions about combining community centers. Commissioner Ramels, one of the CCAT members, noted that the team did not talk about staffing models. She added that some community centers are in 10-20 year leases with partners and it’s difficult to change those systems.

Commissioner Barber commented that staff salaries are the largest cost at the community centers. He understands that non-profits pay their managers much less than what Parks pays its community center managers and asked if the Department has used a regional comparison model to set salaries. Acting Superintendent Williams responded that several years ago, the Department compared Seattle Parks community center managers’ salaries to those in nearby cities (Bellevue, Lynnwood, and others.) Seattle’s salaries were in the lower third. Comparing City staff salaries to non-profits is comparing apples to oranges.

The community centers generally have four recreation staff and a custodian. State law requires at least two staff in the building at all times it is open. Commissioner Ramels stated that some community centers she has visited seem to have too many staff present, which is overkill. Commissioner Holme asked if these numbers would be reduced and whether the Department has studied where there are too many staff and where cuts should be made. Acting Superintendent Williams and Ms. Everson responded that excess staff will be reviewed. This is in the conceptual plan and further details will be developed over the next few months.

Commissioner Ramels referred to the Department’s Request for Proposals for a non-profit to run the new Belltown Community Center. She understands there were no applicants. Acting Superintendent Williams stated this is the case. The operator would have to run the facility without any General Funds and described how the operations would work. Commissioner Ramels noted this may be another model for the SLI. She recalled when then Zoo Director Dave Towne developed the genius idea for the Associated Recreation Council to help the Park Department with its operations. She hopes another great idea comes forward from this process. The City of Houston is asking its wealthy oil companies to donate \$350,000 each to keep its community centers open. Ms. Everson added that the City of Portland has asked 10 companies to donate \$100,000 each for its community centers. One company has made the donation.

Commissioner Ramels referred to the large contingent of immigrants at the public meetings who voiced their strong dependence on the community centers. Commissioner Angulo asked how the City will build assurance of access to all income levels into new proposals. Ms. Everson stated the City is concerned with and looking at this. Ms. Angulo asked if the 2010 census statistics for income, population, immigrants, etc., will be used to help make any decisions. Ms. Everson answered that the information will be used; however, some of the community centers are located very near each other and the demographic information overlaps.

Commissioner Holme participated in the Jefferson Community Center public meeting and felt it had a good format. He noted the answers to the additional questions were not yet posted on the Department’s web page. [To read the questions and answers, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/files/CCAT_QA.pdf.]

Commissioners thanked Ms. Everson for the briefing and asked to be kept apprised of any developments.

Briefing: Seattle Parks Planning and Development Division – Quarterly Report

Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks Director of the Planning and Development Division, presented a quarterly update on activities of the Division. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing, which was also posted on the Board's web page for the public. To hear the full briefing, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5903> and move cursor to position 39.00.

Written Briefing

Acquisitions – Pro Parks Levy (PPL)

- First Hill Park-offers made; appraisals under review

Acquisitions – Parks and Greenspaces (PSG) Levy

- Fremont – acquisition completed to expand Ernst Park
- Phinney – Greenwood area-negotiations underway
- West Seattle Junction – negotiations are underway to expand Dakota Place
- North Rainier – negotiations are underway
- Wedgwood-negotiations with Seattle City Light underway for substation on 35th NE
- International District – potential properties identified in “Little Saigon”
- Morgan Junction – two potential properties identified

Planning

- Development Plan for RCO presented to Board
- Kinnear Park – FOLK Park (with NMF)
- SR 520 Issues
- King County CSO issues – Lowman Beach Park to be affected (pump station upgrade)
- Seattle Public Utility Genessee CSO issues – Lake Washington Boulevard to be affected at two locations-triangle lot and Duck Bay
- Seattle Public Utility Henderson CSO issues-Seward and Martha Washington Parks to be affected
- Belltown Community Center
- Shoreline Street Ends
- 14th NW Park
- Magnolia OLA (at Magnolia Manor)
- Jimi Hendrix Park improvements (NMF)
- Golf Projects

In Design – PPL and others

- ADA Compliance at Golden Gardens
- ADA Compliance at selected community centers
- Crown Hill Open Space park development
- University Heights Open Space
- Irrigation renovation at Matthews Beach and Pratt
- Bobby Morris Playfield Lighting replacement (ready for bidding)
- Discovery Park Capehart Site Restoration (ready for bidding)
- Rainier Beach Community Center and Swimming Pool (ready for bidding)
- Colman Pool structural rehabilitation (will re-designed/re-bid)
- Riverview Playfield shelter house
- South Park CC building siding corrections (ready for bidding)
- Queen Anne CC boiler replacement
- Queen Anne CC electrical system upgrades
- Dakota Place Building Renovation (ready for bidding)
- Volunteer Park Conservatory renovation (on hold)*
- Magnuson Park picnic shelter (on hold)*

- Volunteer Park Seattle Asian Art Museum (on hold)*

In response to a question from Commissioner Barber about projects that are designated “on hold”, Mr. Stoops responded these projects had funds for design, but not construction. The Seattle Asian Art Museum , had design but not construction. SAAM they working on Strategic Action Plan and fundraising.

In Design – PSG Levy

- Volunteer Park Play Area
- Roxhill Park Play Area
- Roxhill Park skatepark
- Highland Park Playground spray feature
- Washington Park Arboretum north entry and trail
- Othello Playground Lighting and Safety Improvements
- John Muir Elementary playground (with NMF)
- James Court Woonerf
- Santos Rodriguez Play Area
- Bitter Lake Reservoir improvements
- West Seattle Reservoir
- Maple Leaf Reservoir
- Maple Leaf Play Area
- Bell Street Boulevard
- Hubbard Homestead skatepark element
- International Childrens Park play area (ready for bidding)
- Rainier Playfield Play Area (ready for bidding)
- 9th Avenue NW Site (Kirke Park) (ready for bidding)

In Construction – PPL and Others

- Denny Park Lighting
- Freeway Park Renovation (fountains, lighting)
- Leschi Moorage renovations
- Aquarium pumps and filter controls
- Ravenna Eckstein Roofing

In Construction – PSG Levy

- Jefferson Park playfield
- Jefferson Park skatepark
- Georgetown Playground spray feature
- Northacres Park play area
- Northacres Park spray feature
- Golden Gardens play area
- Ross Playground play area
- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center seismic and other renovations
- Delridge Playfield skatepark

Completion – PPL and Others

- Colman Pool backwash discharge revisions
- Meadowbrook Pool Roof
- Alki irrigation replacement
- “Dexter Pit” (Thomas C. Wales) Park: *Dedicated April 16*
- “Bellevue Substation” Park (John and Summit): *Dedicated May 1*
- Myrtle Reservoir: *Dedicated April 30*
- Meadowbrook Playfield field #1 renovation (closed for turf establishment)

- Cal Anderson Park Turf Repair (area closed for turf establishment)

Completion – PSG Levy

- Sandel Playground play area
- Hubbard Homestead: *Dedicated April 23*

Other

- Virginia-Graeme-Baker Act swimming & wading pool compliance – DONE
<http://www.poolsafely.gov/pool-spa-safety-act/virginia-graeme-baker/>
- Jefferson CC Seismic Upgrade grant application – AWARDED
- “Yellow Swings” installations – ONGOING
- Department of Justice ADA Audit response
- Green Lake Wading Pool Study – COMPLETED
- Fort Lawton Utilities – COMPLETED
- Landslides-Interlaken Boulevard closed

UPCOMING ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE BOARD REVIEW/CONSIDERATION

Policy Review and Recommendation

- Non Park Use and Park Encroachment Abatement

Status Reports/Briefings

- Parks and Green Spaces Levy Implementation
- Rainier Beach Community Center and Swimming Pool
- Central Waterfront Planning
- SR 520 Issues at Montlake, McCurdy and Washington Parks
- SPU Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Projects
- King County CSO Projects

Commissioners agreed to send any questions to Mr. Stoops. Commissioner Holme thanked Mr. Stoops for the helpful briefing.

Old/New Business

Board Operations: Commissioner Holme, as chair, reminded commissioners to submit questions to staff as early as possible before a public meeting. This will give staff adequate time to answer the questions and the information can be shared with the other commissioners. He suggested all questions be submitted by the Monday before each meeting.

He next referred to the Board’s recent six-part motion on the Summit Slope Park skatedot and asked that, in the future, motions contain no more than two substantive issues. Additional motions may be made, if more than two issues are addressed. This will help ensure all commissioners, staff, and the audience understand the motion and vote. Commissioner Ramels, former chair, agreed that the chair has such authority.

Jefferson Park Solar Panels: Commissioner Ramels recently visited this park and learned about an exciting new project. [Seattle City Light will provide funding to construct picnic shelters that have solar panels as rooftops. The proposed locations are adjacent to Beacon Mountain and the sports meadow lid. The solar energy would go into Seattle City Light’s electric grid. Essentially, this means less energy from traditional sources brought in to meet the local demand.]

Parks Levy Oversight Inflation Fund: Commissioner Holme announced that the Parks Levy Oversight Committee has scheduled a public hearing at Jefferson Community Center on Monday night, June 27, to hear

public testimony on the Committee's proposal to use \$10 million of the \$14 million Levy Inflation Fund for major maintenance in Seattle's park system.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

DATE _____

Terry Holme, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners