



# Minutes|Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

100 Dexter Ave N/Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom

Remote accessibility via Zoom

Thursday, February 27, 2025

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Attendance

Present: Flinn, Diamond, Leonor, Chisholm Clare, Meng, Lerer, Baum, Nakamura, Mays, Umagat (co-chair), Brockhaus (co-chair)

Absent: Seyfried, Haile-Leul

SPR Staff and Presenters: Diaz, Nielsen, Burley, Nielsen, Baldwin, Hoff, Burtzos

## Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

Brockhaus calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and provides logistical instructions for in-person and remote attendees.

Commissioners and SPR staff introduce themselves.

Umagat reads the land acknowledgement.

Umagat introduces the consent agenda: tonight's BPRC Meeting Agenda, and minutes from the 1/23/25 and 10/24/24 BPRC Meetings. Baum moves to adopt all items; Mays seconds the motion. Umagat calls for a vote. The vote is unanimous in favor of passage.

***Adopted: 10/24/24 BPRC Meeting Minutes***

***Adopted: 1/23/25 BPRC Meeting Minutes***

***Adopted: 2/27/25 BPRC Meeting Agenda***

## Public Comment

Public testimony is offered on the following topics:

- Advocacy for change in permit classification for floating sauna business;
- Concerns regarding the proposed multi-court pickleball project at Magnuson Park, including environmental/wildlife and noise impacts;
- Advocacy for increased funding for and communication with SPR Environmental Education staff and volunteers;
- Concerns regarding park use at Denny Blaine Park;
- Concern regarding the quantity and accessibility of beach volleyball facilities

Video of full public comment can be accessed [here](#).

SPR Superintendent AP Diaz briefly responds to public commenters.

Noting the large number of children signed up to comment during the upcoming public hearings, Umagat suggests altering the agenda to allow commenters to participate and get home early. The rest of the Board agrees.

## Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities Policy: Public Hearing, Discussion, and Vote

Hoff and Burtzos provide instructions for public hearing participation.

The following comments are offered regarding the proposed updates to the Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities Policy:

Vic Roberson: I want to thank the Park Commission for your work in guiding the direction of the department. Also to Superintendent AP Diaz for his speech. Briefly about me, I'm a volunteer. 33 years a track coach, 31 years Rainier Beach Advisory Council, 8 years park board, 10 years Sports for Washington. So I've done a lot. Last month you heard about the challenge to field use. I and others are here to give you a lived experience of face what that looks like. So you will hear from other folks, not just me. We provide developmental performance training for black and brown youth and others in the Rainier Valley. During construction we struggled to find a place to train. Last year we were at Franklin High School. The schedules [had] 5- and 6-year-olds getting out of training as late as 8:30. The club is now a nonprofit. We did that. Our season starts on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Our parents were forced to travel to West Seattle Stadium outside our community twice a week to train. We charge 75 bucks per athlete for the season. The cost for West Seattle alone one day, \$200. So that's \$3,600 right off the bat just to be able to train. So we're already not sustainable. Our request is simple: to establish historical use at Rainier Beach High School. We seek the opportunity to return to that facility once it is back online. In the meantime, we seek a more formal option to train in and near our community. Just in closing I drove 150 miles to be here. I live in Portland. However, the love for this community is such that I continue to show up in track meets and training throughout the year, because I believe the youth in South Seattle deserve a quality experience. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Heather Ann Brauer: Good evening members of the Board. My name is Heather Ann Brauer. I am a parent and the distance coach for Rainier Beach Track Club. My family first learned about the club when my son was eight years old and looking for a way to run in our own South Seattle neighborhood. We'd been running cross country before, but we wanted to invest in a program that serves our community. From the beginning, I was really amazed by the dedication of the volunteer coaches, many of whom, as you just heard from Vic, have given decades of their time to support the local youth. This program is really a cornerstone for young athletes in South Seattle that has been facing some significant challenges that can be addressed with better support. As a parent, I found the late-night practices especially tough on my then-second grader, who often didn't get to bed until nearly 9 PM. His school started at 7. As a coach, I've seen firsthand how crowded and chaotic conditions make it difficult and at times unsafe for athletes to train. While we were using the track, soccer, lacrosse, and frisbee was often sharing space on the infield. We had to pause workouts to avoid flying discs and balls. And with a large number of athletes across all the age groups using the track, ranging from sprinters to distance runners, to as mentioned, five and six year olds who are just learning to stay in their lanes – if you've ever spent time with a six year old, you know that

can be challenging – while also needing the space for warmup, cool down, recovery, you're operating on really tight quarters. So our distance runners would often take their workouts to dark neighborhood streets in the evenings. This kind of navigated the overcrowded and chaotic conditions that were making training on the track really challenging. And so given the size of Rainier Beach Track Club, I was a bit surprised that even these conflicting reservations were possible. I've been coaching as a volunteer in Seattle since 2005, from ultimate frisbee with community centers and Seattle Public Schools, [unclear] Northwest, cross-country and track. And I've been part of many impactful community programs, but the Rainier Beach Track Club has exceeded my expectations in fostering true community for all. This program represents the diversity in this area of South Seattle, a place where kids of all backgrounds come together to work hard and build lifelong connections. So, I really urge the Board to find a way to prioritize the needs of this longstanding program.

Seth Brauer: My name is Seth and I'm 10 years old. I started running when I was six. [Unclear] I came to live with my mom in foster. Running has been such appositve thing in my life. It helps me feel stronger, happier, and part of the community. I love running for Rainier Beach because the coaches are really thoughtful and the athletes support each other like a team should. One of the hardest thigs for me has been late practices. Our practices started at 7 PM, and I didn't want to eat dinner before because I'd feel really sick. By the time practice ended at 8:30, I still had to eat dinner and [chore?] before bed. After late practices, it was really hard to settle down, and I'd often fall asleep after 9:30 PM, and I'd wake up really exhausted and struggle at school the next day. I know that I'm not the only one who has felt this way. My teammates and younger runners have had a hard time with late practices. That's why I want to [unclear] earlier practice time so my teammates and I can get to bed earlier, and still do something healthy that we love. Thank you for listening and for all the work you do to support athletes like me.

Maya Lord Roberson: Hello, my name is Maya, and I've been with Rainier Beach Track Club since before I could even walk. My dad would carry me on the side of the track, coaching kids while I watched. Through this sport I've had the opportunity to make friends, stay active, help me travel to different states, compete at nationals, and grow mentally, physically, and just overall as a person. I really appreciate the time and effort Rainier Beach coaches put into helping me achieve goals and setting new ones. I'm in high school now and I was planning to volunteer to coach our team, but I might not be able to do this this year because our team was not able to get practice space in South Seattle where the team has been for 35 plus years. Also, where I live and go to school. In 2023, our team had to move to Franklin for practice instead of Rainier Beach High School because of the construction. The move to Franklin was challenging and after over 35 years [of] Monday, Wednesday 6 PM practice, our practice time was changed to 7 PM. Some of our youngest kids, ages four to five years old, now have practice until 8:30 PM – past their bedtime. At Franklin, we also lost access to infield during our practice. Other sports, like frisbee, soccer, and lacrosse, practiced at the same time as us. We lost space to play running games and practice field events because there wasn't a safe place to do them. On top of that, while we ran on the track, we also often had to dodge the balls because they kept [unclear] them away. It felt dangerous at times, and I believe our coaches told Parks staff about these issues, but they never improved in the 2023 or 2024 season. Now in 2025, our team was told there is zero track space available in South or Central Seattle, Monday through Thursday, before 8:30 PM. We are now at West Seattle,

which is a challenge to get to for me and likely others. Please help us regain access to safe practice in our neighborhood.

Opal Mueller: Hello, Park and Rec Commissioners, my name is Opal. I love running and I love sports, and I have friends who also love running. It is my favorite sport and I love the community and the coaches. I was appalled when my mom informed me that the Park and Rec Department was not going to let our coaches keep coaching, just because they complained about our safety with the frisbees and the haywire lacrosse and soccer balls, because they complained about the bathroom situation at Franklin High School or the West Seattle Stadium, which, by the way, were disgusting. I'm glad that they can still coach us. I don't understand why the Parks and Rec Department isn't letting us run at the Franklin High School field again, or Cleveland High School. It's just silly. Why not? Why do we, a team based in South Seattle, have to drive up to West Seattle? I'm lucky my mom was able to drive me, but I know that some parents that live in our area will not be able to. The only upside is that there are a few good vegetarian restaurants. Lastly, 7:30 to 9 PM. That is when our practices are scheduled. Do you really think a five- or six-year-old is going to perform their best at 8 PM? They will be tired and don't know what to do. That is just not healthy, or a great decision, as Coach Vic and Coach Heather has already said. It would be better for most of us if it were held earlier in the evening. Thank you for your time and support for my running team. I hope you change the quality of our bathrooms and let us rent a field that is at an accessible time and location for my teammates and our friends.

Jeran Mansfield: Hello, good evening. My name is Jeran Mansfield and I am 14 years old and in eighth grade. I have been a member of the Rainier Beach Track Team for the last seven years. I was in first grade when the Rainier Beach Track Team coaches helped me to find not just my passion for running but to help me in athleticism in general. I am a long distance runner. My favorite event is the two mile, or 3000 meter race, and this is very important to me because practicing very long distances on an actual track is more important to me because one time when I practiced with my middle school, Aki, they didn't have a track, so I got shin splints, a running injury, because we were running on concrete for the whole time, and I had to stop practicing with them. Luckily, I was running with Rainier Beach at the time and the volunteer coaches helped me to get over my injuries, and I successfully completed the spring and summer seasons. The Rainier Beach Track Team is a vital part of the Rainier Beach community. This team has been always accessible to people in South [Seattle] and in the Rainier Beach community. The Rainier Beach track program has been competing with exclusive, expensive track teams. [It...our team doesn't have...] My favorite part about our team is that it doesn't have expensive fees or dues, but we are able to compete against and win against some of the best track athletes in the country. The Rainier Beach Track Team provides track athletes from South Seattle with the opportunity to compete at our Junior Olympics, at associations, regionals, and national level. Our home track at the Rainier Beach High School has been under construction for several years. To remain accessible to youth in Rainier Beach and in South Seattle, it is very important that we have access to a track practice that is in our community. Thank you.

Helen Biller: Hello, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. My name is Helen Biller, I am the horizontal jumps coach for Rainier Beach Track Club. I've been coaching Rainier Beach Track Club for 18 years. When I first moved here from England – I was a track athlete in England – the Rainier Beach Track Club became a community that made me feel I belonged

here in this country, and I think given a feeling of belonging to a lot of children through the years I've observed coaching them. We did really well at Rainier Beach High School. We had hundreds of children go through our program, watched them grow in confidence and develop into good citizens and going onto college. I'm very concerned with what's happening now without the availability of Rainier Beach High School, particularly with the move to West Seattle, there's a number of the athletes that we've had in the past that have really enjoyed our program that will not be able to come there because the parents will not be able to get them to West Seattle from the community. I'm also very concerned that there seems not to be observation of the safety aspects. So I would really ask that when you look at facilities, the team that actually manages that, could you make sure that they have the training and the tools to be able to respond adequately to the needs of our team for training facilities. And also visibility, so we can see what is available and how we can best serve the community, particularly, as others have mentioned, in the late times are really not suitable for young [unclear]. So I'm really asking you to make sure that you can support your community to help then support our community in an equitable and timely manner [unclear]. Thank you.

Michael Toutant: Mike Toutant, I used to coach with Rainier Beach Track Club, and I still provide starting duties for them during their track meet, their annual track meet and their cross-country meet. I guess the one thing that I would like to focus on is the transparency of the usage of the field, so you know, we know how much usage is going there. Because there's a prioritization of these fields that I'm aware of [from this] usage document. And I'd just like to be able to have some way the public could access that information, certainly have data on how many, who's used the field at what particular times. So there would be some sort of way that the public could know who's using what and at what times. And then, I mean, I also would go for community centers and things like that would be something that I also, participate in. I'm sure there's data on who's using those facilities, too. So just want to throw that little point in. Thank you very much.

Kevin Shively: I'm Kevin Shively, I live on Beacon Hill. We're the parents of a couple of kids who have run with Rainier Beach Track Club, and also done other sports in the city, and I appreciate the challenge that you have as a Board and your staff have in sorting through all the various requests to use fields, in their competing interests and competing needs. And I see in the historical use, sorry, I see in the athletic fields use policy that's in draft form here a lot to like, and it seems like a sensible approach. We just offer a few suggested amendments to account for some of the things that folks in the room here have been raising as issues, or maybe revisiting issues. [We're for the] refining the term "youth" would be something that could be done; I don't know how you sort it out – with an algorithm or in the database, but clearly you've made an attempt to separate youth from adult activities and to prioritize the youth and prioritize, you know, which makes all the sense in the world. I think one thing I would suggest is to account for the youngest age of the athletes that are in a particular user group or organization. So you've heard folks talk about four, five, six-year-olds; my daughter was five, I think, when she started at Rainier Beach Track Club. And you have many soccer clubs and lacrosse and other organizations where there's an athletic team and they're often of the same age group, where there's a club that has various teams of different age groups. And they can, once they have access from you to a field, they can prioritize the activities of their athletes according to age on their own, right? Once they've secured access. A club like ours—The first time I came to Rainier Beach High School to watch practice with my children, there were 150 kids out there, and you see many of the coaches here, eight, ten coaches,

kids running around, having the time of their lives from 6 PM until 7:30. And it's just a beautiful part of Seattle, beautiful experience to see that in Seattle, very different than some of the soccer practices I've been to. But I think you could certainly take into account age and maybe distinguish further there. Thanks so much.

Joel Shapiro: My name is Joel Shapiro. I'm a resident of South Seattle, parent of a fourth-year now at Rainier Beach Track Club, and just wanted to advocate again for the use of field in South Seattle. Myself, I grew up in Seattle, learned how to swim in the Seattle Parks and Rec summer swim league and then moved to the Central Area Swim Team, so spent a lot of time with a club team at Medgar Evers Pool growing up, and it was just an incredible experience for me and my family. And I just want to say it, as being a parent and watching my son be a part of this, we're seeing the exact same thing with Rainier Beach Track Club, and can't think of a better organization that means more to their community, that has a more dedicated coaching staff that is incredibly accomplished, not only on the field, but members of the Seattle police force leadership, members of Boeing engineering, pillars of the community that are doing it completely, just dedicating their time, not taking pay. And so knowing some of the other things that our kids have access to and how expensive they are, to have an accessible, affordable program that can span from four and five year olds to multiple national championships, in South Seattle, is absolutely huge. So any consideration you all have to help us with field time would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

[Comments are lightly edited for clarity. Video of full public hearing can be accessed [here](#); hearing begins at 43:26]

Diaz thanks commenters, noting the courage required to speak in person and commending the young people who offered comments.

Lisa Nielsen, SPR Athletic & Event Scheduling Manager, thanks the commenters and briefly responds to concerns about track scheduling. Nielsen specifically notes difficulties posed by the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with Seattle Public Schools, as well as by capital projects at Rainier Beach High School in particular.

Nielsen provides a brief overview of the proposed updates to the Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities Policy.

Nielsen responds to BPRC questions regarding "historical use" as it relates to scheduling of facilities. Historical user groups are a wide spectrum of organizations ranging from:

- Youth leagues providing neighborhood soccer, baseball, frisbee and other recreational and athletic activities
- High school club sport teams
- Adult recreation leagues
- Religious or minority ethnic groups

Previous SPR efforts to support access include:

- Accessibility through fee structure
- Significantly lower youth rates
- Prioritized youth (70% of historical use)
- Scheduling time for emerging user groups when and where available

Nielsen provides a review of the anticipated outcomes of the proposed changes to the policy

- Key adjustments bring the Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities policy into alignment with current practices and scheduling procedures
- Current historical user groups:
  - No change to current field allocations
- New approach to added field capacity from CIP projects
  - Anticipate positive impact for new or emerging user groups (ideally minority and underrepresented) gaining field time
  - First implementation – Soundview Playfield conversion
  - Added process for scheduling team

Nielsen pauses for questions from BPRC members.

Mays asks what the impact of capital project construction at West Seattle Stadium and Memorial Stadium will be to SPS use. Nielsen clarifies that the West Seattle Stadium construction agreement stipulates that fall football will be unaffected. Memorial Stadium is planned to go offline in June; SPR has requested a detailed schedule from SPS to aid in absorbing use into other sites.

Lerer asks how this discussion affects the Rainier Beach Track Club for the purposes of historical use, noting that the change in RBTC's organizational structure and current displacement due to construction are not issues addressed in the policy but that he would recommend revisiting this policy if these issues were to cause RBTC to lose the priority of its historical use. Nielsen clarifies that when displacement occurs, an attempt is made to retain the time of use, even at a different location, but is not familiar enough with the specific situation to address it at this meeting.

Baum asks if there are any instances when user groups have changed organizational structures in a way that necessitated revisiting historical use, and how that was addressed. Nielsen notes an instance when a cricket group with a historical use divided into two groups, which eventually resulted in the historical use permit also being divided equally. However, the goal is always to accommodate as much of what the groups need as possible within the constraints.

Umagat notes that SPR is asking for a vote of approval from the Board on this policy, and asks if members are prepared to vote. Flinn moves to approve the motion; Baum seconds. Umagat calls for a vote to approve the updated Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities Policy as written. The vote is 10 in favor; none opposed; one abstaining. The motion passes.

***Adopted: The BPRC recommends the adoption of the updated Use and Scheduling of Outdoor Athletic Facilities Policy as written.***

Diaz suggests altering the agenda to prioritize the second public hearing. There are no objections.

## **Native Plant Policy: Public Hearing, Discussion, and Vote**

Burtzos notes that there were no requests to offer comment during the public hearing.

Todd Burley, SPR Sustainability Advisor, provides updates regarding the proposed Native Plant Policy:

- Following discussions with the Indigenous Advisory Council, the wording in Section 2.5 now specifies, "federally recognized tribes."

- Following discussions with the Washington Park Arboretum, Section 4.2.2 will now include the word “arboreta”.

Burley pauses for questions from BPRC members.

Baum asks if the changes noted are reflected in the documents provided to BPRC members. Burley notes that these changes are not in the versions provided. Baum asks if the language in Section 2.5 reflects the consistent language used throughout City documents. Diaz notes that there is not one single definition guiding the language used within the City of Seattle; Burley adds that this use is consistent with the policy guidance from the Indigenous Advisory Council and notes that SPR does work with the Duwamish Tribal Group as a Native American community organization.

Umagat notes that SPR is asking for a vote of approval from the Board on this policy, and asks if members are prepared to vote. Brockhaus moves to approve the motion; Lerer seconds. Umagat calls for a vote to approve the updated Native Plant Policy as amended verbally by Burley. The vote is 10 in favor; none opposed; one abstaining. The motion passes.

***Adopted: The BPRC recommends the adoption of the updated Native Plant Policy as amended.***

Baum asks that Burley send the amended version of the Native Plant Policy to BPRC members as soon as possible; Burley affirms.

Umagat notes that the meeting is running behind and proposes finishing the meeting with the Superintendent’s Report. Members discuss and agree.

## Superintendent’s Report

AP Diaz, SPR Superintendent, provides the report.

It’s been a while since we held a regular Board meeting and a lot has happened since then:

**Park Concessions:** The 2025 Seasonal Concessions RFP closed on February 6 with 21 applications received. A panel of SPR staff will read, review, and score the applications to recommend permitting to the Superintendent. Once the process is complete the applications will be reopened for any parks without vendors. The slides on the left shows some of our current vendors.

**Grant Applications:** We brought legislation to the Parks, Public Utilities & Technology (PPUT) Committee, earlier this week, granting SPR permission to apply for funding grants for a number of our projects.

We have applied for State and Federal funding administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). These grants will help fund First Tee at Bill Wright Golf Complex, Dr. Jose Rizal Park and Judkins Inclusive Playground and Spray Park. Grant funding helps us close the gap between what we expected a project to cost and the actual cost of construction. This funding is critical to our asset management plan, and we depend on it.

The SPR team has worked very hard to identify projects that not only have a need for additional funding, but that will also be competitive in one or more of the programs administered by RCO.

**Green Lake Community Center** hosted a family meeting for the Green Lake Small Craft Center on Wednesday, February 5th, to address recent safety concerns with the community. SPR, ARC, and SPD were present. 80 participants attended the meeting. SPR followed up, with those who attended



the meeting. This included a summary of our response to the recent safety incidents at GLSC and Green Lake Park. These included reviewing Lockdown and Standard Operating procedures, review of effective communication when calling 911 from a SPR facility, conducting a safety walk through the building to identify operational improvements and prioritizing key card system installation.

We are committed to improving the safety of our programs and facility, and our improving communication between our participants, families, and staff. This has been a truly challenging start to 2025, and we are confident that together we can strengthen our community and create meaningful recreation experiences for our participants.

**Business Systems and Customer Service Unit:** Registration for Preschool, Amy Yee Tennis Center, and Youth Sports Leagues and Activities opened at noon on 2/4/25, we had 1,512 registrations.

### ***Parks & Environment Division: Natural Resources Unit***

**Lunar New Year:** In February the Horticulture/Specialty Garden staff programmed a successful series of public events celebrating Lunar New Year at the Volunteer Park Conservatory. Parks staff partnered with community groups to host educational cultural programming including tea demonstrations, Tai-Chi, and musical presentations.

**Japanese Garden Improvements:** At the Seattle Japanese Garden work is wrapping up to replace a failing arch-bridge ahead of the March 1 opening.

**Tree Planting at Cowen Elementary:** Urban Forestry team's Tree Planting Crew worked with students from Cowen Park Elementary School to plant trees, which was a wonderful event for our staff as well as teachers and students.

In February Urban Forestry staff were awarded King County grant funding to help support ongoing tree care needs around the airport, where air quality improvements are important for public health. Trees are a big part of our climate-resiliency plan at Parks.

### ***Facilities***

Seattle Parks and Recreation Custodial Services **Enhanced Cleaning Team** (ECT) recently provided maintenance cleaning services at the Discovery Park Visitors center that suffered flood/water damage, as well as cleaning work at Magnuson Park Theater that was damaged from a fire. Bringing these facilities back to a safe, clean, and accessible spaces for public use is a high priority for SPR and the ECT was a key part of these efforts.

Spring Sports start March 3rd including Tennis Season. With the late snows this is always a challenging expectation to get court conditions ready. Cleaning Tennis courts is slow work, and this is a good example of teaming up at Lower Woodland to get this important site ready for the season. The division had twelve crew members working together at this large site and doubled as a staff training on proper wastewater and surface techniques.

**The Fitzgerald Fountain** was severely damaged when it fell into Puget Sound in September 2020 as part of the collapse of Pier 58. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Metal Fabrication Shop was tasked with leading the repair of this historic fountain and sculpture, which was originally completed in 1974 and designed by James Fitzgerald and his wife, Margaret Thompson. SPR staff restored the fountain to its original form by meticulously reshaping and welding the structure while referencing photos and archival schematics. Additionally, staff advised contractors on the final finish and

installation details. The Fitzgerald Fountain is now in place in its permanent location on the newly constructed Pier 58, with the opening scheduled for spring 2025.

### ***Parks & Recreational Services: Recreation***

**Seattle Mentors:** Seattle Mentors promotes impactful mentorship, social/emotional health, and career exposure opportunities, where young people connect with one or more caring adults. We believe in the transformative power of mentorship to inspire growth and foster meaningful connections within our community. Through tailored mentoring opportunities, we empower our youth to reach their full potential, navigate challenges, and achieve their goals. Our dedicated team and community partners are committed to providing support, guidance, and resources to both mentors and mentees as they embark on their journey of personal and professional development.

- Mentorship cohorts provide career inspiration and exposure
- Here is a memorable quote from a program participant: 'Being able to see more people of color in careers that I am interested in and having a mentor that worked in the field I am seeking. The combination of these has allowed me to learn more about the career, and what I can do to reach my goal.'
- The Winter 2025 program includes 18 mentors at 9 sites with 123 youth mentees enrolled.

**Swim Seattle:** The Swim Seattle initiative combines the efforts of Seattle Parks & Recreation, YMCA, No More Under, Associated Recreation Council, and other drowning prevention partners. The goal of Swim Seattle is to remove barriers to swimming opportunities, centering the communities who need it the most.

- We have 2,899 participants and 578 of the enrollments were free (scholarship eligible participants)

**Citywide Youth Basketball** (ages 10 – 17) is underway

- We have 2364 Enrolled and we have 176 teams throughout the City
- There are 233 volunteer coaches and 14 teen jobs as score keepers, timers, and officiating the games
- Games kicked off in January

**Lifelong Recreation** created a formal partnership with **Seniors Creating Art**.

- Seniors Creating Art is a vibrant non-profit that has collaborated and worked with Lifelong Recreation for many years.
- This relationship has been formalized as a partnership to further advance opportunities for older adults in Seattle to experience high quality art classes for free at Seattle Parks and Recreation.
- With this partnership Lifelong Recreation will be able to host 8 classes over the course of 1 year, 2 per quarter rotating to different equity priority locations throughout the city to hold these classes.

**Highpoint Community Center hosted the Annual Tet New Year** celebration on February 1st.

- 60+ older adults attended, some visited Highpoint CC for the first time
- Lion Dance, Karaoke, culturally significant food
- Lifelong Recreation provided information about programs for older adults

## ***Park Project Updates***

**Cheasty Mountain Bike/Pedestrians Trail Pilot Project:** The North Loop Trail construction has reached substantial completion! The multi-use trail is open to pedestrians, but the mountain bike loop sustained damage during the recent wind events and is not open for riding. Volunteers and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance crews will complete damage repairs and continue with the finishing touches on the trail, so please be aware of others when using the new trails and follow all posted signage. We are working with our partners on a ribbon cutting celebration for June 2025. Here are pictures from the recent volunteer planting day event.

**Be'er Sheva Park Phase 2 Community Engagement Event:** On February 8, SPR hosted its third public engagement event for Phase II Renovations of Be'er Sheva Park. The event was held at the nearby Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands, where community members selected their preferred design option for the play area. Community members had the chance to meet and provide feedback to the project team while enjoying hot cider. Planning for this project will wrap at the end of February, and the community can still provide feedback through our online survey until February 22.

After February, the project will enter the design phase, and the design consultant Site Workshop will prepare a final design using the feedback provided by the community. A final project design update will be shared with the public once engagement starts for Phase III Renovations this summer. Phase III Renovations will include basketball court improvements, one of the 15 final projects funded by the Park CommUNITY Fund.

Diaz pauses for questions from BPRC members.

Nakamura asks for updates on the Parks restroom audit. Diaz notes that the report is publicly available as of yesterday, and copies can be provided to BPRC members.

Meng thanks and commends SPR for the Lunar New Year celebration.

## **Old & New Business**

Hoff provides schedule updates for the April meetings.

Umagat adjourns the meeting at 8:28 PM.