



Minutes|Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

100 Dexter Ave N/Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom

Remote accessibility via Zoom

Thursday, March 27, 2025

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

Attendance

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

Absent: Haile-Leul, Diamond

SPR Staff and Presenters: Williams, Catague, Baldwin, Sheffer, Judd, 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.

Brockhaus reads the land acknowledgement.

Brockhaus introduces the consent agenda: tonight's BPRC Meeting Agenda, and minutes from the 2/27/25 BPRC Meeting. Umagat moves to adopt both items; Baum seconds the motion. Brockhaus calls for a vote. The vote is unanimous in favor of passage.

Adopted: 3/27/25 BPRC Meeting Agenda

Adopted: 2/27/25 BPRC Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

Comments were heard related to the following topics:

- Concerns related to the proposed pickleball facility at Magnuson Park and its environmental impact
- Appreciation for the personal impact of SPR recreation programming
- Advocacy regarding funding and support for SPR Environmental Education programs
- Concerns about behavior about Denny Blaine Park

Senior Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Staff Christopher Williams briefly responds to comments from the public.

Superintendent's Report

Williams delivers the report.

Department Updates

- Introduction of **Aphrodyi Antoine, new Director of Recreation**
- Exploring a proposal for **supplemental SPD support at Magnuson Park**
- **Seattle Aquarium** – Peggy Sloan is the new President and CEO of the Seattle Aquarium. She is an international leader in marine conservation and brings decades of experience in aquarium leadership, strategic planning, and community impact.
- **Park Beautification Program** and Park Renovations
 - Westlake Park Renovation
 - Little Brook Park
- Montlake CC reopened for Activities and Camps
- Restroom Audit

We've completed the working test for laborers, maintenance laborers, and utility laborers. We'll be making offers for regular positions and gearing up for summer hiring.

Williams pauses for questions from BPRC members.

Meng asks for more details about the Westlake Park renovation. Williams provides information about the timeline, process, and budget of the project.

Chisholm Clare asks if the sites for the Park Beautification Surge have already been selected. Williams affirms.

2025 Park Operating Hours Briefing

Williams notes that several parks throughout the city have experienced an increase in illegal and otherwise anti-social behaviors. One tool at SPR's disposal to address these challenges is alterations to park operating hours. Williams introduces Daisy Catague, Deputy Superintendent of Parks and Recreational Services, to deliver the presentation regarding proposed changes to park operating hours.

The objective of this briefing is:

- To review Superintendent authority to modify park hours;
- To present a slate of proposed changes;
- Q&A session with the BPRC

The Superintendent seeks a BPRC recommendation on this proposal.

Catague reviews the various authorities and procedures by which the Superintendent may establish a rule for Seattle's parks. Brian Judd, SPR Strategic Advisor, reviews the established hours for parks and boat ramps, along with any exceptions that currently exist.

SPR generally modifies park hours for one of three reasons:

1. To support and manage the summer beach fires program;
2. To respond to community health and safety concerns;
3. To align with SPD, security contractors, and park rangers.

Catague introduces the proposed changes to park hours:

Park	Current Hours	2025 Proposal	Recommended Timeframe
Alki Beach	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Golden Gardens	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Hoa Mai	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	270-day pilot (Extended Emergency)

We are proposing making the seasonal hours currently in use to support our beach fires program at Alki and Golden Gardens into a permanent change, from Memorial Day until Labor Day. You will also see a proposed change at Hoa Mai Park. This is a 270-day emergency change to address safety concerns.

Catague outlines SPR's proposed changes for boat ramp hours:

Boat Ramp	Current Hours	2025 Proposal	Recommended Timeframe
Atlantic City	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot
Don Armeni	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Eddie Vine	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Permanent Seasonal
Fourteenth Avenue	4 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot
Stanley Sayres	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot
Sunnyside	24 hours	4 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	270-day pilot

This proposed change brings alignment between Alki Beach, Don Armeni, Golden Gardens, and Eddie Vine operating hours. Remaining 270-day pilots align closing hours for all vehicular boat launches and reduce public access by only one hour.

Boat Ramp	Current Hours	2025 Proposal (aligns with current signage)	Recommended Timeframe
Hamilton Viewpoint	4 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.	6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Permanent Change
Magnuson Park Boat Ramp	24 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Permanent Change

These are a proposed permanent change since these hours were previously piloted at Hamilton and align with what is currently advertised on-site and on the SPR website.

Judd provides overview of timeline for briefing, public hearing and vote by BPRC, and decision(s) to be made by SPR superintendent.

Williams adds that parking lots in particular tend to attract nuisance behavior, and these hour changes are intended to address these concerns.

Chisholm Clare and Baum ask what rationale exists for keeping other parks open until 11:30 PM, and if Williams could share some of the reasoning behind that decision. Williams notes that prior to the mid-1990s, Seattle parks were open from sunrise until sunset, but this standard was too variable to be logistically useful or enforceable. The current 11:30 PM standard was adopted to be inclusive, with a posture of permitting the greatest access to public land. Williams notes that the conversation raises the question of whether there are any good or legal uses in a park after 10:30 or 11:00 PM. Meng notes that owling and stargazing, among other things, are positive night-time park uses.

Meng asks if SPR has any data on the proportion of incident reports in the sites in question that occur after sunset. Additionally, Meng asks what events are driving the emergency hours change at Hoa Mai Park. Williams notes that SPR had difficulty in 2024 managing illegal behavior in parks and parking lots across the system. Part of this difficulty related to staffing shortages after hours; the department is also responding to community feedback calling for additional security at many of these sites. Catague adds that continuous vandalism and small fires were frequent. Coordination with SPD for emphasis patrols made 7:30 PM a helpful closure time [for Hoa Mai Park] as SPD has a shift change at that time.

Flinn also voices some concern regarding the early closure time of Hoa Mai Park, and notes that he wants to hear comments at the announced public hearing on the topic.

Flinn asks if special-interest or other frequent use groups (i.e., fishing organizations) have been engaged for feedback regarding the proposed hours changes. Williams notes that fishing concerns were a particular consideration during a similar discussion concerning COVID-19 closures with then-Mayor Durkan's administration in 2020; SPR intentionally limited hours in the evening to preserve early morning access.

Williams addresses Hoa Mai Park, noting that "from day one when that park opened it was literally unmanageable." Williams notes the relocation of The Navigation Center, which provided services for the unhoused community, as a factor in the safety concerns at the park. Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent of Planning and Capital Development, adds that the drug epidemic, specifically the exchange of EBT cards for cash. "Given the services in that area, everything kind of fueled everything else." Sheffer emphasizes that the closure was designed as part of a coordinated effort with other City departments, and is hopefully a temporary closure.

Leonor reiterates concerns about morning access to boat ramps.

Nakamura asks if environmental concerns are a factor in this discussion, adding that it has been a bit difficult to hear the meeting online and is unsure if this was relevant. Williams notes that the environmental concerns voiced earlier were primarily relevant to Magnuson Park but SPR will continue to learn from related issues at other parks.

Catague reiterates the importance of program activation and visibility to create and maintain safety at Hoa Mai Park.

Baum thanks Catague and Judd for the clarity regarding the calendar of upcoming actions.

Baum notes that the proposed changes seem a bit “patchwork” and urges the department to consider a more comprehensive solution to address public safety in Seattle’s parks; he understands the purpose of the proposed plan but can anticipate the approach resulting in an ongoing series of efforts to address behavior in on park after another.

Baum notes that it seems odd to provide fewer beach hours in the summer than in the winter; while he understands the reasoning, the end result fails the logic test.

Baum asks whether Magnuson Park would retain its general hours. Williams affirms. Baum suggests that SPR try to come up with a list of user groups that will be most impacted by the proposed changes to park hours, particularly regarding boat ramp hours, and consider these groups’ interests, whether they show up for public comment or not.

Baum notes that the proposed hours change at Hoa Mai Park specifically seems like only one part of a more holistic plan to make that park safer and suggests that the BPRC might want to hear more about what that plan would include to be successful. Williams clarifies that SPR has installed gates to fully close the park, and notes that this is the only park in SPR’s system that can be fully closed. Baum notes that there is still a high likelihood of unwanted activity during open hours. Williams notes that SPR has been exploring the idea of a farmer’s market to include local businesses in the park and working to build confidence with the local businesses. Baum notes that any and all activation would be good here, and the more SPR is able to articulate and talk about efforts to improve safety at this site will be helpful.

Seyfried adds that the Little Saigon community has been historically disenfranchised since the neighborhood’s inception; building confidence in park safety needs to be paired with building trust in SPR as a partner to foster pride in place and community. Seyfried notes the recent removal of a metro bus stop due to safety concerns, violent incidents, and the apparent safety concerns for businesses as shown by the siting of razor wire fences around parking lots. The community has long been underserved and, often, its activism has gone unheard.

Planning and Capital Development Division: Quarterly Update

Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent of Planning and Capital Development, introduces the presentation.

We’ve had a good start to the second cycle of the Metropolitan Park District. We’re focused on predictable outcomes. Predictable outcomes assure that our asset management plan can be executed. This plan depends on the iron triangle – scope, schedule, and budget. Keeping our project scopes consistent allows us to have the greatest reach.

Sheffer introduces Kim Baldwin, Director of Operations – Planning and Capital Development Branch, to deliver the report.

Baldwin outlines SPR’s asset management planning process. Factors considered when prioritizing projects include equity, regulations, opportunity, efficiency, safety, and asset condition.

Baldwin highlights several 2024 projects:

- Hoa Mai Park
 - New Neighborhood Park
 - OAC artwork featuring local artist Kalina Chung

- Accessible path with over 20' elevation difference connecting Jackson Street and King Street
 - 7 new trees, new play area, amphitheater, community gathering space
 - ~\$4.114M Total Project Budget: \$3.35M Park District Funding, \$700K REET, \$62K KC Levy
- Cheryl Chow Park (opening April 2025)
 - New Urban Village Park Opening Event on Saturday, April 5
 - Five parcels acquired (1.2 acres total)
 - SDOT collaboration on funding traffic calming, sidewalks and curb ramps
 - 53 new trees, new play area, adult exercise equipment, basketball court, drinking fountain, picnic and bbq space
 - ~\$4.75M Total Project Budget: \$2.9M in Park District Funding, \$1.5M in grant funding and \$350K in SDOT funding
- TT Minor Play Area
 - Greater & Greener Conference Community Build
 - Partial equipment donation by play area manufacturer
 - Renovation provides new play area and accessible pathway
- Green Lake Small Craft Center
 - New 10,800 SF boathouse with restrooms, locker facilities and areas for off-water instruction
 - Fully accessible, allowing launch of Seattle's first public adaptive rowing program and expansion of a paracanoeing program.
 - ~\$12.75M Total Project Budget: \$2.3M from Friends of GLSCC, \$1.1M min grants, \$5.7M Park District, \$3.65M REET
- Pathways Park
 - Universally Inclusive Play built through strong community partnership
 - Two bio retention cells installed managing 376,218 gal of stormwater
 - 56 new trees, accessible picnic area, 100% of park features have an accessible route, drinking fountain, bike parking and fix it station, multiple play pockets with equipment, mini pump track, all gender restrooms
 - First adult changing table
 - ~\$6.6M Total Project Budget: \$800K KC Parks Levy, \$200K REET, \$858K General Bond; Grant funding \$2.4M; SPF and private donors raised \$2.3M
- Victor Steinbrueck Park
 - Replaced failed waterproofing membrane on the westerly portion of the park above privately-owned parking garage
 - Now open to the public
 - Provides public safety improvements including better sight lines, seating area renovation, informal play space renovation, improved and expanded lighting, and landscape upgrades.
 - ~\$12.3M Total Project Budget: \$3M Parks & Green Spaces funding, \$5M REET II funding, \$4.3M Seattle Parks District funding
- Discovery Park Stairs
 - Trails restoration project
 - In-house design/construction

Baldwin highlights projects currently under construction, including:

- South Park Community Center & Playfield
- South Park Plaza Land-banked Site
- Hiawatha Community Center Stabilization
- Magnolia Community Center Stabilization
- Cheasty Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail North Loop
- Lower Woodland Restroom & Office Fire Repair
- Cayton Corner Park Land-banked Site
- Hubbard Homestead Play Area
- Magnuson Building 12 Stabilization
- Ballard PG Athletic Field Renovation
- Genesee PF #1 Synthetic Turf Replacement
- Salmon Bay Park Play Area
- Maple Wood Playfield and Restroom Renovation
- Madrona Play Area Renovation

[A detailed description of these projects is available in the Presentations tab on the [BPRC website](#)]

Baldwin provides an update on the Park CommUNITY Fund. The Park CommUNITY Fund advances park equity in Seattle through a community-led funding process. The fund invests in large and small capital projects using participatory budgeting and equitable grant-making practices. Currently, SPR is moving forward with project planning.

- Over 2,900 people participated in our Project Selection Process.
- 71% of the 200+ ideas collected in the first phase were located in the two highest equity priority areas.
- 84% of 28 projects that advanced to community selection were in located in the two highest equity priority areas.

Baldwin provides brief update on high-profile projects:

- **Queen Anne Community Center (CC)** –Community meeting April to share Schematic Design. Construction start in early 2027.
- **Smith Cove** – Bid in Q2 for summer 2025 construction start.
- **Loyal Heights CC** – Soliciting for Design and Project Management Consultants, Q3 Present to IRC for GC/CM approval, Design 2025-26, Construction 2027-28
- **Green Lake CC** –Reviewing design options and Landmarks review. Q2 present to IRC for GC/CM approval, public meeting spring, 60% by end of 2025.Construction 2027-28
- **Lake City CC** – Office of Housing reviewed 3 Developer proposals, 1 is being proposed. Developer selection Q1-Q2, first public meeting late Q2 2025, Design 2025-26, Construction start in 2027.
- **South Lake Union CC** – On hold per current status with developer.
- **Hiawatha CC** – Is in construction through late 2025 and opening in early 2026. Scope was added to decarbonize the building.
- **Camp Long Emergency Public Works** – Initial clean-up complete. Currently addressing structural stabilization, electrical, and developing a long-term plan.

SPR has been very active in pursuing grant funding in 2024, so far awarded over \$14M in grants with \$6.6M pending review and recommendation.

Baldwin provides overview of current project alignment with goals and metrics for MPD Cycle 2 and informs BPRC members of several upcoming groundbreakings and park openings in April.

Baldwin pauses for questions from BPRC members.

Meng notes the projected 2027 start of construction for the Lake City Community Center and asks if and how the LCCC programs have been disbursed and absorbed into other sites, and if reprioritizing other projects could help ease that burden. Baldwin and Sheffer clarify the relocation of programming. Umagat adds that South Park has been in a similar situation (without a community center) for some time, and notes that many community centers have location-specific programming that isn't possible to replace at alternative sites.

Old & New Business

Mays notes that tonight marks the final BPRC meeting for both current co-chairs, Justin Umagat and Amy Brockhaus, as well as for member Joshua Seyfried. Mays nominates members Ryan Baum and Whitney Nakamura to serve as BPRC co-chairs for the 2025-2026 year. Meng seconds the nomination of Baum and Nakamura.

Brockhaus thanks Nakamura and Baum for their willingness to step into the leadership position, pending a vote of the BPRC, and thanks SPR staff and the Board for their support during the past several years.

Brockhaus calls for a vote on the nominations. The vote is nine in favor, none opposed, Nakamura and Baum abstaining. The motion passes.

Adopted: The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners elects Ryan Baum and Whitney Nakamura as co-chairs for a term until March 31, 2026.

Williams offers gratitude on behalf of Seattle Parks and Recreation to the departing commissioners. Brockhaus, Umagat, and Seyfried have given the department and the City of Seattle a great deal of time and expertise during their time on the Board.

Umagat thanks Williams and emphasizes the importance of volunteer work, and the work of Parks and Recreation, for future generations, and encourages the Board to keep their impact in mind.

Brockhaus adjourns the meeting at 8:09 PM. An informal reception to thank the retiring commissioners followed the meeting.