

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
June 28, 2001

Present:

Bruce Bentley, Chair
Karen Daubert
James Fearn
Yale Lewis

Excused:

Susan Golub
Kathleen Warren

Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Michele Daly, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Bruce Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. As there was not yet a quorum present, the consent items were not approved at this time and the agenda moved forward to the Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience item.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Lisa Wathne, Director, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, The Humane Society of the United States, spoke in opposition to the lethal removal of Canada geese in King County and Seattle city parks. Lisa referenced a successful program that has worked in the eastern United States that uses a comprehensive method of egg oiling, landscape changes and nuisance abatement to deal with the issue where they have not had to kill geese. This program has worked at large lakes, along a seven-mile river waterfront, condominium and hotel complexes and university campuses. The Humane Society has offered to help implement this program in Seattle and to date have been told that everything has been tried and that a lethal kill is the only option left. The Humane Society disagrees. They oppose killing of the geese. Lisa stated the method that is being used by USDA is inhumane. Lisa distributed a statement from one of the Humane Society of the United States Wildlife Veterinarians, Patrice N. Klein, that there is serious concern that the methods being used in Seattle by USDA are inappropriate and inhumane. Lisa encouraged the Board to implement the Geese Peace program and offered assistance. She asked the Board to call a halt to this year's geese kill and move forward with a progressive program to deal with this issue next year.

Stewart Metz, M.D., requested additional information and not raise the issue of the goose kill from the point of view of the most effective means but from the point of view of the scientific necessity of the kill. He has not seen scientific data and questions the need of the kill. He would like to know how many cases of documented human disease have accrued secondary to purported goose contamination. The presence of geese on a beach

does not necessarily mean that they are the cause of high chloroform. Are the beaches with the highest level of geese associated with the highest levels of chloroforms. Are the beaches with the lowest level of geese associated with the lowest levels of chloroforms. If geese are driven away from one beach do the chloroforms drop. If you deliberately reintroduced geese to another beach do the chloroforms increase. If you do not meet those postulus, Dr. Metz would like to suggest to the Board the scientific evidence of cause and relationship is missing. Unless the scientific evidence is available he would question the need to go ahead with this kill. If there was a substantial killing last year, data should be available that states secondary to the killing last year the chloroforms fell. If the data was not accumulated that is a major scientific oversight. He would like to know if the geese are a mere nuisance or whether there is a potential epidemic of human disease from geese. Other means of controlling geese should be taken rather than killing the geese.

Claudine Erlandson urged the Board to stop the killing of geese. She distributed a copy of the June 27 PI picture of USDA workers herding Canada geese into a pen at Seward park where they were put to death in a mobile carbon dioxide gas chamber. She was a witness at the Magnuson Park gathering. Many citizens get up early in the morning and chase the away in hopes of saving them.

Eunice Grubb, Redmond resident, stated we are impoverished if the only method of dealing with these magnificent birds is wholesale genocide. It is a crime against nature. She urged the Board to work with and not against the rescue communities and take the high road, the humane way to resolve this problem.

Nancy Pennington, West Seattle resident, stated why not use what works. The killing of geese does not work. After the kill last year, more geese moved back into the area. The program that Lisa Wathne referenced being used on the East Coast does work and does not involve killing. It involves altering the landscaping, using dogs and addling the eggs. The Parks Department has not tried everything. The USDA made a half-hearted attempt at addling. If you believe they did a good job all you have to do is look around and see the goslings. They are being slaughtered now because USDA did not do their job. Geese Peace Northwest is willing to do that job for free and to do it effectively. The Superintendent has the power to call the killing off and she urged it be called off immediately.

Gina Wilkerson spoke to a grounds keeper regarding Flight Control and was told it worked and the geese did not return to the site where it was used. She was told it is expensive. Gina stated hiring all the people, trucks, etc. to gather and kill the geese has to be expensive. She urged the department to use the Flight Control chemical. She would volunteer her time to help with the geese control issue.

Stephanie Bell opposes the killing of Canada geese in the Seattle parks. Non-lethal and humane alternatives are readily available. She witnessed the geese kill at Gas Works Park last Tuesday. The geese are being killed in an inhumane manner. Veterinarians have stated if the geese need to be euthanized they should be individually placed into the gas

chambers and monitored. The geese at Gas Works were stuffed into a windowless chamber with no visible monitoring. A domestic goose was also killed during the geese kill. She urged the Board to look at humane alternatives.

Joan Wisnowski, Ballard resident, stated killing the geese is a crime against nature. Flight Control works and should be used. A duck reserve was successful built and she urges something be done to protect the geese.

Gayle Jenzen stated Canada geese should not be killed and opposes the killing. Gayle became friends with a domestic goose for 10 years at Green Lake. The domestic goose and babies were rounded up and killed by USDA.

Marlo Mytty opposes the killing of the geese. She thinks it is an outrage to allow USDA to sneak around in the middle of the night to capture and kill the geese. Marlo stated it sets a precedent for the mentality of our society that if something is perceived as a problem or inconvenience for citizens that instead of discussing it and coming up with solutions and alternatives that support the respect for life and the environment we are killing it, sanitizing it or cutting it down. This type of attitude carries over to how we view and treat each other as humans as well. The killing of geese does a disservice to not only the geese but to our society. There are plenty of effective, long-term alternatives rather than killing the geese. She would like to see the Department rescind the authorization that USDA has to kill geese in Seattle parks.

Ms. Mytty would like to see Seattle Parks turn off the water as she has seen lawns, streets and sidewalks by sprinklers, even when it is raining outside. She would like the Department to rethink its policy and set an example for water conservation.

Stephanie Hillman opposes the killing of geese. It is clear that the current goose kill is unnecessary. She has spent the last two years looking into this issue. She has looked at the case studies of Geese Peace. She witnessed the Gas Works geese kill on Tuesday and stated it was the most barbaric and horrific thing she has ever witnessed. She wants the killing stopped and have the city of Seattle rise above this and join the bandwagon of the 13 cities where alternative solutions have been 100% successful. She wanted to go on record of opposing the USDA killing on behalf of herself and countless citizens she has heard from during the last two years.

Karen Baker opposes the killing of geese. It is a self-defeating method and does not work. There are better solutions to this problem rather than killing. The other solutions would not be a quick fix as the geese would not be immediately gone but over a period of time the geese population will go down, stabilize and the problem will go away. We need to raise our tolerance level and get along with other species. As intelligent human beings we are very capable of coming up with better solutions than if it is a problem we kill it and it will go away.

Bob Chorush opposes the geese-killing program and feels the USDA program is ill advised. He feels the USDA promotes the killing as it is part of their budget. The USDA

and city have not done the research to determine if this is the best way or even if it is effective. The killing has received national attention. Seattle is getting a reputation if they have a problem they gas it. He asked that the Park Board make a motion this evening to recommend the Superintendent stop the killing of geese by the USDA.

Sue Clement urged Parks to be forward thinking and take some leadership regarding this issue. Ms. Clement met with Don Jordan of Seattle Animal Control and praised the work of the organization of foster care and adoption. There is a core of volunteers available to help the Department. There is precedent in the city for a government body to work with hundreds of volunteers. From a PR standpoint the Department could not do better than to get behind alternative solutions. She encouraged the Department to be practical and look at the scientific research. She suggested Board members witness one of the gassings.

Beverly Tice-Deering stated she is heartbroken by the geese killing. She referenced the PBS show Earth & Balance about the environmental devastation that is happening now. It is happening as a result that we can dominate and exploit our natural resources with no regard to nature or the environment. This is the same kind of arrogance and attitude that the geese are bothering us so just kill them. She applauds the Department for the wonderful programs and thinks stopping the geese kill is a wonderful opportunity to show leadership and create positive change.

Richard Grubb stated governments should never set the example that killing is a solution to a problem. When a government establishes that kind of tone it has the uncanny effect of reverberating throughout the society. Governments should set a high and honorable standard that citizens can strive for urged the Board to make a recommendation to stop the killing of geese.

Jasmin Baker-Kinney stated we are all a part of the Animal Kingdom. She opposes the killing of geese.

Zowie Kluge stated other jurisdictions have said they do not have to kill geese as other solutions to the issue have worked such as the Concord grape concentrate and people cleaning up the parks.

Doug Petersen thinks the Department should focus on other things such as more public restrooms, graffiti removal and other things that make parks better rather than exterminate helpless animals.

Ellen Voile witnessed the killing of geese at Gas Works. She urged the Department to stop the killing now and not talk about it for another two weeks. Seattle has a unique opportunity to speak to the entire nation who is watching this geese killing. Many people are willing to volunteer hours to help with alternative solutions.

Park Board Commissioner Karen Daubert thanked the audience for their comments. Karen stated the Board needs to have a full understanding of the issue and would not feel

comfortable this evening making any kind of recommendation without getting all the information possible.

Superintendent Ken Bounds stated the Parks Department along with every other jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region has been dealing the geese issue for well over ten years. There is a long history of working with Washington State Wildlife, public health agencies and USDA in trying to manage the Canada geese population and their impact on Puget Sound. We have gone through years of trying different methodologies, including transporting geese to Eastern Washington and addling. The Superintendent is very willing to work with agencies and volunteers on a very aggressive addling program. Flight Control works until the park grass is mowed. Dogs do work on a localized level. Last year the region-wide committee agreed to have the USDA collect and kill Canada geese as part of a larger strategy. We still have a population of 25,000 geese which is more than the region can handle. The county and city have had problems on beaches as well as problems on playfields and other grass fields. It has been the collective judgment of the participating jurisdictions to continue this course of action. He does see an opportunity to work more aggressively on egg addling and trying new products that come out that would effectively manage the problem without simply moving it to somebody else's background. He would be happy to have Donald Harris our Parks and Recreation, Fish & Wildlife representatives and brief the Board on strategies. We have heard this evening in a very organized way one side of the issue. He hears from the other people as well about the need to manage the population and the impacts of that population on beaches and parks. The Superintendent is perfectly willing to work with the Humane Society on strategies we can implement in the future that can be more effective.

Lisa Wathne questioned the reasoning that it is not felt there is the need to change the current way things are being done. If a meeting is going to happen with the Park Board that brings in the USDA and the Parks Department to give the Board an idea of what has been done, she would like to be here to give the Board an idea of what has worked on the East Coast That does not change the problem that geese are going to die this year that do not need to and that their deaths are not going to solve the problem in the city parks. She would like to see a stay of execution for the geese that are slated to be killed this year. She does not think that is too much to ask from a group of people that has given they're all to help with this problem.

Chair Bruce Bentley does not have enough information to make a judgment this evening. He is very moved by the group's passion. The Park Board will be briefed on the other side of the issue.

James Fearn stated the audience has powerfully presented one side of the issue and he has been on the board for four years and has heard powerfully from the other side. There are competing public interests. The Park Board cannot make a decision based upon representation by a group that is unanimously of one position. All of the sciences was considered that was available up until the time the decision was made to kill the geese. It is not possible for James to say now that everything he has heard in the past is null and void and that there is no alternative but to call the killing off.

Bruce Bentley stated the Board was willing to sit and listen to the arguments but is not in a position to make a recommendation tonight. The argument has been heard, documented and the Board will listen to the other side of the issue. He thanked the audience for attending.

Consent Items:

James Fearn moved the approval of the consent items. Karen Daubert seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The consent items included the agenda, approval of Minutes of June 14, 2001 and acknowledgment of correspondence. A letter was received from Patricia Borman regarding Cascade Park and a letter from David Christie regarding Steinbrueck Park amplified music noise. A summer program brochure was also distributed.

Superintendent's Report

- The Public Disclosure Commission ruled on a settlement agreement that the City had reached with the Attorney General over indirect lobbying. The settlement agreement basically has three parts. 1) the payment of a fine of \$2500, plus the cost of the Commission's staff time. 2) the Commission has agreed to develop guidelines for their interpretation of the law and, 3) once we settle upon what indirect lobbying is and what the procedures are and the guidelines, we will train our staff
- The State passed its budget and approved \$45 million for the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The Lincoln Reservoir will get funding which will help with the restroom facilities and play area.
- The Aquarium's otter pup unexpectedly died last week. The death was attributed to acute rupture of the aorta.
- The Zoo's Komodo dragon very unexpectedly died today. A necropsy will be performed to determine the cause of death.
- We have over 30 day camps in operation for young children, 17 middle-school camps and 7 wading pools in operation. We have 18 teen student interns, 150 YES kids, which get a stipend, working for Parks this summer. The beaches, pools and water spray features are in full operation.
- The Pro Parks implementing ordinance was approved by the City Council. The Council voted unanimously to appropriate Pro Parks Levy funds to support the first two years of levy activity, including 62 acquisition and development projects, new Parks staff positions and the purchase of necessary equipment.
- Broadmoor Street Vacation – The City Council approved the vacation of the unopened Lakeside Boulevard East at Broadmoor. The vacation will result in dedication of land at the Foster Island Bridge and the wetlands lying northerly of the golf course.
- Arboretum – The Culture, Arts and Parks Committee approved the appropriation of SPIF monies for the design of the Arboretum Shoreline and Trail Improvements project.

- Seward Park – The CAP committee approved a resolution authorizing the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Parks and the National Audubon Society for a partnership to provide environmental education in Seward Park. Parks will develop a public outreach strategy to garner public input on this proposal.
- Grand Reopening of Gas Works Park – June 30 at 11 a.m.
- Zoo Long-Range Plan - Parking/Traffic Workshops are scheduled July 28, 9 a.m. to noon, and July 31 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Zoo ARC building.
- The Zoo and Metro's Way to Go Program are teaming up to encourage Zoo visitors to ride the bus or bike to the Zoo. Visitors using alternative transportation will receive a coupon for \$2 in ZooBucks, save \$3.50 on parking, and receive free bus vouchers. The promotion will begin July 28 and through September 2.
- School/Parks – The School Board has expressed interest in meeting with the Park Board subcommittee. A lunch meeting will be scheduled for August. Kathleen Warren, James Fearn, Bruce Bentley are on the subcommittee. Yale Lewis would also like to attend the luncheon meeting.

Items of Interest to the Board

Karen Daubert circulated the spring edition of Groundswell Off Broadway containing an article about the Lincoln Reservoir Replacement Project, Schedule One.

Parks staff is responding to the letter concerning amplified music at Steinbrueck Park.

Cascade Park Site & Building Public Hearing

A briefing of the Cascade Park Site and Building Report was held on June 14, 2001. In 1994 the City Council authorized the Department to purchase the property at the southwest corner of Cascade Park at Minor and Thomas. In 1995 the Department purchased mid-block property and the lots at the southeast corner of Cascade Park. These purchases expanded the park to a full square block. The City Council directed the Department to initiate a planning process for the development of the entire park. Through a public process seven alternative site schemes were developed and after many meetings two were selected by the advisory committee. Subsequently, the Council adopted both site plans. The only difference between the two schemes is that one retains an existing building for community purposes and the other replaces the building with open space for community gardens. Two schemes were adopted because neither the Cascade community at large nor the advisory committee could agree on a single scheme. Several developments have occurred in the park since the Council actions including P-Patch installation, salvage nursery, comfort station renovation, rain harvest project and community classrooms.

A public meeting was held in March regarding which of the two schemes to pursue. Approximately 40 people attended and supported keeping the building as a community

classroom. The community prepared a business plan which recommends the Parks Department enter into a 15-year agreement with Lutheran Social Services for the phased renovation and operation of the building. They have applied for a Community Development Block Grant and are requesting Pro Parks funds for the play area.

Sandy Pernitz has been involved in the Cascade community garden since 1995. Sandy addressed the track record of the Cascade neighborhood and how they have been able to implement a lot of things in the neighborhood by getting the community involved. By getting the community involved it is possible to do things beyond what a normal budget can do. The bathroom renovation was community driven. The community desires to keep the building and included it in the plans since 1995. The neighborhood has done many years of planning on their own dealing with sustainability issues and the park is an integral element of the vision to get to that sustainability in the neighborhood. The building is an integral part of the community garden as it functions as a collection source for all the water systems in the garden. The neighborhood recently took some steps regarding the green design of the building and there was a design process done with Environmental Works. At that time Lutheran Social Services and the People's Center got involved with the community in working on that process. In doing so it made an excellent marriage between the community and the agency and its mission is to work with the community and doing what the community wants. It has made a big difference in the health and vitality of the interaction in the park, between the people in the park and the park itself. The classes offered at the community center include arts and crafts and environmental focused activities. She suggested environmental education could also be included at this site. Sandy stated the building functions as public open space for the community. She hopes there is some sort of mechanism for implementing some of the Pro Parks money with the community because she thinks Parks has missed out on a lot of input from community groups that have been working on projects. Sandy wants to make sure that as the park plan is being implemented that they revisit it with the people in the community, especially the interim elements that are suppose to be in the park that the community developed.

Runi Takahashi distributed copies of a Cascade Community Classroom feasibility study prepared for The Alliance for Cascade Park by Environmental Works to the Board members. Rumi displayed boards of the building design. The building is intended to be a demonstration of sustainable systems and materials. It is hoped to create a place in and around the building that demonstrates sustainable systems can be adopted by people in their own homes, that there are volunteer friendly, that they can be self-done, they can be relatively inexpensive and good for the environment and community. The building is well situated in Cascade Park. It has a wonderful array of uses that the building is intended to respond to that park by creating a lot of openings, spaces between the outside and inside that create a connection not only to the physical environment to the park but the occupants of the park and anybody that walks past the park. The neighborhood has a wonderful way of taking ordinary things and making many wonderful and beautiful things out of them. The building is strong, well built and has a lot of useful life in it. Seattle has made a commitment to sustainability through its lead of the silver rating mandate for all public buildings. The building is a public building and falls just under the

threshold of 5,000 square feet but hope to achieve a silver rating with the design for sustainability. The building is a wonderful example of reuse of an existing building. The building renovation will represent minimal disruption to the park. All the things that are going to be put in are things the community members can get behind and implement and assist the Parks Department in making this a space that the public can enjoy.

Linda Moore is a resident and active in the P-Patch Garden at Cascade. She works daily in her garden plot as well as in the Giving Garden. She sees many people coming into the park just to see what has already been implemented there. They are looking at the water catch system and reading all the signs. Having the renovation done on the building would be even more of a focal point that this could be something that happens in other parks and could be an important tool to bring sustainability out in the open. Open space to Linda means space that is open to the community and that what the building means to her. All the classes offered in the building are free and anyone can take part. She lives in a community that has continually proven an untiring dedication to the only place they have in the Cascade to gather, meet and garden together. She does not want to lose any aspect of Cascade Park that exists now and she wants to see the designs for the People Center come to fruition. She presented the Board with petitions containing 182 signatures, which she gathered this week, supporting the park building for community use and implementing the renovations as outlined in the business plan. She also distributed a letter from a group that works in the community center.

Candy Wilvang, 3 year resident of the Cascade neighborhood, manages a 59 unit building of mixed income housing across the street from Cascade Park. Most of the people living in the building have children and use the park and building. More buildings are planned for that neighborhood which will bring in more children. She does not want the building torn down and wants the programs provided to remain in Cascade.

Robin Russell works at the Cascade People's Center. The role of the People's Center, which is a program of the Lutheran Social Services, is to do what the community desires and strengthen the neighborhood. No counseling or social services take place in the building. The community has applied for a Community Development Block Grant. Programs that occur at the center include basket weaving classes, arts and crafts, after-school programs, teen night and Grandparents Breakfast.

Doug Peterson would like the Cascade center as nice as the Miller Community Center. He would the process to proceed. The community center is very helpful and open to everybody.

Scott Speece desires the building to remain on the Cascade Park property. It is a shared space and a chance for visitors to come into the park, experience it, and for people to gather and share information. By going ahead and renovating the existing building it will not only show as an example to the local residents and businesses in the area but also to visitors that they are not just talking about the environment. The building will be a valuable resource as an educational tool. People will be able to sit in the classrooms and discuss the lighting, air and water systems.

Christine Lea, 12 year Cascade resident, encouraged the Department and the City of Seattle to endorse the idea of an already existing sustainable concept in place which only needs to be expanded upon. It is an unique public relations opportunity. The area is cornered by four major businesses. The Park site draws diverse groups of people and community leaders. People bring their relatives when they come to town to show the park off. It is a jewel in the crown and she urges the Department to embrace it, build upon it and make it work.

Erika Kay supports the building. The Department has an opportunity to create model demonstration project that we could hope to replicate in individual homes and businesses in Seattle and cities across the country.

Rahul Gupta, employee of Cascade People's Center, stated there is an assumption going around that market rate renters cannot find benefit in having community space for a community center. Every individual is welcome at Cascade as long as they do not discriminate and this program is a bridge between the market rate renters, low-income and homeless. If it is a matter of an "ugly" building sitting across from market rate units then the community will make it pretty. The people who testified at the March 5 community meeting were in favor of retaining the building. Some people that were going to testify this evening had to leave because of the delay in the hearing. They will be submitting written comments. The people who spoke tonight were in favor of keeping the building. Rahul asked if the Department received any comments opposing the building. Kerry Lasko responded that three comments have been received: one wanted a basketball court, one wanted a tennis court and the other wanted more community garden space.

Stephanie Gill & Tejea Smith are Cascade friends and participate in the community center programs. They attend the Friday night teen group. Stephanie told the Board that every member of her family attends programs at the center such as the Baby Play Group and the After School Program. She urged the building be kept in the park.

Justin Smith & Mario Gill attend the after school program and Justin helps Mario with his math. They want the building to stay in the park.

Chair Bruce Bentley thanked the audience and stated the Park Board will be discussing this issue and making a recommendation to the Superintendent at its July 12 meeting.

Neighborhood Initiated Parks Projects Update

Pam Kliment and Maureen Colaizzi, Neighborhood Project Planners, distributed copies of the 2000/2001 community Initiated Project Status Reports to the Board members. Community initiated projects are playing a growing role in new park development and major maintenance projects. Integral to these is the Neighborhood Matching Fund which is administered by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON). This fund makes money available to community groups who wish to work on park sites in their neighborhoods. Since the beginning of the Fund program in 1989, Parks has been involved in 355 projects totaling over \$8.5 million. Parks is currently managing 67 projects and

approximately \$5 million was awarded to communities for Park projects since 1999. In addition, this was matched in equal or greater amounts by community cash, in-kind donations and labor. Other funding sources include SPIF, Gray to Green, grant sources, Pro Parks and Neighborhood Response Fund.

The first year Parks Planners managed Neighborhood Matching Fund projects was 1999. The Planner's job has two roles. They work with DON to ensure that Park standards are met and they work with community groups to explain and implement parks policies and regulations. The goal of DON is to create cohesive communities through successful projects. The goal of Parks is to build projects that meet safety, durability, maintenance and aesthetic standards. These are not incompatible but they are distinct and require coordinated cooperation by Parks, DON and the community.

Pam Kliment briefed the Board on the program goals that were set in 2000 and the current projects. She explained the role in Parks is particularly exciting because new issues develop throughout the life of the projects. There is new funding coordination, new Department policy developed, new active recreation, passive recreation, technologies/materials and outreach ideas.

Pam reviewed examples of projects including Cormorant Cove, View Ridge Playground Renovation, Greenwood, Lakewood, Soundview Terrace, Roxhill, Wallingford and University Playfield. Madrona was an example of a play area project, artwork policy, coordination with volunteers and multiple funding. Parks has completed or is working on projects in neighborhoods where there have been fewer NMP projects historically such as Westcrest Park and Flo Ware Park.

The Planners work with the community on recognition. Memorial policies are currently being reviewed by Park staff.

New Business/Old Business: None

Future Agenda

July 12 –UW/McClellan Place Use Permit Briefing, Canada Geese Briefing, Cascade Park Site & Building Board Discussion/Recommendation, Volunteer Coordinators Presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Bruce Bentley, Chair