

Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2004

Present: Kate Pflaumer, Chair  
Jack Collins  
Joanna Grist  
Terry Holme  
Sarah Neilson

Excused: Angela Belbeck  
Debbie Jackson

Staff: Sarah Welch, Parks Budget Director  
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

Chair Kate Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Terry moved and Joanna seconded that the minutes, with two corrections, and the agenda, as presented, be approved. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds was out of town. Sarah Welch, Parks Budget Director, reported on the following:

Cash Handling Violations: As a result of recent violations of cash handling procedures at three community centers, Parks is working closely with the City Attorney's Office and the State Auditor's Office to examine the Department's cash handling procedures and practices. On September 7, Operations Director Christopher Williams sent a memo to all Operations managers directing them to conduct comprehensive cash audits for every community center. Staff have thoroughly investigated losses at Rainier, Laurelhurst, and Delridge Community Centers, and have taken appropriate discipline and corrective action to prevent further losses.

Extensive Damage at Golden Gardens: A business called Art by Fire announced its "9-11 Sea Float Project" through the media just before its unscheduled event took place at Golden Gardens Park on September 11. The 9-11 Project consisted of hand-blown glass balls hidden on the beach for people to find. The intent of the sponsors was a remembrance of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. However, in their search for the hidden balls, participants did extensive damage to the native beach vegetation in the park. Over the past 10 years, Parks has spent thousands of dollars and volunteers have put in thousands of hours to re-establish the native beach habitat. The one-day event resulted in a major setback for Golden Gardens. Parks intends to bill Art by Fire for the repairs.

Beer Sheva Park: Construction has begun on this project, consisting of playground equipment, a path, small planting areas, and benches. The community had enough money to pay for only a portion of the new play equipment until an anonymous donor read the Neighborhood Matching Fund page on the Park Department's website and decided to pay for the rest of the equipment. This donor has also volunteered to help with the Benefit Park project.

High Point Community Center Achieves LEED Certification: The Department was just notified by US Green Building Council that High Point Community Center's addition has been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Most of the LEED credits for this project were achieved in the

Sustainable Sites and Indoor Environmental Quality sections. This is Parks' second LEED project. Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center was the first project to achieve LEED certification. This is the fourth LEED-rated facility in Seattle, with the other two being the new Justice Center and Fisher Pavilion.

Magnuson Rededication Ceremony: The rededication of Warren G. Magnuson Park on Monday morning, September 20, went well. Several community members and park users have given positive feedback on the new signs. Approximately 25 citizens were in attendance to hear remarks by Superintendent Bounds, Mayor Nickels, and Congressmen Dicks and McDermott.

Mariners Collecting Money for Langston Hughes Summer Musical: Annie Wilson, wife of Seattle Mariner Dave Wilson, is soliciting cash donations from other Mariner players for the 2005 Summer Musical at Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. The donations will be made in honor of Edgar Martinez's wife, Holli, and presented to her as a surprise at Edgar's Mariner retirement party. Annie was looking for a charity close to Holli's heart and selected the Langston Summer Musical. Annie and Dave are interested in meeting with Langston Hughes management after baseball season to discuss other ways to support the Center's programming.

In addition, Wizards of the Coast are donating \$5,000 to the 2005 Summer Musical, donating products, and encouraging their employees to volunteer for the program. This is the first time Langston Hughes Center has been funded by Wizards of the Coast.

Mayor Proposes Additional Funds for Northgate Community Center/Library/Park: Parks is working with the Office of Policy Management and the Department of Planning and Development to notify the community about the Mayor's proposed additions to the Northgate Community Center, Library, and Park project. After receiving high construction bids in August, getting the project back on track is a two-fold approach which includes (1) working with the designers to implement value engineering to reduce the overall cost of the project and (2) receiving funds from the Mayor's 2005 budget. The Mayor's proposal would add money to the project to make up for the high construction bids, which were received in August.

September Open Houses: All Parks Department community centers and pools offered a Friday Night Open House on September 17. Visitors were invited to classes, demonstrations, and presentations showing various Park Department activities. Staff members were on hand to meet the community.

Writer-in-Residence for Seattle Parks 2003-04: On Thursday, October 6, there will be a festive event to unveil the 12 stories written by Seattle author Teri Hein for the Department of Parks and Recreation's writer-in-residence project. This local celebrity reading event will be held in the Armory Building at South Lake Union Park at 5:30 p.m.

International District/Chinatown Community Center Grand Opening: On September 29, Parks Department will join with the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA) to celebrate the grand opening of this new community center in the International District Village Two mixed-use building. The dedication is from 5:30-7:30 p.m., followed by tours of the building. The Center is located at 8<sup>th</sup> and Dearborn.

## **Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience**

Kate explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing before the Board. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. Three people signed up to give testimony.

Kathy Johnson: She testified before the Board at its September 9 meeting. She is a Zoo liaison and reiterated her support of the Zoo's Long Range Plan. Zoo staff members are working diligently in support of badly-need improvements to improve efficiency. Parking is a serious problem and the 700 additional stalls in the proposed parking garage will be a vast improvement.

Roger Belanidi: He is a resident of Queen Anne and spoke to the Board in favor of a full restoration of the view at Marshall Viewpoint. The importance of this viewpoint reaches far beyond just the Queen Anne area and is a matter

of City historical perspective. He presented Board members with a large packet of information on the history of the Viewpoint, which he asked the Board members to read.

Linda Linford Allen: She and her husband Tom are both carousel preservationists and donated the carousel to the Zoo. She is on the Zoo Board and is a member of several other Boards. She discussed the history and appropriateness of carousels being located within Zoos. In 1999, when they bought the carousel it was evaluated at \$1.3 million. In the past few years, they have spent \$75,000 on insurance and storage costs to house the carousel until a decision is made to install the carousel. During this delay, the Zoo has lost approximately ½ million dollars in revenue it could have made from the carousel. She urged the Board to support the Long Range Plan.

## **Briefing and Public Hearing: Proposal to Sadako and the Thousand Cranes from Peace Park to Greenlake Park**

Paula Hoff, Parks Department strategic advisor, came before the Board to give a briefing on the citizen-driven proposal to move the Sadako Peace Statue from Peace Park to Greenlake Park. The Board received written information, including: 1. Sadako Fact Sheet; and 2. Summary of common themes that have come up in public comments and Park Department review on the proposal to move *Sadako*. Paula also gave a verbal briefing, followed by a public hearing. At its October 14 meeting, the Board plans to discuss the proposal and vote on a recommendation to Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds.

### *Written Information*

#### **Document 1. SADAKO FACT SHEET**

##### LOCATION

The current home of the *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* sculpture is at Peace Park, located at NE Pacific Street and NE 40<sup>th</sup>, just west of the north end of University Bridge.

##### PARK HISTORY

Peace Park was the dream of Dr. Floyd Schmoie, who after winning the Hiroshima Peace Prize in 1998, used the \$5,000 prize money to clear a small lot near the University of Washington. From a pile of wrecked cars, garbage, and brush, he worked with community volunteers to build Peace Park.

The park was dedicated on August 6, 1990, the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

##### SCULPTURE HISTORY

*Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* was created in 1990 by artist Daryl Smith. The statue is a life-size bronze of Sadako Sasaki, the young Japanese girl who survived the Hiroshima bombing only to die of radiation sickness at age 12. The statue was funded through a Fratelli's Ice Cream Company Sound Ideas program grant, one of a series of grants awarded to improve the community.

The issue of where to site *Sadako* was deliberated at the time the sculpture was created. Schmoie and his supporters were insistent that *Sadako* belonged in what is now known as Peace Park.

##### RECENT NEWS

In December 2003, vandals sawed off an arm of *Sadako* and significantly damaged the sculpture's leg.

The City of Seattle raised approximately \$2,000 of the \$5,000 needed to have Daryl Smith restore the sculpture. Michiko Pumpian, Executive Director of the World Peace Project for Children, spearheaded the effort to raise the additional funds.

Repairs have now been completed and the statue remains in storage, while its location is being determined.

## Document 2.

### Common Themes that have come up in public comments and Parks Department review on the proposal to move the *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* from Peace Park to Greenlake Park

#### ARGUMENTS FROM THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL

- More parking for visitors
- Easy access – difficult to access at Peace Park
- More opportunity for the public to view *Sadako*
- More visible at Green Lake Park, will help deter vandalism
- Location would correspond with the annual Lantern Lighting commemoration ceremony
- Good addition to Greenlake Park
- Current location is hard to find
- Peace Park is too isolated

#### ARGUMENTS FROM THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL

- University Friends Meeting have been caretakers of the *Sadako* Sculpture and Peace Park since 1990
- Peace Park was the location where *Sadako* was intended to be placed
- Special relationship between *Sadako* and Peace Park
- There are live-in caretakers at the Meetinghouse and Quaker house, people on site 24-hours a day
- Greenlake Park is subjected to a fair amount of vandalism, as the most heavily used park in the City. The Statue of Liberty sculpture, located at Alki Beach, has had parts removed in acts of vandalism on several occasions.
- Too many people and not enough parking at Greenlake
- There are no statues or monuments currently erected in Greenlake Park
- This could set an undesirable precedent
- The memory of Floyd Schmoer should stay by the Meeting he helped found
- Lots of people walk, bike, drive by, see, stop, and think at the current location
- Moving the statue will detract from the park
- There is Pro Parks Levy funds allocated for improved landscaping and pathways at the site
- *Sadako* is perfectly suited for this small space and is an inspiration for the many people who inhabit the community
- Decision about where *Sadako* is belongs to the Friends Community
- *Sadako* is integral to the character of Peace Park and is the Park's central feature

#### *Verbal Briefing*

Paula stated that a public meeting was held last week, with comments since then being sent to her. She distributed a notebook containing all the comments, which Board members were invited to review.

Paula stressed that the proposal to move the statue is citizen driven and is not coming from the Parks Department. There has also been some confusion on the part of the public that the statue must be moved from Peace Park due to the previous vandalism. She reviewed citizen arguments for both re-installing the repaired sculpture at Peace Park or moving it to Greenlake Park.

The recommendation that Paula is giving tonight is not coming from her. She took the proposal before two of Parks' internal review committees, PROVIEW and Project Steering. Proview did not recommend moving the statue to Greenlake due to staff concerns with potential for setting a precedent for statues and memorials at Greenlake Park. There are currently no statues at Greenlake Park and there is concern that once one statue is installed, it could lead to more such requests. In addition, Parks Department has \$150,000 in voter-approved Pro Parks Levy funds to use for upgrades to Peace Park. There was a general feeling that the Department is doing improvements to make Peace Park a better place and the sculpture that draws so many people should be re-installed there. Project Steering also voted to approve a motion to leave the statue at Peace Park, as they did not see justifiable reasons to move it.

The statue was removed from Peace Park after it was vandalized in December 2004 and has been in storage since its repair. It was brought back for a recent ceremony at Peace Park, but not re-installed. The Department is eager to have the statue installed; however, it agreed to first hold a public process to help determine the statue's future location.

### *Questions & Answers*

The Board asked several questions to clarify its role in this proposal and it was determined that the Board had not received a copy of the summary of arguments (Document 2) in its agenda packet. Paula immediately gave copies to the Board. Terry asked if Project Steering and PROVIEW read the community input before making their recommendation. Paula answered that both committees had a presentation and received the same info that the Board received. Terry asked Paula, since the Board is not being sent copies of all the citizen input being sent to her, to quantify how many citizens spoke for and against moving the statue at last week's public meeting. Paula will send this information to the Board and will make copies of all the written testimony for any Board member who would like a copy. The Board asked for further definitions of Project Steering and PROVIEW Committees and on their recommendations. Paula had just received their written recommendations earlier in the day and will send a copy to each Board member.

Sarah asked if it would help to place Sadako at a different location within Peace Park. Paula answered that the community members at the Meetinghouse, located right across the street, believe they are good eyes and ears for the small park. There are live-in caretakers and people on site there 24-hours a day.

Joanna asked how many testified in favor of or in opposition to moving the statue at the public meeting. Paula answered that the comments were a little more in favor of moving the statue to Greenlake; however, some of those testifying were under the impression that the only option was to move the statue. Jack commented that almost 200 people signed a petition to move the statue. Paula suggested that the Board also read the written comments in the notebook, as there are a number of good and compelling stories that give additional insight to the tallies of "for" and "against". Terry asked how many were at last week's public meeting and Paula answered 35-40. The mix was equal pro and con, and a very good discussion was held.

### *Public Hearing*

The Public Hearing began, with 10 citizens testifying. Kate reminded those testifying that each person has up to three minutes to speak and will be timed.

Jonis Davis: She recommended that the statue be re-installed at Peace Park and read from a letter she presented to the Board, which gave a detailed history of the connection between the statue, its location at Peace Park, the American Friends Service Committee at Hiroshima, and University Friends. Her office window is across the street at the American Friends Service Committee and downstairs from the University Friends Meeting.

David Enroth: Lives on 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave East and is Past President of the Japanese American Society of the State of Washington. He spoke at last week's public meeting and talked about being in Japan on a peace mission when Flight 007 was shot down. No one can say which option Dr. Floyd Schmoie would support. There is much public interest in the decision, especially in Japan. He recommends that the statue be moved to Greenlake and urged Park Board members to visit both sites. An option would be to install an identical statue at both locations.

Michiko Pumpian: She introduced the proposal to move the statue to Greenlake Park. She headed the mission to raise funds to restore the statue after its arm was sawn off and a leg vandalized. The City required that \$3,000 be raised to help pay the repairs. Her initiative asked people to send \$1 to help with the restoration and also send a paper crane. The story of the vandalism of Sadako is well-known in Japan and she received lots of e-mails and other correspondence — as much as 1,000 in one week. \$10,000 came in from all over the world and 50,000 paper cranes, made by 20,000 individuals, were received. Don't let Sadako be vandalized again — move her to the Greenlake site! Many Japanese visitors to Seattle want to visit Sadako. Peace Park is very difficult to find, as is parking for both tour buses and school buses.

Jim Diers: He was the Director of the Department of Neighborhoods when Floyd Schmoie and the American Friends Service Committee applied for Neighborhood Matching Funds to help create Peace Park. The site was filled with trash and junk cars, before being transformed to Peace Park by Floyd and others. Jim stated that this was one of his favorite Neighborhood Matching Fund projects and is a wonderful symbol. Floyd performed volunteer work at the Park until he was 100 years old. Sadako is the focal point of the park — if it is moved, what will attract visitors to Peace Park? There is also lots of vandalism at Greenlake Park. Alki Park is also a large, well-used park and vandalism has occurred to the Statue of Liberty monument located there. He urged that Sadako be re-installed at Peace Park.

Bob Major: He is a member of University Friend Meeting and Agate Passage Meeting. He was on the original committee with Floyd, Darrell Smith (Sadako statue designer), and Aki Kurose (Japanese teenager sent to interment camp in World War II and peace activist.) He wants it on the record that he recommends moving the statue to Greenlake Park. Bob stated that Floyd's family members are agreeable to the move. Sadako belongs to Seattle and Washington State and her meaning is greater than little Peace Park. Make the statue accessible to all. Parking is difficult at Peace Park. A large folded crane is being cast to install in Peace Park.

Peter Morse: He lives in Madrona and was a co-owner of Fratelli ice cream when the Sadako Statue was funded by Fratelli's Sound Ideas grant program. This annual grant program received hundreds of requests annually and the Sadako statue was one of Fratelli's favorite projects. The grant stipulated that the statue had to be located on public property and Floyd Schmoie worked with the Parks Department to develop Peace Park. The statue was a gift to Floyd and to the community and when it was funded, Floyd wanted it located at Peace Park.

Satami Yokota: She is a senior at the International School in Bellevue. She urged that the statue be relocated to Greenlake Park due to vandalism and accessibility.

Merlin Rainwater: A copy of her comments are included in the public meeting notebook prepared by Paula. She displayed a map and pointed out the former location of the statue and where Floyd lived. She said that usually Friends (Quakers) discuss an issue until they reach consensus. Having Friends testify on opposing sides is not their normal course. However, the City doesn't operate that way. She urged that the statue be left in Peace Park, and believes it belongs there.

Hiromi Roe: She spoke at the public hearing and stated that both sides love the statue; do what is best for the statue. Times have changed since the statue was installed in Peace Park and many don't realize the statue is there. This Ambassador of Peace doesn't belong to just the small community. Move her to a more visible spot and let her speak to the world. Let Sadako go!

Bill Hanson: He referred to his credibility and stated that he was a victim of the Japanese attack on China in 1937 and determined at that time that he would spend a substantial amount of his life working for peace. After returning to Seattle, he began working with the American Friends Committee and met and started working with Floyd Schmoie. He believes that Floyd, if he were here tonight, would say, "let's think about the purpose of the monument. Make her useful and have the most impact on visitors." To Bill, that means moving her to Greenlake. He also referred to the lack of parking facilities for school buses to bring children to visit the site. If the statue is moved, a large bronze crane will be installed in Peace Park, thereby magnifying the message of Sadako.

He referred to an earlier staff comment regarding the issue of setting a negative precedent by installing a statue at Green Lake. His response is that the Park Board has the power to stop that from happening. Parks in other cities have statues in their parks. His point is that Sadako should be where she will make the most impact.

An audience member commented that they had called Donald Nelson at the City's Transportation Department to confirm the following rumor: a new access to the Aurora Bridge is being planned which would take the entire Peace Park and it might also mean that the American Friends Committee building would have to be removed. The citizen stated that he had not allowed Donald adequate time to respond before tonight's meeting. He urged Department staff and the Board to confirm this.

The public hearing concluded. At its October 14 meeting, the Board will discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent. Written testimony may be submitted until October 13.

The Board asked for Paula to send the Board additional information on the following before the October 14 meeting.

1. A map of the proposed Greenlake site where the statue would be relocated
2. Information on whether other sites were considered (Paula answered no. A mentally-impaired man vandalized Sadako by sawing off her arm. While repairs were being made, private citizen Michiko Pumpian began the campaign to re-install the statue at Greenlake Park.)
3. The cost of a second identical Sadako statue, with one being located at Peace Park and one at Greenlake Park
4. Why additional monuments being located at Greenlake Park is a concern to the Department

Paula will send this additional information to the Board.

## **Briefing: Woodland Park Zoo Long Range Plan**

Zoo Director Deborah Jensen came before the Board to give an update on the Woodland Park Zoo Long Range Plan (LRP). The Board received a written and verbal briefing; both are included in these minutes. The Board also received a map of the Zoo and a 3-1/2 page list of the LRP's public involvement meetings.

### *Written Briefing*

OVERVIEW of Woodland Park Zoo's Long-Range Physical Development Plan (LRPDP)

#### **Long-Range Physical Development Plan**

The Long-Range Physical Development Plan is intended to amend the zoo's original Long-Range Plan, which is now nearly 30 years old. The plan provides overall guidance for the physical development of the zoo. The key objectives are to continue the 1976 plan's approach to naturalistic exhibitry and excellent animal care, but update the plan to:

- Improve the animal health, conservation and maintenance facilities and provide new exhibits;
- Provide the community with facilities for social gathering, recreation and interactive learning for visitors of all ages, with a focus on programs that inspire conservation;
- Enhance the zoo's financial stability and stewardship by creating facilities and programs that yield new, year-round revenue streams;
- Improve visitors' experience, particularly for families with young children and during off-peak times in late fall, winter and spring;
- Reduce the neighborhood traffic impact by providing sufficient on-site parking to accommodate current and projected zoo attendance on all but a few days each year, and;
- Provide on-site staff work space that enhances efficiency, productivity and collaboration.

#### **LONG-RANGE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ELEMENTS**

##### **Animal Exhibits and Conservation Facilities**

The plan proposes new exhibits for tigers, Asian bears, Asian rhinos, desert animals and animals of the Asian Highlands, including snow leopards. It also provides for new mammal, bird, reptile and elephant conservation facilities that would enhance the zoo's ability to provide the highest quality of animal care.

##### **Discovery Village**

Discovery Village would be an education and conservation facility located near the site of the existing West Gate. The Village would function as a cluster of interconnected facilities, including the Family Science Learning Center, and landscapes that provide a year-round dynamic environment for interactive, lifelong learning. It would be

oriented toward the interior of the zoo and is intended to become a central hub for visitors of all ages to engage in hands-on learning about the zoo, its animals and their exhibits, as well as the zoo's role in conservation of wild species and habitats. The facility represents a significant step in implementing the zoo's 1997 Education Strategic Plan and achieving the plan's primary purpose: "to inspire an understanding of nature and a commitment to conservation."

### **Parking Garage**

Woodland Park Zoo has less than half the available parking of other zoos with comparable attendance, and demand exceeds capacity more than 100 days each year. The parking garage and surface lots proposed in the LRPDP would provide sufficient on-site parking to meet current and projected needs on all but about 30 days each year. The garage and associated parking management strategies would move zoo visitor cars off neighborhood streets and onto zoo grounds, remedying a long-standing neighborhood problem with overflow zoo parking.

### **Parking Garage Location**

The parking garage would be located on the west side of the zoo, with ingress and egress between N. 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Streets off of Phinney Avenue North. The West Garage will provide approximately 700 visitor parking spaces and will have internal vehicular access to the existing North lot. The existing South, North, Southwest and Northwest parking lots will remain as they are today, bringing the total number of visitor parking spaces to approximately 1,360.

### **Parking Garage Specifications**

The West Parking Garage would have one level at grade and three levels above grade. It would be approximately 30 feet tall with shafts for stairwells and elevators extending up to an additional 15 feet. The height is within existing restrictions of single-family zoning. Planters or screen walls on the top deck will be up to 4 feet tall. Existing and newly planted trees and other vegetation will obscure street views of the West Parking Garage.

### **Alternative Transportation**

The zoo will continue to work with county and city agencies to encourage alternative transportation such as transit, bikes and flex cars. However, single-family vehicles will continue to be the predominate mode of transportation to the zoo for several reasons. First, families with children generally need flexibility in departure times. Second, the majority of visitors bring strollers and other gear that is not easily transported via other methods. Finally, many visitors come from areas of the region that do not offer direct transit service to the zoo. Surveys have shown that zoo visitors arrive in carpools with an average occupancy of 3.5 people per car.

### **Events Center**

By providing dedicated indoor events space, the Events Center would allow for year-round community use of the zoo for workshops, weddings, family celebrations, company parties and other social gatherings that currently take place outdoors at the zoo during the summer. It is modeled in part after similar indoor gathering places that have been successfully integrated into many other zoos and botanical parks across the country. Zoos with more notable events centers include Oregon, Denver, San Francisco and Atlanta. The one-story building would be designed to accommodate up to 400 people (reduced from 600 in response to public comment). Rental fees would provide a source of revenue for zoo operations during the off-season months when the zoo experiences a significant drop in revenues.

### **Events Center Location**

The Events Center would be located in the current staff parking lot at the edge of the North Meadow, a designated "public activity area" that currently hosts family and community events such as concerts, large-scale celebrations, family reunions, company parties and other social gatherings.

### **Events Center Specifications**

The Events Center would be a one-story, 9,000 square foot building, with a basement for support functions that would be in keeping with the rest of the zoo. Like most zoo facilities, it would be sensitively designed and landscaped with trees and other vegetation. While the building would be designed to accommodate as many as 400 people, average attendance is likely to be lower.



## **Historic Carousel**

The Historic Carousel, donated to Woodland Park Zoo was originally located at the Cincinnati Zoo and features three rows of unique hand-carved horses. It would offer families with children (the majority of the zoo's visitors) an additional option for fun activity play on zoo grounds, responding to a frequent request for more active options at the zoo for young children. The Historic Carousel would be housed in a one-story, all-weather structure that would include restrooms and an 840 square foot space that can be rented for birthday parties. The rental space can be divided into two areas by closing an operable partition. Rentals would provide new sources of revenue to support zoo operations and programs throughout the year. Carousels are customary at zoos across the country, including Denver, Oklahoma City, Columbus, Atlanta, Fort Wayne, Memphis, Riverbanks, San Francisco, Indianapolis and Roger Williams Park zoos.

## **Historic Carousel Location**

The Historic Carousel would be located at the northwest corner of the North Meadow, where it would be screened from view both from the zoo's natural habitat areas and from outside the zoo. The North Meadow was designated a "public activity space" in the 1987 update to the Long-Range Plan, and currently offers active, programmable space used for concerts, large-scale celebrations, family and company picnics and other activities. The addition of the carousel would be in keeping with the customary use of this area for family-oriented celebrations and events.

## **Historic Carousel Music**

The zoo has consulted with a sound system expert to develop specifications for the Carousel sound system that would prevent any "sound bleed" from the carousel. The music system would utilize the latest technology and small, directional speakers to ensure that music would not be audible beyond the immediate area of the carousel. The system would not have the traditional band organ.

## **Zoo Office**

The LRPDP includes a new office building that provides consolidated and improved workspace for many zoo staff who are currently dispersed among nearly two-dozen sites across the 92-acre grounds. The building would replace a series of aging and energy inefficient trailers of a similar footprint, enabling zoo staff from different departments to work together more collaboratively and efficiently. In addition to increased work and meeting spaces, the building would provide a cafeteria, enabling zoo staff and volunteers to gather informally and reducing the need for staff to travel offsite for lunch. It would contain locker rooms and showers for staff who ride bicycles to work.

The new office would also serve as a model of sustainable design that reinforces the zoo's commitment to conservation. A key design objective of the zoo office building is to demonstrate the application of "green" architecture by utilizing natural wind and solar patterns, environmentally friendly materials, and energy efficient design. The building would be constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

## **Zoo Office Location**

The building location, at the site of the current North Entrance, was specifically selected because it is the most conducive for the success of natural ventilation and heating systems – an important element of sustainable design that also helps to lower operating costs. The building is also located to ensure that it would have no visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood. From the interior of the zoo, the building would be partially screened by a small hill and several large trees, and its design would utilize natural and recycled materials for an attractive, "Northwest" style.

## **Off-site Location Consideration**

The zoo considered and rejected the potential of locating the zoo offices offsite because this would be directly counter to the zoo's goal of developing an efficient and collaborative work force. Most zoo staff are required to be onsite every day in order to perform their jobs. This is true across nearly every department, from animal management to guest services, marketing to project management, fundraising to media relations, and human resources to exhibits and interpretive staff. Locating zoo staff offsite would be impractical and inefficient, requiring that staff travel several times a day to and from the site to carry out their duties. This would also have the unintended effect of increasing traffic on nearby streets. In addition, during an emergency, all staff have a critical role and are required to be onsite in order to ensure the safety of animals, visitors, the public and staff.

## **Traffic Analysis**

The analysis of the zoo's contribution to traffic in the year 2020 is considered conservatively high, because the traffic consultant, Transpo, used a combination of high attendance numbers that is unlikely to occur even on the zoo's busiest days. This was done to ensure that the zoo's contribution to traffic would not be underestimated.

The traffic analysis in the revised EIS reflects higher analysis day attendance levels than were used in the previous EIS. For the analysis of weekday and weekend intersection operations, Transpo selected attendance levels that are more than twice the average annual weekday and weekend attendance, and even exceed the average weekday and weekend attendance during the zoo's peak season from June 15 through Labor Day. Using these higher numbers ensures that the zoo's contribution to peak-hour traffic is not underestimated.

Transpo continued to use the assumption used in the previous EIS that zoo attendance would increase between 19 and 23% between 2000 and 2020, even though they forecast a likely 19% growth, based on a detailed examination of regional growth data correlated with zoo attendance data.

For the revised EIS, Transpo used updated methodology in the most recent Highway Capacity Manual that was not yet widely adopted for use at the time of the analysis for the previous EIS. They also updated signal timing and phasing based on information from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

For the analysis of 2020 intersection operations at signalized intersections, Transpo assumed that the current signal timing would remain in effect, although it is likely that SDOT would periodically adjust signal timing to optimize intersection operations as traffic grows over the years.

## **West Entry**

The LRPDP proposes to reduce the zoo's three entry gates to two by consolidating the North and West Entries at the West, thereby reducing the impact of zoo traffic on the residential street north of the zoo (North 59<sup>th</sup> St.) and increasing efficiency for zoo staff. The new West Entry would incorporate ticketing and admissions, public restrooms, a ZooStore, a first aid station and stroller rentals. A new pedestrian pathway would connect transit stops on Phinney Avenue North to the West Entry. Zoo visitors parking in the West Parking Garage, North, Southwest and Northwest parking lots would enter the zoo through the West Entry. The existing North Entry would be closed to general zoo visitors.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FOR THE LONG-RANGE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LRP) AND EIS**

Since 1999, Woodland Park Zoo has engaged in an extensive public involvement process as part of the development and review of the Long-Range Physical Development Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Following is a listing of public meetings, neighborhood, community council and public agency briefings, open houses, workshops and public hearings on the plan.

6/28/99 Long-Range Planning (LRP) Formally Began  
6/29/99 Phinney Ridge Community Council (PRCC) Zoo Relations Committee  
(Other nearby Community Council Representatives invited)  
7/1/99 Seattle Design Commission (SDC)  
7/22/99 Phinney Ridge Community Council  
8/18/99 Community Meeting  
8/19/99 Seattle Design Commission  
10/20/99 PRCC Zoo Relations Committee  
10/27/99 City Council – Culture, Arts and Parks Committee  
11/4/99 Seattle Design Commission Site Tour  
11/18/99 Board of Park Commissioners  
1/19/00 LRP Open House at Zoo  
2/1/00 Phinney Ridge Community Council  
2/23/00 EIS Public Scoping Meeting  
2/26/00 EIS Public Scoping Meeting  
5/4/00 SDC – EIS Briefing  
10/3/00 Greenwood Community Council and PRCC (Joint Meeting)

11/15/00 Neighborhood Meeting on Residential Parking Zone (RPZ)  
 1/18/01 Neighborhood Meeting on Residential Parking Zone (RPZ)  
 2/6/01 Phinney Ridge Community Council  
 2/10/01 Neighbor Appreciation Day – LRP briefing  
 3/6/01 Phinney Ridge Community Council  
 3/22/01 Park Board Briefing  
 3/26/01 City Council Briefing  
**4/2/01 DEIS Issued**  
 4/3/01 Greenwood Community Council and PRCC (Joint Meeting)  
 4/25/01 Formal Public Hearing on DEIS  
**5/1/01 DEIS Comment Period Ended**  
 5/9/01 Green Lake Community Council  
 5/10/01 Board of Park Commissioners (Public Hearing on LRP)  
 5/24/01 Board of Park Commissioners (Discussion and Recommendation)  
 6/6/01 Wallingford Community Council  
 7/28/01 Public Workshop on Parking  
 7/31/01 Public Workshop on Parking  
 8/7/01 Phinney Ridge Community Council  
 8/9/01 Park Board briefing  
 8/29/01 LRP and Project Information Booth at Zoo Concert  
 2/9/02 Neighbor Appreciation Day LRP/EIS and project information  
**2/20/02 FEIS Issued**  
 3/28/02 Northwest Neighborhood Gathering - Open House  
 3/28/02 Park Board  
 5/5/02 Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks – Annual Meeting  
 5/21-24/02 FEIS Hearing  
 12/14/02 Annual Plan Public Open House (incl. LRP info and display)  
 1/9/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 2/13/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee (Primate Building)  
 2/19/03 Landmarks Board Hearing (Primate Building)  
 3/6/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 5/8/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 6/1/03 2003 Annual Report to the Superintendent  
 7/15/03 Wallingford Community Council Land Use Committee  
**7/16/03 Draft Revised EIS Issued**  
 7/17/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 7/24/03 Park Board  
 7/28/03 Fremont Community Council; ProParks Oversight Committee  
 8/5/03 Phinney Ridge Community Council  
 8/7/03 LRPDP Open House and Public Hearing  
 8/9/03 Seattle Neighborhood Coalition  
 8/16/03 DREIS Public Comment Period Extended 15 Days  
**8/30/03 DREIS Public Comment Period Ended**  
 9/8/03 Friends of the Olmstead Board Meeting (Primate House)  
 9/18/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 11/13/03 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 12/1/03 2004 Annual Plan Issued  
**12/31/03 Final Revised EIS and LRPDP Issued**  
 1/8/04 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 3/11/04 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 3/25/04 Park Board  
 5/13/04 Neighborhood Liaison Committee  
 5/22/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation  
 5/26/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation

5/27/04 League of Women Voters Land Use Committee briefing and tour  
6/1/04 2003 Annual Report to the Superintendent Issued  
6/8/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation  
6/9/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation  
6/22/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation  
6/25/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation  
6/29/04 Zoo Outreach – Neighborhood Presentation  
8/16/04 Neighborhood Liaison Committee LRPDP special meeting  
8/26/04 Park Board Briefing on West Garage proposal  
9/7/04 City Council Briefing on LRPDP including West Garage proposal  
9/13/04 Public Open House on West Garage proposal and LRPDP

### *Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion*

The LRP will go before City Council's Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee on September 29, then before the full City Council. Over the past several years, Zoo staff members have come before the Park Board to give a number of briefings on the Long Range Plan. At its September 9 meeting, the Board heard a briefing and made a recommendation to the Superintendent of Parks on the proposed west parking garage. Tonight's briefing is for the benefit of the new Board members and is a review of the overall plan.

Deborah showed a powerpoint presentation and reviewed the history of the LRP, originally prepared in 1976. The plan now needs updating to meet both the needs of today and the future. The LRP is a win for the Zoo and a win for the City.

### *Questions & Answers*

Joanna asked for a brief review of what the Board heard at its September 9 meeting and what it is being asked to do tonight. Sarah Welch answered that on September 9 the Board recommended approval of the west parking garage, as presented by Zoo staff, to the Superintendent. Tonight the Board may vote its support of the entire Long Range Plan and a letter of support will be sent to City Council prior to its September 29 vote.

**Jack moved that the Board of Park Commissioners strongly recommend that the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and City Council approve the Woodland Park Zoo's Long Range Physical Development Plan. Terry seconded.**

Joanna lives near the Zoo and talked recently to Jim Maxwell about the garage height. She believes the garage will be a positive addition; however she is concerned with how it is represented to the community. It is described as a 3-story garage, but parking will also be allowed on the top, making it comparable to a 4-story building. Jim discussed the technical building language. He commented that Seattle Design Commission approved the west side location for the garage because of trees and the elevation drop of 5-6'. Deborah stated that Joanna's comment is helpful feedback and highlights a difference between technical code and common terms.

**The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

Sarah Welch stated that Parks Department will send a letter to City Council reflecting the Board's recommendation of the Long Range Plan.

### **Briefing: Association Recreation Council**

Bill Keller, Manager of the Association Recreation Council (ARC), came before the Board to give a briefing on the operations. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing, both of which are included in these minutes.

### *Written Briefing*

The partnership between ARC — the 36 advisory councils — and the Parks Department has been providing programs, classes, and activities since 1975. Over 300 advisory council members volunteer their time and energy to work alongside Parks and Recreation Department site-based and citywide staff to bring programs, classes, and activities to the citizens of Seattle. In the recent past, as the economy suffered and the unemployment rate stayed

high, the system continued to provide programs, classes, and activities at reasonable rates for communities to enjoy. When hours of operation were reduced in community centers, advisory councils stepped up to provide \$250,000 in staffing so that planned programming for seniors, preschool, and before-school activities could continue.

Investments in training staff reflect the tone of the partnership. Before and After School program staff from each site received training as part of the Department-wide effort to achieve childcare certification from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. In addition, over 500 site staff from community centers and pools have gone through "Dollars and Sense" cash handling training as a partnership effort to improve advisory council transaction processing and service at the counter.

Child care and youth-related activities have become a dominant focus for the partnership. We provide childcare in over 30 locations throughout the City. \$5,000,000 of the revenue generated by the partnership comes from childcare and youth-related activities. The total is made up of preschool, before and after school, day camp, and youth classes.

Fundraising through grants and donations and special events has improved over the years. In 2003 the advisory council system raised over \$1,000,000 to enrich the partnership. Through August of this year we have raised \$1,300,000. By agreement, the advisory councils do not retain ownership of equipment or supplies purchased through the course of operation. All of these items become property of the Parks Department. In 2003, the advisory councils invested over \$7,740,000 in payroll for 1,400 staff and expenses to sustain programming throughout the system.

Two years ago we began a grant fund within the advisory council system, called the Advisory Council Opportunity Fund. Advisory Councils are encouraged to contribute to the fund and they are also eligible to submit a grant request to the fund. A grant review committee is appointed each year at the ARC Annual General Meeting. This committee reviews the grant requests and make the awards. Over the last two years, \$150,000 in grants has been awarded. The awards have ranged from support for computer labs, equipment purchases, summer playground programs, scholarships, to shoes and supplies to supplement kids-in-need.

Currently we are jointly working on modernizing the partnership. Superintendent Ken Bounds has challenged our partnership to develop a strategic plan to strengthen ARC's role to be a more representative voice for the system as a whole. In addition he wants us to:

- 1) Develop measurable standards responsive to our current operation
- 2) Insure equal access to all participants
- 3) Minimize risk
- 4) Assure the partnership that financial resources can be leveraged when needed
- 5) Be positioned to meet future opportunities and challenges
- 6) Restructure the ARC Board to insure representation
- 7) Improve communications
- 8) Utilize advisory councils in local level programming & operations.

The partnership between the Parks Department and the advisory councils, like any relationship, takes work in order to maintain a healthy focus. Our goals now, as in the past, are based on the same principle. We join together to provide safe and whole some recreational opportunities for individuals and families.

### *Verbal Briefing*

Bill distributed two pamphlets to the Board and gave a verbal overview of ARC. Along with the activities listed above, ARC also sponsors six "Friends of Parks", who need a fiscal sponsor and help with their fundraising. Budget Director Sarah Welch commented on the recent cash handling problems referred to under tonight's Superintendent's report. ARC created, documented, and trained 500 staff on cash handling procedures and for this effort won a Seattle Management Award. The recent cash handling problems are due to certain personnel. ARC staff will handle \$9 million in revenue this year and several agencies perform regular audits.

Joanna asked where ARC’s revenues come from and Bill answered from classes, programs, and childcare. Terry asked what are the three biggest challenges to ARC and Bill answered (1) modernizing the documentation and systems of this 29 year old agency — this is a monumental amount of work; (2) play an active role in supporting the Mayor’s focus on children — how best to provide equal access and be inclusive; and (3) getting the word out about ARC.

Bruce Bentley, former Park Board Chair and active member of ARC, stated that ARC is an amazing system that generated \$9 million last year, outside of the General Fund, for the Parks Department. Bill stated that ARC has had requests from a number of major cities on how they can replicate the system. Representatives from those cities are amazed and overwhelmed at the peaceful support given to Seattle’s parks and recreation through ARC.

Bill stated that local skaters have approached ARC to help create a skaters’ advisory council. Terry recommended to the skaters that they get involved with the Sports Advisory Council.

The Board thanked Bill for the briefing. Terry stated “thank goodness for ARC” and asked that Bill keep educating the Board about ARC and keep the Board apprised of ARC activities.

## **Park Board Business**

None

## **New/Old Business**

- Jack recently volunteered to serve as the Park Board representative to the Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee and would like further discussion on this role. It was suggested that committee roles be further discussed at the Board’s retreat.
- Kate asked for follow-up on a letter Susan Golub was to draft to IAC in support of grant funds for the proposed Lower Woodland skate park. Joanna recommended that, as a modification to Sarah’s motion to send the letter, a cc: of the letter be sent to State legislators. Sarah accepted the modification.
- Sarah W announced that Premier Golf was selected from the Request for Proposals process to manage Seattle’s four public golf courses.
- The Board thanked Sarah Neilson for her nearly three years of service to the Park Board and wished her well on her new employment in Chicago.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Kate Pflaumer, Chair