

Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2005

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present: Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Angela Belbeck
Joanna Grist
Terry Holme
Debbie Jackson

Excused: Jack Collins

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commission Chair Kate Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. **Commissioner Terry Holme moved and Commissioner Angela Belbeck seconded that the minutes and agenda be approved. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bounds reported on the following:

North Tour: On Saturday, March 12, the Board is scheduled to tour the north and central east district. The tour will start at noon at Parks' Densmore building (directions are on the handout) and will end back at Densmore at 4:00 p.m. The tour was planned to coincide with the Northgate groundbreaking; however, the groundbreaking has been rescheduled from March 12 to March 19.

Small & Simple: The following Small and Simple Neighborhood Matching Fund projects in parks were recently awarded:

- Madrona Ravine: habitat restoration
- Alki Statue of Liberty: recasting
- Dahl Playground renovation: design development and construction documents
- Mapleleaf Community Garden: design development and construction documents
- Ravenna Playground renovation: design development and construction documents

Teen/Youth Grant Awards: Grants for youth and teens totaling \$150,000 (funded through the Pro Parks Levy) will be announced this week. Of the 28 applications, 17 groups will receive awards and be honored at a ceremony the week of March 28. These grants are \$5-10,000 each; many were awarded these to non-traditional recreation projects by a wide variety of immigrant organizations.

International District/Chinatown Community Center (IDCCC): The new IDCC has been busy with drop-in programs including basketball, badminton, volleyball, and table tennis. During the first two months of the year fees of \$2,388 were collected and attendance exceeded expectations.

Faces of Homeless: A workshop was held last week for a large number of Parks maintenance staff to discuss ways to deal with homeless in the parks. A number of provider agencies and some homeless also attended the workshop.

New Park Board Commissioner Nominee: Amit Ranade has been nominated by Mayor Nickels to fill the vacant position on the Board and a confirmation hearing will be scheduled before the City Council. This position was previously held by Sarah Neilson, who served as the “youth representative” on the Board. Amit, who is in his late 20’s, will continue this tradition.

Historic Ships Moving at South Lake Union: Approximately two weeks ago, the Superintendent sent a letter to Northwest Seaport, which is responsible for the Wawona, SwiftSure, Duwamish, and other historic ships at South Lake Union. These historic ships are being moved from their current site, north of the armory, to the wharf. Parks is providing electrical power at the wharf, which previously did not have electricity. Northwest Seaport has been asked to clean up the site it has been using. The Wawona must be relocated out of South Lake Union Park by November 2005; Parks is working with Northwest Seaport and King County to find a new home for the ship.

New Sea Otter Pup at Aquarium: Beginning a new generation, a healthy sea otter pup was born to Aniak at 5 a.m., March 3, at the Aquarium. Aniak was born to Lootas on September 6, 2002. Lootas was an orphaned pup adopted by the Aquarium in 1997. Aniak’s new pup, as yet unnamed, has done very well during its critical first few days of life in the real world.

Healthy Initiative-Defibrillators to Start: Seattle Parks and Recreation believes that having Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in recreation facilities can provide a safer, more responsive environment for users. Philips Medical, located in Seattle, has generously donated Heart Start AEDs, with Phase I implementation to begin at 10 pool sites.

Fishing on Green Lake: This past week the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked Green Lake with trout and the lake has been bombarded with fishermen. The lake is open year-round for fishing but the new fish have increased interest.

Associated Recreational Council (ARC) Board Honors Langston Hughes Manager: At ARC’s February 28 annual dinner at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, Manuel Cawaling, Langston Hughes Managing Director, was honored with a special award, the “Star Employee Award,” which is presented to one Parks employee each year.

Longfellow Creek Acquisitions: Acquisition of two, 5,000-square-foot parcels at 24th Avenue SW and SW Willow Street have been completed. The parcels face each other across SW Willow Street, which crosses Longfellow Creek at the midpoint of a two-block reach that was recently upgraded by a joint project of Parks and Seattle Public Utilities. Acquiring this property is among the top priorities for the Delridge Open Space Acquisition Project funded by the Neighborhood Parks Acquisition, a subcategory of the Pro Parks Levy.

Commissioner Holme noted that he recently walked in the area and spotted a beaver dam with water backing up and some trees flooded. The dam is located in Davis Park. Cheryl Fraser, Parks Resource Manager for the South and Central West, was in attendance and will follow up on this.

Upcoming Events

Parks, Library Award Northgate Construction Contract: Parks and the Library executed a construction contract with Absher Construction on March 8 for the Northgate community center, park, and library. A groundbreaking ceremony

will be held on site Saturday, March 19, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Absher will begin construction on Monday, March 21. The new facility is expected to open in June 2006.

Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing: Will hold an open house on Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.-noon.

Easter Egg Hunts: The Department is sponsoring many Easter Egg Hunts (for a full listing, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/news/detail.asp?ID=5016&Dept=14>)

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. No one signed up to testify.

Discussion/Recommendation: Freeway Park Activation Project

Susanne Friedman, Parks Planning and Development Specialist, came before the Board at its February 24 meeting to give a briefing on the Freeway Park Activation Project. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. Ms. Friedman and Kevin Stoops, Major Projects & Planning Manager, came before the Board to answer any questions. Tonight the Board is being asked to discuss the project and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Discussion/Recommendation

The Board received correspondence from a group asking for a Garden of Remembrance to be located at Freeway Park. Commissioner Holme asked about the proposed location. Ms. Friedman also received the correspondence and spoke with the group this afternoon. Currently the proposal is a concept and the group has not selected a particular site. They will fax the information to Ms. Friedman either tonight or the following day. Superintendent Bounds stated that the Department's longstanding policy is not to have memorials in the parks. When people visit the parks, the goal is to give them a sense of regeneration and recreation, rather than engaging in a reflection of death. One of the Commissioners referred to the Firefighter's memorial at Occidental Park and the Superintendent noted that the memorial is near the park, but not located on park property. Chair Pflaumer asked if the memorial is to honor those homeless individuals who died in Freeway Park in past years. Ms. Friedman answered that it is proposed as a memorial for all homeless who have died. Commissioner Holme suggested that the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Cemetery near Volunteer Park might be a more appropriate site, since it is already a cemetery, and it is also on bus lines. Volunteers do much of the maintenance at this historic cemetery, with some of the work being done by Parks staff. Commissioner Belbeck urged that the Department be consistent with its policy and Commissioner Jackson agreed.

At the February 24 meeting, the Commissioners asked Ms. Friedman to bring some additional information to them, as follows:

(1) *Cost of repairing the various fountains in Freeway Park:* the American Legion fountain cost estimate is \$54,000; the Canyon and Cascade is \$130,000. These repairs are doable; however, the funding must be strategized. Naramore Fountain was repaired a few years ago and is in working order; Piggott Corridor is a major effort and would be much more costly than what is now available for the repairs.

Commissioner Jackson asked if these costs would bring the fountains back to their original state or just back to working condition. Ms. Friedman answered that the fountains would be operational again; it does not include the cost for power washing. Chair Pflaumer commented that Canyon Fountain is the signature fountain of Freeway Park and, because of this, it should be repaired. Ms. Friedman also commented on the possible water shortage facing Seattle this summer and Mr. Stoops commented that not running the fountains also conserves energy.

(2) *Verbal testimony that the plantings are currently being fertilized and have grown so large that the park, which spans the I-5 freeway, may be near its load limits:* Ms. Friedman stated that fertilizer is only used to get the plants started and is not being used in the park. She checked with Seattle Department of Transportation engineers and with Parks tree horticulturist Mark Mead; both believe the bridge is nowhere near its load limit. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) built the span as a bridge that could carry vehicles over the freeway. Vehicles do not use the park; only pedestrians. She has calls in to WSDOT for further clarification.

Commissioner Holme referred to the citizen testimony that removal of some of the benches (which are used by the homeless) constitutes gentrification of the park. Ms. Friedman commented that some of the benches are being re-sited for better placement and increased usage. Commissioner Holme commented that the citizen testimony implied that the benches would be removed and not replaced. Superintendent Bounds and Ms. Friedman stated that the number of benches is being increased, not decreased.

Commissioner Belbeck referred to written testimony from Mike Evans that he felt Ms. Friedman's explanation that the blue asterisks the Board saw on the map at the February 24 meeting were exercise sites, was not correct. Ms. Friedman answered that she was giving some examples; not a list of all possible uses of the sites.

Commissioner Grist requested that the park bench design be connected to those benches already at the Washington State Convention Center, which is located next to the park. She has heard many complaints that Freeway Park's trees have been overgrown since the 1980s and agrees with the need to selectively thin and remove some. She has many concerns about drug usage and sexual activity taking place in the park during daytime hours. She believes that encouraging use of the park — and ensuring the safety of those users — is critical. She asked about the play elements for the park. Ms. Friedman stated that some play elements are included in the programming; however, a full playground does not fit this site. Commissioner Grist requested that phrasing be added in the CIP to include "children's play elements. Ms. Friedman agreed to do so. Commissioner Grist also stated that she supports cutting concrete as necessary and not to put the park's historic design before function. She re-stated her suggestion from the February 24 meeting that one way to honor the design of the park is to include the history of the park in the interpretive and wayfinding signage.

The Chair asked for clarification on what the Board is being asked to vote on, and whether it is voting on the concept. Ms. Friedman answered that the Board is being asked to vote approval of moving forward with the four elements. **Commissioner Holme moved approval of the staff recommendation, as presented to the Commissioners at their February 24 meeting, as follows:**

Vending

- *Determine locations and infrastructure needs to support vendors and performances.*
- *Issue temporary permits for vendor carts for spring/summer 2005, with the development of long term vendor programming, with possible café collaboration with Park Place café and WSCTC.*

Programming

- *Bring back Summer Concerts in the Park for the summer 2005, along with other performance opportunities.*
- *Develop and implement the park-wide exercise loop for spring/summer 2005.*
- *Develop 4 season, multi-generational programming for Cascade Fountain area, WSCTC plaza and 8th Ave walk way.*
- *Create a game center space. Provide movable tables and chairs around Cascade Fountain, and work with vendors for set up and take down.*

Maintenance

- *Implement annual plantings at key entrances & other select locations within the park.*
- *Restore grass berms in the American Legion Fountain Area.*
- *Selectively thin and limb up trees, with possible select tree removal.*

CIP projects

- *Remove concrete slabs along the staircase on the north side of the Canyon Fountain to open up sight lines.*
- *Implement new signs and way-finding concept into and within the park.*
- *Implement new lighting concept for the park, focusing on circulation paths, entrances and fountain areas.*
- *Implement new bench program – done in conjunction with Programming efforts.*

Commissioner Belbeck seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Friedman for the nice work on this presentation.

Update Briefing: Seattle Park Foundation Bi-Yearly Report

Kimberly Bowen, Development Director for the Seattle Parks Foundation, thanked Commissioner Grist and Superintendent Bounds for their participation on the Foundation’s 30-member Board. The Foundation is an independent, non-profit working in conjunction with Seattle Parks and Recreation and has raised \$4 million in the past five years. The Foundation identifies park needs in mostly underserved areas, help neighborhoods raise funds, and sometimes teams with neighborhood groups to manage the projects. She distributed three handouts and reviewed the Foundation’s various projects.

2004 Annual Report – Excerpt, From the Executive Director and Board of Directors

“Thanks to hundreds and hundreds of donors, the Seattle Parks Foundation has had another exciting and productive year. We began the year with a bang – the gift of four parcels of land to build a beautiful new neighborhood park in Southeast Seattle. We ended the year having raised almost two million dollars for neighborhood parks throughout the city. Proudly we can report that in its short five-year history, the Seattle Parks Foundation has helped finance and manage the rehabilitation or construction of nine beautiful parks in previously underserved areas of our city.”

Ms. Bowen distributed a written overview of the Foundation’s projects, as follows, and also gave a verbal review:

South Lake Union Park:

Location: South Lake Union, 860 Terry Avenue North

Seattle Parks Foundation is launching a capital campaign to develop 12 acres of green space at South Lake Union into a magnificent waterfront park. Identified 100 years ago by the Olmsted firm as ideal for an urban waterfront park, the property was acquired over the past 20 years, and with investment of City funds totaling over \$17 million. Today, neighborhood residents, businesses, area stakeholders, and City government have all given the park unanimous support. Now is the time to turn South Lake Union Park into a regional destination for festivals, water-related activities, and for celebrating Seattle’s maritime heritage. The Summer Concerts at the Piers is temporarily moving to South Lake Union.

Lake People Park:

Location: N. Rainier Valley, 31st and South Bradford Street

Grand Opening: 5:05 pm, Thursday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo)

Named for the Duwamish, the first people to live in the area, this brand new park in North Rainier Valley was made possible when property developers Diane and Monte Powell donated four parcels of land to the Seattle Parks Foundation in 2002. Neighbors formed a community group in support of the park called Friends of Goat Hill, and went to work with the Parks Foundation to raise funds to develop the park. Many donors contributed, and hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly to construct the park. Already the park is a much-used community asset: the upper platform portion provides a serene sitting area with sweeping views of the Cascades, and stairs and walkways down the hillside portion connect the neighborhood to the commercial district below.

Homer Harris Park:

Location: Central Area, 2401 East Howell Street

Grand Opening: Saturday, May 14

In 2002, an anonymous donor gave \$1.3 million to Seattle Parks Foundation to create a park in honor of beloved medical doctor and legendary athlete Dr. Homer Harris. The funds were used to acquire property in the Central Area not far from where Dr. Harris grew up, and to provide for basic development of the park. The Parks Foundation and the community group, Friends of Homer Harris Park, set to work raising additional funds for art elements to celebrate the rich cultural history of the Central Area. The park also serves as a monument to Dr. Harris' many inspirational achievements: in the 1930s, Dr. Homer Harris was a track and football star at Garfield High, and then became the first African American football team captain in the Big 10 Conference at the University of Iowa. After graduating from medical school, Dr. Harris returned to Seattle to establish his dermatology practice. He was Seattle's first African American dermatologist, and at one time, his practice was the largest west of the Rockies. He retired in 2000 and now lives on Queen Anne.

Benefit Park

Location: South Beacon Hill, 9320 38th Avenue South

This South Beacon Hill park was dilapidated and prone to vandalism until Friends of Benefit Park formed in 2002 to create a safer, more open green space. Seattle Parks Foundation provided Friends of Benefit Park with fundraising support and technical assistance through every step of the process, from selecting a landscape architect, to coordinating the complete renovation of the park. Today the park has been improved with a new children's play area, walkway around the perimeter, leveled basketball court, landscaping, and picnic shelter.

Historic Fountains at Woodland Park Rose Garden

Location: Woodland Park, North 50th and Fremont Avenue North

The Seattle Parks Foundation is heading up a fundraising campaign to restore three historic architectural elements in the Woodland Park Rose Garden, bringing one of Seattle's park gems back to its original splendor. Three water features anchor the classical layout of Woodland Park's nationally recognized Rose Garden. Two are fountains filled with flowers and dirt, rather than gushing water. The third, a fountain holding murky, unfiltered water, is part of the dramatic Art Deco 1924 Bas Relief sculpture. The sculpture embellishing the northern wall of the garden is cracked, and would be doomed to ruin. The Rose Garden first appeared in the original 1910 Olmsted preliminary plan for Woodland Park, and today hosts weddings, artists, photographers, and scores of flower lovers and picnickers during the blooming season. After the fountains and Bas Relief Sculpture are restored, the garden will be more beautiful and inviting to visitors than ever.

Bailey Gatzert Elementary

Location: Squire Park, 1301 Yesler Way

Seattle Parks Foundation is working with teachers, parents, students, and neighbors to dramatically improve the play area and community gathering space at Bailey Gatzert. Located at the crossroads of the International District, Central Area, First Hill, and Rainier Valley, the school serves a diverse population of students and the neighborhood is very underserved in terms of park access. A new master plan was completed in 2004, and in 2005 community partners and the Parks Foundation will create a safe and exciting play area and green space for the entire neighborhood to enjoy.

Volunteer Park Lily Ponds

Location: Capitol Hill, 1247 15th Avenue East

Seattle Parks Foundation raised \$200,000 to restore these 100-year old Olmsted-designed lily ponds, located in the heart of Volunteer Park. The ponds had fallen into disrepair, and sat empty and unused for many years until being restored in 2003, in time to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Seattle's Olmsted-designed park system. Today the ponds are bursting with lily pads and blossoms, and goldfish swim in their serene waters.

Schurman Rock

Location: West Seattle, 5200 35th Avenue SW

In 2003, Seattle Parks Foundation raised \$90,000 to completely restore this historic climbing rock at Camp Long in West Seattle. Designed by mountaineer Clark Schurman in the 1930's, Schurman Rock is the first man-made climbing rock in the nation. Its foundation became cracked and unstable in the 1990s, and the rock was closed for safety reasons. Seattle Parks Foundation was thrilled to bring this historic park asset back to life by restoring the foundation and improving the surrounding landscaping. The rock is once again being enjoyed by new generations of climbers.

2001: First Four Projects

In its first year, Seattle Parks Foundation completed three children's play area projects by working beginning-to-end, from raising funds to installing play equipment at work parties. These first-year projects were all in underserved communities in Southeast Seattle, at Maple, Graham Hill, and Whitworth Elementary Schools.

In 2002, Seattle Parks Foundation again worked with parents, teachers, students, and neighbors to renovate a second play area in Southeast Seattle. Hundreds of residents in one of Seattle's most diverse communities cast aside language and cultural barriers to work alongside one another towards the common goal of creating a safe, exciting, and fun place for all of their children to play. The process fostered lasting connections amongst neighbors, as they created an ideal community gathering space at Maple Elementary.

Fiscal Sponsorship & Technical Assistance Projects:

- ❖ Hitts Hill
- ❖ Thyme Patch Park
- ❖ Volunteer Park entry way garden
- ❖ Beer Sheva Park

The Board thanked Ms. Bowen for the update and voiced gratitude for the Foundation and its efforts.

Briefing: Recovery Action Plan Update

Susanne Friedman, Parks Planning and Development Specialist, and Kevin Stoops, Major Projects & Planning Manager, came before the Board to give an update briefing on the Recovery Action Plan. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

Approval of the Recovery Action Plan Update.

Project Description and Background

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Recovery Action Plan (RAP) was adopted through Seattle City Council Resolution 30325 on May 29, 2001. The 2005 report is an administrative update of the RAP which incorporates available 2000 Census data and includes updated Parks project descriptions and priorities from 2004 and 2005. We need to submit this report to the National Park Service by April 1st in order to maintain eligibility for funding. However, the program is currently not funded.

The RAP is focused on areas of Seattle eligible for the federal government's Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program, notably those areas already identified as Federal Enterprise Communities. This limits discussion of issues, and the subsequent recovery plan, to targeted areas of Seattle, including the High Point neighborhood in West Seattle, Rainier Valley, and parts of Southeast Seattle, the Chinatown/International District at the edge of Downtown and portions of the Central area. Essentially, all target areas have a more diverse population and lower household incomes than citywide averages.

The combination of ethnic diversity, large families with more children in the RAP target areas, translates to greater demand on park facilities for recreation and social programs. Three large Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) residential communities — High Point, New Holly, and Yesler Terrace — are also located within the target areas. Seattle Parks and Recreation community centers are located at High Point in West Seattle and at Yesler Terrace near the International District. Another community center, Van Asselt, is adjacent to New Holly in Southeast Seattle where a park is also being redeveloped. In all of these areas, SHA residents are extensive users of facilities and programs. The City has worked closely with SHA during rehabilitation and modernization to realize opportunities for co-locating facilities. Parks and Recreation has redeveloped the Yesler Community Center and completed the expansion of High Point Community Center. Expansion of the Van Asselt community center is being designed now, with construction to be completed in the next two years.

The report outlines Seattle’s demographics, Seattle Parks and Recreation programming, facilities, partnerships and other services. The report is up-dated with a current list of unfunded and underfunded projects for the target areas. These are listed below in Tables 1 and 2.

Public Involvement Process

We have not conducted a separate public involvement process for the RAP update. Many of the projects will have their own public involvement process. The Recovery Action Plan will be updated annually to reflect changes in park and recreation facility needs as well as any alteration of project priorities. It is anticipated that a new RAP will be developed in conjunction with Seattle Parks and Recreation **Plan 2000** in 2006, in order to take advantage of the extensive program, facility planning and public involvement processes that take place at such times. We are not planning a separate public process for the update.

Program priorities and implementation schedule

The following tables show both funded projects and unfunded priorities at park and recreation facilities in the four target areas. Funded projects are shown as a means of highlighting projects that could be leveraged with further resource allocations. Seattle Parks and Recreation will seek additional funding, where possible, with the objective of making further improvements.

Table 1: Funded Projects with Leveraging Potential

FUNDED PROJECTS			
Year Funded	Project	Funding Available	Funding Source
2004-05	Camp Long - Install site amenities, ADA pathways and new landscaping	\$31,100	CDBG (Parks Upgrade)
2004-05	Columbia Park - Enhanced landscaping and park amenities	\$309,000	ProParks Levy
2004-05	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center - Hardwood floor installation	\$40,000	Cumulative Reserve Fund & Neighborhood Response Fund
2004-05	Pratt Park - Install new ADA pathways	\$16,500	CDBG (Parks Upgrade)
2004-05	Roxhill Park - New landscaping and play area safety surfacing	\$22,000	CDBG (Parks Upgrade)
2004-05	Spruce Park - Play area renovation	\$80,000	CDBG (Parks Upgrade)
2003-05	Van Asselt Community Center - Expansion	\$3,900,000	Community Center Levy

All of the other projects listed in the table below are unfunded priorities identified in the Seattle Parks and Recreation 2005-2010 Major Maintenance Plan. These Major Maintenance Plan projects are additionally identified with the letters “MM.” Only approximately 60 of the 800 identified maintenance projects were funded in the 2005-2006 biennium, leaving a large number of maintenance needs unfilled. Additional projects were recently identified and are not in the Major Maintenance Plan, which was last updated in 2004 and are identified as a “new project”.

Table 2: Unfunded Priorities and Cost Estimates

Year Funded	2005-2010 Major Maintenance Plan	Project	Cost
Unfunded	MM	Brighton Playfield ballfield renovation	\$2,000,900
Unfunded	MM	Brighton Playfield lighting replacement	\$383,000
Unfunded	MM	Brighton Playfield shelterhouse renovation	\$41,000
Unfunded	MM	Brighton Playfield tennis court renovation	\$75,000
Unfunded	New Project	Columbia Park path repair and seal coat	\$15,000
Unfunded	MM	Dr. Lavizzo Park renovations bench repair	\$21,100
Unfunded	MM	High Point Community Center roof expansion joint replacement	\$17,000
Unfunded	MM	High Point Playfield comfort station ADA upgrade	\$53,000
Unfunded	MM	High Point Playfield landscape restoration	\$56,000
Unfunded	New Project	Hing Hay Park pagoda and kiosk base footing repair and roof cleaning, bench painting, new landscaping installation	\$50,000
Unfunded	New Project	International Children's Park pavilion panel replacement	\$20,000
Unfunded	New Project	International Children's Park play area drainage and surfacing and ADA drinking fountain replacement	\$35,000
Unfunded	MM	Judkins Park & Playfield landscape restoration	\$169,000
Unfunded	New Project	Judkins Park & Playfield upper pathway access and site furnishings renovation	\$110,000
Unfunded	MM	Kobe Terrace path repaving	\$16,000
Unfunded	New Project	Kobe Terrace planting bed restoration and reestablishment of historical lanterns on site	\$30,000
Unfunded	MM	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center ADA upgrade at existing parking lot	\$67,500
Unfunded	MM	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center parking lot paving of new lot	\$243,00
Unfunded	MM	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center exterior lighting	\$45,000
Unfunded	MM	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center grounds irrigation upgrade	\$85,000
Unfunded	New project	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center upper lobby renovation	\$60,000
Unfunded	New project	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center electrical upgrade	\$50,000
Unfunded	New project	Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center bathroom renovation	\$80,000
Unfunded	MM	Pratt Fine Arts Center building and pathway exterior lighting	\$24,000
Unfunded	MM	Pratt Park drainage improvement	\$75,000
Unfunded	MM	Pratt Park water feature surface repair	\$11,000
Unfunded	MM	Pratt Park landscape restoration	\$32,000
Unfunded	New Project	Pratt Park parking lot resurfacing	\$30,000
Unfunded	MM	Pratt Park pathway renovation, repairs and repaving	\$50,000

Year Funded	2005-2010 Major Maintenance Plan	Project	Cost
Unfunded	New Project	Pratt Park ADA picnic table renovation and provision of connecting ADA paths to primary pathways	\$10,000
Unfunded	New Project	Pratt Park community desired comfort station renovations	\$53,000
Unfunded	MM	Pratt Park community desired play barn painting	\$37,000
Unfunded	MM	Van Asselt Playfield tennis court renovation	\$71,000
Unfunded	MM	Van Asselt Playfield irrigation & drainage upgrade and installation	\$84,000
Unfunded	MM	Van Asselt Playfield landscape restoration	\$37,000
Unfunded	MM	Van Asselt Playfield drainage system replacement	\$471,000
Unfunded	New Project	Van Asselt Playfield play area renovation	\$250,000

Program and schedule for evaluation and updating of the RAP

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting one report for both years (2004-2005) in light of their current zero funding status. The up-date will be signed by Ken Bounds, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, and submitted to NPS by June 1, 2005. Parks must complete a new plan next year, which will require Council approval.

Additional Information

For additional information, please contact Susanne Friedman, Parks Project Planner, at: 206.684.0902 or susanne.friedman@seattle.gov.

Verbal Briefing

Mr. Stoops reviewed the history of the Recovery Action Plan (RAP) and tonight is asking for the Board’s concurrence. He displayed a color map of the affected areas, distributed a copy of the map, and stated that RAP is very specifically targeted to the yellow areas on the map. These are the neediest areas, with incomes less than ½ of the median. There are fewer parks and community centers in these areas and some are quite old and in need of work. The National Parks Service has no money funded to the RAP this year, but Parks must be prepared in case some funds are made available.

The Commissioners asked several questions on how Parks prioritizes projects and Mr. Stoops explained the Major Maintenance selection process, which is held every five years and garners a list of approximately 800 projects. Staff members assess these needs and choose the most critical projects. This list then goes to the Superintendent and Parks Project Steering Committee and they select the projects on which the Capital Improvement Project list is developed. If additional money comes along from another source, such as RAP, then additional projects can be funded.

Commissioner Holme asked for clarification on which park in New Holly is being redeveloped. Mr. Stoops answered John C. Little Park (formerly 37th Ave S Park) and Van Asselt Community Center.

The Chair clarified whether any action is needed from the Board. Mr. Stoops stated that no action is needed, just a concurrence from the Board that the Department is moving in the right direction. The Board agreed that it is and thanked Mr. Stoops for the update.

Briefing: Seattle Children’s PlayGarden Project at Colman Playground

Pamela Kliment, Parks Neighborhood Matching Fund Planner, and three citizens came before the Commissioners to give a briefing on a proposed project at Colman Playground. The Commissioners received both a written and verbal briefing; both are included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

No Park Board action is requested at this time. Planning and Development staff are here to brief the Board of Park Commissioners on the proposed development of a new park on the site of Colman Playground in the Mount Baker neighborhood.

Project Description and Background

The proposed Seattle Children's PlayGarden project (SCPG) project, located at the south end of Colman Playground, 1740 23rd Avenue S (at Grand), is intended to serve children with special needs and to provide new features for neighborhood kids (please see attachments 1 and 2).

The project started in the fall of 2002 when the SCPG group approached Parks and Recreation to talk about their concept and to explore whether there was an appropriate park site for the project. Ideally, the site would include a building so that activities could be carried on both indoors and outdoors. Parks recognizes the need to provide recreational and educational activities for adults and children with disabilities, and recommended the Colman Playground site.

The SCPG group then contacted the RainKing Neighborhood Association. The Association, long concerned about the deteriorated status of Colman Playground, endorsed the plan. Representatives of the Association serve on both the PlayGarden Board of Directors and the project design team.

The project intent is to create a naturalistic, interactive PlayGarden to meet the special needs of children with physical and mental impairments. Play and learning activities would take place in a natural garden setting. The scope of the project includes garden plots with various themes, gathering areas, accessible play equipment, a basketball court (renovation to be funded by the Seattle Supersonics/Storm Foundation), renovation of the existing decrepit WPA building, and construction of a new small building. The project will also include a comfort station for public use. The buildings will be used primarily to serve the special needs program, but will be available for rental by Parks and Recreation at current fees.

The project will be built in phases: the basketball court, the picnic/plaza area, the new building and the building renovation, the site plan, and a more natural type development on the southwest corner of the park.

Public Involvement Process

Parks held five public meetings through 2003 and in May 2004 to generate ideas and community enthusiasm; there was minimal community attendance. Parks mailed out 2,000 fliers, designed with the SCPG, for two of the meetings, and the SCPG advertised all the meetings by going door to door. The flier summarized the project and publicized the meetings. A large project sign has been displayed at the site since June 2004.

Design

The Parks ProView Committee is currently reviewing the schematic design. The project is to be built in phases: the basketball court, the picnic/plaza area, the new building and the building renovation, the garden beds and play areas, and an area of shrubs and trees for natural play at the southwest corner of the park.

Issues

The main issues that have come up during the development of the schematic design are:

Limits of work. The project proponents asked Parks to look at the idea of opening up part of the southern end of the soccer field for the PlayGarden project, and moving the basketball court into that space, thus creating more room for the project. Parks engineering staff and the Sportsfield Review Committee had opposed the change of use of this space.

After much discussion with staff, Parks agreed that the group could use 46' of the existing field for the project, so there is a commitment from the Superintendent to support this project (please see attachment 4 showing the added area and photos showing where the basketball court is now and its new location).

Existing building. The Colman Shelterhouse (please see attachment 5) is not currently designated a Landmark structure. In the Survey of City-Owned Historic Buildings, it was identified as "appearing to meet the criteria of the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance." The building is on a short list of buildings for which we may seek Landmark status.

New building. Parks' Project Steering Committee, which considers changes to the budget, timing, or scope of projects, approved the addition of a small 1,000 square foot building at the west end of the field (please see attachment 6). The SPCG believes that while most activities will occur outside, having a carefully designed inside area is critical to the success of the project and that the existing building will not meet that need.

Use/M&O agreement. SCPG and Parks are working on an agreement for operations and maintenance (O&M) and for use of the site. They have submitted a draft to Parks for review.

Balance between public and private space. SCPG and Parks have been working together to determine the best way to welcome neighbors while keeping the space true to its original idea. One example of the issues under consideration is the amount and location of fencing: while fencing keeps special needs kids safe from the street, it may create a perception that the park is not welcoming.

Budget

- The total budget, including design, construction, and permits and other costs, is estimated to be \$2.5 million.
- The project design work is supported by \$30,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) and the community match.
- The \$150,000 construction budget for Phase 1, the basketball court renovation (including a retaining wall with decorative surfacing, a wrought iron fence, and plantings), will come from the Sonics Foundation.
- SCPG has applied for \$85,000 from the NMF for construction of Phase 2, the children's play plaza and picnic area. The total construction cost for Phase 2 is estimated to be \$170,000.

Schedule

The schematic design will be complete in mid-March. Phase 1, the basketball court renovation, will be built by the end of May. Phase 2 design development and construction drawings will be complete by the end of 2005, and we anticipate starting construction in early 2006. The remaining schedule will depend on fund raising.

Additional Information

Pamela Kliment, Neighborhood Matching Fund Planner, 684-7556, Pamela.Kliment@seattle.gov

Verbal Briefing

Ms. Kliment displayed a large map of Colman Playground and pointed out the location of the proposed project. She gave some background on the Neighborhood Matching Fund and described the history and components of this proposal. This project was conceived by several citizens who saw a need. Three of these citizens assisted Ms. Kliment with the verbal briefing. The first, Liz Gallagher, introduced herself. She is a speech therapist and is the originator of the garden proposal. She stated that children with motor development impediments such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, and autism do not have as many opportunities for play areas. She learned of a similar play garden in New York City, which is one of the few in the United States. The gardens are designed to give all kids a place to play. The design includes paid non-city staff to help children access the garden. There is a large group of volunteers working on this project.

Ms. Kliment discussed how this site was chosen. She pointed out Colman Park on the large map and also pointed out the location of the four phases of the proposed project. The map showed the various phases as different color areas. Phase 1 would replace the existing basketball hoops, with the Sonics and Seattle Storm basketball organizations paying for new ones. Phase 2 includes installation of a new picnic area, funded by Neighborhood Matching Funds. Phase 3 will see a new 1,000 sq. ft. building added. This building will include restrooms for the public which the park doesn't currently have. In phase 4, the garden would be installed.

Ms. Kliment reviewed a number of issues. Part of the site has a slope that is steep enough to require a retaining wall to construct the basketball court. It has much vegetation, and must be opened up and made safer. American Disability Act requirements were briefly discussed. Additional issues include moving the basketball court to a different spot; the possibility that the existing shelterhouse may be designated as a landmark; and the staging of the phases and their impacts on use of the park. A 58-page use agreement has been drawn up between Seattle Children's Garden Board and Seattle Parks and Recreation. Parks' contract specialist, Charles Ng, is currently reviewing the agreement.

Commissioner Questions & Answers

Commissioner Jackson asked about the responsibilities of the paid, non-city, on-site staff. Ms. Gallagher answered that these staff, paid for through fundraising, would operate a variety of programs and would be allied with schools, developmental centers, after school programs, day camps, etc. She gave an extensive description of staff responsibilities and how the programs are anticipated to work. Three full time and two part-time staff are planned.

Commissioner Grist asked about the funding source to pay for these staff. A second citizen, Dana Piggott, a professional nonprofit fundraiser, described the fundraising plans for this proposal and stated that there is a great deal of interest in this project, with many donors. She stressed that the phasing is an important part of the funding strategy. She spoke briefly about endowments, operation costs, and capital funding.

Commissioner Holme stated that he supports this important concept, but he has some reservations and questions.

1. He lives near Colman Playground and was caught off guard by tonight's proposal, as it had been listed for some time on the Board's upcoming agendas as being Colman *Park* (which is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ miles further to the east), rather than Colman *Playground*. He has been on the mailing list for some time on development at Colman Playground, but had not been notified of this project. He believes that, since he had been getting notification of the other work being done there, that he should have received information on this proposal. Because of his role as a Park Commissioner, he gets many questions on area projects. He asked about the public notice process. After discussion, it was determined that there were five neighborhood meetings, with RainKing area residents being notified of the meetings.
2. He also drives on Massachusetts Avenue (main arterial adjacent to Colman Playground) approximately five times weekly and had not observed any signage regarding this proposal. Today he visited the site and noted that the project notification sign was installed on a side street, where there is little traffic. He believes that more people would have been made aware of the project if the sign were on the main street. Ms. Gallagher stated that the sign was installed on the side street because that is nearest to where the garden will be located. The Commissioner commented that the ballfield is being changed by this project and this impacts more than just those who live near the area of the proposed garden.
3. He has concerns that the project will impact ballfield availability and there is already a shortage of fields.
4. His understanding is that Parks' Sports Review Committee (SRC) had reservations about this plan. He asked if the plan was presented to the Sports Advisory Council and Ms. Kliment answered that it hadn't been.
5. When he visited the site today, he noted that there is brand new concrete and that the basketball court is fairly new and was installed in the last 5-6 years. This fairly new court is now scheduled to be torn out and a new court installed to accommodate this project.

A third citizen, Abe Bergman, asked what are the Commissioners' specific objections. Commissioner Holme stated that his objections are that the notification process was not thorough enough and he objects to a portion of the plans. Mr. Abe Bergman stated that the group met with Superintendent Bounds to discuss the project and were told that their idea

sounded great, but that they had to get community support. They went back to the community and secured the support of the RainKing area and he believes they did not circumvent the Mt. Baker neighborhood. Mr. Abe Bergman and his group do not believe the play garden is a negative impact on the park.

The Superintendent stated that, after the original proposal was presented to Parks, it was revised. It is still a tight fit, but works for U-11 (11-year-olds and under) play. Commissioner Holme stated that he thinks the area will be a tight fit for a U-11 field. He doesn't think it will provide for the typical safety net that that size fields usually have. This is a small site and he urged the project proponents and staff to be realistic about use of the ballfield. Ms. Kliment stated that Randy Robinson, of the Parks Department Design and Technical Engineering section, did the drawings for the project and she will send a copy to Commissioner Holme. Mr. Abe Bergman stated that the project proponents thought the fields were to be used by 6-7 year olds and just recently learned that it is now proposed to be used as a U-11 field. Commissioner Holme stated that it is a practice field and not a playing field; however, there is a limited amount of playing fields in the city and demand is increasing for U-11 fields. The size of the field is critical information to know, as it will determine the fields' future use.

Commissioner Holme observed that the basketball court will be located next to the soccer field. Ms. Kliment stated that the court will be fenced and the Superintendent commented that there will be a slight grade change to the court area. Commissioner Holme commented that it appears a lot of trees are to be removed. Ms. Kliment stated that these are cottonwoods and will be removed in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Holme commented that this project entails turning over part of the park to an institutional purpose for the next 10 years. This is a new direction for Parks. He is not objecting to this direction; however, he wants it recognized that it *is* a new direction. The Superintendent stated that before the use agreement is signed, it will come back to the Board of Park Commissioners for review.

Discussion briefly focused on work at the nearby Colman School parking lot and development of this area. Commissioner Holme asked if curbs/sidewalks will be added. Ms. Kliment answered that this cannot be paid for from project funds; however, she is talking with Washington State Department of Transportation to install curbing. In the final phase, there will be more opportunities for design work like this. Ms. Gallagher stated that the citizen group really loves this site, as it offers a variety of surfaces, with some flat surfaces and some more rugged surfaces that offer various levels of challenge for children with different capabilities. She stated that the RainKing community is very excited about the proposal. They are happy to have this project, as the wooded area of the park is a scary area and many residents are afraid to use the park. When the big cottonwood trees are removed, it will open up the area.

Commissioner Jackson remarked that this is a sloped area adjacent to a busy street and referred to the safety of children using this area. Ms. Gallagher stated that she is a proponent of fencing to help keep the children safely in the park. Commissioner Grist stated that she is not necessarily a proponent of fencing; however, she can understand the need for keeping children safely within a park.

Ms. Kliment commented that there is also a shortage of meeting space and renovating the shelterhouse is in the neighborhood plan. This renovation will give additional community meeting space.

Commissioner Holme has an underlying concern about "institutional creep". He hopes that whatever phases (if any) that follow phase 4 and that may require more space, the rest of the park will not become at risk of becoming institutional space. He urged the proponents to consider the needs far out into the future and be sure this is adequate space for the long term. Commissioner Grist commented that this project could be used as a prototype to build facilities in other parts of the city if there is an adequate demand and if there is funding.

Commissioner Holme asked if scheduled use at the playfield will be interrupted by the renovation. Ms. Kliment doesn't think so. She is working with Parks' ballfield scheduler, John Bates, on the project schedule to guard against interruptions. Superintendent Bounds commented that the Department has worked long and hard on this project to make

sure it can work. The Seattle Storm and Sonics basketball teams wanted to do a project in the Central Area and this site fit well. Commissioner Holme asked about funding. Ms. Kliment answered that the Neighborhood Matching Fund is paying for design of the park, and then all the development and programming will be paid for by donations. Parks Department is not paying for this project.

Commissioner Grist voiced concern about the timing of this briefing and felt this project should have come to the Board sooner. The project seems very developed for the Board to just be seeing it for the first time. She is happy with the direction of the project, but feels that it could have come to the Board sooner. Some discussion followed on the timeline of this project. The Superintendent stated that this was a citizen-driven idea and they came to the Department with the proposal. The original design would not work at Colman Playground, and consequently, the design was changed. Then Colman Playground was chosen as the site.

Commissioner Jackson asked if Parks has other use agreements similar to this proposed one. The Superintendent answered that Bar S Playfield (in West Seattle) is similar. Commissioner Holme asked if paid, non-city staff at a park is unusual. The Superintendent stated that having paid staffing at some of the indoor sites is not unusual.

The briefing concluded. The Chair commented that tonight the Board has heard the briefing and she reviewed the various concerns that the Board voiced. The use agreement will be brought back to the Board for review at a future meeting before it is signed by Parks.

Board of Park Commissioners’ Business

None

New/Old Business

- ❖ Commissioner Holme noted that a “built green” conference is scheduled for next Thursday and Friday.
- ❖ Commissioner Holme acknowledged the good partnership between Parks and Seattle Public Schools during the recent Washington State Youth Soccer Championship at Memorial Field.
- ❖ Superintendent Bounds noted that basketball championship games are scheduled at the community centers in April.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____