

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2006

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Terry Holme, Acting Chair
Jackie Ramels

Excused:

Debbie Jackson
Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Amit Ranade

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commissioner Holme called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Belbeck moved and Commissioner Collins seconded approval of the November 9 agenda, the October 26 minutes as corrected, and the Acknowledgment of Correspondence. The vote was taken and motion passed.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bounds reported on the following items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, please visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

St. Marks' Natural Area Cleanup: With the help of a Department of Corrections crew, Central East grounds staff cleaned up encampments at the St Mark's natural area on Capitol Hill and removed about 2,500 pounds of material.

Athletics Unit receives Award: On October 26, Seattle Academy honored Parks' Athletics with its "Building Our Future Award" for Parks' continued support of the Seattle Academy Athletic Program and other organizations in the city, and for the Department's role in building community.

Fall/Halloween Events: Parks community centers, pools, and environmental learning centers hosted nearly 40 great Halloween carnivals, festivals, and outings. Events were free or very low cost and everyone went home happy.

Weather-related Issues: Park Resource crews have recently spent much of their time on leaf control/drain issues due to record rain fall this week. There were no major slides or flooding on park property.

Green Seattle Day: November 4 was Green Seattle Day. This event, organized by the Green Seattle Partnership, is an alliance between Cascade Land Conservancy and the City of Seattle and dedicated to restoring the health of all 2,500 acres of the city's urban forested parks by 2025. Seattle Public Utilities' Creek Stewardship program organized a planting party along the wetlands of Piper's Creek in Carkeek Park as one of many Green Seattle volunteer events. About 20 volunteers planted over 400 native plants in less than three hours and no one seemed bothered by the rain. The volunteers were not alone; about 60 chum salmon made their way up Piper's Creek towards spawning grounds. For more information on Green Seattle, see <http://www.greenseattle.org/>.

Camp Long 65th Anniversary: Camp Long's 65th Anniversary celebration was a success due to the efforts of staff and volunteers. Duwamish Tribal Members opened and closed the ceremony, the Boy Scouts presented the colors (flag ceremony), and the Girl Scouts served refreshments. For more information on Camp Long in West Seattle, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Environment/camplong.htm>.

Seattle Sonics Van Asselt Outdoor Basketball Court Dedication: On a very wet Saturday in early November, the Sonics and Seattle Parks Department celebrated the opening of two new outdoor basketball courts located next to the new Van Asselt Community Center. A gathering of approximately 150 fans warmly greeted former Seattle Sonics legends, such as Lenny Wilkins, Gus Williams, Sam Perkins, Slick Watts, Xavier McDaniel, and many current Sonic players. Seattle Parks Teen Leaders brought over 40 youth to meet the Sonics players and legends. Until construction is completed on the new community center, the basketball courts will be open for public use on weekends only, Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. until dusk. For more information on Van Asselt Community Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/vanasseltcc.htm>.

Water Taxi: After an initial meeting with the County regarding establishing the Seacrest Park facility as a possible permanent dock site for the Elliott Bay Water Taxi, King County has notified Parks that it would like to move ahead and pursue this option. The Seacrest site has been used as a temporary site for the Water Taxi. If Parks agrees to the site becoming permanent, the County would have its consultant begin immediately developing preliminary design work for this facility, including estimating the related schedule and costs. Parks would work closely with the consultant to develop a plan to present at a February public meeting. The County is funding necessary repairs to keep the current Seacrest dock operational for the next few years. The property is owned by the City of Seattle and Department of Natural Resources. This issue will be brought back to the Board of Park Commissioners in February. For more information on the water taxi, see http://transit.metrokc.gov/tops/oto/water_taxi.html.

Commissioner Holme asked if divers who use the Seacrest area will be part of the discussion the Superintendent agreed that they will.

South Lake Union Wharf: The Carlyn, a sail-training and oceanographic science education schooner, has taken up winter residence at the South Lake Union wharf and will be providing free two-hour sails to the public every Sunday afternoon. This will add a significant large sailboat option for the free boat rides offered by Center for Wooden Boats, a long-standing, weekly public attraction at South Lake Union. For more information on South Lake Union, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/southlakeunionpark.htm>. For more information on the Center for Wooden Boats, see <http://www.cwb.org/>.

Fort Lawton Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Process: Parks staff are in the process of studying wildlife corridors and other sensitive lands at the Army Reserve base that could be added to Discovery Park. For more information on Discovery Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/southlakeunionpark.htm>.

Christmas Ship Open House: The Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center, with the help of the Boating Advisory Council, will host the Annual Christmas Ship™ Open House Event, on Tuesday, December 5. The Open House begins at 7:00 p.m. and the Christmas Ship™ is due to arrive at the Mt. Baker facility at Stan Sayres Park by 8:25 p.m. This event is a major fundraiser for the Mt. Baker facility, with profits from the raffle going towards the building expansion. For more on the Christmas Ship schedule, see <http://www.argosycruises.com/themecruises/xmasSchedule.cfm#schedule>.

Budget Update: Today City Council voted on the 2007-2008 budget. Cuts that affect the Parks Department include the park rangers for downtown parks, the 4th tree crew, and the additional painter to remove graffiti. For more information, see the City Council press release: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/newsdetail.asp?ID=6718&Dept=28>. Commissioner Collins asked if any votes on the budget were close enough that it would be helpful for the Board to write the Councilmembers. Superintendent Bounds commented that the votes were unanimous or nearly unanimous.

Occidental Park Update: Earlier today, a King County judge ruled that City officials didn't sufficiently analyze the environmental impacts of the recent renovation at Occidental Park. His two oral comments included that (1) the Hearing Examiner had no authority on removal of the pergola, and (2) in the Determination of Non-Significance, Parks did not consider the impact of the renovation on the remaining trees. The ruling will not have an impact on the park project.

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 testified.

Discussion/Recommendation: Central Waterfront Park Plan

At the Board's October 26 meeting, Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks' Manager of Major Projects & Planning, and David Graves, Seattle Parks' project planner, presented a briefing on the Central Waterfront Park Plan. The briefing was followed by a public hearing. To read the minutes from that meeting, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/10-26-06.pdf>. Tonight the Board plans to discuss the proposal and determine its next steps.

Discussion/Recommendation

On October 20, the Superintendent received a letter from City Councilmembers Conlin, Della, Rasmussen, and Steinbrueck requesting, in part, that the Board of Park Commissioners postpone its October 26 public hearing and recommendation to the Superintendent and give further study on the Central Waterfront Park Plan. The Board held the public hearing and asked if Parks staff have responded to the letter. The Superintendent stated that the letter hasn't yet been responded to — Park Board members will be sent a copy as soon as it is prepared. The Board has been briefed a number of times on this issue. He asked if Board members are ready to make a decision on the Plan and if not, staff will provide more information.

Mr. Stoops listed the dates of the various briefings the Board has heard and briefly reviewed the October 26 public hearing. He referred to questions the Councilmembers raised about the piers and whether the Department could do more to expand the waterfront habitat area. Commissioner Ramels asked if the Department has additional information to present to the Board since the October 26 briefing and public hearing and Mr. Stoops answered no. The Superintendent commented that the staff-preferred alternative is seawall neutral (regardless of what happens to the Viaduct.) Agencies that are affected if changes are made to the seawall include the Corp of Engineers, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Seattle Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Ramels commented that what she is hearing is that the Board is being asked to vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent on the options presented tonight and the Superintendent would then take a recommendation to the City Council. City Council would then decide whether or not to follow the Department's recommendation. The Superintendent agreed with her summary. Commissioner Ramels stated that she is ready to vote on the proposal presented by Parks staff; however, the political doings of City Council are unknown to the Board. **Commissioner Collins moved that, out of respect to City Council, the Board defer voting on the Central Waterfront Park Plan until the December 14 meeting, and that the Board receive a copy of the Superintendent's response to City Council's letter. Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken with three votes in favor. The Chair does not vote unless there is a tie. Motion carried.**

The Chair asked if the Board would like more information from Parks staff and the Commissioners answered no. The Chair asked how large the Seacrest Park area is [mentioned earlier in the evening under the Superintendent's report in conjunction with a permanent site for the Water Taxi.] Mr. Stoops answered that it is five acres of "uplands" or "wetlands". He described the tide pools and commented that the area has been re-nourished several times. The Chair asked about the timeline on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Mr. Stoops answered that the EIS is scheduled to be released in summer of 2007.

The Board thanked Mr. Stoops and Mr. Graves.

Discussion/Recommendation: Marra Farm Park

At the Board's October 26 meeting, David Goldberg, Seattle Parks' planner, presented a briefing on the Marra Farm Park project. The briefing was followed by a public hearing. Tonight the Board plans to discuss the proposal and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Discussion/Recommendation

The Superintendent commented that the Board was briefed on this project at the October 26 meeting, and a public hearing immediately followed. To read the briefing and summary of the public hearing, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/10-26-06.pdf>. He asked if the Board had any additional questions on the project. **Commissioner Belbeck moved the Board recommend adoption of the Long-term Development Plan as proposed by staff. Commissioner Collins seconded.**

Discussion: Commissioner Collins commented that this is a wonderful park and the plan sounds like a great community project. Mr. Goldberg referred to two well-attended community events held at the park: the fall festival and summer barbeque. He will send the dates of these events to the Commissioners.

The vote was taken with three votes in favor. Motion carried.

The Board thanked Mr. Goldberg.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Magnuson Park Campus Development

Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks' Enterprise Director, briefed the Board on the Magnuson Park Campus Development. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing; both are included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

No formal decision or action is being requested of the Board at this time.

Project Description and Background

In 2004, Parks, in conjunction with the Mayor's office and Department of Finance began a concerted effort to reexamine to what extent the City would go to retain and reuse the historic structures that were transferred from the Navy at Magnuson Park. Since that time several specific actions have been taken to resolve the future of the Sand Point Historic District buildings.

Staff provided a briefing to the Board on February 10, 2005, that outlined a series of steps Parks planned to take regarding the development of the Sand Point Historic District buildings at Magnuson Park. Staff provided a briefing to the Board on September 14, 2006 that outlined progress that has been made since February 2005. At that time staff presented an updated Strategic Development Plan 2006-2008 and a summary of the public outreach planned for (1) review of the Plan and (2) the various proposals Parks has received for development of the buildings.

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a summary of the public involvement process to date and address some of the issues being heard from the public comments. The Board is encouraged to visit <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/historicDistrict.htm> for more detailed information on this topic.

Status of Public Involvement Process

Parks engaged in a public outreach process over the past two months to gather input on the proposals, the potential long-term leases, and other aspects of the development proposed for Magnuson Park buildings.

At the end of September, flyers were mailed to more than 2,900 residences located in postal carrier routes adjacent to Magnuson Park informing them about upcoming meetings and the opportunity for public comment at meetings and in writing. The flyer told neighbors and interested persons where to access information on the parks website and where to call if the website was not accessible to them. This content of the flyer was included on a newly created Seattle Parks webpage, "Sand Point Historic District – Realizing the Vision" (<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/historicDistrict.htm>). Electronic copies of each development proposal and details about a proposed Land Use Code amendment are included in this page.

An eight-page brochure was created that gave background information about the park and the Sand Point Historic District. The brochure was handed out at the various public meetings and is available on the website. In addition, single page handouts were developed summarizing each proposal.

An open house was held on October 10th where citizens could meet development partners, see details of each proposal, ask questions, and take home informational flyers. More than 40 people attended. Parks staff also made presentations to the following community organizations:

- Magnuson Community Communications Committee (September 26);
- Northeast District Council (October 5);
- View Ridge Community Council (October 17); and
- Magnuson Park Community Center Advisory Council (October 19).

What We Have Heard

E-mails and comments at the open house and presentations reflect the following citizen concerns:

- Concerns about use of Building/Hangar 27 as a single use venue (indoor sports complex) versus retaining it for community exhibition space (roller skating performances, rummage/garage sales, etc.).
- Support for providing improved indoor sports facilities.
- Support for a tennis center layout consisting of six indoor courts and three outdoor courts.
- Concern about converting racquetball courts into theater dressing rooms in the Magnuson Community Center gymnasium.
- Concern about inclusion of commercial concessionaires (restaurants, recreation program management, etc.) in a public park.
- Concerns about specifics in proposed Land Use Code amendments, including: permitting electronic reader board signs along either Sand Point Way or NE 65th Street; permitting larger signs permitted on buildings; deleting limit on 200 housing units in the Lowrise 3 zone.
- Concerns about increased traffic and parking demand coupled with sports field development.

The Public Hearing before the Board is a key part of the public comment opportunity. The public has also been invited to comment in writing to the Board by postal mail through December 8, 2006, and by e-mail through December 13.

Budget

Budget issues with each proposal are still under discussion and review in the context of the proposals and the details of the lease negotiations.

Schedule

Fall 2006	Engage in public involvement program Complete negotiations with tenants and developers
2007	Council approval of agreements Complete related actions – zoning, shoreline permits Developers/tenants secure funding City begin renovation of building 27
2008/09	Complete building renovations Begin programs

Staff Recommendation

None at this time

Additional Information

Please feel free to contact Eric Friedli, 684-8369 if you have additional questions or comments.

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

Mr. Friedli reviewed information in the written briefing paper and referred to the previous briefings presented to the Park Board. He stated that tonight’s focus is to outline the public comments received by staff on the proposed campus development. The following proposals were received and are under consideration:

1. Civic Light Opera (501c3) proposes to develop and manage the theater in the Magnuson Community Center.
2. Arena Sports (limited liability corporation - LLC) proposes to develop an indoor recreation facility in Building 27.
3. Building 11 LLC (LLC) proposes a recreation-oriented, mixed-use development in Building 11.
4. Cascade Bicycle Club (501c4) proposes to develop the Northwest Center for Cycling in Building 18 (the old fire station.)
5. Seattle Sports Courts Unlimited (LLC) proposes tennis center development
6. Sand Point Arts and Cultural Exchange (non-profit) proposes artists’ studio development in Building 30.

Mr. Friedli referred to the City Council’s budget process, which has resulted in a fair amount of public input on development of Hangar 27. The Mayor’s proposed 2007-2008 budget included an allocation of \$7 million in debt financing that would be used for the renovation of Hangar 27, with requirements that the debt be repaid from revenues for use of the building (in this case, revenue from Arena Sports, which submitted the successful bid.) Staff are in discussions with Arena Sports and are still negotiating what level of capital investment would be paid by Arena Sports and what level by the City. The City will hold any expenditure of funds for Hangar 27 until the lease has been reviewed and the overall development plan has been finalized.

Mr. Friedli reviewed the public outreach process for this proposal. Staff mailed 5,100 flyers giving notice of tonight’s public hearing. A major issue in the correspondence received by staff has been the commercialization or privatization of parks. Two recurring themes are “keep public spaces public” and “maintain accessibility to park facilities.” The question of public accessibility is one of the key concerns that the Department and Mayor have as the proposals are being reviewed, and both agree that public access is one of the most important considerations.

Mr. Friedli next focused on aspects of public access the Board could consider in its discussion and recommendation to the Superintendent. Questions to consider about accessibility include: What does public access mean? Are fees charged? Who are events targeted at?

As a part of the public access discussion, Mr. Friedli reviewed the uses of Hangar 27 over the past two years. Arena Sports has proposed to develop an indoor recreation facility at this building. During the 730 calendar days in 2005 and 2006, staff found that:

- 76 days were used to host events open to the public. These included free, or no admission, events, such as the Lakeside Rummage Sale, the Arboretum Plant Sale, and Pasado Safe Haven Garage Sale fundraisers. It also included events that charged admission fees, such as the Best of the Northwest Craft Sale and the Rat City Roller Girls events. And it included specialized trade shows, such as blacksmiths. Most of these events were related to merchandising shows, with some supporting the fundraising efforts of non-profits and others supporting profit-making groups, such as the Northwest Trade Show and Northwest Craft Alliance.
- 164 days were used for setup, take down, and rehearsal in support of the events previously listed.
- 59 days were used for filming by commercial film crews.
- 150 days were used by two specialized groups: a martial arts training program and a model plane group. Although each group only has 10-15 members at the 100,000 sq. ft. hangar, from Parks' perspective, it results in use of the building.
- 224 days the hangar had miscellaneous uses. The Seattle Fire Department used it for training for 50 days, three sculpture/art productions used it for 123 days, etc.

These events generated \$175,000 in revenue over the past two years. Parks' staff have not yet completed analysis of the demographics of the public access or youth vs. adult access. The Board asked that a copy of this breakdown be forwarded to them.

The proposal to renovate the building into a multipurpose recreation facility has been challenged as inappropriate because it would become a single use sports facility no longer available to the public. A different perspective on public access is presented by the proposal from Arena Sports. It offers a range of soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, football, and other sports. Their programs serve a variety of ages, from young children to adults. They are open seven days a week and offer a drop in fun-zone program where adults can come in with their kids and use the fields. The cost is \$5 for 3-4 hours or \$25 for a 3-month pass. There is a non-restrictive annual membership fee of \$38 for an individual, \$79 for a family, and there is a \$5 one-day membership. They do offer scholarships.

While the other six proposals have not received as much attention or as many questions on their public access component as the Hangar 27 proposal, there are considerations on the public access elements:

- the tennis center would be a publicly-operated facility with a fee
- the artists' studios would be for specific artists; questions remain on how the public could access these studios (through studio tours, gallery space, etc.)
- the Northwest Center for Cycling would have public program space and include a coffee shop, bringing a commercial element, and
- Building 11 would retain the sailing programs and also expand into additional public programs, including a restaurant open to the public, also bringing a commercial element.

Mr. Friedli offered to arrange a tour of the buildings for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Collins stated it seems to him that for profits would charge more, which means less access to the needy. He asked how the City can loan money to an organization that will make a profit. The Superintendent answered that the City cannot do so. What it can do is invest in its own property and charge rent for the buildings. The City has not been successful in finding non-profits to lease Hangar 27. The City still owns the building, whether or not the leaser remains. In any negotiations with for-profit companies, there are public requirements that must be met.

Mr. Friedli talked about the for-profit's mission and stated that they are not only out to make a profit, but to also develop high quality programming; they do offer scholarships. Building 11 LLC formed specifically for

development of Building 11 because of the public mission the group wanted to achieve. Their plans are to be able to have some commercial development that would help subsidize some of the non-profits.

Commissioner Belbeck asked how the City currently sets golf course green fees. Mr. Friedli answered that City Council sets an acceptable range, and then the private operators set the green fees within that range. She asked if that type of arrangement can be made at Magnuson Park, as she has concerns that the rates would be high and the facility wouldn't be accessible. Could the City monitor the fees that would be charged? Mr. Friedli answered that this is a good question and staff can try to do this. It partially depends on how the bidders react and how Parks staff would manage the monitoring. This is another aspect of the public access discussion.

Superintendent Bounds commented that, in his view, a consideration is whether the commercialized uses are recreation or other uses that Parks, or its partners, would otherwise do. If so, it would be a legitimate park and recreation use. How it gets delivered, what the parameters is, how it is managed, etc., must be determined. Mr. Friedli referred to some of the uses now and gave this as an example: The Northwest Craft Sale charges a \$6 admission fee and the sellers inside are there to make profit. Is that accessible to the public; are the materials being sold accessible to the public? The Arboretum Plant Sale is another example. It is a non-profit, but when it sells plants at its sale, the goal is to make a profit. Commissioner Collins believes the end result is different between for profits and non profits. The proceeds from the Arboretum Plant Sale go to the Arboretum, a public property. The artists take their profit home with them.

Commissioner Belbeck asked the current expected life span of Hangar 27. Mr. Friedli commented that the roof has serious issues. A temporary patch was made a year or so ago, which cost \$75,000. There are also seismic and exiting issues. The Fire Department currently issues a special permit for every large event and it is unknown how long this permitting will continue if the problems are not addressed.

The Superintendent commented that City Council must address in its budget cycle how much public funds it will put into Hangar 27 and whether it will control how they will be used. As Mr. Friedli reported earlier, the City has gained revenues of only \$175,000 over the past two years for use of this 100,000 sq. ft. building. Repairs to the building, according to what is done, could cost either \$4 or \$7 million. To date, Parks has not received in its Capital Improvement Project budget either the \$4 or \$7 million needed to repair the building. Either the City must invest in the building, get a partner to invest in it, or tear the buildings down.

Commissioner Ramels listened to the recent City Council budget discussion regarding Hangar 27. While the Council spoke positively about having the building for the public to rent or use, there was no discussion on funding the needed improvements. Commissioner Ramels asked for more description of the proposals. Mr. Friedli commented that that information was included in the September 14 briefing packet.

Commissioner Holme asked if the City takes on the responsibility of repairing the building, what the cost would be. Mr. Friedli answered that it would cost \$7 million as a City project with full development. Superintendent Bounds added that it would cost \$4 million to repair it and manage it like it is currently managed (no added sports facilities, exercise rooms, etc.)

Commissioner Holme referred to written testimony requesting a walking track around the inside of Hangar 27 and asked if Arena Sports would agree to this. Mr. Friedli will discuss this with Arena Sports.

Commissioner Ramels referred to testimony from a Ms. Wong regarding her request for a swimming pool. Mr. Friedli will respond to her. Commissioner Ramels asked how many buildings are at Magnuson. Mr. Friedli answered there are 10 in the historic district, with five included in this discussion. Other buildings include:

- Bldg 2 – no proposal received
- Bldg 67 – already agreement with Mountaineers
- Bldg 406 – former Brig, no proposal
- Bldg 138 – gatehouse building that has non-profit tenants

Commissioner Belbeck referred to written testimony voicing concerns about plans to install an electronic reader board at 65th Street. Mr. Friedli stated that Parks would first do a signage plan. The proposed reader board would be similar to those at high schools. Citizens criticize the Department because they have no idea what is going on at this large park and there are many activities held there.

Public Hearing

The public hearing began at 7:00 pm. The Chair reminded speakers that their testimony is limited to three minutes and will be timed. Speakers are called in the order in which they signed in. 17 citizens testified, with a very brief summary of their comments included.

Julianna Ross: She is a member of SPACE, which has used Building 30 since 1994. Demand for artist space has been proven and Building 30 at Magnuson Park offers an opportunity for a permanent home for many artists. Artists are known to improve their space and are a low impact to the park.

Jonathan Edwards: He is the founder of Sail Sand Point and gave a history of this organization, which has a large number of members. Seattle Parks gave Sail Sand Point a trail period at Magnuson and today it is a comprehensive program serving many of Seattle's population. It is a 501c3 organization and kids are allowed membership for only \$1 per year. The U.S. Sailing organization awarded Sail Sand Point its Directors Award for the best new sailing venue in 2000. He urged continued support of this organization at Magnuson Park.

Jamie Stewart: He is a Board member and regular volunteer with Sail Sand Point and has donated 3-4,000 hours with the program. This successful program has been developed slowly and methodically and has 1,160 participants this year. There are 400 boats in the facility, which generates revenue to the City. Seattle Parks has been extremely supportive and encouraging to this program. He thanked Superintendent Bounds and Seattle Parks' staff for their exceptional assistance. He asked for continued support of this program at Magnuson Park.

Marie Johnson: She is a student at Lakeside High and also voiced support for continuing Sail Sand Point at Magnuson Park. She has been a member of the program for four years, has made many friends there, and she and a classmate are currently competing on the national sailing level. This program is a benefit to the greater Seattle community.

Bob Donegan: He represented Ivar's Seafood and described their program of providing food at Magnuson Park. Ivar's also owns Kidd Valley. Parks owns the building and Ivar's runs the restaurant. They have 25 years experience in operating their facility in the park and provide spotless restrooms to the public. In 2006, 60% of their pre-tax profit was donated to local community groups.

Bill Fuller: He is a Magnuson Park neighbor, on the Sail Sand Point board, and a building developer. These large former Navy buildings need millions of dollars to renovate/maintain them. The Mayor's idea was to solicit private developers to avoid mothballing the buildings. Mr. Fuller's building team eventually became the sole developer of Building 11. He briefly described their plan for the building and the potential mix of tenants, including Sail Sand Point. He urged the Board to support this effort.

Darrell Vange: He is the President of Ravenhurst and a member of the Building 11 team. He described the mix of the team members and stated that each is doing cutting edge and significant projects in other parts of the City. All are also users of Magnuson Park. He is on the Woodland Park Zoo Board and worked on efforts to secure the Zoo's current food service. Like this effort, the Zoo's food service is a private, for-profit effort that generates a large amount of revenue for the City. His team has the experience for this project and is very excited about it. There is a great potential for this unique combination of uses — office space, daycare, and vendors.

Spencer Perry: He is the General Manager of Arena Sports and gave a brief review of their operations. Their primary focus is youth programs. Thousands of kids participate, from 18 months to 18 years. Their programs

include camp, day classes, birthday parties, soccer leagues for youth, etc. They have many repeat customers and are very valued in the community. Their indoor facilities are highly used, especially when days are short.

Don Crowe: He is the Chief Executive Officer of Arena Sports, which has been located at Magnuson Park since 1999. He described the various sports and corporate and school events they hold. This program is not elitist and focuses on child development. Kids from Child Haven and the Special Olympics use the facilities for free. Arena Sports has two facilities in Redmond and this one in Seattle; and are open from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. More people attend their events that attend the Sonics, Seahawks, or Huskies games. Spectators may come in and watch the activities, free of charge. Arena Sports would like a permanent home at Magnuson Park and will maintain the restrooms, etc. It also provides tax dollars to the City. There are no other buildings in the city that can accommodate this program.

Jesse Miller: He is a member of Northwest Crafts Alliance. He gave figures on the number of people using different venues at Magnuson: Hangar 27 now has 40,000 people going in and out on an annual basis, while Arena Sports shows 6,000 people going in and out of its programs. On November 7, Seattle City Council sent a directive to the Parks Department to come up with a proposal to keep the buildings at Magnuson Park available to the public. Hangar 27 is in better condition than it was five years ago. He urged support of keeping the Crafts Alliance at Hangar 27.

Curtis Taylor: He is a film and theater artist and currently rents space at Building 11. The current real estate market makes it very difficult for artists to find space. He urged that Building 30 be designated for artists and craftspeople.

Nancy Watt: Lakeside Rummage Sale uses Building 27. This is an impressive annual 3-day event held every March, with 12-17,000 attendees and 600 volunteers. This event does a great job of recycling materials. Please allow continued use of this building for the rummage sale, as another site isn't available.

Vonnie Breiderstein: She also urged that Building 27 remain available to the Lakeside School Rummage Sale. \$175,000 is an amazing amount of funds to raise in a building with poor lighting, no restrooms, and a leaky roof! If improvements are made, the building could enjoy even more uses.

James Brown: He is the president of the Magnuson Community Center Board and they welcome the proposed changes. Please consider that space is tight and keep that in mind when leasing to tenants. The many events at Magnuson Park provide a unique draw for the Community Center, as there are always lots of events happening at Magnuson Park.

Jim Pridgreen: He is an artist with a day job and leases space in Building 11. It is a superb cultural city resource. Over the past 30 years, he has had 13 studios and is tired of moving. Most areas in Seattle have been gentrified and are too expensive for most artists. He has had 30 art shows, which generated revenue that he spent in Seattle. He wants to give money back to the City! Since he has been at Building 11 he has been able to do large art projects because of the large space.

Ron Reed: He has been a Wedgwood resident for 30 years and supports Sail Sand Point. He pointed out Stan Sayres Pits in the southeast area of Seattle and stated that Sail Sand Point is the only in the city on the north side of Lake Washington to rent boats.

Bob Scully: He is a retired engineer and Sail Sand Point makes his sailing possible, as the rentals are affordable and there is great safety training for rookie sailors. Sail Sand Point is a tremendous asset!

The public hearing concluded at 7:55 p.m. The audience was reminded that written testimony will be accepted through Wednesday, December 13.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Friedli for the briefing.

Briefing: Counterbalance Park

Patrick Donahue, Seattle Parks' project planner, gave a briefing on the Counterbalance Park project. The Board received both a verbal and written briefing; both are included in the minutes.

Written Briefing

Parks Board Action Required

This briefing is to provide the Board with information about the project; no action is requested.

Background

Counterbalance Park is located at the northeast corner of Roy Street and Queen Anne Avenue in Queen Anne's Uptown neighborhood. The .28 acre site is at the base of the former counterbalance trolley system that linked upper and lower Queen Anne Hill until the 1940s. The Queen Anne Neighborhood Plan (1998) requested that the City purchase and develop a neighborhood park for the Uptown Queen Anne neighborhood. The site was purchased in April 2004 for \$1.7 million with funding from the Pro Parks Levy and the King County Conservation Futures Tax.

Project Description

Counterbalance Park fulfills the Uptown Alliance community group's long-held dream of creating a park that will be an actively-used and intensively-programmed urban plaza, serving as a gateway to the Uptown neighborhood. The Alliance worked closely with Parks staff and the park's designer, Murase Associates, to ensure the Alliance's vision would be realized. The Alliance has committed to program the space throughout the year and has proposed a calendar of events that includes community festivals, farmers and craft markets, musical events, and sculpture exhibits.

The design features crushed granite surfacing in the center of the park that is both pervious and durable to withstand the intended heavy use; an art piece of interactive light walls (see attachment); and elegant park furnishings, including granite benches, a small bubbler water feature, game tables, and movable chairs. Please refer to attached design drawing.

In addition to the features mentioned above, the design calls for:

- **Plantings** - The schematic plan shows groupings of trees and low shrubs to create a green wall against the foundation walls of the existing buildings to the north and east. The placement and density of trees has been carefully designed to provide some filtered shade in the park, but to avoid the park from becoming too shady over time. In response to site security issues and to counteract undesirable urban activities in this new park, sight lines into the park will be open from adjacent streets.
- **Lighting** - The design features an art piece of interactive light walls. After dark, "washes" of light will illuminate the walls of the existing buildings to the north and east and the low wall in the park that will help define the park from the streets. The proposed LED lighting will be programmable so different colors of light can be featured for special events, holidays and changing seasons.

Public Involvement

Two public meetings were held to seek input on the park design during the summer of 2005. The second public meeting was held at the park site as part of a larger community event so attendees could experience the site firsthand. Following the two public meetings the project was put on hold to allow the community to raise additional funds to implement the project. With additional funds now in hand, the design is ready to move forward. The 3rd and final public meeting presenting this design is scheduled for November 15 at 6:00 PM.

Issues

There currently are no issues concerning this project. The Uptown Alliance has been instrumental in getting the Queen Anne community directly involved in the public process for the park design. The design has been enthusiastically supported by the community.

Funding

The Uptown Alliance is committed to an ambitious fundraising plan that will allow the construction of a park that is vibrant, unique, and attractive. The Seattle Parks Foundation has assisted the community in fundraising. The City expects to fund the project with Pro Parks Levy, Neighborhood Matching Fund, and community-raised funds as follows:

Seattle Pro Park's Levy funding:	\$304,000
Lead gift from Shah Safari, Inc.:	225,000
City of Seattle, Neighborhood Matching Fund grant:	100,000
King County funding:	50,000
Grant from Miller Foundation for horticultural materials:	45,000
The Norcliffe Foundation grant:	20,000
Safeco Insurance community grant:	10,000
Individual contributions:	30,500
Business and Corporations:	30,500
Total funding received to date:	\$815,000

An additional \$200,000 is being requested for the project through the City budget process for 2007-08.

Timeline

This project is currently proceeding from schematic design into design development and then into construction documents. The project schedule shows the project being publicly bid in the 2nd quarter of 2007, with completion by the end of 2007.

Park Board Action Required

None

Verbal Briefing

Mr. Donahue introduced Jean Sundborg, Uptown Alliance fundraising chair, and he reviewed information in the written briefing paper. Commissioner Ramels asked for additional information on the Uptown Alliance and how the programming element would work. Mr. Donahue described the group as a 50-member neighborhood stewardship working in concert with the Queen Anne Community Council and neighborhood planners. The Alliance is a 501c4 group and has a board. Uptown Alliance will get permits from Seattle Parks for the programming. Commissioner Ramels asked about Shaw Safari, referred to in the written briefing under "Funding." Ms. Sundborg answered that the owner of Shaw Safari is a clothing merchant who donated \$255,000 to this project.

Commissioner Belbeck asked if the lighting will impact the nearby condominiums. Mr. Donahue answered that the lights will be at tree level and that the condo association has also pledged donations to the project. Commissioner Belbeck asked if the site for the park, formerly a gas station, has been remediated and Mr. Donahue answered yes, and that no further remediation is needed.

Commissioner Collins commented that this is a great project, with an elegant design. He is very fond of these diverse neighborhood projects that come before the Board. Mr. Donahue commented that neighbors of the park are very supportive of this project.

Commissioner Collins stated that, although there is no controversy about this project and the Board is not being asked for any action, he thought the Board should show its support. He moved that the Board of Park Commissioners endorse this elegant proposal. Commissioner Belbeck seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Mr. Donahue and Ms. Sundborg for the briefing.

Board Discussion

Briefing: Citywide Skatepark Plan

Susanne Friedman, Seattle Parks' project manager, presented a briefing on the draft list of sites for the Citywide Skatepark Plan. The Board also received the following attachments, which are not included in these minutes: map of proposed site locations; Detailed Sector Site pages of Southwest sector, Southeast sector, Central sector, Northwest sector, and Northeast sector; and Evaluation Sheets for Golden Gardens – skatespot, Judkins Park – skatespot, and Myrtle Reservoir – district.

At its December 14 meeting, the Board will hear a briefing of the Plan, immediately followed by a public hearing. At its January 11 meeting, the Board plans to discuss the plan and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent. Ms. Friedman presented both a written and verbal briefing.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

In response to the request from the Board at the June 22 meeting, this is an interim briefing on the status of the Citywide Skatepark planning process and Task Force proposed draft site locations. A briefing, staff recommendation, and public hearing on the final site locations is scheduled for December 14, 2006. The Board is scheduled to make a recommendation on the proposed final site locations on January 11, 2007.

Purpose for this phase of the project

1. To discuss citizen, Parks, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), and Port of Seattle (Port) nominated sites that were evaluated through the revised framework of assumptions and site criteria.
2. To review the Task Force's (TF) draft list of potential sites with the public through a series of citywide public meetings and additional outreach to neighborhoods.

Project History

Parks and the Task Force held an initial round of citywide public meetings and an open house in mid June 2006. The TF presented their draft typology and site selection criteria to the public and asked citizens to nominate potential site locations. A total of 130 sites were nominated during that process for possible consideration as future skateboard facilities.

1. What the Task Force heard from the first round of public meetings was:
 - The majority of participants support skateparks,
 - The TF should also consider skateboard facilities in future park sites,
 - Expressions of the demand and need for skateboard facilities because there are so few,
 - Expressions of doubt about the need for such facilities,
 - Concern about losing passive open space.
2. The TF responded to the question of need by:
 - Emphasizing that the plan is to "seek to distribute facilities equitably throughout the city," in keeping with Parks' existing Skateboard Policy,
 - Emphasizing that this is a 20 plus year plan and that facilities could be implemented incrementally over time depending on need.
3. The TF responded to concerns over the potential loss of open space by adjusting the Framework of Assumptions to include:
 - Emphasis will be given to sites that are 'gray-to-gray,' e.g. asphalt or where other paving materials currently exist,

- Proposed skateparks will not be sited in designated environmentally critical areas, natural areas, or designated greenbelts.
4. The TF also amended the Framework of Assumptions to say that proposed sites will not:
- Interrupt planning projects underway or infringe upon recently completed projects, e.g. Pro Parks Levy and Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) projects,
 - Be sited on private property.

Evaluation of Sites

The TF reviewed their siting criteria and prioritized each criterion per typology. They then calculated a weight, based upon the TF's priorities, for each criterion. (Please see attached rating sheets for examples).

Typology synopsis:

- Skatedots – Integrated Skateable Terrain. Small skateable elements in areas that are currently skated. Average size is approximately 20 square feet.
- Skatespots – Similar in size to a single tennis court, but can range from 1,500 – 10,000 square feet. Because of the small size of these facilities, they can usually accommodate only one user group level. The Ballard Bowl, in Ballard Commons Park is a skatespot.
- District - Similar in size to a double tennis court, but can range from 10,000 – 30,000 square feet, and can accommodate a wide variety of user groups. Lower Woodland is a district sized facility.
- Regional – Similar in size to a little league field. its size would be greater than 30,000 square feet and could accommodate 50-300 users at one time.

During the months of July and August, the Task Force filtered all of the 130 nominated sites through the revised Framework of Assumptions. Some were eliminated after application of the Framework of Assumptions, so were not candidates for the site criteria screening. For example, Schmitz Park was eliminated upon the application of the framework because it is a designated natural area. Similar scenarios applied to sites such as Salty's (private property) and Greenwood Park (newly completed Pro Parks Levy project).

Sites that were not filtered out by the Framework of Assumptions were then analyzed per the various site criteria sheets. During the June public process, some sites were nominated as "Regional" facilities or as "District" facilities. Some were nominated with no designation. During site visits, the consultant and TF representative used their discretion to decide under which typology a site should be evaluated. For example, Northgate Park-N-Ride Lot and SDOT's Interurban Trail were nominated as potential "Regional" facilities. Neither site qualified as a "Regional" facility given the siting criteria. However, given the amount of room at the Northgate site, the TF decided that a district level or smaller facility could possibly be accommodated, so it was ranked under the "District" site criteria. The Interurban Trail site was determined to have very limited capacity and was evaluated under the "Skatedot" site criteria.

Reservoir sites were analyzed under the "District" criteria because they are currently unplanned, large sites with the capacity for a variety of park amenities to be incorporated in a final site design. All sites were evaluated at their capacity level, but would qualify as a smaller facility if the community so desires.

After all the sites had been analyzed, the TF scored them per the priority weighting they had developed. This action was to employ a methodology that would result in numerical ratings for each site. The highest scoring 30 sites formed the basis of the potential site candidates and what was presented for discussion at the second round of citywide public meetings held in October 2006.

Public Process

The Task Force held three public meetings in early October 2006 (North, South, and West) to garner public input on the draft proposed site locations. Outreach for these meetings entailed flier distribution to zip-code carrier routes surrounding all 30 proposed sites, along with distribution of fliers to all Community Centers, Libraries, Neighborhood Service Centers, interest groups, and anyone who was interested. Parks distributed 50,000 fliers and posted signs at all Parks, School District and SDOT properties. Multi-lingual signs were also posted at key locations. There was also extensive media coverage.

Before the October meetings, TF members attended and briefed all 13 district councils and other neighborhood organizations upon request. Parks staff briefed Department of Neighborhoods District Coordinators, Seattle School District, and Parks management as well.

Over 250 citizens signed in at the three meetings, and Parks received about 300 additional e-mails, letters, and phone calls giving input on proposed site locations. The Task Force is meeting on October 26th to discuss the draft site list. Any changes or modifications to the list will be presented orally during the Park Board briefing up date.

Synopsis of Public Input on Proposed Sites from the October Public Meetings

Please refer to the following attachment for visual references: Proposed Locations Map,

ALKI BEACH (skatedot)

- General support, though there is some concern about potential path user conflicts.

BRIGHTON PLAYFIELD (skatespot)

- Limited comments are not in support.

(Additional information – A Pro Parks Levy project is scheduled in 2007/2008 to develop a science park in conjunction with the middle school. Skateboard elements could embrace physics components.)

COWEN PARK (skatespot)

- There is strong opposition to a facility at Cowen Park. Most concerns center around design issues, perception of facilities being unsafe, and attracting undesirable behavior. Most comments also convey support for the proposed site under the freeway at 65th and Roosevelt being planned by 4Culture.

DELRIDGE PLAYFIELD (skatespot)

- There is strong support.

DENNY MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX (skatespot)

- There is strong support.

EASTLAKE & ALLISON (skatedot)

- Comments are limited, but mostly supportive. There is some concern for the safety of skateboarders due to location and noise levels.

FAIRMOUNT PARK PLAYGROUND (skatespot)

- We received no comments.

GARFIELD-MEDGAR EVERS POOL (skatedot)

- Comments are very supportive of a skatespot or skatedot, either on the roof of the pool or adjacent to the Community Center.

(Additional information – There are engineering challenges to modifying the pool rooftop)

GAS WORKS PARK (skatedot)

- There is general support. Friends of Gasworks Park expressed opposition to a structure at the play area. They are supportive of skateboarding in general, however.

GENESEE (district)

- There is mixed support and concern - Community opposition focused mostly on design issues, potential lighting, and the perception that skateparks attract undesirable behavior.
- There are several very supportive letters and phone calls. Tweaking the proposed site location seems to be desirable.

HIAWATHA PLAYFIELD (skatespot)

- There is general support for site with limited concern.
- The Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks conditionally supports this site.

HIGH POINT PLAYFIELD (district)

- There is some limited concern from adjacent residences and general support from neighbors who do not want a skate facility located at Myrtle Reservoir, two blocks away.

JOHN C. LITTLE PARK (skatespot)

- We received no comments.

JUDKINS PARK (skatespot)

- There is solid community support for a facility at Judkins Park (Sam Smith Overlook). The community is excited about working together to determine the best location and to create a design reflective of the desires of the community.

LAKE CITY PLAYGROUND (skatespot)

- Comments are generally in opposition to a skatespot at Lake City Playground. Other locations were suggested: next to QFC at N. 127th, and at the intersection of N 130th and N. 1st.

(Additional information - The North neighborhood plan includes the following: *2E-16 Develop a family-oriented skateboard park, modeled after the one in Ellensburg, near the Civic Core*. The City's response was that this activity will be considered as part of the sector work programs in the future as opportunities arise.)

MAGNOLIA (skatedot)

- There is strong support from the neighborhood and Magnolia Advisory Council. The council is already fund raising.

MAPLE LEAF RESERVOIR (district)

- There is general opposition from neighbors directly adjacent to the reservoir. Community response centers mainly on design issues. Citizens are concerned about the parking, lighting, and noise that a skate facility might generate.

(Additional information - Skateparks will be considered in future planning and design for park development at sites that are not currently park property as plans for such sites are developed through public input.)

MILLER PLAYFIELD (skatespot)

- We received two comments: one positive, one negative.

MYRTLE EDWARDS PARK (skatedot)

- There are very few comments and general support, although there is some concern for potential path user conflicts.

MYRTLE RESERVOIR (district)

- There is strong opposition from neighbors directly adjacent to the reservoir. Most concerns center around design issues and perceptions of facilities as unsafe and attracting undesirable behavior. Citizens are concerned about parking, lighting, and noise that a skate facility might generate. Most letters and e-mails suggest placing a facility at High Point Community Center instead.
- We received several supportive e-mails and phone calls.

(Additional information – There is Pro Parks Levy funding for site planning and design to commence in 2007/2008. Skateparks will be considered in future planning and design for park development at sites that are not currently park property as plans for such sites are developed through public input.)

NORTHGATE PARK N RIDE LOT (district)

- Most comments support the site; however, there is a group that is opposed to locating a skate facility of any size on the site. Those opposed would like passive green space.
- Those in support feel that the desire for green space and the desire for a skate facility can be accommodated by park design.

(Additional Information - The Northgate Neighborhood Plan includes the following recommendation: *I.G. 12.1 C. Active Park – on the existing Metro Park-and-Ride lot at Fifth Avenue NE*. The City's response was: The City is exploring purchase of King County's 5th Avenue NE Park & Ride Lot for development of a park and possibly community facilities. Skateparks will be considered in future planning and design for park development at sites that are not currently park property as plans for such sites are developed through public input.)

PRATT PARK (skatespot)

- We received no public comments. However, there is strong neighborhood association support and Parks staff and TF members have met with community representatives on siting and design ideas.

RAINIER BEACH PLAYFIELD (district)

- We received no public comments.

ROOSEVELT RESERVOIR (district)

- Comments were limited and are split between positive and negative. Most concerns center around design and parking issues.

(Additional information - Skateparks will be considered in future planning and design for park development at sites that are not currently park property as plans for such sites are developed through public input.)

ROXHILL PARK (skatespot)

- All comments are supportive.

SANDEL PLAYGROUND (skatedot)

- There is limited public comment not supportive of site, concern for potential path user conflicts.
- There is limited positive input for a skatespot instead of a skatedot designation.

SDOT INTERURBAN TRAIL (skatedot)

- There is strong community support at this site.

WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK (regional)

- Comments are limited, but primarily positive. A few stated concern that the regional facility should be located toward the center of town for easier access.

WEST SEATTLE STADIUM (district)

- There is widespread support for this site and there were no opposing comments.

WEST SEATTLE RESERVOIR at WESTCREST PARK (district)

- There is only one comment, which expressed concern that the site is not very accessible.

(Additional information - Skateparks will be considered in future planning and design for park development at sites that are not currently park property as plans for such sites are developed through public input.)

Project Schedule

PELL Committee – 12/6/06 – review draft report and recommended site locations

Park Board Briefing/Public Hearing – 12/14/06

Park Board Recommendations – 1/11/07

(Consultant to prepare Final Report between 1/11/07 and 1/31/07)

Submit plan proposal to Full Council by 1/31/07, per resolution.

Budget

\$100,000 appropriated by City Council, February 2006, for the planning analysis.

Staff Recommendations

No recommendations at this time. Staff recommendations will be made at the December 14 Park Board briefing.

Additional Information

For additional information, please contact Susanne Friedman, Parks Project Planner, at (206) 684-0902, or susanne.friedman@seattle.gov. Project information can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/Skatepark.htm>

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

Ms. Friedman displayed a number of site maps and reviewed information in the written briefing. Commissioner Holme observed that this plan addresses current top priorities for skateparks and other locations, with some possibly 20 years or more into the future. Ms. Friedman stated that the four current skateparks in Seattle are located at Ballard Bowl (a skatespot); Innerspace (a private, district size facility); Seattle Center (skatespot); and at Marginal Way (a skate spot and skatedot.) Skatepark sites in progress are a district size facility at Lower Woodland Park, a skatespot at Dahl Playfield; a small district site at Jefferson Park; and a district site at Sea Mar (Riverside.)

Commissioner Collins noted that four district size skating facilities are located south of the ship canal and only one to the north. Ms. Friedman answered that the site at Northgate Park and Ride and at the reservoirs could also be district size. The site at Magnuson would be the only regional site.

Commissioner Belbeck asked if the Elliott Avenue site is off the table. The Superintendent answered that it is off the table as a replacement for the skatespot at Seattle Center, which is to be torn down. Ms. Friedman commented that the Elliott Avenue site was evaluated but did not make the list.

Commissioner Collins referred to e-mailed testimony to the Board that referred to the skateboarders as “unsavory.” He wondered why this sentiment wasn’t included in the comments compiled by staff. Ms. Friedman answered that it may have come from someone who didn’t attend a public meeting. The Task Force has been doing a good job at those meetings to explain skateboarding. She commented that the skaters who support the Myrtle Reservoir site, for example, include an attorney, an engineer, and a Microsoft employee.

Several citizens had concerns about the proposed skate site at Genesee Playfield and potential conflicts with the neighborhood planning process. The Superintendent will have Parks staff investigate this.

Commissioner Collins commented that when the Board held a public hearing on the Lower Woodland skate site, it appeared to him that there was a class struggle involved. Commissioners aren't receiving that type of testimony on the Citywide Skatepark Plan.

Commissioner Ramels attended the West Seattle public meeting and noted that there were a lot of skaters there. She wondered if people with opposing views to the skaters might be intimidated to voice their opinion. She also believes that it isn't common knowledge in the West Seattle area that the Alki site is being considered. Ms. Friedman answered that 50,000 fliers were distributed regarding the public meetings, all District Councils and Community Councils were briefed, and information was posted at the parks. Commissioner Collins commented that when the digging begins for a project is often when neighbors become aware of a project and voice their concerns.

Commissioner Belbeck asked if Seattle School District had comments on this list and Ms. Friedman answered that several school sites were nominated and evaluated. The Task Force will continue its dialogue with the School District. Commissioner Belbeck asked if the concrete needed for a skate site on the reservoirs would be heavy. Ms. Friedman answered that it would and the lids have a load limit. However, the skate sites would be a linear, flat surface and not a deep bowl. The Taskforce would work with Seattle Public Utilities on the weight limits.

Commissioner Holme had several comments:

- He asked about some of the methodology used and wondered about designating reservoirs as “gray to gray.” Ms. Friedman answered that if the site is currently not Parks property (reservoirs are owned by Seattle Public Utilities,) then Parks isn't losing open space. Commissioner Holme found it difficult to agree with this reasoning and suggested this be eliminated as part of any argument for a skate site.
- He commented that the matrix was confusing to him and Ms. Friedman clarified the difference between the spot, dot, etc.
- He noted that the Pratt and Judkins sites are located very close together. Ms. Friedman stated that both communities have very strong support for a skate area, so the Task Force left both on the list.
- He recommended that the greenbelt at the West Seattle Stadium site be avoided as a possible skate site. Ms. Friedman answered that a large lot near the stadium now used for construction staging and another area to the west of that are the sites being considered. There are good public transportation facilities to this site.
- He noted that Genesee Playfield is a previous landfill and the proposed site is in the lowest part of the park. He wondered if there wouldn't be standing water at the skate site. Ms. Friedman answered that the Taskforce is agreeable to a different skate site at this park. He asked Ms. Friedman to point out where Genesee Park and Genesee Playfield are located. She pointed out the two and also several possible skate sites.
- He commented that the other citywide subject that he has been involved in as a volunteer that most resembles this process is the Joint Athletic Field Development Plan (JAFDP.) That process had a great deal of public interest.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the Citywide Skatepark Plan at its December 14 meeting. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Friedman for the briefing.

New/Old Business

Committee Reports: Commissioners held a brief discussion on the need to give regular reports from the committees they volunteered to serve on. Recent meeting agendas have been very busy, with little time for these reports.

December 14 Agenda: Commissioners requested that the December 14 agenda be prepared earlier and sent to Commissioners. The agenda is expected to be very busy and Commissioners agreed to stay closely focused on the agenda items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____