



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2006

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

Angela Belbeck
Jack Collins
Terry Holme
Debbie Jackson
Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Jackie Ramels

Excused:

Amit Ranade

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Ken Bounds, Superintendent
B.J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

[This meeting was held at Town Hall in downtown Seattle to accommodate the expected number of people testifying on the Citywide Skatepark Plan. An unexpectedly heavy rainstorm occurred just before the meeting and a major windstorm was forecast for later in the evening, which kept attendees at a lower number than originally expected.] Commissioner Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. **Commissioner Holme moved and Commissioner Ramels seconded approval of the December 14 agenda and the November 9 minutes, as presented. The vote was taken and motion passed.**

Commissioner Holme commented that he appreciates the accuracy and thoroughness of the minutes and complimented the Coordinator for an incredible job.

The Chair expressed regrets to the Superintendent's recent announcement that he will retire at the end of February 2007.

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/>.

Intern Program: Seattle Parks is developing partnerships with many organizations to create internship experiences for teens, including the Austin Foundation, Common Cents, Parks Athletics, Washington Asian Pacific Islander Families Against Substance Abuse (WAPIFASA), Seattle Young People's Project, 911 Media, The Urban League of Seattle, and others. Parks staff will brief the Park Board on this exciting partnership.

Aquarium Rated as Five-star Facility: The King County Toxics Program taskforce visited the Aquarium last week for its periodic review of our handling of toxic chemicals. The Aquarium will continue being rated as a "5-star" facility for its environmentally sound practices. For more information on the Aquarium, see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/>.

Sad News: Longtime Parks employee Terrence Irvis passed away from an illness a few weeks ago, with a memorial service on December 7. Terrence joined Parks and Recreation as an Intermittent Lifeguard in 1982, and became permanent in 1985. He was promoted to Senior Lifeguard in 1990 and to Aquatic Center Coordinator in 1994, working at several pools. The Superintendent attended the service and the sanctuary was standing room only. Terrence touched many people through his swim lessons, lifeguarding, and simply being there for people. He was an exemplary public employee.

Marketing News: The targeted marketing program that began on August 1, with the assistance of consultants, is being implemented. Our Enterprise Division has developed a targeted marketing program in four areas: 1) A flier sent to new Seattle residents; 2) a wedding brochure; 3) a facility rental brochure targeted at smaller businesses and organizations; and 4) a web search advertising module to maximize the number of times the Parks site is selected in web searches by outside parties.

Christmas Ship Returns: The annual Christmas Ship program has begun. Park Resources crews staffed large bon fires at Mt. Baker Beach, Stan Sayres boat ramp, and Ferdinand point along Lake Washington Boulevard. Hundreds of citizens attended. Earlier this week, the Christmas Ship visit to Carkeek Park was cancelled due to high winds.

Grant for Rainier/Rainier Beach CCs: The Stuart Foundation has awarded a grant of \$175,000 to the TechNet Program at Rainier and Rainier Beach community centers for 2007-2008. In addition to the funding at these two sites, the money will also cover a pilot project in 2007 for high school youth that focuses on technology and digital graphic arts. For more information on the Stuart Foundation, see <http://www.stuartfoundation.org/>. For more information on Rainier and Rainier Beach Community Centers, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/rainiercc.htm> and <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/rainierbeach.htm>.

Carkeek Park; December 10 marked the end of the month-long salmon steward season at Carkeek Park. Salmon stewards are trained volunteers who provide information to the visiting public on weekends at Piper's Creek about salmon-related topics. This year, the stewards had some help from NOAA research scientists working in the creek monitoring pre-spawn mortality of salmon. The scientists took time to talk with the public, at times showing visitors salmon eggs or a chum carcass while explaining the salmonid life cycle. The final numbers of this year's run are still being tallied, however, the expectation is for a better-than-average year. For more information on Carkeek Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/Carkeek.htm>.

The Powell Barnett Extreme Makeover Project: This project received the United States Conference of Mayors Outstanding Achievement Award. Parks and Starbuck's will receive the award at the January 25 Conference in Washington, D.C. For more information on Powell Barnett Park, see

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/powellbarnett.htm>. For more information on the role Starbucks played in this project, see http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/parks_partnerInvolvement.asp.

New Park Acquisition: Parks has reached agreement with the Trust for Public Land for the purchase of a 5,460 sq. ft. property on Lakeview Boulevard East, across from I-5 Colonnade, near the East Blaine Street public stairway. Acquisition of this property will improve the pedestrian connections, extend wildlife habitat, and enhance the wooded buffer along the public stairway. The acquisition is paid for by the Pro Parks Levy.

Magnuson Wetlands and Athletic Fields Project: The City Council approved a provision to begin Phase II of this project and Parks recently held a demolition event at the old Navy Commissary (Building 193) to mark the beginning of the Magnuson Wetlands & Athletic Fields project. This portion of the project will create 23 acres of wetlands, eight acres of trails and other open space, and 11 acres of new sports fields. The project is expected to be complete in fall 2008. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/default.htm>.

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. One person testified.

Jim McIntosh: He is a member of the Friends of Discovery Park and believes it to be one of the greatest parks on the West Coast. The 20-acre military property in the middle of Discovery Park, known as Fort Lawton military base, is now part of a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC.) Friends of Discovery Park urge that this property be given to the City of Seattle to be used as additional open space.

Discussion/Recommendation: Magnuson Park Campus Development

Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks' Enterprise Division Director, briefed the Park Board at its November 9 meeting. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. Minutes of that meeting are available at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/11-09-06.pdf>. On December 12, Mr. Friedli sent the Board a draft decision agenda to assist in their discussion and recommendation. This information was also posted to the Department's web page several days before tonight's meeting and is included below, with the Board's discussion and vote, *in italics*, after each of the six recommendations.

The Chair stated that the Park Board has received 502 written testimonies on this topic, including 347 in favor of an indoor tennis center. She thanked all those who took the time to submit testimony.

Written Briefing and Vote

Requested Board Action

The Department is asking the Commissioners for their thoughts and recommendations on the results of the request for proposals process for the buildings in the Sand Point Historic District and other proposals.

Project Description and Background

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 and November 9, 2006 outlining progress made since February 2005 and identified six specific proposals we have received for the development of facilities and programs in the Building at Magnuson Park. Numerous citizens spoke at the September 14 Board meeting and the Board held a formal public hearing on November 9, 2006. The Board has been accepting written comments since late September.

Recommendations and Draft Decision Agenda

Following is a summary of the six proposals under consideration. The staff recommendation is that we proceed with negotiations for implementation of all six proposals with certain conditions.

Civic Light Opera (CLO) proposes to develop and manage the theater in the Magnuson Community Center. Parks has begun negotiations on a long-term lease under which CLO would invest \$3.5 – 5 million over a 10-year period to create a state-of-the-art, live-performance theater. They intend to fund-raise for the complete amount of capital investment and phase the improvements. They would receive a 30-year agreement to use and manage the theater. No City funds would be used for the capital improvements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue with negotiations.
- Through the negotiations limit the amount of time for CLO’s exclusive use of the theater.
- Retain some reasonable use of the theater for Parks programming

ALTERNATIVE:

- As there were no other responses to the request for proposals, parks staff continue to operate the theater in its current condition.
- CLO may or may not continue to perform at the Magnuson Community Center.

Board discussion and vote: Commissioner Jackson asked if the racquetball courts would be lost due to awarding the lease to CLO. Mr. Friedli answered that, the CLO proposal is to increase space and include a costume shop. The racquetball courts would need to be moved, most likely to the pool area.

Commissioner Ramels commented that no other groups have stepped forward and there are no other alternatives. Commissioner Holme asked if CLO receives exclusive use of the theater, will the agreement come back before the Park Board. Mr. Friedli answered no, that the Superintendent and City Council would approve any long-term agreements.

Commissioner Ramels moved to accept recommendation as presented. Commissioner Belbeck seconded. Commissioner Holme made a friendly amendment, which was accepted by Commissioner Ramels, to encourage the effort to save the racquetball court. The vote was taken and was unanimous. Motion carried.

Art Studios. The non-profit organization Sand Point Arts and Cultural Exchange (SPACE) has developed a proposal for artists’ studios in the 21,000 square foot west wing of Building 30. SPACE is working with a coalition of artists to secure commitment from future tenants and outline a financing and management plan. The inclusion of artist’s studios would maintain the balance between arts and recreation envisioned for Magnuson Park.

This wing is currently vacant and had been tentatively slated for development into a branch library. The Library Board and the Citizen’s Implementation Review Panel have both voted to recommend to the City Council not to proceed with a Sand Point Branch Library.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Work with SPACE to develop a complete business plan for operation of the art studios
- Include space for public art gallery
- Studios’ space should include a mix of short-term and longer-term art studio rentals
- Attention should be given to public access to the artists through gallery walks and classes.

ALTERNATIVE:

- The west wing of building 30 would remain vacant. An alternative plan would be developed for its renovation and use at some point in the future.
- As there is no readily available alternative location at Magnuson Park for development of artists studios. The existing studios will likely be renovated for other uses or demolished within 3-5 years.

Board Discussion and Recommendation: Commissioner Ramels voiced concern that attention be paid to public access through art walks, etc., and not be closed to the public.

Commissioner Holme moved approval of the staff recommendation and Commissioner Jackson seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous. Motion carried.

Cascade Bicycle Club proposes to develop the Northwest Center for Cycling in Building 18. Their proposal is to develop a facility that would house their offices as well as the offices of other bicycle-oriented organizations. It would also house a small coffee shop and areas for classes, bike repair facility, and training center for top-level cyclists. Cascade Bicycle Club has agreed to engage in a fundraising feasibility study to assess how much capital money they can raise to support the Center.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Develop an agreement with Cascade Bicycle Club that sets the parameters of a long term lease agreement to facilitate their fundraising feasibility study.
- Integrate programs in bike repair facility and training center with programs in the Magnuson Community Center

ALTERNATIVE:

- As there were no other responses to the request for proposals for this building, it will remain mothballed. Due to its deteriorated condition and visibility in the Park, plans would quickly be developed for its demolition.
- Cascade Bicycle Club will retain their current offices in Building 138 or move to Building 11 depending on its development future.

Board discussion and recommendation: Commissioner Pflaumer asked when the fundraising feasibility study would begin and Mr. Friedli answered during the first half of next year. Commissioner Holme stressed that the timeline is very important. He urged staff to set a realistic calendar and stick to it.

Commissioner Holme moved approval of the staff recommendation and Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

Tennis Center. No proposals were received for the full development of the \$11 million tennis center as proposed by the Sand Point Tennis Center committee. Subsequent to the completion of the RFP process a proposal was submitted by Seattle Sports Courts Unlimited outlining a scaled back approach to developing 6 indoor tennis courts in an air-supported structure (bubble) and approximately four outdoor tennis courts. They would finance the construction and operations and management of the facility through private financing and user fees.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Begin lease negotiations on a long term lease agreement with Seattle Sports Courts Unlimited.
- Maintain user fees for the facility comparable to the Amy Yee Tennis Center.
- Ensure public access.
- Parking that would be displaced by the courts should be replaced as part of the project.
- Aesthetics of the air-supported structure need to be thoroughly vetted with the community.

ALTERNATIVE

- No tennis center would be developed. The site would remain vacant.

Board discussion and recommendation: Mr. Friedli stated that this is a scaled-down plan and that Parks staff have heard concerns about user fees and public access. Commissioner Belbeck asked how the Amy Yee tennis center was funded. Superintendent Bounds answered that it was funded by Forward Thrust and Councilmanic Bond. Commissioner Belbeck asked if there is an opportunity to finance an indoor tennis facility at Magnuson. The

Superintendent answered that, at this time, there is no interest from the City to fund the facility; however, the public is very interested. Commissioner Belbeck commented that a high degree of public interest was shown in this proposal and asked if this might garner interest from the City. Mr. Friedli stated that a high degree of interest also surfaced in 1999 and again several years ago. Commissioner Pflaumer requested Parks staff to convey to City Council the high degree of public interest in the indoor tennis center.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the Amy Yee Tennis Advisory Council weighed in on this project. Mr. Friedli answered that they did not voice an opinion on this particular proposal, but have voiced support for a tennis center at Magnuson Park in the past. Commissioner Ramels asked if there is a way, since this would be a private and not public tennis facility, to have an advisory council. Mr. Friedli answered no. Seattle Sports Court Unlimited is the corporation that would develop the facility. Sand Point Tennis Association, which has been an inactive member of the Advisory Recreation Council for the past 3-4 years, generated the nearly 350 e-mails that the Board received. Superintendent Bounds commented that the Magnuson Tennis Center would need to be managed similarly to the Amy Yee Tennis Center. Commissioner Holme asked for clarification that the center would be operated by Seattle Sports Court Unlimited and the Superintendent agreed.

Commissioner Jackson asked if this included outdoor expansion and, if so, would there be opposition to the expansion. Mr. Friedli answered that opposition is unlikely as it would be within the footprint of the Master Plan. Commissioner Holme asked if there is a timeline and Mr. Friedli answered that there isn't.

Commissioner Ramels moved to approve the staff recommendation and Commissioner Jackson seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

Building 11 LLC proposes a recreation oriented mixed use development in Building 11. Their proposal includes a mix of tenants including the existing sailing and kayaking programs, a day care center, restaurant(s), and other as yet unidentified recreation oriented tenants. The cost of the renovations is estimated at \$5 million. The proponents would privately finance the entire development. They would not use the building, land, or improvements to secure the private loan. In exchange for long term agreement, the LLC would renovate and manage the building. The agreement will assess fair market rent which would be offset equal to the value of the capital improvements. No city funds would be used for the capital improvements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue with negotiations.
- Require that a substantial portion of the building be used for public parks and recreation programs.

ALTERNATIVE:

- As there were no other responses to the request for proposals for this building, it will likely be mothballed within 3-5 years.
- Existing uses would be phased out as the building deteriorates and temporary occupancy expires.
- An alternative for housing the public sailing programs would be sought.

Board discussion and recommendation: *The Board asked if Seattle Sail will remain at Magnuson Park with this proposal and Mr. Friedli answered yes.*

Commissioner Collins toured Magnuson Park extensively the previous Sunday. He believes this to be a particularly creative plan. The LLC will finance the renovations to the building, while keeping fees low. He commended them for both the low fees and program structure. Commissioner Ramels commented that she is also impressed and believes this is a creative and responsive plan. She does hope the building will remain open to the public in the future.

Commissioner Holme referred to the representative from Ivar's who testified at the November 9 public hearing. Ivar's currently runs a restaurant at the facility. How does Parks ensure there is a competitive element in which restaurant provides services at the park. Mr. Friedli commented that, at Magnuson Ivar's is doing community

service and running a business. This is a very difficult location to run a restaurant, as there are a limited number of clientele to support the restaurant. If there is too much competition, then no one will succeed. Although Ivar's sites a restaurant here as part of its community service element, it does want some assurance of success. Commissioner Holme asked if Ivar's is one of the partners in the LLC and Mr. Friedli answered that it is a tenant at this time and not a partner.

Commissioner Belbeck moved approval of the staff recommendation and Commissioner Collins seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

Arena Sports proposes to develop an indoor recreation facility in Building 27. Their proposal includes indoor soccer, basketball, baseball, health and fitness club and minor food service. In exchange for a long term agreement, Arena Sports would invest approximately \$4 million in the facility. They would not use the building, land, or improvements to secure the private loan. In exchange for long term agreement, Arena Sports would renovate and manage the building. The agreement will assess fair market rent which would be offset equal to the value of the capital improvements. No city funds would be used for the capital improvements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue with negotiations.
- Encourage fees be set so they are affordable to all and/or incorporate a scholarship program.

ALTERNATIVE:

- As there were no other responses to the request for proposals for this building, it will likely be mothballed within 12 months depending on negotiations with Seattle Fire and Department of Planning and Development.
- Parks currently has approval to continue use of the building only through June 2007.
- Arena Sports would close its current operations in Building 2 by mid-2007.
- See attachment for discussion of alternative to develop building as a special events venue.

Board discussion and recommendation: Commissioner Pflaumer complimented Mr. Friedli for the excellent three-page summary that has helped the Board with its decision making process. Basically, there needs to be a 10-fold increase in the current number of events at this building.

Commissioner Collins commented that he was previously on the fence about this proposal; however, he was persuaded by Mr. Friedli's written analysis. The previous financing plan, including bonding by City loans, is no longer a part of the package. Mr. Friedli agreed. Secondly, the sales in the facility benefit both private and non-profit groups. Commissioner Collins disclosed that he has purchased items at the sales held at this site and is a member of the Arboretum Foundation. However, recreation would be his #1 priority for use of the building and Arena Sports provides that.

Commissioner Collins stated that the Board heard from several citizens that Arena Sports' fees are costly and asked Mr. Friedli if that is correct. Mr. Friedli answered that he does not yet know the pricing structure. Commissioner Collins asked if the fees could be lidded for some low- and middle-income children. Mr. Friedli answered yes, he is in discussions with Arena Sports for a scholarship program. Commissioner Collins wondered if financing such a large project wouldn't increase pressure on Arena Sports to raise its fees and asked that staff work for the lowered fees.

Commissioner Ramels disclosed that she contacted the City's Ethics and Elections Commission as to a conflict of interest on her part, as her son attends Lakeside School. The School holds its annual rummage sales at this site and could be impacted by this project. She called the School and they did not take a formal stand on this. However, she urged the Department to hold off on this part of the project. She thinks Northwest Craft Alliance should be given additional time to put together a better business plan. Mr. Friedli answered that the Request for Interest was issued in April 2005 and interested parties had three months to submit their RFI. Northwest Craft Alliance, which has been at Magnuson Park for some time, did so. Two months later the Statement of Qualification was due (August 2005).

The Request for Proposal was due in February 2006 and Northwest Craft Alliance did not submit theirs until December 2006. All parties had the same amount of time to prepare their proposals. Commissioner Ramels noted that at the time the proposals were submitted that interested parties didn't know that the City would assist with financing. Mr. Friedli stated that this was the Mayor's decision and it came after the Request for Proposals were submitted.

Commissioner Pflaumer believes the Board should make a recommendation on this and not delay the process. Commissioner Collins commented that, at the November 9 meeting, the Board heard that events held at this site could be held at Hangar 30 and be spread out over more days. He asked Mr. Friedli how this might work. Mr. Friedli answered the Library book sale has always been held at Hangar 30 and the Arboretum Plant Sale was previously held there. Northwest Arts and Crafts could not have as many booths at Hangar 30, which might not be as income productive. The Rat City Girls have used both venues. Hangar 30 accommodates 1,500 seats and Building 27 accommodates 2,500. He does not know how the fewer seats would financially impact the Rat City Girls.

At the November 9 meeting, Commissioner Holme asked about inclusion of a walking trail for the public. Mr. Friedli discussed this with Arena Sports staff and an initial idea is a loop area trail through the soccer fields or around the perimeter. The cost (to help pay for staff and pay for electricity and other operating costs) might be \$1 or \$2. Commissioner Holme suggested that the walking area be available during normal operating hours. He also disclosed that he used Arena Sports on Marginal Way years ago when he was coaching soccer. It is a great place to take kids during the winter months and be out of the rain.

Commissioner Holme made a reference to the fee structure. He commented that indoor soccer is expensive. As a coach, he collected fees from player's families and paid for the season's fee, in a lump sum. Within his team, he secured donations from parents to help pay fees for the teams' low-income members.

Commissioner Pflaumer asked if Sports Arena would be required to carry insurance on the building and Mr. Friedli answered yes. Commissioner Ramels asked if this plan will go to City Council when it is more fleshed out and Mr. Friedli answered yes. First, more market analysis must be prepared to determine the demand for this type of facility in the regional market. Commissioner Pflaumer asked if the amount of funding the City will need to authorize will be known when the plan goes before City Council. The Park Board is being asked to vote on a recommendation without knowing this figure. Mr. Friedli stated that the figure will have been determined and will be included in the presentation to City Council.

Commissioner Holme commented that, although he is very pro sports, this is a difficult decision. The only alternative is that City Council comes up with funding to repair the building and he doesn't believe that is likely.

Commissioner Holme moved support of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Additional discussion: Commissioner Ramels recommended that staff flesh out the details and bring back to the Park Board. Commissioner Collins made a friendly amendment, which was accepted, that two additional items in this plan are understood: (1) it includes a plan for dealing with the cost issue for low- and mid-level income kids, and (2) determine whether the facility will be available for other uses and accommodate sales in Hangar 30 as much as possible.

Commissioner Pflaumer asked if the Board wants to table this motion or move forward. Commissioner Collins urged that the Board move this forward and not table. Commissioner Jackson observed that if this doesn't go forward, it may be a deal breaker.

The vote was taken with 4 votes in favor (Belbeck, Collins, Holme, and Jackson.) Commissioner Ramels opposed. The Chair does not vote except in cases of a tie. Motion carried.

Mr. Friedli thanked the Commissioners for the time and energy they have dedicated to this plan.

Discussion/Recommendation: Central Waterfront Park Plan

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 as scheduled, with Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks' Manager of Major Projects & Planning, and David Graves, Seattle Parks' project planner, presenting a briefing, immediately followed by a public hearing. To read the minutes from that meeting, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/10-26-06.pdf>. At its November 9 meeting, the Board deferred voting on a recommendation until it received a copy of the Superintendent's response to the letter from the four City Councilmembers. To read the minutes from that meeting, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/11-09-06.pdf>. The Board received a copy of the Superintendent's response and tonight plans to vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Discussion/Recommendation

Mr. Stoops gave a very brief introduction to the Plan. Commissioner Pflaumer stated that there was some confusion about the staff recommendation; however, Superintendent Bounds' letter to City Council clarified the recommendation and assured the Board that Parks is on track with what the City Council and Mayor asked the Department to do in this plan. Commissioner Collins commented that he made the motion at the November 9 meeting to delay voting on the plan and believes that the Superintendent's response to the four Councilmembers was excellent. Commissioner Holme commented that at the bottom of the sheet the process is listed. He feels that Parks has followed due process in this plan.

Commissioner Collins moved that the Board of Park Commissioners recommend approval to the Superintendent of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

The Board thanked Mr. Stoops.

Briefing/Public Hearing: Citywide Skatepark Plan

Susanne Friedman, Seattle Parks' project planner, presented a briefing on the Citywide Skatepark Plan. A number of large drawings and charts were on display for public viewing. Ms. Friedman also displayed several large charts during the presentation. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing; the written briefing and a summary of the verbal briefing are included in these minutes. At its January 11 meeting, the Board plans to discuss this topic and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Written Briefing

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

The Board is scheduled to make its recommendations on the draft Citywide Skatepark Plan, including the proposed site locations, on January 11, 2007. The full report is being sent out with this briefing paper. Please refer to the report for detailed project information.

PLANNING PROCESS

Work on the Citywide Skatepark Plan started earlier this year with the appointment of the Citywide Skatepark Task Force. Members include several skateboard advocates, representatives of neighborhood groups, and the City's Planning Commission. Their charge was to develop siting criteria for skateparks, evaluate potential sites, and develop a comprehensive plan for skateboard facilities. Parks hired the firm of Arai/Jackson to assist in this effort. The consultant was involved in the formation of Portland, Oregon's skatepark plan. Seattle City Council identified the Portland plan as a model for Seattle's work.

The Task Force, with input from the consultant, outlined a "typology" of skateparks earlier this year, and proposed siting criteria for their application. Parks and the Task Force took these to a round of three public meetings and an

open house in June. At the public meetings, citizens provided feedback on this work and nominated sites for evaluation as potential skateparks.

Citizens nominated more than 130 sites during the public process, and Parks and the Task Force evaluated them through the developed siting criteria. Of these, the top ranking 30 sites were identified for further consideration and were the subject of a second round of public meetings held in October.

More than 250 people attended the second round of public meetings, and Parks received more than 300 other written or electronic comments on the proposed sites. There was overwhelming support for the process and the plan, with over 90% of the participation at the six public meetings being very supportive. The following is a synopsis of comments received during the last round of public meetings as well as written and e-mail feedback afterwards:

- There was an expressed need for skateparks, that kids need active things to do, and safe spaces to go. Skateparks were seen as a means to build community.
- There was a strong desire expressed for skatepark facilities in West Seattle, as well as at Judkins Park (Judge Stokes Overlook) and elsewhere in South Seattle.
- The majority of concerns expressed revolve around design issues or the perception that skateboarding brings unsavory behavior to the area. (These comments were mainly from e-mail correspondence and not from the public meetings.)
- There was a concern that skatepark development would result in loss of open space.
- The table below summarizes comments received on specific sites:

Very Positive	Split Input	Very Concerned
West Seattle sites in general	Genesee Playfield	Cowen Park
West Seattle Stadium		Myrtle Reservoir
Roxhill		Maple Leaf Reservoir
Judkins Park		Lake City Playground
Magnolia		
Interurban Trail		

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force has reviewed all the comments received, and based on those comments, removed several sites from the proposed site list. The identification of recommended parks by the Task Force is only a “general” recommendation. Decisions on exact location within the recommended park, the size and shape, or the skill level of the facility would be developed during future site specific public planning processes.

The attached map shows the original 30 Task Force proposed sites as well as several existing skateparks (e.g., Ballard Commons Park skate bowl) or already planned facilities (e.g., Dahl Playfield, Lower Woodland Park, Jefferson Park). It also shows the future Northgate Park and Ride park site and the Westcrest Park and Myrtle, Maple Leaf, and Roosevelt Reservoir sites that may become park facilities in the future. Skatepark development may be considered in the future at these locations when park development is planned through planning processes for these sites.

The Task Force is recommending that Cowen Park, Fairmount Park Playfield, Denny Middle School, and Westcrest Reservoir sites be removed from the plan.

PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FOR FUNDING REQUESTS

The Task Force recommends that the following projects be considered for funding, for future planning, design and construction work.

1. JUDKINS PARK/JUDGE CHARLES M. STOKES OVERLOOK (Skatespot)

Planning Level cost estimates are up to \$640K, depending on the final design and size of the facility.

2. ROXHILL PARK (Skatespot)

Planning Level cost estimates are up to \$640K, depending on the final design and size of the facility.

3. DAHL SKATESPOT (Skatespot)

\$205,000 is needed to complete construction of approved plans.

4. JEFFERSON MASTER PLAN (District facility)

Current Pro Parks Levy plan has a place holder for a district sized skate facility. Add to Pro Parks Levy funding to facilitate planning, design and construction work to complete this component of the master plan. Planning Level cost estimates are approximately \$1 million, depending on the final design and size of the facility.

5. DELRIDGE PLAYFIELD (Skatespot)

Planning Level cost estimates are up to \$640K, depending on the final design and size of the facility.

6. BRIGHTON PLAYFIELD (Skatespot)

A Pro Parks Levy project is scheduled in 2007/2008 to develop a science park in conjunction with Aki Kurose Middle School. Skateboard elements could embrace physics components. Planning Level cost estimates are up to \$640K, depending on the final design and size of the facility.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION ACTIONS

Included in the report are additional recommendations, such as:

- Include skateparks in future park acquisition & development design.
- Integrate Skatedots or a skatepark into the future waterfront planning efforts.
- Work with Community Center Staff (*maintenance and operations....crew chiefs,....*) to allow skateboarding, when appropriate, on hardscapes surrounding facilities.
- Accommodate different skill levels in park design, including street style and transitional elements when space is available.
- Cover some facilities.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- **DECEMBER 20** - The draft plan will be presented to Council's PELL Committee (this briefing had originally been scheduled for December 6).
- **JANUARY 11** - The Board of Park Commissioners will make recommendations on the draft plan.
- **JANUARY 2007** - The plan may be revised, as appropriate, and forwarded to City Council by the January 31, 2007, target date they established for this effort.
- Council may choose to adopt the plan via resolution in late January or early February 2007.

BUDGET

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Parks staff concur with the majority of the Citywide Skatepark Plan developed by the Task Force and recommend the adoption of:

- The Citywide System – Typology
- The Site Criteria & Framework of Assumptions

- The Site Recommendations, **with the exception of the West Seattle Stadium site. Parks does not recommend the inclusion of the West Seattle Stadium site as it is to be reserved for future golf course driving range development.**
- Prioritized Projects for Funding **with the addition of a “SKATEDOT POT”. This ‘pot’ of \$160,000 would allow Parks to implement skateable elements and wading pool modifications. Planning level cost estimates to implement these modifications are approximately \$16,000 each.**
- Additional Recommendations **plus, “Allow use of wading pools for skateboarding during non-summer use.” The following list of wading pools represent those area that are currently used for skating by the local community and pools that help fill geographic gaps in facility distribution: East Queen Anne, Georgetown, Beacon Hill, South Park, and Gilman playfields, Sandel Playground, Volunteer and Powell Barnett Parks.**

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

Susanne Friedman, Seattle Parks’ project manager, introduced herself and Kevin Stoops, Seattle Parks Major Maintenance Manager, and Laura Weigel of Ara Jackson Ellison Murkami, consultant for the project. During the last 11 months, Ms. Friedman has been the Department’s project manager for the Citywide Skatepark Plan. Tonight she is representing the Department and the Skatepark Taskforce. This briefing and the ensuing recommendations will help lay the foundation for Seattle skate sites for the next 20 years.

Ms. Friedman reviewed the extensive public process. Over the past ten months, Parks and the Task Force have hosted 6 public meetings, 1 open house, 10 Task Force meetings, 13 D.C. meetings, and numerous neighborhood association meetings to discuss the plan and receive input. For the last round of public meetings, Parks posted signs at all the nominated sites and sent out 50,000 flyers which were sent to the zip code areas around the nominated sites. In addition, flyers were distributed at Seattle’s public libraries, the 26 Community Centers, 13 Neighborhood Service Centers, Seattle public schools and to various list serves and to individuals who had voiced interest in the Plan.

Input has been received from over 700 citizens, with the overall tone being positive. There have been many questions on the funding and how the skate facilities would be constructed. Parks staff and the Taskforce have heard clearly there is a need for skate sites in Seattle, with West Seattle and Judkins areas showing the strongest support. Two-thirds of the sites nominated are located in West Seattle.

In addition, the Task Force and the Parks Department have received many compliments from the public for their vision and forward thinking with this plan.

Major concerns that have been voiced are design issues; fears that unsavory behavior will follow the skateparks; and a loss of open space. The last concern has been very challenging to the Task Force.

The size of the skate sites are in a four-tiered system, with examples, as follows:

Regional	30,000 sq. ft. or larger, possibly covered, and may include designated parking
District	Magnuson Park would be an example of this size facility 10-30,000 sq. ft.
Skatespot	Would include Lower Woodland and Jefferson Park skateparks Smaller sites, with single use

Skatedot

Examples: Ballard Bowl, which is a more advanced skills bowl, and Dahl Playfield, which will focus on beginners
Small spots in parks for skating
May include types of areas already used by skaters, such as a bench, chair, or steps that will withstand the wear and tear of skating

Skatedots are a Seattle innovation from the Skatepark Taskforce and Skate Advisory Committee.

Next Ms. Friedman described the siting criteria, previously presented to the Board at its November 9 meeting. Minutes of that meeting are available at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2006/11-09-06.pdf>.

Commissioner Holme asked if any of the sites have changed since the November 9 briefing. Ms. Friedman answered that Cowen, Fairmount, Denny Middle School Athletic Complex, and Westcrest were removed from the list. The 26 remaining on the map are the current nominated sites. However, the plan isn't static and if other viable sites are found, they should be considered.

Sometime in the future, the City plans to lid all its water reservoirs. Although the property does not now belong to Seattle Parks, once they are covered Parks hopes to receive funding to create parks on the lids. During the park design at the lids, a skate element will be considered. Another possible future site is the Northgate Park & Ride property, just north of Northgate Mall.

The Taskforce has recommended six sites to receive funding: Judkins, Roxhill, Dahl Skatespot, Jefferson Park, Delridge Playfield, and Brighton Playfield. Ms. Friedman gave additional information on each of these. She read the full list of both Taskforce and Parks recommendations, which were included in the written briefing (above.) She then reviewed the next steps in the process, also included in the written briefing under "Project Schedule."

Questions and Answers

Commissioner Collins asked if Commissioner Ramels, who lives in West Seattle is pleased that two of the recommended sites are in that area and Commissioner Ramels answered that she is pleased.

Commissioner Collins asked about the proposed regional facility in Magnuson Park. He understands that the geographic area north of the Ship Canal has fewer sites recommended and that the regional facility at Magnuson Park is to compensate for that. He asked if there will be opportunities for those new to skateboarding to learn skills at this large facility. Ms. Friedman answered that there will — a regional facility will accommodate skaters of all skill levels.

Commissioner Pflaumer commented that the skaters she knows seem to fall into two very different camps: street skaters and bowl skaters. Is this an attempt to balance the needs of those two groups? Ms. Friedman answered that the skatedots definitely appeal to street skaters, while the skatespots don't have as strong an appeal to them. Ms. Friedman also clarified that the thinking of the Plan focuses on skill level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced) and not to street skaters or bowl skaters.

Commissioner Pflaumer has serious concerns regarding stormwater runoff and understands that the Department will make a strong attempt to put these facilities where there is already concrete. She asked if it is possible to use porous concrete to absorb more of the stormwater. Ms. Friedman commented that this is a good suggestion but she did not have the technical information on porous concrete to give a definite answer. However, her initial reaction was that porous concrete would have too many pebbles, thus causing skateboard wheel impediments.

Commissioner Ramels felt that one of the daily local newspapers seems confused about the designation of skatespot and skatedot. She recommended that staff and the Taskforce ensure the reporters have a clear understanding of the two. She also commented that she loves these types of projects. However, she was uncomfortable with information

on the public involvement process. Hearing that 400 community members signed up over seven different meetings doesn't clearly represent how many disparate individuals were involved in the process. Ms. Friedman stated that this would be clarified in the final Plan.

Commissioner Holme commented that the depth and quality of the Plan is stunning and the Taskforce and staff should be proud of themselves. He then read a list of edits to the Plan or questions to be answered at the January 11 discussion and recommendation. Other Commissioners added other comments and requests to this list, as follows:

1. Provide additional information on demand for skateparks. *The Board recommended that more information on this be included in the resolution.*
2. Edits – Rainier and light rail, pg 45.
3. Edits – High Point run-on sentence
4. Clarify the statement referring to an ADA conflict at Magnolia, pg 42.
5. Provide information on possible wear and tear on wading pools, if used for skateboarding.
6. Include a determination of skill levels at future facilities in the Plan. *Ms. Friedman commented that a qualified designer will be hired for each facility. Commissioner Holme recommended that the resolution language include a well-defined means of determining the skill level for each site.*
7. Provide additional information on the size parameters at Jefferson Park: *Ms. Friedman noted that 10,000 sq. ft. (the proposed size of the Jefferson facility) would be at the lowest end of a district-wide facility.*
8. Include more emphasis on noise issues. *Ms. Friedman noted that other factors may also contribute to noise; noise level from a skatepark located next to a large concrete building would be different to one located next to open space. The Board recommended that more emphasis be placed on this determination.*
9. Coordinate skatepark design elements into the future waterfront development. *Mr. Stoops commented that one idea for the waterfront development plan is a skatedot.*
10. Prepare a decision tree for facilitating the January 11 discussion and recommendation. Break it out so the Board can address its recommendation on district skate sites. This would be for the larger sites, such as Genesee, and not for every site recommended.
11. Provide additional information on the public involvement numbers.
12. Provide additional information on the numbers of citizens in support or opposition of a skate facility at Genesee Park.

Commissioner Collins commented that Jefferson Park's Master Plan did not contemplate a skate area and asked if the Master Plan would need amending. Mr. Stoops answered that the reservoir lid did not exist when the Master Plan was developed, thus the reservoir lid would be considered as new property and not a part of the Master Plan. Commissioner Collins noted that the Magnuson Park Master Plan also pre-dates this site selection and asked if locating a skate facility in Magnuson Park would have to go through City Council. The Superintendent stated that when a facility is sited at Magnuson Park and the Department goes to City Council for funding, then City Council would have to amend the Master Plan that it has previously adopted.

Commissioner Jackson asked how staff will communicate to the public about the remaining 20 sites that are not being recommended for funding at the present time. Ms. Friedman answered that in the future, either Parks must include an item in its budget requesting funding for a particular project, or neighborhood groups may apply for Neighborhood Matching Funds or other grant sources. Some neighborhood groups, such as in Magnolia, are already working to raise funds and applying for grants. The Skatepark Advisory Committee has put together a "recipe plan" to assist neighborhood groups with applying to granting agencies to receive funding. The Parks Department would oversee each project to make sure it meets the City's design standards, as is currently done with Neighborhood Matching Fund projects.

Ms. Jackson referred to Genesee Park and thinks there is still confusion on the selection of this site, as the Plan states that it will not take a greenbelt and convert it to a skate site. Ms. Friedman clarified that the language refers to a "designated" greenbelt. Genesee is not a designated greenbelt. Commissioner Jackson commented that it is still greenspace that would be converted. She asked if that is a decision that has been made. Ms. Friedman referred to

prioritizing and stated that the Taskforce tried to prioritize sites that are already asphalt or concrete, but quite a few of the recommended sites are green space: passive, open public green space that is not actively programmed. Genesee is one of those. There are also engineering and design concerns because Genesee is a former landfill site as to how would that impact building a skatepark there. These concerns will be addressed during the design process and are outside the scope of the Taskforce.

Commissioner Ramels asked where the \$160,000 came from? Ms. Friedman stated that Parks requested this amount to implement some of the first sites. Superintendent Bounds clarified that the money doesn't yet exist.

Public Hearing

The public hearing began at 7:50 p.m and ended at 8:35. 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. 20 citizens testified, with a very brief summary of their comments included.

Scott Shinn: Member of the Skatepark Taskforce, Parents for Skateparks and several other skating organizations. He thanked Parks for this effort and stated that it has been a pleasure to be a member of the Taskforce. He believes this has been a very transparent process. He read his comments and presented a copy to Board in support of the staff recommendation.

Kari Einset: She is a West Seattle resident and is concerned with the possibility of a district skate site on the Myrtle Reservoir lid. (Ms. Friedman stated that there has been no process yet on determining size of any skate sites on reservoir.) Ms. Einset believes the reservoir, once lidded, would be more appropriate as a skatedot or skatespot.

Matthew Johnson: He is also a West Seattle resident and a member of the Skatepark Taskforce. There is lots of support in West Seattle for the Skatepark Plan. He does have concerns that the sites selected do not include the Queen Anne and downtown areas. He equated adequate skateparks to social justice: when he was a child in Hawaii, there were no designated skate sites and he skated in drainage ditches where he was exposed to staph and other germs and was shot by a bb gun. At the Northgate community meeting, he was saddened to hear the kids disparaged and believe it is unfair to say a particular group is not welcome in public places. Skating is healthy and helps kids stay active.

Jeff Birdsall: He lives near Genesee Park and represented several families who live near the park. He read testimony, which he also submitted to the Board. His conclusion follows: "We believe that the process the task force has undertaken has not met their charge of real community assessment, we have not had a real voice in this process, and that our neighborhood is the process of doing a real assessment of needs and creation of a strategic plan which so far has indicated a number of pressing issues related to our local parks and neighborhood and at this time they do not include adding a skate park."

David Whedbee: He also lives near Genesee Park and represented several other families. The proposed district skate facility will displace a large green open space. The park currently has well-balanced use and a skatepark will be destructive to these uses. The proposed area for a skatepark is a natural amphitheater and will magnify any skating noise and he fears unsavory behavior will occur at the skatepark. He would prefer a skatespot adjacent to the soccer field.

Ryan Barth: He is a 31-year-old skater, originally from San Francisco. He thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting. He played lots of sports when he was growing up, but found his time limited for team sports as an adult so he started skateboarding. This has now become a traditional sport, but there are few places in Seattle to skate. He drives to Arlington, Portland, and other places to skate. Recently Seattle has recognized the need for skate parks. The Taskforce has both skaters and non-skaters as members. He believes most of the arguments against skate sites can be dealt with in the design.

Marshall Reid: He stated that he is honored, overwhelmed, and impressed with the amount of press that skateparks in Seattle has recently received. He urged that the Taskforce and public work through any issues to resolve them. He teaches a skateboard camp each summer that is full and turns away kids each year. He sponsors a skatepark competition that garners 5,000 attendees and 350 competitors. He will help raise money and hold events to help build the sites.

Vicki D'Annunzio: She is a West Seattle resident and lives near the Myrtle reservoir. She was unaware until yesterday of the possibility of a skate site at the reservoir and stated there was no signage and she received no notification of the October meeting. High Point seems like a better site for skaters than the reservoir. If a skate site is planned for the Myrtle reservoir, she would prefer a skatedot. This is a high residential area and she urged that it remain so. In reference to global warming, she commented that trees remove 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Doug Frutos: He has lived in West Seattle for 10 years and skated as a young person and then took it up again when he was 30. In the last four years he has made many road trips to skate at different skateparks and finds the camaraderie amazing. Other cities are proud of the skate facilities they have and Seattle can be, too. Kids come to the skate sites and watch other skaters, then they work hard to learn skating techniques.

Shah Chalin: She lives near Myrtle Reservoir. Neighbors want a small playground and gathering place with trees and greenery. She talked to neighbors about a skate facility at the Reservoir and they are all opposed. She was on the Shoreline skatepark taskforce and it noisy, unsupervised teens show up at all times. She suggested Lincoln and Westcrest Parks as alternative sites. She has complained previously to the Taskforce, but they did not listen.

Anthony Davis: He lives in Ballard and moved there to live close to the skate park. It is crowded, especially during dry weather. When the Ballard site is too full, he drives to Carnation to skate. He believes it is a good idea to spread the skate facilities around the city and thanked the Taskforce for all its work.

Kim Schwarzkopf: She is a West Seattle mom with two kids and they use the local parks heavily. She is a snowboarder turned skateboarder. There are few places in Seattle to skate. She helped with the Sea Mar skate site. Siting skate facilities is a complicated process. She wants a site in West Seattle and has been distributing a petition and talking to her neighbors. The Task Force has held lots of meetings and she thanked them for their extensive efforts. Parks are for all Seattle residents — not just those who live adjacent to a park.

Paul McCallick: He lives in the Central District and skates at the Ballard skate bowl. He asked that the proposed Central site be expanded from a dot to a spot. He has found skating to be a positive experience.

George Blomberg: He is a member of the Task Force, which he believes to be a balanced (skaters and non-skaters) group of 11 who have spent more than 500 hours on the Citywide Skatepark Plan.

Tage Rauen: He lives on Vashon Island and is a supervisor at a skatepark. He believes that an unsupervised outdoor facility is superior to an indoor facility. A roof is helpful to keep rain off the site. He stated that more skateboarders are downtown and on Capitol Hill and recommended putting more skate facilities in those areas. Most skaters are younger and must walk or bike to skate facilities.

Terrill Simecki: He asked to address previous comments on the demand for skatepark facilities. He invited everyone to visit one of the current skate facilities on a dry day and see that demand far exceeds supply.

Ben Adams: He asked to address several previous comments: (1) demand for skate sites in Seattle: he recommended visiting one of the current skate facilities in Seattle on a dry day and see that demand is far ahead of the supply; (2) loss of open space to skate sites: the best skate sites mimic street areas. In Portland, there are skate plazas that include trees and shrubs; (3) it is a misperception that all skaters are misfits

Clair Yoder: She is an avid supporter of the skate facilities, but is not a skater. She hopes that when her 2-1/2 year old daughter is older, that there will be many skate sites. She knows many nice skaters, with some who are engineers and other professionals.

John Carr: He is a Taskforce member and thanked the Board and Superintendent. He will send the Board a copy of sports data for Seattle; however, surveys don't always capture unmet demand for facilities. He believes the Citywide Skatepark Plan allows citizens to tap into the do it yourself spirit and is a great community builder.

Toby: He is a Capitol Hill resident and is disturbed that the proposed site map does not show any skate areas in Capitol Hill, Downtown, or University District — don't ignore these areas. He asked that ledge" space be built into existing parks in these areas; build skate elements into the environment; and don't separate skating from the environment.

Commissioner Pflaumer asked why no sites were selected in the areas referred to by Toby. Ms. Friedman answered that it wasn't for a lack of trying or analysis. These are dense urban areas and none of the 130 sites looked at in these areas had adequate space. In the Citywide Skatepark Plan, language will be included for any future park development in these areas to include skate sites.

The public hearing concluded at 8:40 p.m. Commissioner Pflaumer thanked all those who came out in tonight's storm to testify. The audience was reminded that written testimony will be accepted through Wednesday, January 10, and carries the same weight as testimony heard during the public hearing.

Additional Questions & Answers

Commissioner Holme asked in what circumstances a potential site may be removed from the current list. He recommended that language be included in the final plan that details why a site was considered or removed from the list of sites.

The Commissioners thanked the audience for coming out in the difficult weather and thanked Ms. Friedman for the briefing. At its January 11 meeting, the Board plans to vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent on the Citywide Skatepark Plan. Once Seattle Channel announces the times it will broadcast the tape of this meeting, Parks staff will add it to the Park board web page. Along with the two airings, the tape will be available "on demand" at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010688>

New/Old Business

ABGC Retreat: On Wednesday, December 13, Commissioner Collins attended the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) ½ day retreat, as the Board's representative on the Committee. This was a well-attended retreat, including Seattle Parks Superintendent Bounds, University of Washington Dean of College Resources Bruce Bare, and several representatives from the Arboretum Foundation. The ABGC will experience a significant membership turnover in the next couple of months. The City owns the land at the Washington Park Arboretum and the University owns the world-famous collections. Commissioner Collins shared a quote he heard at the retreat that helps determine responsibility at the Arboretum: "While a leaf is in the air, it belongs to the University. Once it falls to the ground, it belongs to the City."

Ft. Lawton Acquisition Committee: Commissioner Jackson is the Board's representative to the Mayor's Ft. Lawton Acquisition Committee. She has toured the facility and attended one meeting. The proposals are due in late January. Commissioner Jackson noted that this is an advisory committee, with the final decision to be made by Governor Gregoire.

Restore Our Waters (ROW) Committee: Commissioner Pflaumer reported she has attended a number of the ROW meetings.

Correspondence to the Board:

- Loyal Heights Playfield: Commissioner Pflaumer referred to a letter from the Loyal Heights Community Council President, Jim Anderson, requesting the Board's assistance in modifying the lighting at Loyal Heights Playfield. Mr. Anderson wrote that Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck recommended he contact the

Board. The Superintendent stated that the City (Department of Planning and Development) is currently considering the permit; he will report the outcome of the permitting process to the Board.

- Lake Washington Boulevard Vegetation Management Plan (VMP): Commissioner Pflaumer referred to a recent letter from Seattle Parks Senior Urban Forester, Mark Mead, to a citizen regarding the VMP. Several residents have contacted the Chair, voicing their concerns. Commissioner Holme stated that a number of citizens also attended a recent Pro Parks project meeting for Lake Washington Boulevard improvements to voice their concerns over the VMP. There is considerable public interest, and lots of confusion, on this plan. He suggested more community meetings. The Superintendent stated that there will be additional community input on the Plan before it is brought before the Board.
- Kinnear Park Proposed Off-leash Area: Commissioner Pflaumer referred to a letter from Friends of Olmsted Parks regarding concerns on the proposed off-leash area at Lower Kinnear Park. The Superintendent stated that Parks staff are assembling site plans for review.
- Madison Park: Citizens sent letters to the Park Board, voicing their concerns over the Madison Park renovation project. The correspondence will be copied and forwarded to the Superintendent.
- 17th Avenue: Commissioner Ramels referred to a citizen complaint to the Board that the area of 17th Avenue Northeast near his home is not being well maintained. Seattle Parks' Communication Manager, Dewey Potter, had since responded to the citizen.
- Magnuson Park: Commissioner Ramels referred to a recent letter from Lynn Ferguson expressing concerns for the wildlife at Magnuson Park. Commissioner Ramels urged staff to be mindful of these concerns during Phase II of the current project.

City Council Resolution re: Park Board: Commissioner Pflaumer was invited by Councilmember Della to sit at the table during the December 20 Parks, Education, Libraries, & Labor (PELL) Committee meeting. The PELL Committee plans to discuss and vote on the City Council-proposed changes to the Park Board. [These changes include adding an eighth member; how members may be dismissed from the Board; requiring a quorum of five members; and changing the appointment process. Currently the Mayor appoints, and the full City Council then confirms, the seven members. The proposed change would allow the Mayor to appoint four members, with City Council confirmation required. The City Council would solely appoint the other four.] Commissioners Belbeck, Collins, Jackson, and Pflaumer recently received phone calls from Councilmember Della asking them to serve as the Council's representatives if the changes are approved by the full Council. None of the four Commissioners [who are all up for re-confirmation of a second term] are agreeable to this process and will withdraw their names from consideration. If the changes are approved, a very real difficulty for the Board is that a quorum of five is required; however, only three members will remain.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Kate Pflaumer, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____