



Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2007

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

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

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

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

Commissioner Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Holme moved, and Commissioner Ranade seconded, approval of the agenda and minutes as presented 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/>.

Olympic Sculpture Park: The Olympic Sculpture Park enjoyed good weather and lots of visitors during its opening celebration. This new park is a great amenity for Seattle.

Seattle Named Fittest City in U.S.: "Self" magazine interviewed Parks staff a few months ago and named Seattle the fittest city in the U.S. in its December 2006 issue. The story mentioned the Pro Parks Levy and the 6,200 acres of park land (the most on their list). Runners-up were San Francisco, Miami, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

Magnuson Park Art Installation: The “Base Line Survey Markers” art installation is complete. The artist, Perri Lynch, has created 12 stones, 6’ high x 2’ wide, and installed them next to the baseline survey calibration stations. A person can stand at the first one and look through holes in each of the 12 stones and see across the park. This artwork was funded by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Office and Seattle Public Utilities. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/magnuson/default.htm>.

Outdoor Opportunities Program (O2): The second annual Snowboard Outreach Society (S.O.S) collaborative began Thursday night under the lights at Snoqualmie Pass. Twenty-two O₂ students met with S.O.S. staff, received an orientation to the ski area, learned about the gear rental process, and were outfitted with appropriate clothing. Each week, students will discuss themes pertinent to their progression through the 5-week program.

50+ programs: Several seniors in the Northwest area are developing and distributing a petition for the seniors who attend Parks programs in that area to sign. The petition addresses the challenges that face Parks’ programs in relation to serving seniors and why it is important to re-instate consistent, operational morning hours at the CC’s, why they like Lifelong Recreation and how it benefits their lifestyle and maintains their social and physical health, and their concerns about losing staff and programs when the Pro Parks Levy sunsets in 2008. For more information on Parks’ Senior Programs, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Seniors/index.htm>.

Commissioner Holmes asked who the petition will be addressed and given to; Parks staff are unsure about this and will find out this information.

Event Scheduling Office: Phone calls inquiring about weddings and facility rentals have doubled in the past three weeks, presumably as a result of recent marketing efforts. For more information on the Event Scheduling Office, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Reservations/>.

Seattle Symphony at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center: As part of an annual partnership with Seattle Symphony, Langston Hughes hosted free performances with the Seattle Symphony. Hundreds of youth from local elementary and middle schools were introduced to classical music through free matinee performances. A free evening performance drew community members from neighborhoods across Seattle. For more information on Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/langston.htm>.

WRPA Legislative Day: Enterprise Division staff attended the Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA) Legislative Day in Olympia on January 25. They met with various legislators to request their support for Parks’ projects that will be impacted by the Governor’s proposed budget. If the budget is adopted as proposed, at least three of the nine projects for which Parks requested Interagency Committee (IAC) grants would receive some level of funding. For more information on WRPA, see <http://www.wrpatoday.org/>. For more information on the Office of the Interagency Committee, see <http://www.iac.wa.gov/>.

South Lake Union Park: Work on this project is moving ahead. Commissioner Pflaumer asked the status of the Wawona. The Superintendent answered that it hasn’t yet been moved. The Department is working with a consultant and a determination will be made within 60 days. There is a plan on where to move the ship to and Parks is working with a drydock company to determine under what conditions they will accept the ship. Commissioner Collins commented that the needed repairs to the ship will cost millions of dollars and are the Wawona supporters considering the cost. For more information on South Lake Union Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/southlakeunionpark.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 signed up to testify; a brief summary of their testimony is included.

Pamela Healy: She is a member of Northwest Life and referred to the performance of "Run, Buddy, Run" held in the Pacific Northwest this past Sunday. There are only 28 acres in Seattle dedicated to off-leash areas. These sites are mostly maintained by volunteers, with some assistance from Parks staff. At the National Recreation and Park convention held in Seattle in October 2006, the seminar on off-leash areas was one of the most highly-attended events. Seattle needs at least two more destination off-leash areas. Many Seattleites would support setting aside a small part of a park for this.

Presentation: John C. Little Award

Superintendent Bounds presented the annual John C. Little Award to Isiah Anderson of the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. The Superintendent stated that presenting this award is a highlight of his job and that Parks has many staff who work with kids and help them succeed in the Department's programs — which often helps lead to success in life. The following is the Superintendent's written announcement of the winner.

*I am pleased to announce that **Isiah Anderson, Jr.** has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the John C. Little Spirit Award.*

This is the sixth year we have awarded the John C. Little, Sr. Spirit Award. Past recipients have been Pat Warberg, Elaine Dunn, Don Ganchorre, Dennis Cook, and Tom Ostrom. Isiah Anderson, Jr. exemplifies the life of Mr. Little in his work with youth, and is a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

In addition to his countless honors and volunteer positions, John Little, Sr. served the community as a member of the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners from 1990 - 1997. In John's seven years on the Board of Park Commissioners, he is most remembered for his gentle judgment of how a proposed policy or new undertaking would be perceived by the people we serve, particularly by the young people. His sensitivity to the needs and the attitudes of youth was extraordinary. If the Board wanted a thoughtful, wise opinion on a subject, it turned to John.

John C. Little's motto was, "In order to improve the life of all people, you must improve the life of young people."

We created this award in his honor. To be eligible for nomination, the individual must demonstrate the following characteristics: mentoring our youth; providing leadership in the community; making a difference in young lives; and going above and beyond the call of duty.

In Isiah's nomination application, the following reasons were mentioned as to why Isiah should receive the award. "For Isiah the rewards from this job come from the youth's appreciation and their success - their success and appreciation stems from his dedication to them." "Isiah is the one person that is holding our community accountable for taking responsibility for being there for our youth. Not shying away from sharing the message of having issues is a fact of life. But overcoming those issues and facing them head on is what's important. When I think about going above and beyond the call of duty, I believe Isiah's mission of investing in our youth is a mission that will make our community a better place." "There are so many youth over many years that Isiah has mentored - helping them turn away from crime, or other self destructive behavior. He teaches them to love themselves and to overcome insecurities. I have never met anyone who could take a child who may seem past any help, and turn their lives around the way Isiah does."

The community regards Isiah as a local hero. The department regards Isiah as an extraordinary member of the team. We know how dedicated and selfless he is in his work with the LHPAC and the youth of Seattle. The youth

really look up to him as a trusted leader, mentor, and friend. As a Teen Development leader at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, Isiah has exemplified the spirit of the John C. Little Award. John would have been very proud.

Several previous winners of the award were in the audience. Pat Warberg, who is now retired, drove from Eastern Washington for the presentation.

Mr. Little's daughter, Brenda, spoke on behalf of the family and stated that it is a great honor to the family to recognize Parks Department staff following in her father's footsteps. She presented a gift from the family to Isiah. Isiah stated that he is honored to receive the award and believes many Park Department staff also deserve this award. A loud round of applause followed the award. The Board called for a short break and everyone enjoyed refreshments.

Discussion/Recommendation: Change Hours at Lavizzo and Pratt Parks and Create a New Park Exclusion Zone

At the Board's January 25 meeting, Cheryl Fraser, Seattle Parks Resources Manager for the South and Central West areas, Larry Campbell, Seattle Parks Security Supervisor, and Lt. Hayes of Seattle Police Department presented a briefing on the proposal to Change Hours at Lavizzo and Pratt Parks and Create a New Park Exclusion Zone. Commissioners received a written, as well as verbal, briefing. Tonight the Board will discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Board Questions & Answers

Mr. Campbell answered two questions raised by Commissioners at the January 25 meeting: (1) Can the hours at the basketball court be changed to accommodate basketball in the summer months until 11:00 pm — Mr. Campbell answered yes, with signage to be installed to this effect. (2) Can the exclusion zone be extended to include all city parks — Mr. Campbell answered yes. After the third infraction in one year, the offenders may be excluded from all city parks.

Commissioner Holme moved approval of the staff recommendation, with the inclusion that basketball hours be extended until 11:00 pm in June-September. Commissioner Ranade seconded.

Commissioner Ramels commented that she is in favor of excluding the offenders with three or more infractions in one year and Commissioner Collins agreed. However, he doesn't believe the exclusion zones recognize how mobile some offenders can be and how easily they move from one zone to another. He urged the Department to make a citywide exclusion, rather than having exclusion zones. Mr. Campbell stated that if this change were made, the Department would need to go before City Council for approval. When the park exclusion zone was first endorsed, City Council had some reservations about it. There is no guarantee that Council would endorse expansion of the policy. Councilmember Collins then asked if the zones could be made larger. Mr. Campbell and Seattle Police Department (SPD) staff stated that the current policy is working well. Seattle Police and Parks staff work closely on this policy and it is a very good tool. SPD assigns a case # to each infraction and tracks whether the person offends again in another park. Parks staff receive a copy of SPD's tracking system. The Superintendent stated that he is unaware of any problems with persons excluded from one zone going to another and offending. Mr. Campbell agreed. Commissioner Jackson asked what are the typical infractions and Mr. Campbell answered that it is drugs and alcohol. Commissioner Jackson believes that creating a citywide exclusion zone is excessive.

The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor. Commissioners thanked Mr. Campbell, Ms. Fraser, and SPD staff for the briefing and additional information.

Briefing: Ercolini Property

David Goldberg, Seattle Parks project planner, briefed the Board on this new property. Commissioners received a written briefing, included in the minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action: This briefing is for informational purposes only. Staff is bringing the project to the Board since it is a new park. It is a briefing because the project has not raised any issues with Parks or the community.

Project Description and Background:

West Seattle citizens nominated this half-acre property for acquisition in a neighborhood that has many families and children, but is underserved in parks within walking distance. Parks purchased the property in September 2005 with funds from the Pro Parks Levy, State Interagency Committee (IAC) for Recreation funds, and County Conservation Futures Tax funds. In 2005, the Parks Levy Oversight Committee recommended this park be developed with \$200,000 in additional funding from the Opportunity Fund.

Public Involvement Process

Meetings

- Parks staff attended the West Seattle Summer Fest and took comments on what citizens would like to see in their parks.
- Parks held the first public meeting in October, attended by about 27 community members. The landscape architects reviewed opportunities and concepts. Notes from that meeting are posted on the project web site. Comments favored a plan that included the large play field and children's play elements.
- Parks held the second public meeting on November 21st, attended by about two dozen community members. Much of the discussion focused on the nature of the play structures.

Notification

- Parks sent meeting notification to carrier routes within ¼ mile from the site.
- Park posted a notice at the site.
- Parks sent notices to people who signed up at the meetings.
- Parks sent a press release to Seattle Time and Post Intelligencer and other newspapers.
- Meetings are posted on the Project Web site.

Issues: There have been no significant issues with the design direction.

- The sole issue is that construction of the full design cannot proceed without additional fundraising. Community members are submitting a Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) application.

Budget: The Opportunity Fund provides \$200,000 to develop the Ercolini site. Parks is likely to be successful in its application for a \$200,000 State Interagency Committee grant. The community is also developing a NMF grant for approximately \$60–100,000.

Schedule: The project schedule is attached.

Staff Recommendation: This is a briefing only, however, staff has recommended, and Parks ProView approved the schematic design developed by Shwu-jen Hwang and Joseph Neiford, Parks Landscape Architects, working with the community.

The design preserves most of the site as a play field for informal active recreation. The northern portion will contain children's play elements including a play structure, swings, a sand box and a possible skatedot. The site will have reconstructed sidewalks along the streets, connecting to internal paths. Seattle Department of Transportation will pay for the sidewalk construction

Additional Information

David W. Goldberg, (206) 684-8414 or davidw.goldberg@seattle.gov
Project Web Site <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/ercoliniDev.htm>

Verbal Briefing/Questions & Answers

Mr. Goldberg showed several maps and pointed out the property location, and described the layout of the park and the nature of the playground.

Commissioner Pflaumer asked what size trees are being planted and Mr. Goldberg answered 5” caliper trees. Commissioner Collins asked if porous concrete can be used for the sidewalks. Mr. Goldberg answered that porous concrete is more difficult to skate on and that he will work with Seattle Department of Transportation on this. Commissioner Pflaumer urged staff to use the porous concrete.

Commissioner Collins asked about the process used to involve landscape architect firms in a project. Mr. Goldberg answered that generally staff determine if Parks can do the project in-house. If not, the City’s pre-qualified roster list is used (based on qualifications, not based on cost.) Mr. Goldberg gave detailed information on the landscape process. Commissioner Collins stated that he likes it when a landscape company provides a supervisor and the community does the actual work and has the pride in doing the work. Commissioner Ramels asked what community groups are involved in this project. Mr. Goldberg answered that there was a group focused on this area during the neighborhood planning process; however, that group is now defunct. Nearby neighbors have been very supportive, but have not formed an organization.

Commissioner Ramels asked if the level of the park is being raised to be level with the sidewalk and Mr. Goldberg said it is being elevated, but not completely to the sidewalk level. He described the area and stated that some logs or other type of blocking mechanism will be installed to prevent vehicles from driving into and damaging the park.

Commissioner Holme asked about the location of the skatedot area. Mr. Goldberg answered that the skatedot area is a possibility. There may be inadequate funds to include it.

Commissioner Ranade asked about funding for the street front improvement. Mr. Goldberg answered that Seattle Department of Transportation is doing the sidewalks for this park. Commissioner Pflaumer urged that this include porous concrete. Street trees may be available through the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Briefing: Junction Plaza Property

Mr. Goldberg next briefly reviewed the Junction Plaza Property briefing and answered questions.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action: This is a briefing for informational purposes only. Staff are bringing the project to the Board since it is a new park. It is a briefing because the project has not raised any issues with Parks or the community.

Project Description and Background: the 6,743 square foot vacant site is located at 4545 42nd Ave SW, at the northwest corner of 42nd Avenue NW and SW Alaska Street. It is the location of a former gas station. In response to a community application, Parks acquired the site in 2005 with Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Funds, Neighborhood Matching Funds, and community match. The Pro Parks Opportunity Fund provides \$200,000 to develop the park. The project scope includes paving, pedestrian lighting, grading, irrigation and electrical infrastructure, signage, furnishings, and landscaping.

Public Involvement Process

Notification:

- Parks sent meeting notification to carrier routes within ¼ mile from the project site.
- Parks notified the West Seattle Junction Association (WSJA) of meetings and they forwarded meeting announcements to their membership.
- Parks posted a notice at the site and at the Neighborhood Service Center that is across the street from the site.
- Parks sent notices to people who signed up at the West Seattle Festival, or who emailed to inquire about the project.
- Parks sent a press release to Seattle Times and Post Intelligencer, West Seattle Herald, and other city newspapers.

Meetings:

The Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee took public testimony during the Opportunity Fund grant decision making process.

Parks had a booth at the West Seattle Festival in July 2006 to announce the project and take comments.

Parks held the first public meeting in September. Approximately 12 community members attended. The design consultant reviewed opportunities for the site and discussed several concepts for how the site could be developed. Attendees at that meeting preferred the “open” concept. Notes from that meeting are posted on the project web.

Issues: There have been no significant issues with the design direction.

- The sole issue is that construction cannot proceed without additional fundraising. The WSJA has committed to leading fundraising and several community developers have already indicated that they will be contributing to the project.

Budget: Parks purchased the parcel in 2005 using \$200,000 Pro Parks Levy Opportunity funds, \$100,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund and a \$100,000 community match. In 2005 City Council approved \$200,000 in Pro Parks Opportunity Funds to develop the park. The West Seattle Junction Association is leading fundraising to complete the project currently estimated to be approximately \$600,000. The target for raising these funds is March 2007. Construction is therefore likely to occur in 2008.

Schedule: The project schedule is attached.

Staff Recommendation: This is a briefing only, however, staff has recommended, and Parks ProView approved the schematic design developed by Kiest Landscape Architects, working with the community and Parks.

The design provides both a destination and pass through spot in the junction of the traditional business and the growing mixed use area to the east. The design creates a open space geared primarily toward encouraging casual daily use for relaxing, eating or people watching, but also able to be used for Junction Association sponsored festivals like the West Seattle Festival and intermittent programs. The intersecting circles, buffered from the street by landscaping can be intimate while being flexible enough to host small performances. The circulation brings pedestrians into and through the park when in transit down the alley or streets on there way to businesses or parking.

Additional Information

David W. Goldberg

(206) 684-8414

davidw.goldberg@seattle.gov

Project Web Site <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/JunctionPlazaDev.htm>

The site contains schematic options, meeting notes and summary of the decision making process.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Goldberg stated that the name for this property is now being considered by the Parks Naming Committee. He showed two drawings of the project and pointed out the streets in the neighborhood. There is lots of development going on in the West Seattle Junction area and this site is centrally located within all the new development. The park has two goals: shelter people from the busy street while still allowing a good sightline into the park. The primary use of the park will be day-to-day use by area residents, with the Junction Association doing some special programming.

The project needs \$400,000 for completion, with \$200,000 of that already raised. Several local developers will donate funds to the project.

Commissioner Pflaumer asked what surface material will be used in the park. Mr. Goldberg answered that pavers will be used, which won't be porous concrete. Commissioner Collins asked if concrete ecology blocks, with porous space between, could be used. He cautioned that the material between the blocks may be blown away if the surface is cleaned with a blower. Commissioner Pflaumer urged that no blowers be used, for environmental reasons. Erin Devoto, Seattle Parks' Project Development Director, commented that Seattle Parks always looks at using recycled materials. Commissioner Pflaumer answered that using recycled materials vs. using porous materials is different issues. Commissioner Belbeck suggested making at least the sidewalk from porous material.

Mr. Goldberg commented that aesthetics mostly drove the decision to use the pavers. Commissioner Pflaumer suggested taking those concerned with aesthetics to visit Greenwood Park to see visually pleasing, high end porous surfaces in that park. She stressed that Parks must be a leader in environmental practices! During the recent rain storms, the City's storm sewer system was overwhelmed and 60 million gallons of raw sewage went into Puget Sound. Commissioner Collins suggested an on-site detention system. Mr. Goldberg will take the Board's concerns to use porous concrete back to the community.

Commissioner Holme commented that another issue is that an old gasoline station was previously here. He believes that an evaluation would be needed to determine if porous concrete could be used at this site. Mr. Goldberg answered that there was an extensive site analysis and there are no conditions on the site. Staff will review the site analysis report to determine if porous concrete is feasible.

Commissioner Ramels commented that this is a wonderful project. She went to both public meetings and was disappointed with the lack of community involvement. She hopes the West Seattle Junction takes the lead in fundraising. Mr. Goldberg answered that West Seattle groups raised \$100,000 in funding for the park. Commissioner Ramels voiced concern that the project has not had enough publicity. Mr. Goldberg and the Superintendent answered that the West Seattle Herald ran two articles on the project. They listed a number of West Seattle citizens involved in the project. While the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce is not engaged, the West Seattle Junction Association is involved.

Commissioner Ramels asked whether a skateboard feature could be added. Mr. Goldberg answered that members of the Skatepark Advisory Committee attended the planning meeting and discussed the possibility. There are concerns that senior citizens live next door and, due to their limited mobility, would worry if skaters were using the small park.

Commissioner Holme asked about the alley on the west side of the park. Mr. Goldberg pointed out the alley and described the different buildings nearby. It is impossible to vacate the alley, as it is heavy used by both vehicles and pedestrians. Parks would like to see the alley be dumpster free. The current condition of the alley will bring down the aesthetics of the new park without a shrubbery buffer. Commissioner Holme recommended that Parks staff encourage Seattle Department of Transportation to improve the alley.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Goldberg for the two briefings.

New/Old Business

Laurelhurst Park Compliments: Commissioner Collins commented that he loves Laurelhurst Park and visited the park just today. A dedication ceremony is planned for late March to celebrate completion of the community center project. While there, he watched a Seattle Parks’ crew sprucing up the park. Good job! The Superintendent will pass along the compliment to the crew.

Genesee Park: Commissioner Jackson has observed a group of motorized airplane flyers at Genesee Park. She talked with some of the men flying the planes and informed them that the only allowed area to fly these planes is near Seward Park along Lake Washington Boulevard. This was the subject of a recent Park Board public hearing.

Park Board Resignations: Four Commissioners recently announced their intent to resign from the Board, after City Council passed an ordinance to change the makeup of the Board. Those four Commissioners are Belbeck, Collins, Jackson, and Pflaumer. At tonight’s meeting, all four signed the resignation letter, which will be sent to the Mayor and City Council members.

Each of the Commissioners spoke for some time about their positive experiences as a Park Board Commissioner and their disappointment with the recent City Council amendment. The three remaining Commissioners voiced their admiration for the four resigning Commissioners.

The four Commissioners were presented with an engraved clock, as a token of the Department’s appreciation for their commitment to Seattle’s parks and for their years of volunteer service to the Department and the City.

Park Board Committees: The four resignations create vacancies on some of the committees that Park Board members are asked to attend. Commissioner Pflaumer agreed to stay on as representative to the Restore Our Waters Committee, Commissioner Collins agreed to stay as one of the Mayor’s representatives to the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, Commissioner Jackson will complete her assignment with the Ft. Lawton BRAC Committee (whose work is nearly complete), and Commissioner Belbeck will continue to represent the Department on the Discovery Park Fund Allocation Oversight Committee. It is very helpful to the Department for the committee members to continue in these committee roles.

Superintendent’s Upcoming Retirement: Superintendent Bounds’ will retire from the City, after 31 years of service, on February 28. He stated that he and the City will miss the four resigning Commissioners.

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

APPROVED: _____
Terry Holme, Vice-chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____