

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held at Magnuson Park
February 28, 2008

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

John Barber
Terry Holme
Donna Kostka
Christine Larsen
Jackie Ramels, Vice-chair
Amit Ranade, Chair

Excused:

Neal Adams

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

The focus of this evening's meeting is Magnuson Park. Prior to the meeting, Parks staff led the Commissioners on a tour of various areas of the park. Several members of the public joined the tour.

Commissioner Ranade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and acknowledged the record of correspondence received by the Board since its last regular meeting of February 14, 2008. **Commissioner Barber moved, and Commissioner Larsen seconded, approval of the revised agenda. The vote was taken and the motion carried.** Commissioners received draft copies of the minutes for review prior to the meeting. **Commissioner Kostka moved, and Commissioner Holme seconded approval of the January 24 minutes as corrected; and Commissioner Larsen moved, and Commissioner Holme seconded, approval of the February 14 minutes as corrected. The motions were both voted on and carried.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gallagher was at a conference in California. Deputy Superintendent Williams reported on several park items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Healthy Parks Initiative Planning: Seattle Parks is working to develop partnerships to promote its Healthy Parks Initiative. The Initiative focuses on marketing parks as places where people go to engage in fitness-oriented activities. Parks plans to develop strategic partnerships with Public Health–Seattle & King County, Whole Foods, REI, and other visible health-related organizations, and will launch the Initiative at a high-profile press event that includes the Mayor and local professional athletes. The Department's two top initiatives are environmental sustainability and childhood obesity.

Developing Partnership With Whole Foods: Parks met with Whole Foods to discuss developing a partnership around the Healthy Parks Initiative. Whole Foods has agreed to sponsor the South Lake Union Park opening event and will teach healthy cooking classes at community centers, beginning in May. In addition, it will bring kids from the community centers to its downtown stores two times each week for cooking classes. For more information on Whole Foods, see <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/>.

Cal Anderson Camera Installation Project: The video camera surveillance system installation is complete at Cal Anderson Park and the system is online and recording. Deputy Superintendent Williams commented that the use of camera surveillance and park rangers is to increase the public's perception of safety in Seattle's downtown parks. For more information on Cal Anderson Park, see http://cityofseattle.net/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=3102.

Discovery Park Coyote Update: Parks staff met with USDA representatives and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Service to follow up on strategies for dealing with coyotes in Discovery Park. One coyote in particular has been the source of recent publicity. At this time, Fish & Wildlife does not believe the coyote is a threat. For more information on Discovery Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Environment/discovparkindex.htm>.

Annual General ARC Board Meeting: The meeting included about 500 people representing all 38 ARC Boards, including Tim, C.W. In my speech about Parks priorities, I emphasized the Healthy Parks Initiative and the important role of Parks programming in reducing obesity in Seattle. For more information on ARC, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Arc/default.htm>.

Seattle Aquarium Leaps into Year of the Frog: The Aquarium will be jumping with frog-inspired activities on Leap Year Day and through the weekend – Feb. 29-Mar. 3 – to help highlight the Year of the Frog. Frogmen, actually frogwomen, will swim in the Window on Washington Waters exhibit at 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 a.m. each day demonstrating some of the amphibian features that SCUBA divers share with frogs. For more information on the Aquarium, see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=183&srcid=-2>.

High Point Child Care: On Monday afternoon, a child in the after school program at High Point claimed a counselor hurt her. Upon being notified, the parent asked for the police to be called and so they were. While waiting for the police to arrive, another parent said their child had an incident with the same counselor a week or two prior. When the Police arrived, they took statements from both parents. ARC sent the counselor home on administrative leave pending an investigation and has since released her from their employment. Parks' Out of School Time Manager is coordinating with Department of Early Learning staff to address any possible licensing issues. Apparently the parent contacted the media on Wednesday and a short story ran on Channel 13.

Golf Fees: This Saturday, March 1, the fees at Seattle Municipal Golf Courses will increase. The fees are still within the maximum set by Council in our fees and charges. Signs have been posted at the site for approximately two months notifying golfers of the increase. For more information on Seattle's Municipal Golf Courses, see <http://cityofseattle.net/parks/Athletics/golfcrse.htm>.

Update on Gang activity at Northgate: The shooting that occurred at Northgate on Friday, February 22, has clearly affected the youth, with teen attendance dropping dramatically this week. Staff are working with Seattle Police Department (SPD) to get information to the community on gang issues currently occurring in the City's north end. SPD has been very responsive and is taking the lead to organize a community information meeting that will be held in the next couple of weeks.

Mid-winter Break programming: During Mid-Winter Break, more than 600 youth participated in our community center camps and several pools offered special programming.

Lake Union Trail Naming Contest: The Parks Naming Committee will be making a recommendation to the Mayor on 3 potential names to be considered for the new trail around Lake Union. We received over 730 naming suggestions, which is an indication of the strong community interest in having a completed trail route around the Lake Union. The Mayor will make a final decision on the trail name in March. The individual that submitted the winning name will receive a new bicycle

donated by REI. For more on the interest in the Trail's name, see http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2004250207_trailname29m.html.

Summer Youth Leadership Program: The Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation will partner with the International District/Chinatown Community Center to sponsor the 2008 Summer Youth Leadership Program, in operation since 1995. The program will have 42 participants; targeted youth are high school juniors and seniors. Topics will include public speaking, media, Asian American history, and politics.

Northwest African American Museum: The Northwest African American Museum will hold a ribbon cutting and open its doors in the former Colman School in Seattle's Central Area on March 8. We are working with museum representatives to coordinate event details. The ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 11 a.m. and free public tours and live music will follow. For more information on the Museum, see <http://www.naamnw.org/>.

West Duwamish Greenbelt Citizen: Parks staff, including the Parks Security Supervisor, met with neighbors living adjacent to a new Parks acquisition at the west edge of the West Duwamish Greenbelt. The team discussed strategies and decided to remove a rogue fire pit that park users had built. We are requesting increased late evening Southwest Police Precinct patrols. For more information on the West Duwamish Greenbelt, see http://cityofseattle.net/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=4401.

Illegal Encampments: Deputy Superintendent Williams noted that the Board is hearing about the City's working on draft guidelines and procedures to remove illegal encampments. This issue affects many parks. For more on the City's draft guidelines and procedures, see http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/news/public_comment.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. Five people signed up to testify.

Kim Wells: Ms. Wells thanked the Park Board for holding its meeting at Magnuson Park. She showed a map of the habitat areas she believes are at risk from the ballfield development. She stated that she loves the undeveloped areas of the park the most. The last time she testified before the Park Board, she pointed out some trees that had died and thanked the Department for replacing them. She also commented that the 65th Street entrance is dangerous and the park still has no working restrooms. [There are a number of porta-potties in the park.]

Peggy Printz: Ms. Printz supports the wetland habitat and commented that there is still time to protect the areas, as the agreements are not yet all signed.

Lynn Ferguson: She thanked the Park Board for holding its meeting at Magnuson Park and believes it is really important that the Commissioners see the sites under consideration. She has lived near the park for 35 years and has worked with Mr. Friedli for a number of years on Magnuson Park issues. Earlier in the evening, Deputy Superintendent Williams mentioned the importance of walking and she agrees – Magnuson Park is a great place to walk. Mr. Williams also mentioned the Discovery Park coyote and Ms. Ferguson stated that there are also coyotes at Magnuson Park. The Aquarium is celebrating The Year of the Frog and the best Pacific Crest frog chorus in Seattle occurs at Magnuson. The frogs have been monitored for the past three years and each year, their numbers are decreasing. This valuable natural area is very important to both kids and for environmental education.

Karen Deyerle: She thanked the Park Board for touring and holding its meeting at Magnuson Park. She is a biologist by training and urged that the park have a balance of uses. Balance the habitat needs against the needs of tens of thousands of residents who play soccer. Because of the intense competition for playing fields in Seattle, she drove 22 miles last Friday for a game. The fields are a good way to fight obesity.

Ms. Deyerle next referred to Hangar #27 and commented that it is a great site for indoor soccer. It would be great if Seattle Parks could refurbish the building and run it, but it cannot afford to do so. Arena Sports is there now and many families, youth, and community members go there to play soccer. She believes this is an opportunity and not a privatization of the park.

Ben Schroeter: Mr. Schroeter stated that he hasn't been following this development closely; however, he heard that the wetlands and habitat are going away and nothing is more stupid. The City of Seattle is ruining habitats and it must stop. At Occidental Park, the Department wanted to cut down trees; at Gas Works Park, it didn't follow the law. The Department is still doing this and it is immoral. It is also illegal to get rid of wetland habitats – this should be left for the kids and grandkids. The public always wins its lawsuits against the Parks Department, so why do this project if there is a high likelihood of lawsuits and litigation? He urged the Department to follow the law and do what is right.

Public testimony concluded.

Briefing: Magnuson Park Master Plan and the Wetland, Habitat, and Athletic Field Development Project

Eric Friedli, Director of Seattle Parks' Partnership Division, and Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks' Project Planner, briefed the Board on the Magnuson Park Master Plan and on the Wetland, Habitat, and Athletic Field Development Project. Commissioners received written briefing papers prior to the meeting and toured a portion of the park just prior to the meeting. The written briefing and verbal briefing are included in these minutes.

Written Briefing – Master Plan

Requested Board Action – Information Only

Seattle Parks will brief the Board of Park Commissioners on the current status of the Master Plan for the Sand Point Historic District located within Warren G. Magnuson Park.

Project Description and Background

Several improvement projects are proposed for the Sand Point Historic District, located within Warren G. Magnuson Park. In 2005, Seattle Parks issued three separate Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from interested parties to improve selected buildings within the district for recreation uses, or other uses if demonstrated how their proposal met a “park and recreation purpose”. The primary goal was to find entities interested in developing indoor recreation facilities and programs such as performing arts, indoor soccer, hockey, basketball, rock climbing, tennis, cycling or other programs serving a public need. RFPs were issued for development of the theater in the Magnuson Community Center, a multi-purpose indoor recreation center, a tennis center, a health and fitness facility, or a facility for other indoor recreation activities. Buildings 2, 11, 18, 27, and portions of the Community Center (the theater and a previously un-renovated section) were listed as potential locations for facilities.

The intent of the RFP processes was to:

1. Identify service providers who offer public park and recreation programs which would also achieve the Magnuson Park vision.
2. Preserve the integrity of the Historic District.
3. Relieve the city of the financial liability for building redevelopment and maintenance.
4. Identify development partners with the expertise and financial capability to improve facilities.

Parks received no proposals for Building 2, the undeveloped portion of Building 47, or a tennis center. Subsequent to the RFP process, a proposal was submitted for an indoor tennis center.

After each RFP round, submittals were reviewed by teams composed of City staff. The proposals were rated according to how they met the City goals. This resulted in the approval of four proposals as listed below:

1. Arena Sports proposes an indoor recreation facility in Building 27.
2. Building 11 LLC proposes a recreation oriented mixed use development in Building 11.
3. Civic Light Opera proposes to develop and manage the theater in the Magnuson Community Center.
4. Cascade Bicycle Club proposes the Northwest Center for cycling in Building 18.

During 2007 Parks has negotiated concession agreements with Arena Sports, Building 11 LLC, Seattle Court Sports Unlimited, and Civic Light Opera. Due to the term length of these concession agreements they must be approved by the City Council.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS 2008 - 2010

Safety Improvements in Building 30. To maintain the hangar in Building 30 as a venue for special events, a number of safety improvements are required by the Fire Department and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD).

Land Use Code Amendments. The Sand Point Overlay District permits additional land uses beyond those found in the two base zones; Single Family 7200 and Lowrise 3. Parks is requesting amendments that will support building improvements in the historic district by permitting additional principal land uses, mechanical equipment on rooftops, signs similar in size and placement to neighborhood business districts, the reconstruction of buildings on existing footprints, and expanding the boundaries of the Overlay District to include Building 27.

Sand Point Way Access. To provide better traffic access to activities in the northwest part of the park and the historic district, Parks is proposing re-establishment of an entryway to the south of the NOAA Access Road. Staff are in discussions with the Seattle Department of Transportation.

Shoreline Management Permits. Portions of buildings 11 and 27 are located within a Shoreline Management District. Washington State Department of Ecology and City DPD regulations regulate land uses within 200 feet of the Lake Washington shoreline. Parks will assist development partners in obtaining conditional use and/or variance permits.

Public Involvement Process

Parks engaged in public outreach processes in October-November 2006, and again in November 2007 to gather input on the proposals for the Magnuson Park campus development, the potential concession agreements, and other aspects of improvements proposed for buildings in the Sand Point Historic District, and including land use code amendments.

During both periods fliers were mailed to residences located in postal carrier routes adjacent to the park, informing them about upcoming meetings and the opportunity for public comment at meetings and by writing to the Board of Park Commissioners. A web page, "Sand Point Historic District" was created at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/historicDistrict.htm>. This web site includes electronic copies of each development proposal and details about a proposed Land Use Code amendment. Public comment collected at the open houses, from presentations to community groups, e-mails sent to Parks staff, and testimony at December 2006 Board of Park Commissioners public hearing resulted in several hundred comments.

Schedule

Legislative Action: City Council approval of concession agreements and land use code amendments; 2nd Quarter 2008.

Additional Information

Eric Friedli, Partnership Division Director, 206-684-8369; eric.friedli@seattle.gov

Charles Ng, Magnuson Park and Business Resources Manager, 206-684-8001; charles.ng@seattle.gov

Kevin Bergsrud, Planning and Development Specialist, 206-684-5831; kevin.bergsrud@seattle.gov

Seattle Parks and Recreation Website: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/historicDistrict.htm>

Briefing: Wetland, Habitat, and Athletic Field Development Project

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action – Information Only

Seattle Parks staff will brief the Board of Park Commissioners on the current status of the Magnuson Park Wetland, Habitat and Athletic Field Development project.

Project Description and Background

The Warren G. Magnuson Park Wetland, Habitat and Athletic Field Development project is a 43 acre park development that will construct new site drainage improvements, wetland and habitat areas, and five new athletic fields. The five fields are 2

synthetic soccer fields with lights; one synthetic rugby field with lights; one 90 foot baseball diamond with a synthetic infield and natural turf outfield with lights; and one Little League field.

Other park features that will be developed with this project include pedestrian improvements to the NE 65th Street entrance, removal of the central parking lot by the tennis courts, and creation of additional habitat. These improvements will be constructed as a separate small works project during the construction phase.

The project went out for bid on January 5, 2008. The bid documents had a base bid of construction of four athletic fields with three additive proposals included which provided for additional development. At the time of the bid award, Parks selected additive #1 site furnishings and #2 which allows development of the fifth field. Four bids were received. Ohno Construction was awarded the project and is scheduled to start construction of the wetlands and athletic fields in March 2008 with substantial completion scheduled for September 2009.

Public Involvement Process

The basic project plan was approved by the City Council in 2004 when the Magnuson Park Master Plan was adopted. A Project Advisory Team (PAT) for this project was formed and has been very active in the public participation process for this project. The PAT has met a total of thirteen times during the design development and construction document period between February 2005 and March 2006. The PAT was very instrumental in the final design layout of the wetlands and athletic fields. They concurred with the final design layout in March 2006. The next Magnuson Park P.A.T. meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2008 at 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. in the Bldg #30 Meeting Room. Staff will present a project update at the meeting.

Budget

The following is a summary of the budget for the Wetland, Habitat and Athletic Field Development project:

- \$3 million for the Wetlands project (Pro Parks Levy);
- \$9.3 million for the Athletic Fields project (Pro Parks Levy);
- \$795,000 for pedestrian improvements and habitat restoration (City Council 2007 - 2008 budget); and
- \$50,000 for Wetlands project (WaterWorks grant from King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks).

Schedule

Planning: 2001 - 2003

Design: 2006 -Construction Documents -100%

Bid: January 5th to February 8, 2008

Award: February 19, 2008 – Ohno Construction, Seattle, WA

Construction: March 2008 to September 2009

Completion: October 2009

Additional Information

Jon Jainga, Project Manager, (206) 684-7054; jon.jainga@seattle.gov

Kevin Stoops, Parks Planning and Development Director, (206) 684-7053; kevin.stoops@seattle.gov

Seattle Parks and Recreation Website: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ProParks/projects/Magnuson.htm>

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Deputy Superintendent Williams introduced tonight's briefings and stated that a park means many things to many people. The city is on its way to developing a great park at Magnuson and several projects will soon be under way. Seattle Parks is diligent about undertaking plans that implement the Magnuson Park Master Plan, which was approved by Seattle City Council. The current lawsuit referred to earlier in citizen testimony is a challenge to the Army Corp of Engineers and not to Seattle Parks or the City.

He referred to a letter to the Board from Northeast District Council letter questioning Microplanet's lease at Building 11. Commissioners visited the site during the earlier tour. Microplanet develops utility and energy conservation programs. One of Seattle Parks' top initiatives is environmental sustainability and the Department is within its authority to lease to

Microplanet on a month-to-month basis. There is one million sq. ft. of building space at Magnuson Park [former Navy buildings] that will not be renovated without public/private partnerships.

Mr. Friedli then gave a 30-minute or so Powerpoint presentation on Magnuson Park with many maps, photos, and statistics that give the history of and vision for the park. The presentation included 28 slides, with a brief description of each included next:

1. Aerial map of the entire park as it currently looks.
2. Aerial map from 1958 when it was a naval base.
3. Aerial map from 1981-82 showing where much of the Navy's paved areas had been removed.
4. Mr. Friedli next reviewed the various plans for the park as developed in 1975, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1994, 1998, 1999, and 2001.
5. Reviewed the 1999 concept plan.
6. Showed a map of athletic components, which was an amendment to the 1999 concept plan.
7. Described City Council Ordinance 118622, which amends the Comprehensive Plan for Sand Point Park.
8. Showed photos of various completed projects including the large off-leash area; children's play area; and community garden. Several buildings have been demolished, part of the community center has been refurbished, and the roof on Building 30 has been replaced. A great deal of work has been accomplished, with a great deal more still ahead. \$20-25 million was spent on projects from 1999-2003.
9. Showed a map of Phase II of the project and described the components.
10. Showed a comparison aerial photo of the site as it looked when it was a naval base and how it looks today.
11. Gave statistics on the habitat acreage. Phase 1 is completed and Phase 2 is funded. Phases 3, 4, and 5 are as yet unfunded.
12. Described the wetland monitoring plan and how staff will work with professionals and volunteers to monitor.
13. Showed the 75 acres of the Sand Point Historical District. The buildings and landscaping in this area must be maintained per historical preservation guidelines. Also showed the Sand Point Overlay District which allows uses and structures at Sand Point that are not typically allowed in a park.
14. Other agencies who own land at Sand Point: The University of Washington has ownership of some acreage and buildings for the next 30 years. The City is first in line to purchase the property if the UW decides to sell it. There are also 18 acres dedicated to transitional housing, with 200 units. Seattle Parks staff meet regularly with both groups. The Seattle Conservation Corp, a component of Seattle Parks, performs all the grounds maintenance and both agencies reimburse for the work.
15. Seattle Parks endeavors to follow the principles and vision of the master plan to: activate the buildings with recreation and cultural program, enhance public accessibility, and save the buildings.
16. Photos showed the poor conditions inside some of the buildings. For example, the roof of Building 27 leaks and has an old electrical system.
17. The roof of Building 18 collapsed and was repaired so that it is at least now dry. It may be usable for another year and will then be "mothballed."
18. Building 47 is proposed for a theater.
19. Displayed a summary map of both the completed projects and the proposed projects.
20. The next slides described public/private partnerships to revitalize some of the buildings: The Mountaineers Club has contracted to renovate Building 67 (Old Motor Pool) with climbing structures. The Club will do the construction, transfer ownership to Seattle Parks, and then pay the Department to maintain the site. There was no Request for Proposal for this project.
21. An RFP process was held in 2005-2006 for other projects and four proposals were received.
22. Civic Light Opera: has proposed a project that will cost \$5 million in renovations over 10 years.
23. Cascade Bike Club at Building 18: City Council will soon consider this proposal. The group has a great concept and plan, and if City Council approves their proposal, will begin fundraising soon after.
24. Sail Sand Point: Sail Sand Point has proposed a \$7.7 million investment in Building 11. They are near the end of discussions and then the proposal will go to City Council for consideration.
25. Arena Sports: Has been using Hangar 27 for 10 years and their proposal to renovate the building and continue using it will soon go to Council for consideration.

26. Sand Point Arts & Cultural Exchange. Is interested in Building 30.
27. Seattle Courts Sports. Magnuson Tennis Center: There is interest in an indoor tennis facility, which has been years in the planning. An RFP went out for a \$14 million renovation but no bids came in on the project.
28. The final slide was a 2006 Outreach Process and Summary.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Barber stated that he was a member of the Pro Parks Citizens Committee that worked for a balanced plan for Magnuson Park. When he was on the Committee, citizens requested \$3 million be spent for 20 acres of habitat in the center of the park. He asked what happened since then that associated the wetlands with the athletic fields. Mr. Friedli and Mr. Jainga answered that the change was made in 2003 and 2004 during the design process. Commissioner Barber asked if the main function of the new wetland is to process rainwater runoff from the athletic fields. Staff answered that the wetlands have two functions and are being created as mitigation. The west wetlands will be seasonal and the east will be year-round wetlands. Mr. Jainga next described the filtration system and stated that it will create cleaner water that will then run into Lake Washington.

Commissioner Kostka asked about the Pacific Crest frogs and what will happen to their habitat during the work. Mr. Jainga pointed out the frog's main habitat, which will be unchanged by the project, and stated that some frogs live all over the park. Commissioner Kostka asked if predictions are that the frogs will not be negatively affected and Mr. Jainga answered yes.

Commissioner Larsen understood from tonight's briefing that the existing wetlands will be kept while the new ones are being built. Mr. Jainga answered that that is correct. Seattle Parks has to follow a very strict process and the Army Corp of Engineers and Department of Ecology will inspect the project and certify that all the steps are taken.

Commissioner Ramels asked if frogs lived at the wetland area when the Navy used the site as an airport. Mr. Friedli answered that there were frogs before the Navy, but not during the time the Navy occupied the site. The frogs returned sometime after the Navy left. Commissioner Ramels asked why the Department must perform mitigation for the athletic field project. Mr. Friedli answered that because some wetlands are being filled in, new ones must be created as mitigation. Commissioner Ramels asked if it is difficult to determine how much wetlands were under the airstrip and Mr. Friedli agreed. The soil was greatly compacted by the airstrip. Commissioner Ramels noted that four ballfields were called for and two are being built. Mr. Friedli clarified that two are being built in Phase 2 and two more will be built in a future phase. He pointed out the locations of each.

Mr. Friedli spent a few minutes talking about the history of, and negotiated changes to, the park design. He noted that City Council directed that no permanent structure may be built at the Sports Meadow.

Commissioner Barber asked if the fields have expanded to Olympic size and Mr. Friedli answered that the size has not expanded. Commissioner Barber noted that Army Corp of Engineers requirements are that every acre of wetlands that are lost must be replaced with two acres. Mr. Friedli agreed and pointed out what area will be taken and the replacement area. The Department is meeting the Army Corp of Engineer's requirement. Mr. Jainga noted that the wetlands will be monitored for the first 10 years.

Commissioner Barber asked if there are plans to daylight the drainage all the way to Lake Washington and staff answered that this is planned for Phase 5 or 6.

Commissioner Larsen referred to the two restaurants currently leasing space in Building 11, Ivar's and Kidd Valley, and asked how the Department reconciles a Healthy Living initiative with eating deep fried fish? Mr. Friedli answered that the Department is moving towards requiring the restaurants to offer 30% healthy choice options.

The discussion then turned to rental rates. Tenants who have Parks and Recreation values (such as Sail Sand Point) pay \$12 sq. ft. Those who do not share the values of parks and recreation with Seattle Parks pay \$20 sq. ft. Commissioner Larsen commented that her concerns are with leasing the buildings to non-recreation and for-profit tenants. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated the Department has 1 million square feet of building space to maintain at Magnuson Park and the alternative

to leasing the buildings is to demolish or mothball them. Commissioner Ranade asked what percentage of the renovations would be for non-traditional park uses and Mr. Friedli answered 35%. The goal is to eventually move the non-traditional park users out as soon as feasible and then lease the space to traditional park uses.

Commissioner Ramels referred to earlier citizen testimony regarding the destruction of the wetlands. Is it possible to change the plan and move or change the wetlands at this point? Mr. Friedli answered that Phase 2, which includes the wetlands project, has been adopted by City Council and the project is ready for groundbreaking – which is the culmination of 9 years effort.

Commissioner Kostka is concerned with the proliferation of signs in the park and asked if an improved wayfinding system is planned. Mr. Friedli answered that a wayfinding system was designed two years ago; however, the cost is \$500,000 and he is unsure when it might be implemented.

Commissioner Ranade asked if staff will use the same synthetic vendor as has been used at other athletic fields in Seattle. Mr. Jainga answered that the bid will go out to several field turf vendors. Commissioner Ranade asked about the results of other synthetic fields and Mr. Jainga answered that it is working well. It doesn't need irrigation or mowing and is self-draining, making the fields usable a higher amount of time.

Commissioner Ramels asked if Dark Sky lighting principles are being used and Mr. Jainga answered that City Council directs that Musco lighting be used. For more information, see <http://www.musco.com/permanent.html>. Commissioner Ramels hopes that the Dark Sky principles would be implemented over the entire complex. Mr. Friedli answered that the Historic District requires its own type of lighting (not Dark Sky principles), which will be similar to what is being used at Victor Steinbrueck Park in downtown Seattle.

Commissioner Holme asked about the duration of the tennis center lease and Mr. Friedli answered that it is 20 years. Commissioner Holme then asked about the lifespan of the air-supported roof structure and Mr. Friedli answered that the expected life is 10 years, but is averaging 18 years.

Commissioner Holme referred to earlier citizen comments on the portable toilets being used at Magnuson Park and believes these are used in much of the country. He asked what plans the Department has for the toilets. Mr. Jainga answered that permanent structures are being built at the fields to enclose the toilets. In addition, City Light will install 2 new transformers and vaults to restore power to the comfort stations at the Sports Meadow, Tower, and Beach restrooms. It was noted that the sewer lift stations are run by electricity. Until the transformers and vaults are installed in Phase 2, the three comfort stations remain closed to public use.

Commissioner Holme commented that the phasing of the project will help mitigate impacts on existing park habitat.

Eric thanked Kevin Bergsrud, Seattle Parks Project Planner, and Charles Ng, Concessions and Grants Manager, for all their great work on Magnuson Park and Commissioners thanked staff for the tour and the briefing.

Old/New Business

7th Member Process: Tonight the Board revisited its process to select the one position appointed by the other six Board members. Members are generally satisfied with the process. However, Commissioner Ramels observed that the point system used to determine the top candidates [based on 7 criteria] make it difficult for young people to be appointed to the Board. After discussion, the Board agreed that this is an advisory process. Future Boards should assess the current membership, determine which of the criteria have the most importance to the current Board, and assign points accordingly.

Commissioners next discussed the best way to assure the Board has not only a diverse age range, but also gender, race, and area of the City where Park Board members live. Commissioners review the resumes, which do not include this information. It is not until the interviews are held that Commissioners have a clear idea of the diversity a candidate could bring to the Board. After discussion, it was agreed that the Board appoints only one of its positions – the Mayor and City Council appoint the other six and the Board will work with both at each vacancy to help ensure a diverse Park Board. **Commissioner**

Ramels moved to adopt the criteria and process with the proviso that new Boards can assign point values. Commissioner Larsen seconded. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

The final topic of discussion was on filling the Board-appointed position, should an unexpected vacancy occur. After discussion, **Commissioner Holme moved that if the position is unexpectedly vacated during the first six months of the term, the #2 candidate will be asked to complete the four-year, non-renewable term; if a vacancy occurs after the first six months, a new process will be undertaken. Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Staff will add the process to the Board’s Operating Procedures, as an attachment.

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

APPROVED: _____
Amit Ranade, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____