

Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2009

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

John Barber
Terry Holme
Diana Kincaid
Donna Kostka
Jackie Ramels, Chair

Excused:

Neal Adams, Vice-chair
Jourdan Keith

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commissioner Ramels called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda topics. **Commissioner Holme moved approval of the agenda as presented, the September 10 minutes, and the record of correspondence received by the Board since its September 10 meeting. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion. The vote was taken, with all in favor. Motion carried.**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gallagher was out of town. Deputy Superintendent Christopher Williams reported on the following items. To learn more about Seattle Parks, see the website at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Golf Master Plan: Earlier this year, the Board recommended approval of the Golf Master Plan to the Superintendent. At the Board's September 10 meeting, Superintendent Gallagher reported some changes to the Master Plan. Deputy Superintendent presented additional information on those changes, per the Board's request. He explained that, after the Master Plan was recommended by the Board, the Superintendent then took the Master Plan to the Executive. Dwight Diveley, the City's Budget Director, requested that the plan be scaled back, due to the difficulty of forecasting revenues for the next six years in today's troubled economy. Deputy Superintendent Williams noted that Seattle Parks has already made two budget revisions in 2009, as a result of the decreased revenues. Due to the budget constraints, it was determined that West Seattle Golf Clubhouse and maintenance facility will not be addressed until work on the clubhouses and maintenance facilities at the other courses are addressed. The Department's goal is to include the West Seattle Golf components in the first stage and if funds become available, it will do so.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme on the construction timeline for the Golf Master Plan, Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that, following planning and design, construction is expected to

begin in 2011. For more information on the Master Plan, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/athletics/golfrse.htm>

Gun Rule: In response to the Mayor's proposal for a gun safety rule to cover community centers, playgrounds, and special events, the Superintendent has created a park rule, which was advertised in The Daily Journal of Commerce. The proposed rule establishes a condition of entry or use of posted facilities, meaning that in order to use certain parks or to be allowed into a Parks facility, you cannot have a firearm – except for the law enforcement and security officers. Deputy Superintendent Williams noted that there are many questions still on the legality of the rule, and some groups have already responded that they will take legal action against it. Parks has taken the stand that it owns the park properties and is setting the rule/condition of use and the City's stance is that this is the right thing to do. Seattle Center has already implemented the rule. The rule signs will be installed at 300 facilities and parks, beginning October 14 and staff members are being trained.

Commissioner Barber asked if the Department sought legal advice and Deputy Superintendent Williams answered that it has consulted with the City Attorney's office. Several other municipalities have also enacted similar rules, including two in Washington State. Commissioner Holme added that the Mayor has established a website to take public comment through October 4. He noted that the Superintendent creates the rule in response to the Executive's order and asked if the Park Board will be asked to weigh in on the rule. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that the Board will not be, as the rule has already been implemented. For more on the gun rule, see Mayor Nickel's press release at <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsdetail.asp?ID=10121&dept=40>

Staffing News: On September 28, Parks will welcome Nathan Torgelson as a Real Property Manager. Nathan comes to Parks from the Mayor's Office and will work on special projects such as zoning and Joint Use Agreements. He has nearly two decades of experience in land use, policy development, and public-private real estate partnerships. He spent 10 years with the City of Seattle as a land use planner in the Department of Planning and Development and later moved to the Office of Economic Development, where he managed the economic development strategy for South Lake Union. He spent four years with the City of Kent as the Economic Development Director before assisting Everett with its Riverfront development project. Nathan joined Mayor Greg Nickels' team in June 2006, when he became the Community Development Manager focusing on issues such as the Mercer corridor in South Lake Union, land use, housing and economic development.

Parks also welcomes Ron Harris-White as a Loaned Executive (meaning his salary is paid by SPU), specializing in utility-related projects. Ron has managed the Mayor's Clean & Green Seattle Initiative since its inception, and will continue to do so through the end of the year. He will also work on special projects, such as the SPU Director's Rule on stormwater drainage, which documents what goes into stormwater drainage pipes; watershed stewardship and publicity; and volunteer recruitment for water-related projects.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels about Mr. Torgelson's title/compensation, Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that his title is Manager III, Real Property Manager.

Update on Reservoir Lidding/New Parks: The new park development atop Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) reservoirs continues. At the Beacon Hill reservoir, the new Jefferson Park development is emerging from the footprint of the old north reservoir. Grading, utility installation, and pathway work are well underway. When the SPU contractor finishes with membrane and cover installation on the newly buried reservoir later this fall, the park project will include a new sports meadow. Once the SPU contractor has completed the membrane and cover work at the Myrtle Reservoir, Parks will advertise for contracts after the first of the year. Parks staff expects the new park to be built in the spring and summer of 2010. The SPU projects at West Seattle and Maple Leaf are underway and Parks will begin the master plan efforts this fall.

Magnuson Park Celebration: Saturday, September 26, marks the opening of the Magnuson Park Wetlands and the celebration of the overall completion of the Magnuson Park wetlands and athletic fields project funded by the 2000 Pro-Parks Levy. The northerly fields were opened earlier this year and the southerly fields are now complete but are not ready for scheduled use until the grass is fully established. The event will also mark the opening of the 65th street entrance into the park, the first project completed from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. For more information on Magnuson Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Magnuson/>.

Hubbard Homestead: The groundbreaking for this new Northgate-area park will also be held on Saturday, September 26. The four-acre Metro park and ride lot will be transformed into a new park for the Northgate Urban Center. Due to good bids received for this project, Parks is investigating adding a skatepark to the project. For more information on this new park, see http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/hubbard_homestead/.

Ballard Community Center: The community center participated with 75 Ballard businesses to spice up Tuesday evening in downtown Ballard this summer. The target was to bring people into the center and to entice local residents to stay in their neighborhood and play, shop, and eat. Eleven events were held at the center including juggling, "Yolates" family exercise on the grass, tile-making, a jazz piano performance by the piano instructor, a pot-making duel between pottery instructors, coupon handouts for "\$2 try it" campaign, and a painter painting to the music of a guitar-singer. Staff found that 190 of the 550 participants were new to the Ballard Community Center.

150 Volunteers Spruce Up Cascade and Denny Parks: As part of their Orange Days of Giving, 150 volunteers from ING DIRECT performed much-needed maintenance work at Cascade and Denny Parks. The dry stream bed at Cascade was weeded and new gravel was laid on the path, and The Cascade People's Center was cleaned and painted. The planting beds at Denny Park were weeded, edges tidied up, leaves raked, and new mulch applied. In addition, the volunteers installed a new planting bed in front of 100 Dexter. ING DIRECT also contributed \$20,000 towards a new pedestrian lighting project at Denny Park. This supplements an existing capital project.

Update on Citizen Testimony at 9/24 Meeting: Jim Snell testified to the Board at its September 10 meeting, regarding the Department's policy on tree trimming. He also submitted written testimony and several photos of tree trimming at the Leschi Natural Area. Mr. Snell testified that a tree was poisoned to improve a homeowner's view and the subsequent homeowner requested that Parks trim some other trees to improve his view. He asked that the Parks Department take legal action for the tree poisoning. Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that this is difficult for the Department to do, without proof of someone applying the poison.

Commissioner Ramels asked for more information on the Department's tree trimming for view policy. The Deputy Superintendent responded that the public may apply for tree removal/trimming permits, and then the Department evaluates the request. Commissioner Holme noted that the Mt. Baker community has spent a great deal of money to re-plant trees that won't block views. This was a win-win situation for the neighborhood. The tree trimming policy must be balanced for the needs of the Department and of the public.

Commissioner Kincaid noted that many of the parks' big leaf maples have reached maturity and will eventually need replacing. Deputy Superintendent Williams responded that several years ago, the Department completed a comprehensive tree inventory, which assessed the tree canopy and determined which trees need replacing. This work was completed under the then-Horticulture Director Duane Penttila.

Commissioner Barber pointed out that in 1986 the Leschi community evaluated its green vs. concrete areas and in 1989 Seattle City Council designated part of the area as the Leschi Natural Area – the first for Seattle. The natural area contains both private and public property. The Parks Department then prepared a vegetation management plan for the natural area. He urged Parks to review its tree trimming policy. Commissioner

Holme agreed with this suggestion. For more information on the Department's Tree Trimming Policy, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Environment/treepolicy.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 two minutes each and will be timed, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. The Board's usual process is for 10 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. No one testified.

Discussion/Recommendation: Proposal for a Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

At its September 10 meeting, Kevin Bergsrud, Seattle Parks Senior Planner, presented a briefing on this topic. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing. To read the minutes, including the briefing paper and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ParkBoard/minutes/2009/09-10-09.pdf>.

At this meeting, Rebecca Salinas, Seattle Parks Partnerships Manager, presented new information on the proposal. Commissioners received an updated version of the Advisory Committee's operating procedures several days prior to this meeting; which included a number of suggestions from the Board. The new version was posted to the Board's web site and is included below. Revisions to the procedures are shown in **yellow**.

Written Briefing **Operating Procedures**

The Committee

Name and Authority

The Name of the Committee is the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee. The Committee is approved by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in consultation with the Park Board of Commissioners.

Mission

The Magnuson Park Advisory Committee will **provide a forum for interested community members to be involved in the planning and development of Warren G. Magnuson Park and the Sand Point Historic District, and** to advise the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation on the stewardship of Warren G. Magnuson Park for the benefit of current and future generations.

Responsibilities

The Magnuson Park Advisory Committee **shall act in an advisory capacity to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in respect to planning, development, construction, management and operation of facilities and activities within Warren G. Magnuson Park and the Sand Point Historic District, including the following specific responsibilities:**

- A. To consult with and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation with regard to the development and amendment of planning documents for Warren G. Magnuson Park and Sand Point Historic District;**
- B. To consult with and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation regarding the Magnuson Park Supplemental Use Management Guidelines;**
- C. To hold public meetings open to the public on a regular basis and conduct open houses whenever necessary on issues and topics of widespread interest, in order to foster public interest in Warren G. Magnuson Park and Sand Point Historic District reuse and activities;**
- D. To promote public engagement** and support the use of the Park to meet a broad variety of interests, whenever possible.

E. To, from time-to-time, establish subcommittees or task forces consisting of Committee members plus additional community representatives as appropriate to advise on special matters such as shoreline development or facility construction; and

F. To make recommendations on the acceptance of gifts and bequests located within Warren G. Magnuson Park and Sand Point Historic District properties.

Process for Making Recommendations

The Magnuson Advisory Park Committee shall make recommendations to the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, in writing, clearly stating the recommendation being made, and providing a clear and concise rationale for the recommendation. The Superintendent will respond to the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee's written recommendation, in writing, by the next scheduled Magnuson Park Advisory Committee meeting or within 14 days, whichever is the longer period. If the Superintendent does not agree with the recommendation, the Superintendent will provide a written rationale for his decision to not approve the Committee's recommendation. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

As deemed necessary by the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, recommendations made by the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee to the Superintendent will go before the Board of Park Commissioners for their consideration. In keeping with City Council Ordinance 96453 establishing the Board of Park commissioners, recommendations of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee regarding planning, development and use policies will be presented to the Board of Park Commissioners for their consideration. Formal review of City Council ordinances pertaining to Warren G. Magnuson Park and Sand Point Historic District will remain the sole responsibility of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Members

Representation

Member ship on the Committee will be 13 volunteer members appointed as follows:

- 3 Members representing Park owners:
 - Park Board Commissioner appointed by the Park Board
 - Solid Ground appointed by same
 - University of Washington appointed by same
- 1 Member who is a resident of Sand Point Housing (or future housing) appointed by residents
- 3 Members representing park tenants:
 - 1 member representing sports interests, appointed by the tenants
 - 1 member representing arts and cultural interests, appointed by the tenants
 - 1 member representing water related recreation interests, appointed by the tenants
- 4 Members representing community interests
 - 1 member appointed by the Northeast District Council representing neighborhood interests
 - 1 member appointed by MESA (Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance)
 - 1 member appointed by Friends of Magnuson Park Liaison Committee
 - 1 member appointed by the Presidents of View Ridge, Windermere North Community Assoc. Laurelhurst Community Association and Hawthorne Hills Community Assn.
- 2 members representing Park users from neighborhoods not represented by above organizations
 - All members appointed by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation representing environmental interests and sports field user organizations

Each of the represented organizations will also appoint an alternate to serve in the absence of their regular appointed representative.

Terms and vacancies

- Each member will be appointed for an initial term of three years, staggered, with set beginning and ending dates.
- Should a member resign or fail to serve for any reason, a replacement member shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term, and, may apply for subsequent terms.
- Initial terms of members are as follows:

Pos #	Name	Appointing Authority	Term Begins	Term Expires
1		Solid Ground	2009	2010
2		UW	2009	2011
3		Park Board*	2009	2012
4		Housing Resident	2009	2011
5		Park Tenants	2009	2010
6		Park Tenants	2009	2011
7		Park Tenants	2009	2012
8		NE Council	2009	2011
9		MESA	2009	2012
10		FOM	2009	2010
11		Community Orgs.	2009	2011
12		Parks	2009	2011
13		Parks	2009	2012

Officers and term of office

The Chair and Vice-chair will be appointed at the beginning of each year by the Superintendent.

Duties of Officers

- Chair – The Chair will preside over all meetings of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee, establish the agenda and the order of business of the Committee in consultation with the members of the Committee, as well as, the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation or designated Park staff, appoint any subcommittees, cancel any meeting if deemed appropriate, and perform such other duties as may be expected of the Chair.
- Vice-Chair – The Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee when the Chair is not present at such meetings. The Vice-Chair shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the Chair.
- Secretary – The Secretary shall cause to have the minutes of all meetings of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee taken and records and correspondence of the Committee, including these Operating Procedures, and amendments thereto or restatement thereof, kept. The Secretary shall certify as to the adoption of the minutes of any meeting and as to the authenticity of any other document adopted by the Committee. The Secretary shall chair any subcommittee charged with considering amending or restating these Operating Procedures.

Meetings

Regular Meetings

The Magnuson Park Advisory Committee shall meet once per month during the course of the calendar year. The Committee will meet on the **second** Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Magnuson Park Bldg 30 Conference room unless the Chair announces a different time of day/location at least 72 hours before the start time of the regularly scheduled meeting. Such meetings will be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, to the extent they are not inconsistent with the Operating Procedures. All regularly scheduled meetings shall be public meetings.

Special Meetings

Specially scheduled meetings of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee may be called for any purpose by the Chair or any 7 members of the Committee. The Committee at the next regular scheduled meeting will have the option to confirm or disaffirm any action taken at a special meeting, and if they disaffirm, the action is undone.

Voting

Each member of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee shall have one vote and each vote must be exercised, including that of the Chair. An abstention or failure to vote by a member, or the appointed alternate, present at the meeting shall be deemed to be a vote against the proposition. Proxies shall not be permitted.

Quorum

At any regularly or specially scheduled meeting of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee, 7 members, or their appointed alternates, must be present for a quorum to be constituted. It shall take a simple majority of those members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present to pass a motion. In the event a quorum is present at the roll call for any meeting, then a quorum shall be deemed constituted for the entirety of the meeting until and unless only one member s present.

Attendance

It is anticipated that serving on the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee will require a time commitment of a minimum of 4 hours a month. This may increase depending on the number of issues the Committee deems necessary to address in any given month. Should a member miss three consecutive meetings without due cause, they may be asked by the Committee Chair to resign their seat.

Amendments

The Operating Procedures may be amended at any time upon consideration of any proposed amendment by a subcommittee appointed by the Chair for that purpose and then upon affirmative vote by no fewer than 9 of the members, or the appointed alternates, of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee. Final approval of any proposed amendment will be made by the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation.

Evaluation

The Magnuson Park Advisory Committee will operate for one year. At the end of this initial term, Committee members will evaluate how well the Committee functioned and how effective the Committee was in carrying out the responsibilities as outlined in these Operating Procedures. The evaluation will be discussed with the Superintendent and any major recommended changes will be implemented as approved by the Superintendent.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20_____

By: _____
Superintendent of Seattle Park and Recreation

By: _____
Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Verbal Briefing/Discussion

Ms. Salinas introduced herself and reviewed the changes resulting from the Board’s suggestions at the September 10 briefing and public hearing. She recognized that the procedures call for a three-year appointment of a Park Board Commissioner to the new Magnuson Park Advisory Council (MPAC) and the

Council may not necessarily coincide with the three-year appointment to the Park Board. This was a concern heard during the Board's previous discussion. The Board's coordinator will monitor the terms as part of the Board's Committee Assignment Matrix and keep the Board chair informed of any issues.

Commissioner Kostka was a member of the Discovery Park Advisory Council and has concerns that the name "Advisory Council" may confuse the public, as there are also advisory councils for the Department's 26 community centers [Ballard Community Center Advisory Council, High Point Community Center Advisory Council, etc.] She recommended that the name be changed from Advisory Council to something less confusing. Commissioner Ramels suggested that public generally isn't aware of the community center's advisory councils, minimizing the likelihood of confusion.

Deputy Superintendent noted that the Magnuson Park Community Center is one of those with its own advisory council, and Commissioner Ramels asked if it will have a representative on the new MPAC. Ms. Salinas responded that at this time, it will not.

Commissioner Barber asked if Seattle Parks plans to revisit the Magnuson Park Master Plan in the future. Ms. Salinas responded that the Department must perform an updated historic element review, especially with the new historic designation. Commissioner Barber asked if an appointed member's role is primarily communicating the work of the new MPAC back to his/her organization, or is it to attend the meetings and vote. Ms. Salinas answered that the members should do both of these.

Commissioner Holme moved the Board's approval of the most current version of the operating procedures. After a brief discussion, the motion was withdrawn and general discussion continued.

Commissioner Kostka asked if a representative from the Sand Point Historic District will be added to the new committee's membership to report on the park's historic perspectives. Ms. Salinas responded that the committee will invite members from the Sand Point Historic District to attend meetings as needed; however, it isn't necessary to have them attend all meetings.

Commissioner Adams could not attend tonight's meeting; however, he asked Commissioner Ramels to relay a question. He asked what the process will be if the new MPAC makes a recommendation that is brought to the Park Board and the Board disagrees. Ms. Salinas responded that the Superintendent will then make the determination.

Commissioner Holme moved the Board's approval of the most current draft of the Magnuson Park Advisory Council's operating procedures. Commissioner Barber seconded.

Commissioner Holmes appreciates the amendments made to the procedures. Commissioner Kincaid is pleased to see this moving forward and believes it will be a great benefit to Magnuson Parks. The addition of #F. under responsibilities, "To make recommendations on the acceptance of gifts and bequests located within Warren G. Magnuson Park and Sand Point Historic District properties" will be especially beneficial. Commissioner Barber hopes to see real improvements at Magnuson Park with the new MPAC.

The vote was taken and was in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Salinas and her staff for their work on the new Magnuson Park Advisory Committee.

Annual Briefing: Seattle Parks Foundation

Karen Daubert, Executive Director of the Seattle Parks Foundation, presented a briefing on the Foundation's work. No action is requested from the Board. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing which was posted on the Board's web page and is included in these minutes. Ms. Daubert also distributed

three handouts: the Foundation's 2008 Annual Report, 2006 Annual Report, and most recent newsletter "Seattle Parks Foundation Pathways, Winter 2009".

Written Briefing

Year in Review

Seattle Parks Foundation improves, expands, and creates parks and green spaces, building a more vibrant community. The Parks Foundation is an independent 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization working with public and private partners. Since 2001, Seattle Parks Foundation has completed 29 neighborhood park projects and raised over \$28 million for parks and green spaces in Seattle. Key parks projects during fiscal year 2009 (July '08 – July '09) include:

- **Lake Union Park:** Seattle Parks Foundation continued project oversight in partnership with Seattle Parks & Recreation and other key Lake Union Park partners to complete construction of the park's first Phase and begin Phase 2. The Parks Foundation is planning the grand opening celebration for September 2010.
- **Junction Plaza Park:** This neighborhood park project will transform a vacant lot in the heart of the rapidly developing West Seattle Junction urban village, into a vital community green space and gathering place. Seattle Parks Foundation worked with the community to raise funds to complete this long-awaited project. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2010.
- **Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop:** In partnership with the City of Seattle, the Parks Foundation has continued advocacy efforts and project work to create a continuous path for pedestrians and recreational cyclists around Lake Union. \$1.6 million was allocated for these projects from the 2009 City budget, and projects have been prioritized for these funds.
- **Waterway 18:** This waterway project at the north end of Lake Union will improve public access to the lake, restore salmon habitat, and make a neighborhood green space inviting and safe. The Parks Foundation mobilized the community, managed the design and permits, and raised money for this project. Improvements will begin in fall 2009 and be completed by spring 2010.
- **Counterbalance Park:** Seattle Parks Foundation completed fundraising and dedicated this urban plaza park in the Uptown neighborhood.
- **Bench, Tree and Yellow Swing Donation Programs:** These programs managed by the Parks Foundation, in close partnership with Seattle Parks & Recreation, provide opportunities for donors to improve parks and give in tangible and meaningful ways. Each program continues to grow.
- **Lake to Bay Trail:** Seattle Parks Foundation partnered with nonprofit, government, and private organizations to renew momentum for a trail connecting Lake Union Park to Seattle Center and the Olympic Sculpture Park. A collaborative vision is created and we are now entering the design stage.
- **Parks and Green Spaces Levy:** Seattle Parks Foundation took a lead role in advocating for the passage of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy which provided \$146 million for acquisition and development over the next six years. We continue to work with Parks to support the vision of this parks improvement initiative.
- **Central Waterfront:** Seattle Parks Foundation partnered with others to advocate for a transportation solution that provided for the best opportunity to create a vibrant and accessible public space on Seattle's Central Waterfront. We continue to be involved in discussions regarding the waterfront and advocate for the most active, green, and accessible public space.*

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Ms. Daubert introduced herself and reviewed information in the written briefing. The Foundation is a private non-profit that is separate from Parks, but works closely with it. It has a 28-member Board of Directors, with Bruce Bloom the current president. Seattle Parks' Superintendent and a member of the Park Board are both non-voting members of the Parks Foundation. The Board's position is currently vacant.

Ms. Daubert listed five of the Foundation's priorities:

- (1) Complete South Lake Union Park. The three-day grand opening is scheduled for the weekend of September 23-26, 2010. This project is on schedule and on budget.
- (2) Neighborhood parks: Junction Plaza and Waterway 18 on Lake Union
- (3) Green connections: The Cheshiahud Loop has an excellent master plan and extensive community support.
- (4) Parks and Greenspaces Levy: Ms. Daubert is proud to have been the co-chair of the 2008 Parks and Greenspaces Levy committee.
- (5) Central Waterfront: The Foundation looks forward to working on this, as the Viaduct is replaced.

The Foundation is now eight years old and has raised \$28 million for Seattle's parks. Staff are located in the South Lake Union Armory. She asked Commissioners to contact her directly with any questions and noted that she is a previous member of the Park Board.

Deputy Superintendent Williams stated that Ms. Daubert and the Foundation do excellent work for Seattle's parks and the Department really appreciates their efforts.

Commissioner Ramels asked for the name of the Parks and Greenspaces Levy Co-chair and why there were co-chairs. Ms. Daubert responded Mike McGinn was the co-chair. She handled the fundraising portion and Mr. McGinn moved levy ideas forward to City Council.

Commissioner Holme noted that the Museum of History and Industry are scheduled to move into the South Lake Union Armory and asked where the Foundation will be housed. Ms. Daubert responded that they are working on a couple of possibilities. It has been wonderful to look out the Foundation's windows and see the development of South Lake Union Park. Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme on how many paid staff the Foundation has, Ms. Daubert responded there are eight staff who work four days per week.

Commissioner Barber asked how the groups for the Central Waterfront are structured. Ms. Daubert responded that there are three oversight groups, coordinated by the Seattle Department of Transportation. She is a member of one, giving the Foundation an opportunity to focus on park development opportunities. The Viaduct is scheduled to be demolished at the end of 2014.

Commissioner Kincaid asked about the timeline for completion for the Cheshiahud Loop. Ms. Daubert referred to the excellent trail map that has been developed [Commissioners later received a copy] and stated that the Foundation will be working on the Loop's completion for a long time and will keep lobbying for funds.

Commissioner Kincaid asked if plans are for the Loop to eventually link to Seattle Center and then to the new Bell Street Green Street project. Ms. Daubert responded that it is and is referred to as the "Lake to Bay" trail. The Foundation is working with Seattle Center on this.

Commissioner Ramels was a recent member of the Citywide Review Team, community members who recommend awards of the Department of Neighborhoods' Neighborhood Matching Funds Large Projects. She recalled that the CRT awarded funds to the Waterway 18 project. She asked if the Foundation considers the NMF funds as part of its fundraising total. Ms. Daubert agreed that it does; however, much of the fundraising is from private parties for Waterway 18, Junction Park, and Denny Park. Commissioner Ramels asked if the Foundation will do the design for Waterway 18. Ms. Daubert answered that the Foundation raises fund, works with the community, and gives technical assistance, but doesn't do the designs. Commissioner Barber noted

that the Friends of Waterway 18 is the contracting agent and the Foundation is the fiscal agent. He commented that it is not always easy for community groups to find a fiscal agent.

The Board thanked Ms. Daubert for all the work Seattle Parks Foundation does to support Seattle's park system.

Briefing: SR520 – Mitigation and Compensation

David Graves, Seattle Parks Project Planner, presented a briefing on mitigation and compensation for the Washington Department of Transportation's SR520 project. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing which was posted on the Board's web page and is included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Requested Board Action

This briefing is being held at the request of the Board of Park Commissioners. No action is requested from the Board at this time. This briefing is being provided to the Commissioners to update them on the status of the project and set the stage for future briefing(s) and potential action later this year. Previous briefings were held on September 14, 2006 during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period and on January 12, 2006 on the original Pacific Street Interchange design. The last briefing of the Board on this topic was on January 22, 2009.

Project Background

The SR 520 Project is formally named the *I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project*. As has been presented to the Board before, there were three alternatives originally proposed and analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); a new 4-lane structure with a variety of options, a new 6-lane structure with a variety of options, and a no action alternative. For both the 4- lane and 6- lane alternatives, the project limits extend along the SR 520 corridor from I-5 in Seattle to 108th Avenue NE on the Eastside (just west of I-405). The 6-lane alternative also includes minor improvements to eastbound SR 520 between I-405 and 124th Avenue NE. Also, both the 4- lane and the 6- lane alternatives could include a Pacific Street/Arboretum interchange.

The Governor-sponsored Westside Mediation Process has come to a close and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is beginning to prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to analyze the three new alternatives which resulted from the mediation process. The Westside Mediation process included representatives from neighborhoods surrounding the SR 520 project and the Montlake interchange, the City of Seattle, University of Washington and the Arboretum Foundation. The mediation was led by private mediators hired by the Governor's office. They met for approximately eighteen months. The goal of the mediation was to have the participants reach consensus and forward a preferred alternative to the Governor. Instead, the process yielded three alternatives which are variations on the original alternatives. These new alternatives are significantly different so that they warrant additional environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act/Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

WSDOT's current schedule indicates that the SDEIS will be issued towards the end of 2009. The new alternatives are similar to the previous alternatives, with the following distinctions (refer also to the attached graphics which provides a comparison between the new alternatives):

- Alternative A: Similar to the base 6-lane option with the addition of a second bridge over the Montlake Cut
- Alternative K: Similar to the Pacific Street interchange with the intersection moved west from Marsh Island to McCurdy/East Montlake Park; the actual interchange is sixty (60) feet below grade and there is a tunnel under the Montlake Cut which connects to Pacific Street and Montlake Boulevard at the entrance to the Husky Stadium parking lot. There is also a land bridge/berm over SR 520 which connects the north and south halves of Marsh Island.

Alternative L: Similar to the Pacific Street interchange with the intersection moved west from Marsh Island to McCurdy/East Montlake Park; the actual interchange is elevated and there is a bridge over the Montlake Cut which connects to Pacific Street and Montlake Boulevard at the entrance to the Husky Stadium parking lot. Access between the north and south halves of Marsh Island is under the freeway similar to what exists today. Note that the berm/land bridge could be added here.

Public Involvement Process

WSDOT has and continues to hold numerous public meetings with community groups, organizations and public agencies. Seattle Parks and Recreation is one of the many public departments and agencies which has been and continues to work with and comment on WSDOT's proposal.

Impacts

There are potentially significant impacts associated with the project, particularly to the Arboretum and other parks within the SR 520 corridor. The project will impact the following Parks/park facilities:

- Bagley Viewpoint;
- Montlake Playfield
- East Montlake Park
- McCurdy Park
- The Arboretum
- Lake Washington Boulevard (Park Boulevard)
- The Japanese Garden
- Arboretum Waterfront Trail

Impacts to these Parks and park resources include:

- Loss of Bagley Viewpoint;
- Impacts to submerged park lands/loss of aquatic recreation opportunities at Montlake Playfield;
- Structure width - Shading of vegetation, impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitat and passive recreation areas at Montlake Playfield and the Arboretum;
- Structure height (positive & negative)
- Through traffic on Lake Washington Boulevard in the Arboretum;
- Noise and traffic impacts on the Japanese Garden;
- Permanent closure of the Lake Washington Boulevard on/off-ramps to SR 520 (reduces traffic through the Arboretum - positive impact);
- Visual impacts of noise walls on the Arboretum;
- Pacific Street/Arboretum Interchange – direct impacts to the north end of the Arboretum, particularly Marsh and Foster Islands and East Montlake and McCurdy Parks; spillover traffic impacts throughout the Arboretum;
- Loss of the MOHAI building;
- Loss of McCurdy Park;
- Impacts to East Montlake Park;
- Use of the WSDOT peninsula; and
- Construction and construction staging impacts.

Note that there are also potentially significant natural resource and cultural impacts which are being reviewed by State and Federal agencies and the Tribes. The City is comprised of many agencies and Parks is coordinating with the other departments to ensure that we speak as a coordinated whole at the most opportune moment(s).

Mitigation/Compensation

All three alternatives result in the complete loss of Bagley Viewpoint. Bagley Viewpoint is approximately 0.1 acre and located on Delmar Drive. The viewpoint provides views of UW, Lake Washington and the Cascades. WSDOT is proposing a lid over SR 520 in the same location to mitigate for the loss of the viewpoint.

The north end of the Arboretum is a mixture of property ownership; City of Seattle, UW, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Arboretum Foundation. The Port of Seattle also owns property along the Montlake Cut which is potentially impacted by the project. Of particular importance is the Arboretum Waterfront Trail which runs from the parking lot in McCurdy Park, across Marsh and Foster Islands, along the east side of Duck Bay, ending approximately at the intersection of Arboretum Drive and Foster Island Road. This trail was originally constructed with funds from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and then rehabbed with Washington State Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) funds which gives the area special protection under Federal (Sec. 6f of the Land & Water Conservation Fund legislation) and State legislation and requires very specific mitigation for impacts to this resource.

The three alternatives have very different impacts in the Arboretum. Depending on the alternative, the above listed property owners and properties are also impacted differently. At this point WSDOT has only provided a summary of the park areas impacted, it is not broken out by property owner¹:

	Temporary	Permanent
Option A	6.51 acres	2.82 acres
Option K	10.90 acres	3.50 acres
Option L	8.12 acres	4.62 acres

Mitigation

The Arboretum area presents a unique suite of mitigation requirements across a variety of jurisdictions. The project will impact wetlands in the area of the Arboretum and Montlake Playfield. Impacts to the wetlands are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Washington State Department of Ecology and potentially the Seattle Department of Planning & Development if a Master Use Permit is required. Impacts to wetlands must be mitigated by enhancing existing wetlands/wetland buffers and/or creating new wetlands at legislation specified ratios depending on the rating (functions & values) of the impacted wetland. The focus of the wetland mitigation will be in the Arboretum/Montlake playfield area first before looking outside of the area. The UW natural area on the north side of Union Bay may also present wetland enhancement opportunities.

Lake Washington is a migration route for Chinook salmon which are listed and thus protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Any potential impacts to listed salmonids are the jurisdiction of the US Fish & Wildlife Service/National Marine Fisheries Service.

There are going to be less quantifiable impacts to the Arboretum, both in the short term and in the long term, such as construction noise and highway noise from vehicles. There are also view impacts; i.e., views from and within the Arboretum may change significantly depending on the option chosen. The higher the main line of the highway, the more visible the structure. That said, a higher structure may lessen the noise impacts and could actually improve recreational

¹ Note that this does not include the area known as the WSDOT peninsula. This area is owned by WSDOT and includes the R.H.Thompson ramps to nowhere. While it is owned by WSDOT, Parks maintains the area as part of the Arboretum and it is used for recreation purposes making it ineligible as replacement property under 6f.

access by making the area under the highway more open for canoe and kayak access and open up the area of the trail that passes under the highway to connect the north and south portions of Foster Island. Portions of the Arboretum and East Montlake/McCurdy Park will be used by the contractor for long periods of time for temporary staging and/or construction of the new highway and demolition of the existing structure. All of these impacts will warrant mitigation pursuant to NEPA. Mitigation will likely be identified in the SDEIS. Temporary construction impacts may be addressed with compensation which could fund improvements to the Arboretum based on the Arboretum Master Plan. In addition, a contractor will be required to return any areas used but not retained by WSDOT to their pre-construction state regardless of any required mitigation.

If there is no direct access to SR 520 from Lake Washington Boulevard; i.e., no Lake Washington Boulevard ramps, traffic through the Arboretum will likely decrease (Option A). However, with SR 520 access from Lake Washington Boulevard as designed in Options K and L, traffic volumes through the Arboretum will increase as drivers travel through the Arboretum to get on/off SR 520. These traffic impacts will also require some form of mitigation. One opportunity for mitigation is the tolling. Due to the ongoing impacts to the Arboretum from SR 520, both the mainline through the north end of the Arboretum and the access to and from the on/off ramps on Lake Washington Boulevard, a surcharge could be added to the toll which would then be used to fund ongoing operations and improvements within the Arboretum as identified in the Arboretum Master Plan.

Compensation

Section 4f of the Federal Highways Act provides that no park land can be taken for transportation purposes unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. For any park property that is taken for the SR 520 project, WSDOT will have to pay the property owner the value of the property.

Initiative 42 is a City ordinance which precludes the conversion of park property to a non-park use. In the end, WSDOT will have to compensate the City for any loss of park land. UW owns a significant portion of property in the north end of the Arboretum and a large portion of Marsh Island and East Montlake Park are owned by DNR.

The MOHAI building and underlying property is owned by the City but operated by the museum. The MOHAI building will be demolished as part of the project and WSDOT will have to compensate the City/MOHAI for the value of the building and the underlying property. Note that Arboretum Master Plan envisioned the MOHAI building as future space for Arboretum functions once the building is no longer used by the museum.

Finally, as previously noted, the north end of the Arboretum receives unique status due to section 6f of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. If property that is protected under 6f is converted (taken for other than recreational purposes) then property of similar recreational utility must be provided. Monetary compensation is not an option. Property of similar recreational value must be provided as compensation. Equal value but not equal acreage is required. In this case, replacement property must be waterfront property with similar recreational utility. An additional point is that WSDOT can not condemn property for mitigation purposes; they have to find a willing seller and pay fair market value. Property that has previously been in recreational use is not eligible as replacement property. Finally, temporary impacts are mitigated by paying the lease value of the property. However, "temporary" is limited to 180 days by statute. The National Parks Service has the final say in the appropriateness of the replacement property, with input from the State Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) and the City and UW. The local branch of the National Parks Service is pushing to loosen the "temporary" definition to allow greater flexibility. In the SR 520 case, there are areas that may be occupied by WSDOT for up to 5 years for construction, but ultimately the property will be returned the underlying property owner.

Given this 6f requirement, WSDOT is interested in identifying early acquisition sites to replace the 3 to 5 acres of park property that will be converted. Note that the 3 to 5 acres are not exclusively Parks' property; it is also UW and DNR ownership. Beyond the typical waterfront lots around Seattle there may be other types of property to suggest to WSDOT as potential early acquisitions.

The above is a sketch of the scope of mitigation/compensation requirements associated with the SR 520 project. As the project moves forward and the final alternative is chosen, the impacts will become more well defined and the requirements clearer. At this point, Parks is working with UW and the other City departments to ensure that the impacts to Parks' and thus City property are accurately presented so that we are prepared to work through the mitigation and compensation requirements, options and opportunities with WSDOT.

Schedule

WSDOT expects to issue the SDEIS sometime in late 2009. The current alternatives may change as the year progresses and WSDOT discusses the project with the State and Federal regulatory agencies and the Tribes. Once the SDEIS is issued there will be a public comment period. Additionally, the City will coordinate its internal review of the project such that we can provide a coordinate response to WSDOT. The SDEIS will also be an opportunity for the Board of Parks Commissioners to comment on the project.

Additional Information

If you any questions regarding the SR520 project, contact David Graves at 684-7048 or e-mail to david.graves@seattle.gov.

WSDOT's SR 520 Project Website is:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/bridgeproject.htm> *Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion*

Mr. Graves last briefed the Board on the SR 520 project in January 2009. He reviewed information in the written briefing paper and noted that WSDOT is still considering the three alternatives. Mr. Graves has been focusing on the mitigation and compensation aspects of the project. He displayed a number of large maps and described the various areas that may be affected by the project. He next described the three alternatives. A very brief summary follows:

Alternative A – 4 lanes, with the least impact to the parks; two draw bridges; challenge is how to treat the stormwater runoff; has more impact to Foster Island than the other two alternatives

Alternative K – 6-lanes; tunnel 60' below ground running under the Montlake Cut and emerging at Husky Stadium parking lot - University of Washington has serious concerns with this element; land bridge at Marsh Island; footprint is very large (compared in size to Denny Park); stormwater must be pumped to some type of pond facility; currently the stormwater runs directly in Lake Washington (with completion of the new project, it must go through a retention pond, be treated locally, and then into Lake Washington.)

Alternative L - 6-lanes and similar to K, but has elevated interchange; must have drawbridge.

Commissioner Kostka asked how the new Sound Transit Station will fit into the alternatives. Mr. Graves responded that WSDOT and Sound Transit are still working to determine this. Responding to a question from Commissioner Kincaid about surface street traffic impacts, Mr. Graves responded that the project will have huge impacts and various groups are working on the best ways to address this. He is focused on the mitigation and compensation aspect.

Commissioner Ramels asked about other City groups which are focusing on this project. Mr. Graves responded that the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC), which has voting members appointed

by the UW, City of Seattle, Arboretum Foundation, and Governor, are focused on this. Commissioner Ramels asked about the UW's position and Mr. Graves answered that the University has not yet taken a formal stand on the alternatives. Alternatives K and L are very disruptive to the Husky Stadium parking lot, which could be the site of future campus buildings for the University.

Commissioner Kincaid viewed the U-tube versions of the alternatives (see sites below)

- **West side design Option A**
[YouTube](#) | [Windows Media Player](#)
- **West side design Option K**
[YouTube](#) | [Windows Media Player](#)
- **West side design Option L**
[YouTube](#) | [Windows Media Player](#)
- **Eastside corridor**
[YouTube](#) | [Windows Media Player](#)

and would like to see future simulations of traffic impacts of each of the alternatives. On the U-tube simulations, Alternative K looks to have the most impact and A the least. Mr. Graves commented that WSDOT expects to release its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by the end of the year and it should include more graphics and visuals of project impacts. Commissioner Kincaid asked if the alternatives include bike lanes. All three do and Mr. Graves pointed them out on the drawings.

Mr. Graves will send the DEIS to the Park Board, once it is released. Commissioner Kostka asked if any of the alternatives will be more detrimental to fish in Lake Washington and the Montlake Cut. Mr. Graves responded that Alternative K is expected to have the greatest impact on fish and the Muckleshoot Tribe is expected to weigh in on this.

Commissioner Barber commented that this is an excellent briefing, and asked how the 4F classification will affect WSDOT's final decision. Mr. Graves stated that SR520 is an existing road and the decision comes down to feasibility. He noted that the Bagley Viewpoint will be removed in all three alternatives.

Commissioner Ramels referred to the briefing paper under the "Compensation" section, 6F classification. Mr. Graves replied that if WSDOT takes 10 acres of land for the project, it must replace it with land that is equivalent in value and use to that taken – monetary compensation is not an option. Deputy Superintendent Williams asked if WSDOT-owned property at the I-90 Lid is being discussed as exchange property. Mr. Graves answered that it is not, as the I-90 Lid property cannot be used for recreation. Commissioner Barber asked if land with similar characteristics, such as at Duwamish or Thornton Creek could be exchanged and Mr. Graves answered yes.

Commissioner Ramels asked if WSDOT is working with the National Parks Service and, if so, do their representatives have a good understanding of the Arboretum. Mr. Graves responded that WSDOT is working with National Parks Service staff that live in Seattle.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme on which Alternative is closest to the \$4.65 billion budget set by WSDOT, Mr. Graves responded that Alternative A is the closest.

Disclosure: Commissioner Barber asked to disclose that he will be meeting with Governor Gregoire next week in support of Alternative A.

Larry Sinnott, who was scheduled to next brief the Board, stood and stated that Virginia Gumby is the primary lead of the proponents of Alternative A, as well as Jorgen Bader and Commissioner Barber. He gave additional

background on the group. Commissioner Ramels asked if there are proponent groups for Alternatives K and L. Mr. Graves answered that there is for K, but not L.

Commissioner Holme commented that this project is very large, with many agencies and groups involved – absorbing the information is like trying to drink from a fire hose. The Board asked for the following information to help keep it informed:

- When will the City state its preference on an alternative? Mr. Graves responded that it will do so after the Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement is released. The Board asked to be notified when the City does so.
- Keep the Board informed as to project benchmarks where it can give input.
- Continue briefing the Board and sending updates via e-mail.
- Provide the Board, if available, with an organizational chart showing all the agencies, community groups, etc., in this project that show all the players and which groups support the three alternatives.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Graves for the excellent briefing and look forward to receiving the results of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement later this year.

Briefing: Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks' Position on SR520 Projects Regarding Impacts to Olmsted Parks

Brooks Kolb, President of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP), and Larry Sinnott, Board member of FSOP, next briefed the Board on FSOP's position on the SR520 project. Both are members of the SR520 Mediation Panel referred to in tonight's earlier briefing on the SR520 project. This briefing was at the request of the Park Board, following a recent briefing on FSOP's history and objectives. No action from the Board is requested. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing which was posted on the Board's web page and is included in these minutes.

Written Briefing

Briefing to the Board of Parks Commissioners Concerning State Route 520**

Submitted by: Brooks Kolb, president, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and Larry Sinnott, FSOP Board member, and member of the SR520 Mediation Panel

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, a citizen's group advocating for the preservation and enhancement of our 100 year-old renowned park and boulevard system designed by the Olmsted Brothers, have major concerns about State Route 520 Options K and L. Both of these design options are severely detrimental to Seattle's treasured Washington Park Arboretum and to Lake Washington Boulevard, the extensive parkway which runs through it and is a vital link in Seattle's Park system.

Not only do Options K and L force much higher volumes of traffic into the Arboretum than does Option A, but they send all southbound traffic entering Seattle without continuing to I-5, to exit through the Arboretum. Moreover, Option K totally destroys the Lake Washington Boulevard experience by imposing one-way, east-bound travel on its segment east of Montlake, routing the other direction of Boulevard traffic into a new trough excavated in Arboretum parkland, where it is combined with very circuitous freeway on-ramp connections.

Lastly, the wider footprints of Options K and L over Marsh Island and Foster Island are more disruptive to the delicate ecology and wildlife habitat of the Arboretum's wetlands than Option A would be. In fact, the proposed "berm" for pedestrian crossings over the highway depicted in K and L requires such a vertical height, with steep access ramps, as to be essentially a physical and visual barrier, cutting the shoreline of Foster Island off from the Arboretum.

The Arboretum Foundation has unfortunately been reticent to acknowledge these adverse impacts of Options K and L, so it is incumbent upon the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks to raise them. It is important to remember that the current Arboretum on and off-ramps to existing State Route 520 were not originally planned to funnel traffic onto Lake Washington Boulevard – their original purpose 50 years ago was to connect 520 to the proposed RH Thomson freeway. We should reverse the very unfortunate decision made when the RH Thomson project was abandoned, to connect these freeway ramps to Lake Washington Boulevard, which is the central spine of our city-wide park and boulevard system. The Boulevard is a park-owned resource intended for park and recreation purposes – it was never meant to be a freeway access ramp as it is in Options K and L. Option A would have nearly half the traffic volume through the Arboretum and would cost \$2 billion less than Option K. We strongly urge you to give serious consideration to these key merits of Option A, which have largely been ignored by the press.

In these difficult economic times and as part of our global responsibility, FSOP has also urged that the City Council, SDOT and WSDOT consider the merits of a transit-optimized, 4-lane solution which would save billions of dollars in taxpayers' money and would have a far lower environmental impact on our Seattle parks, open spaces and wildlife habitat corridors than any 6-lane option. We have consistently stated that a 4-lane, transit-optimized option should be included in the SR520 Supplemental EIS.

** This briefing was originally presented by FSOP to the City Council on January, 2009, with an accompanying letter, dated December 30, 2008, addressed to City Council Chairman Richard Conlin; Mayor Greg Nickels; Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis; SDOT Director Grace Crunican and Parks Superintendent Tim Gallagher.

Verbal Briefing/Board Discussion

Mr. Sinnott commented that tonight was the first time he has heard of the catch basin considerations. Mr. Graves responded that the alternatives must deal with the stormwater runoff. Brooks Kolb introduced himself and commented that Alternative A is the least detriment to the Arboretum and the other parks. Alternative K sends westbound traffic into the Arboretum, rather than into the Montlake area, and would have a terrible impact on Lake Washington Boulevard. Mr. Sinnott and Mr. Kolb displayed seven diagrams and described the three alternatives.

They stated that the lid (land bridge) in both Alternatives require an incredible handicap ramp. Installation of the handicap ramp will also require removal of a lot of trees. These alternatives require 14 lanes across Marsh Islands.

Other statements/points by Mr. Sinnott and Mr. Kolb:

- Why re-connect Lake Washington Boulevard to SR 520 during this project? WSDOT states it can do this because it owns the land. This is not a good reason and Alternative A avoids this.
- Alternative A maximizes transit and bus ridership – it doesn't benefit vehicles.
- Alternatives K and L only benefit the Montlake and Arboretum area and not the larger area.
- Alternative A best reflects and supports the Olmsted vision.
- Alternative K increases traffic in the area by 50%, while A decreases it by 75%
- Alternative K increases traffic on 23rd Avenue by 83%, while A decreases it by 27%.

Commissioner Holme referred to the rainwater detention plan and wondered if it would be similar to that at Blue Dog Pond on the I-90 Lid.

Commissioner Ramels thanked Mr. Sinnott and Brooks for attending the meeting. She commented that the Park Board's primary issue is the impact this project has on parks and not the traffic impacts.

Old/New Business

Board's Committee Assignments: Commissioner Barber is interested in the new Magnuson Park Advisory Council position; Commissioner Kostka again voiced her strong interest in being appointed to the Seattle Parks Foundation. She currently is a member of the Park Naming Committee and is willing to resign from that position.

October 8 Meeting and Mini-Retreat: The Board will hold a two-hour retreat from 5:00-7:00 pm, prior to its regular meeting. Susan Golub, Seattle Parks' strategic advisor, will facilitate the retreat. The agenda will include several issues carried over from the Board's May 5 retreat, as well as a discussion on the Board's community meetings. Commissioners Holme and Jourdan will know closer to the date if they can attend.

October 22 Meeting: The Chair asked that staff add time under Old/New Business to discuss the agenda items that Park Board members recently submitted.

November 5 Meeting: The November 12 meeting has been re-scheduled to November 5.

December 4 Breakfast Meeting with Former Park Board Chairs: Four of the six former chairs have responded that they will attend the meeting. The meeting format will be discussed at the October 8 mini-retreat.

Leschi Centennial Celebration: Commissioner Barber reported a successful celebration this past weekend. A participant brought a copy of the 1909 Board of Park Commissioner's Report, which included information on Lake Washington Boulevard and surrounding parks. At that time, the Board directed the Parks Department and "had all the power." Commissioner Barber enjoyed reading about Lake Washington Boulevard, as written 100 years ago.

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

APPROVED: _____

Jackie Ramels, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____