

# Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2011

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:

Antoinette Angulo  
John Barber  
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair  
Terry Holme, Chair  
Jourdan Keith  
Donna Kostka  
Jackie Ramels

## ***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff***

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

## **City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee Staff**

Philip Roewe, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Holme, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the June 9 agenda and acknowledgement of correspondence. Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken and unanimous in approval. Motion approved.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following topics. To listen to the report, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591150> and move cursor to position 1:19.

Building 11: The lease amendment is now before City Council for consideration, and is scheduled for discussion beginning on June 16. Last week, Seattle Parks wrote tenants a letter to vacate the building by June 15. The Department of Planning and Development will hold a public hearing on June 14 regarding the shoreline permit needed for the Brig. (Commissioner Holme commented that the shoreline permit process may take a good while to complete.) In the meantime, Parks continues to work on a solution that will allow artists to stay in Building 11 and hopes for a satisfactory solution for all parties. Sail Sand Point and Building 11 LLC are still negotiating on the lease.

Commissioner Barber noted that one person who submitted testimony to the Board referred to several documents he (Commissioner Barber) is unfamiliar with. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the documents refer to the requirements that Building 11 LLC must have proof of funding to move ahead with the agreement and must show evidence that it has commitments for at least 50% occupancy so the building will not sit empty. The LLC has provided this information. Seattle Parks believes it is likely the lease

amendment will go forward. For more information on Building 11 and the lease amendment, see [http://www.seattle.gov/council/bagshaw/building11\\_qa.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/council/bagshaw/building11_qa.htm).

5-Points Café Street Use Permit Update: Dave Meinert, owner of the 5-Point Cafe has installed the permanent fencing that will enclose his café and is in the process of finishing up the last of the work to improve access over the gutter that pedestrians must cross to pass between the original sidewalk and the park. Parks has relocated planters and benches and replaced some smaller planters with large ones to improve the park and to make a clear and more attractive pedestrian pathway. Parks will soon be adding some metal tables with attached seats. These tables will accommodate umbrellas and Mr. Meinert has previously said that his staff would put the umbrellas out during the day and bring them in at night. The changes should be completed by the end of June. [Photo from 5 Point Café's website, showing new seating area]



Big Day of Play Sponsorships: PCC Natural Markets is again this year's August 27 "Big Day of Play" title sponsor. The sponsorship is valued at \$15,000 and includes a \$7,000 cash donation, \$5,000 in food and promotional items, and a \$3,000 promotional package. King 5 television station and KJR Radio are the major media sponsors again this year. Children's Hospital and Next Step Physical Therapy are each sponsors at the \$1,000 level and staff are waiting on confirmation of an exclusive \$1,000 sponsorship from a chiropractic practice. For more information on "Big Day of Play", see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/healthyparks/big\\_day.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/healthyparks/big_day.htm).

Cascade People Center Update: After some controversy regarding Parks' Request for Proposal (RFP) selection of the Metrocenter YMCA as the operator for the Cascade People Center (including a protest by the Cascade Neighborhood Council (CNC) which also submitted a proposal but did not receive the award), Parks and the YMCA executed an interim agreement this week that will allow the YMCA to begin managing the facility and start some basic programming at the facility until a long-term agreement and legislation is approved by the Seattle City Council. The YMCA will provide basic programs and community programs this summer in addition to its signature program Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (BOLD) program.

The Y moved into the facility this past weekend and Parks staff will vacate the building in September to free up another 812 sq. ft. of program space. The facility is located at 309 Pontius Avenue North. Parks and the YMCA will continue to work with the CNC to determine its involvement with the facility.

Belltown RFP/RFQ: Parks issued a Request for Interest/Qualifications on May 13 for interested parties to operate the soon-to-be-developed Belltown Community Center at the ZUM Building on 5<sup>th</sup> and Bell Street, with statements of qualifications due on June 10. For more information on the new community center, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/current/Belltown\\_Neighborhood\\_Center.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/current/Belltown_Neighborhood_Center.htm).

Community Center Advisory Team: The Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT) had its last meeting on June 2. CCAT is a group of Parks employees, labor representatives, City Council, and City Budget Office staff, ARC representatives, Park Commissioners, senior and teen representatives, and members chosen from the public. It met the first and third Thursdays of the month from late January through early June and provided advice to the Department as it prepared its response to the City Council's Community Center Partnership and Analysis Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI). The Department really appreciates the time and talent represented by this team, who took the time to really learn about community center operations and how other jurisdictions responded to similar budget issues. They brought informed insights from their various experiences and really challenged staff thinking at many points. The Department's July 1 SLI response to City Council will be better because of their work.

The next phase of this project gives the public a chance to comment on the nine options, (not recommendations), identified by the Department with help from CCAT. On the Parks website there are nine "one-page" explanations of the nine options and a link to a survey where the public can rate each option on a scale of 1–6. These can also be accessed via a link from Councilmember Bagshaw's webpage. The survey results will assist the Mayor and City Council with their decisions.

[A Statement of Legislative Intent is described on the City Council web page as:

*A "Statement of Legislative Intent" or SLI is used for various purposes, including to:*

- *Explain an action, such as providing a rationale for a budget cut;*
- *Give guidance for City policy, such as describing how a program is to operate;*
- *Call for additional study, such as requesting a report analyzing the effectiveness of a new program; or*
- *Create a work program for a department and/or the Council, such as calling for a study of a new concept or approach.*

*Agendas for each budget meeting are posted by date along with links to SLIs presented at that meeting. SLIs are available for downloading in a PDF format.*

*If a specific SLI was discussed by the Budget Committee on more than one occasion, it will appear on the agenda for each meeting at which it was discussed. For the most current version of a SLI, look for the last agenda at which the SLI was presented to the Budget Committee.*

*SLIs will be presented during the following round of the budget review process.*

[\*Presentation & Discussion of Options \(Round 1\)\*](#)

[\*Final Decisions & Votes \(Round 2\)\*](#)

Park Naming: Today Parks announced five new park names: Woonerf Park, located at the southeast corner of 12th Avenue and East James Court. A woonerf is a street where pedestrians and cyclists have priority over motorists. The other new names are at Thornton Creek Park: Licorice Fern Natural Area on Thornton Creek (formerly Park #1), Kingfisher Natural Area on Thornton Creek (formerly Park #2), Beaver Pond Natural Area on Thornton Creek (formerly Park #6), and LaVilla Meadows Natural Area on Thornton Creek (Ravenna Ave.).

Seattle Parks and Recreation, City Councilmembers, the Mayor, and the Park Board received a number of e-mails urging that the area that has been named Beaver Pond Natural Area on Thornton Creek be instead named after peace activist Alice Bryant. After considering the naming criteria, the vision for consistent names for the parks along Thornton Creek, and the desire to identify the unique feature of the sites that distinguish them from each other, the committee was unanimous in its recommendation of Beaver Pond Natural Area on Thornton Creek. The beaver pond is a unique feature that brings many visitors to this site. The beavers have completely changed the configuration and vegetation of the site in a way that will be there for years to come. This is the feature of this section of Thornton Creek that sets it apart from the other park land along the creek. The committee recommended, and the Superintendent agreed, that the City's already existing Peace Park would be better utilized to recognize local peace activists. Staff recently visited Peace Park and identified an area where Ms. Bryant's work on behalf of peace could be recognized. Staff will work with her family to further develop these plans in the coming weeks. Peace Park is located at the northwest corner of University Bridge. The statue of Sadako and the 1,000 Cranes is located at Peace Park.

For more information on Peace Park, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park\\_detail.asp?ID=4029](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=4029). For more information on Thornton Creek Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/ProParks/projects/northopenspace.htm>. For more information on Woonerf Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/12thAve.htm>.

Levy Inflation Earnings Update: The Parks and Green Spaces Levy Citizen Oversight Committee has voted to accept the staff recommendation to utilize \$10 million of the \$14 million inflation allowance for development projects to undertake a slate of additional projects from the Department's Asset Management Plan. A public hearing will be held at the June 27 meeting at Jefferson Community Center. The Oversight Committee's recommendations will be voted on and submitted to the Parks Department at the Committee's July 25 meeting, after it considers the public hearing testimony. The projects include re-roofing several community centers, replacement of the water system at Seward Park, and other priority major maintenance projects. For more information on the Levy Oversight Committee, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/levy/oversight.asp>.

Youth Violence Prevention: Seattle Parks and Recreation's Youth Violence Prevention Team and the Camp Long Environmental Learning Center, in partnership with Seattle Police Department's Community Outreach Unit, held the first Peace Camp at Camp Long in West Seattle recently. Fourteen youth and four chaperones from South Park Community Center committed their weekend to becoming Peace Keepers. The goal of this overnight experience was to ensure youth are able to fully understand their ability to contribute to peacekeeping in their communities and lead other movements in places where youth gather, such as school campuses, churches, and community centers.

Downtown Parks Programming: Parks has begun its downtown parks programming for the summer and will host nearly 200 events between June and September in eight downtown parks. These include everything from live music concerts to buskers to dancing to movies to arts and crafts for kids, with nearly all of it free. There are some low-cost urban gardening classes that are taught in association with Seattle Tilth. In addition, wi-fi is working at Victor Steinbrueck, Westlake, and Occidental Parks.

Free Sports Classes for Youth: Best Effort Basketball Camp dates have been set at nine community centers this July. This free camp, which has had more than 1,000 campers per summer since it began in 1986, is being offered at South Park, Delridge, Rainier, Meadowbrook, Northgate, Loyal Heights, Garfield, Yesler, and Jefferson Community Centers beginning July 11. It is one of seven different sports being offered as free camps to the community this summer through the Citywide Youth Athletic Office. For more information on Summer Youth Sports Camps, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Athletics/youthsummer.htm>.

Magnolia Manor Park: The Friends of the Magnolia Manor Park, along with the consultant, SiteWorkshop have conducted two public meetings to create a site plan for Magnolia Manor Park. This Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) site includes a reservoir and about four acres of open space, much of which is fenced off from the neighborhood. Most of this fencing will require removal and replacement as part of the scope for the individual elements. The design will include a Parks and Green Spaces Levy dog off-leash area; there is also strong interest in having a P-Patch. For more on this new park, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/nmf/magnolia\\_manor.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/nmf/magnolia_manor.htm).

Responding to a question from Commissioner Holme on whether SPU has voiced concern with an off-leash area at the water reservoir, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that he doesn't yet know if the utility has taken a position. Parks staff will determine this before moving forward and raising public expectations of the off-leash area.

Summit Slope Park: Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels whether there is any news about the Summit slope Park skatedot, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that Acting Superintendent Williams has not yet made a public announcement. For more information on Summit Slope Park, see [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park\\_detail.asp?ID=4461](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=4461).

## **Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience**

The Chair explained 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-to-three minutes each, 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 Old/New Business. No one testified.

## **Briefing/Public Hearing: Seattle Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan**

Kathleen Conner, Seattle Parks Senior CIP Planner, presented a briefing on the Department's 2011 Development Plan, immediately followed by a public hearing. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing and a copy of the draft 2011 Development Plan. These were posted to the Board's web page for the public; the briefing paper is included in these minutes. To hear Ms. Conner's presentation, the full public hearing, and the Board's discussion, <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591150> and move cursor to position 23.30.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

The Board will be briefed on Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan and a public hearing will be held on June 9, 2011. Parks staff requests that the Board make a recommendation to the Superintendent on adoption of the 2011 Development Plan at the June 23 meeting.

#### **Project Description and Background**

Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan replaces Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2006 Development Plan. This plan is specific to acquisition and development efforts that will be pursued over the next five-to-six years primarily for outdoor recreation and open space. The 2011 Development Plan needs approval by the Parks Superintendent and must be adopted by the City Council in order for Seattle Parks to maintain its eligibility for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants.

#### **Public Involvement Process**

The public involvement was thorough and used a combination of tools:

- Parks Webpage with the 2006 plan and information about the 2011 Plan update.
- Staffed a table at two Mayor's Town Hall meetings (Jefferson Community Center and Magnolia Community Center) with information on the Development Plan update process. These meetings were advertised by the Mayor's Office through media, blogs, and flyers. 75-100 people attended each meeting and many stopped by to talk with Parks staff.
- Two public meetings (Jefferson Community Center and Bitter Lake Community Center). These meetings were advertised on the web page, flyers were distributed to community centers and other Parks buildings, community councils, district councils, blogs, and an e-mail outreach to more than 3,000 individuals and community groups. Press releases were also sent to blogs and media including the "City of Seattle Ethnic Media Contact List." The meetings were included in the City-wide calendar of meetings. "Twitter" and the Seattle Parks Facebook page were used to advertise and remind folks of the meeting. Approximately 21 people attended the Jefferson meeting and 10 people attended the Bitter Lake meeting.
- Staffed a table at two Neighborhood Planning meetings that had Parks staff support with information on the Development Plan update process. The meeting notices were in multiple languages and there were interpreters at the meetings. Approximately 45-65 persons attended each of these meetings.
- On-line survey. A short survey on the Development Plan was available for the public. 460 people completed the survey and another 20 filled out the hard copies that were available at the public meetings.
- Direct telephone and e-mail contact with representatives from 15 community organizations that provide services to immigrant, refugee, and non-English speaking groups. Parks staff will continue to use this

personalized approach to let these groups know about the public hearing and ways they can provide input.

Overall, the participants were extremely positive and had many sound suggestions for improving Seattle's outdoor recreation offerings. The top three priorities for outdoor recreation identified at the two public meetings were: maintain existing facilities and open space (before acquiring new sites); provide more space for urban farming and community gardens; and provide more sportsfields and more walking and hiking trails (tie). The stakeholders primarily seemed to be interested citizens with specific interests such as sportsfields, off-leash areas, tennis, multi-modal trails, and open space. All the participants who signed in will be notified that the Plan is ready for review and of the upcoming meeting dates.

### **Issues**

None that are known right now.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Implementation of the proposed 2011 Development Plan could improve and increase open space and park and recreation amenities throughout Seattle. Additional open space, recreation facilities, waterfront land, surface waters, habitat areas, and forested areas all contribute to the environmental health of the City. These spaces provide respite from pavement and buildings.

### **Budget**

The projects identified in the Capital Improvement Program require funding to implement, but it is not possible to put a cost estimate on the plan since we don't know all the projects that may be done in the six-year planning horizon or the timing of such projects. The source of funding for major maintenance projects is the Cumulative Reserve Subfund, which is derived from Real Estate Excise Taxes and can only be used for maintenance and not new projects. New projects are funded out of special levies, grants, and private donations.

### **Schedule**

The planning process began in January 2011, as soon as Parks realized that it needed to update its Development Plan to maintain eligibility for RCO grants for the next six years.

January – May Update Plan

February – June	Public Engagement, including an on-line survey
June 9, 2011	Board of Park Commissioners briefing and public hearing
June 23, 2011	Board Recommendation to Superintendent
July, 2011 (TBD)	City Council Committee Review
Fall, 2011	City Council Resolution on Plan Adoption

### **Additional Information**

For more information please contact: Kathleen Conner, 615-1299, [kathleen.conner@seattle.gov](mailto:kathleen.conner@seattle.gov). Information about the planning process for the Development Plan update and a copy of the draft plan is on-line at: [www.seattle.gov/parks/publications/developmentplan.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/publications/developmentplan.htm).

For more information on specific grant programs and other documents pertaining to outdoor recreation and conservation programs, visit the RCO website: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov).

### ***Verbal Briefing***

Ms. Conner introduced herself and reviewed information in the written briefing paper. The Department has received over \$30 million from these grants and has been very effective at leveraging these funds. This is Parks' regular six-year update, with the new plan effective through Fall 2017.

Ms. Conner next reviewed changes from the Department's previous plan with this new plan. She updated the inventory list and added 62 acres the Department has attained since the last plan. Ms. Conner next reviewed lessons learned, the public process, and the schedule.

Commissioners' questions/suggestions have been grouped by subject:

Commissioner Keith read two questions submitted by Commissioner Kostka. Ms. Conner will address these in the next draft of the Plan. *1. She sent in a correction to Parks staff person Michael Shiosaki for Kiwanis Ravine on page A-6 and asked if the correction has been made. 2. Open space is not defined adequately on page 16 and greenspaces also are not defined adequately on page B-2. These areas provide ecological functions to the City which should be detailed, i.e., watershed protection, climate control, tree canopy, wildlife habitat, etc. The text should reflect it is important to acquire and restore these areas irregardless of their Open Space Gap Analysis values because of their geography and function. Please make edits to reflect these values.*

#### General Comments

Commissioner Holme asked to clarify that this is a draft plan and Ms. Conner answered that it is. She will incorporate feedback from the Board, public, and City Councilmembers into the final version. Commissioner Kincaid enjoyed reading the Development Plan; it is a valuable tool for Board members. Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels, Ms. Conner responded that the RCO does fund some renovations, like those at Cal Anderson Park, but as a rule, the funds are for outdoor sites only, such as boat ramps, playground equipment, and comfort stations. Responding to a question from Commissioner Keith, Ms. Conner explained how offsets for non-city park spaces work. These can include State-owned spaces, public spaces, and University of Washington space. She will provide more information on this for the June 23 discussions. Commissioner Barber stated that what really emerged from the report for him is the need for the Department to maintain what it already owns. Responding to a question on how Parks balances its current needs with future needs, Ms. Conner responded that wasn't quantified for the Development Plan.

#### Open Space Gap Analysis/2010 Census

Commissioner Ramels really likes the Open Space Gap Analysis (<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/publications/gapreport.htm>)

and was surprised that the UW property doesn't show up on it for the Northeast area. Ms. Kincaid also likes the Gap Analysis and asked about the status of gaps in the Capitol Hill and First Hill areas of park land. Ms. Conner noted that the Gap Analysis is different from the Development Plan, although she does reference information in the Gap Analysis when preparing the Development Plan. Ms. Angulo asked if more information will come forth from the 2010 census. The information is trickling out; Ms. Conner is reviewing it as it is released and will continue to monitor for its inclusion in the Development Plan.

#### RCO and other Government Funding Sources

Responding to a question from Commissioner Barber whether King County or the federal government have similar grant programs, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the most sizable amount of grants received by the Department are federal funds that are directed to Washington State and then those are directed to Seattle. Seattle is constantly competing with other cities for these funds. A panel ranks applicants and the projects must be completed by a certain date or lose funding. Commissioner Holme noted that a great advantage for Seattle when applying for these funds is that the Parks Levy provides the required funding match. Commissioner Kincaid wondered whether the economy has affected the amount funded by the RCO. The 2011 amount was \$50 million and the Legislature approved \$42 million in funding for 2012. Ms. Conner will check whether King County has reduced its grant funding to Seattle, due to the economy.

#### Sportsfields/Tennis Courts

Commissioner Kincaid voiced some concern about cinder and grass fields being converted to synthetic surfaces; Commissioner Holme responded that the synthetic fields have the highest demand. Parks is not diverting the fields' use; rather, it is converting the surfaces to get more use from the fields it has. Commissioner Kincaid noted there are two tennis centers, with Amy Yee located in South Seattle and

Magnuson Park tennis center located in Northeast Seattle. She asked what consideration is made for the west side of the city. Ms. Conner responded that the Department has been repairing/re-constructing existing courts and gave as examples the extensive work done at Lower Woodland and Jefferson Park's multiple courts. Staff will continue analyzing the city's demographics to determine what facilities are needed in which areas. Commissioner Holme noted that some tennis courts are being repurposed to accommodate emerging sports and he doesn't believe that was referenced in this report.

### ***Public Hearing***

The public hearing began. All who requested to speak were allotted two minutes each to testify, asked to speak at the podium, and timed. The Chair requested anyone with additional comments to e-mail their testimony to the Board's coordinator. One person testified. A very brief summary of the testimony follows.

Joyce Moty: She enjoyed reading the urban garden plan and encourages Seattle Parks to work with the Department of Neighborhood's P-Patch and considering using it as a model. The Development Plan shows that 11% of the population are seniors. Many of those are newly-retired people who are looking for volunteer opportunities. She urged the Department to offer more volunteer opportunities during the week and introduce new volunteers to what the Department has to offer and what it needs help maintaining.

The public hearing closed. Written testimony will be accepted through Friday, June 17. The Board plans to discuss the issue at its June 23 meeting and vote on a recommendation to the Superintendent.

### **Linking Plan to Major Maintenance and Crime Map**

Commissioner Barber noted the Department has \$250 million of major maintenance and much of that is needed at Magnuson Park; however, in this Plan very little is directed there. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli answered that this Plan only reflects the next six years and much of the major maintenance work is scheduled out in 2018 and beyond. Commissioner Holme recommended that this document link to the Department's CIP major maintenance list, which was ranked by priority order and listed geographically, and include information as to how the major maintenance plans were compiled and ranked. Commissioner Ramels asked that Ms. Moty's comments about volunteers be included. Commissioner Keith suggested linking the crime report to the Development Plan. Parks staff responded this is a good idea and will work to link the two.

Commissioners asked that Ms. Conner send amended pages for the Board's June 23 discussion and recommendation showing all proposed changes to the Plan and she agreed to do so. Commissioners also thanked Ms. Conner for her excellent work on the Development Plan. Commissioner Holme recommended the information be shared with the Parks Levy Oversight Committee via website.

### **Update Briefing: Central Waterfront**

Steve Pearce, Seattle department of Transportation Project Manager, presented an update briefing on the Central Waterfront, which is an element of the Viaduct project. Nathan Torgelson, Seattle Parks Senior Real Property Manager, and David Graves, Seattle Parks Senior Project Planner, assisted with the briefing.

Commissioners received a written briefing prior to the meeting, copies were made available to the public, and are included in these minutes below.

To hear the presentation and the Board's discussion, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591150> and move cursor to position 65.30.

### ***Written Briefing***

#### **Requested Board Action**

None requested; informational briefing only.



## **Summary**

Waterfront Seattle, the project that will transform Seattle's central waterfront into a great public place, is now underway. Two major public events have attracted large crowds (900+ at each) to engage in creating a new waterfront for the city. The first event, held in February at the Seattle Aquarium, focused on the opportunities for a great waterfront and asked the public to engage around the question "What Makes A Great Waterfront?" The second event, "Toward A Great Waterfront", held in May at Bell Harbor Conference Center, was the first opportunity for the public to hear the initial high level design ideas from the design team, led by James Corner Field Operations.

## **Project Description and Background.**

Waterfront Seattle is a partnership between the City of Seattle and the entire community to create a dynamic public waterfront, which will become a new civic heart for the city. Building on 10 years of public planning, Waterfront Seattle is a large-scale design process for a range of improvements to our waterfront covering 26 city blocks from King Street to Broad Street. Waterfront Seattle is guided by the City's Departments of Transportation, Planning and Development, and Parks and Recreation.

The transformation of Seattle's waterfront is made possible by the need to replace the failing Alaskan Way Viaduct and Elliott Bay Seawall. In place of the Viaduct, the project will create an exciting destination with vibrant public and cultural spaces, access to the water and a new urban street that will accommodate all modes of travel and provide an important connection in the City's transportation system.

Waterfront Seattle is an unparalleled opportunity to reorient our city's connection to Elliott Bay, and reclaim our waterfront as a public asset that the entire city and region can enjoy for generations. The project will set a new standard for public access and participation in the decision-making process, with the goal of delivering a "Waterfront for All."

At the heart of Waterfront Seattle is a core project located in the Alaskan Way and SR99 public rights of way between King Street in Pioneer Square and Battery Street in Belltown.

The core project includes:

- Removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct
- New public spaces along the waterfront and in Belltown
- A new Alaskan Way surface street between King and Pine Street serving all travel modes
- A city street connection between the waterfront and Belltown connecting Alaskan Way to Elliott and Western Avenues

Additional Waterfront Seattle projects, to be identified and developed through a Framework Plan, include:

- Waterfront public spaces, including redesign of Pier 62/63 (the "concert pier") and Waterfront Park
- Improved connections to the waterfront, including east-west pedestrian connections (green streets, hillclimb assists, pedestrian bridges)
- Redesign of additional street segments such as the north portion of Alaskan Way between Pine and Broad Street and Railroad Way

The Waterfront Seattle Project is distinct from the Elliott Bay Seawall Project, but the design of the two projects is being very closely coordinated.

## **Waterfront Seattle Guiding Principles**

The guiding principles were developed to capture the key civic goals and objectives that should shape the creation of new public spaces and streets on the Central Waterfront project. They expand on established principles from existing city policies and civic efforts:

- Create a waterfront for all.
- Put the shoreline and innovative, sustainable design at the forefront.

- Reconnect the city to its waterfront.
- Embrace and celebrate Seattle's past, present and future.
- Improve Access and Mobility (for people and goods).
- Create a bold vision that is adaptable over time.
- Develop consistent leadership—from concept to construction to operations.

## **Funding**

In 2010, the Seattle City Council appropriated funds to be spent from 2010-2012 to develop the Framework Plan and Conceptual Design for Waterfront Seattle. WSDOT has committed design and construction funding for removal of the Viaduct, decommissioning of the Battery Street Tunnel and construction of the new surface street connecting from King Street to Battery Street. Funding for public space and other elements will be identified during 2011 and 2012 as the design evolves and specific cost estimates can be prepared.

## **Schedule**

Current major milestones include:

- Fall 2010: Begin Concept Design and Framework Plan for Waterfront Seattle
- Mid 2012: Complete Framework Plan, Concept Design, Initial Cost Estimate, Finance Strategy
- 2013-2015 Elliott Bay Seawall Phase 1 Construction
- 2016 Demolish Alaskan Way Viaduct and Begin Waterfront Seattle Core Project construction
- 2018 Completion Of Waterfront Seattle Core Project

## **Public Participation**

To achieve a design that reflects the project's guiding principle of a "Waterfront for All," the City is fully committed to a design process that captures, engages, and responds to citywide input. Beginning in early 2011, we will hold a range of public events along the waterfront to learn from citizens what they think the opportunities and constraints of the project are and how they envision using the future waterfront. The public can learn more at [www.waterfrontseattle.org](http://www.waterfrontseattle.org) and follow the project on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates, videos and dialogue.

In addition, a Central Waterfront Stakeholder Committee has been created, reflecting a broad array of business, residential, neighborhood, governmental, labor, environmental, pedestrian, bicycling, and design interests to ensure the priorities and concerns of these constituencies are addressed through the design and planning process. Finally, a Central Waterfront Committee (CWC) made up of community leaders has been created by Seattle City Council resolution. The CWC is providing broad oversight of the project design, financing, public engagement, and long-term operations and maintenance and will provide recommendations on these project aspects to the City departments, Mayor, and City Council.

## **Initial Design Directions**

The design team has introduced four key organizing concepts for the design:

- **"Bay Ring"**: Re-center Seattle and the city's park system on Elliott Bay, build green "spokes" out to connect neighborhoods and key destinations to the waterfront.
- **"Tidelines"**: Use historic registry of Seattle's waterline as an organizing concept for key features and amenities in new public spaces.
- **"Folds"**: Develop significant new connections/public stairs/overlooks that connect the city to the waterfront at key locations:
  - Pike Place Market to Pier 62/63
  - "Belltown Bluff"
  - Colman Dock
  - Pier 48
- **"Urban Framework"**: Connect the new waterfront to downtown through:
  - **Character zones**: Pull the character and activity of adjacent neighborhoods down to waterfront district in zones.

- **Transportation:** Design Alaskan Way as a “complete street” with emphasis on east/west pedestrian crossings; leverage better east-west connections to access transit and parking resources upland from Alaskan Way.

### **Additional Information**

For more information, you can contact Steve Pearce at [steve.pearce@seattle.gov](mailto:steve.pearce@seattle.gov), David Graves at [david.graves@seattle.gov](mailto:david.graves@seattle.gov), or Nathan Torgelson at [nathan.torgelson@seattle.gov](mailto:nathan.torgelson@seattle.gov). The project website is [www.waterfrontseattle.org](http://www.waterfrontseattle.org)

### ***Verbal Briefing***

Mr. Pearce introduced himself and reviewed a 60-slide Powerpoint presentation. He presented a great deal of information including what people most want to see from the project:

- opportunities for views;
- opportunities to touch the water;
- and parks and open spaces

Respondents do not want to see:

- view-blocking structures and large-scale private commercial development;
- oversized roads and parking lots and too much hardscape; or
- tourist-oriented uses including chain restaurants and shops that do not feel authentic to Seattle

Commissioner Barber asked when the consultants develop the costs estimates and a phasing strategy. Mr. Pearce replied that work will begin this Fall and that a firm cost estimate and phasing plan will be available by May or June, 2012, and that they will look for one or more easily-completed projects to spur public interest and support in the overall plan.

The next large-scale public meeting is planned for fall 2011 and the Board will be notified of the date. A significant summer waterfront event is planned for summer of 2012. Commissioners asked for a future briefing, especially as ideas are developed for water access and uses. Commissioners thanked Mr. Pearce and Parks staff for the excellent update on this exciting project and look forward to the next update briefing.

### **Old/New Business**

To hear this segment of the meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5897> and move cursor to position 33.00

**Board Membership:** Susan Golub, the Board’s strategic advisor, presented additional information on a proposal to change the membership and terms of the Board, as follows:

- Increase the current number of seven commissioners (to either eight or nine members);
- Four positions to be appointed by the City Council, either three or four by the Mayor, with the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> appointed by the Mayor from the Get Engaged program. The Board would no longer be responsible for recruiting and appointing the seventh position, as is required by the current legislation; and
- Terms would be changed to end on March 31, instead of December 31

The Board is asked to make a recommendation to the Superintendent and City Council, as legislation is required to make these changes. **Commissioners agreed by consensus to recommend the terms end on March 31**, then spent time discussing the proposal to increase the membership to either eight or nine members.

Several commissioners voiced concerns with increasing the membership, including:

- A recent study showed the most effective number of participants on a Board is seven members;
- Having an even number of votes could be problematic when there is a tie vote;

- Having additional members allows less time for each commissioner to speak;
- Filling the eighth position with a Get Engaged member could dilute the Mayor's appointment authority;
- Requested additional information on the Get Engaged program;
- Concerned that Get Engaged members start "at the top", rather than working their way up to a Board position by first serving on community and other organizations;
- Fear that young people's opinions could be more easily influenced by Parks staff when voting on issues

**Commissioner Kincaid moved that the Board adopt the staff recommendation to change the membership to eight members, with the eighth position filled by a Get Engaged candidate. Commissioner Angulo seconded.** This would result in City Council appointing four members and the Mayor appointing three regular members; the Get Engaged position would be the fourth mayoral position. **After further discussion, the vote was taken, with Commissioners Angulo, Kincaid, and Kostka in favor. Commissioners Barber, Keith, and Ramels opposed. The Chair generally votes only to make or break a tie. Commissioner Holme voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Ms. Golub will prepare legislation for consideration by the Superintendent and City Council, reflecting the Board-recommended changes.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Terry Holme, Chair  
 Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_