

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2016

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Board of Park Commissioners

Present:

Marty Bluewater
Tom Byers, Chair
Dennis Cook
Marlon Herrera
Evan Hundley
William Lowe
Kelly McCaffrey
Barbara Wright, Vice Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Paula Hoff, Strategic Advisor
Rachel Acosta, Park Board Coordinator

The meeting is held at Miller Community Center. Commissioner Byers calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Agenda will be an Introduction presented by Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA), a presentation by Superintendent Aguirre on the Draft People, Dogs, Parks Strategic Plan, followed by a public hearing. The Commissioners introduce themselves.

Commissioner Byers calls for approval of the consent items, which are the September 22 Board of Park Commissioners Agenda, the September 8 and August 11 meeting minutes: Commissioner Hundley moves, Commissioner Cook seconds, and the consent items are approved unanimously.

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

Commissioner Byers reminds people to only speak on subjects that are not related to the public hearing.

Eliza Davidson - Olmsted legacy for 10 years; volunteer park - expansion of the Seattle Asian Art Museum began as a renovation to the existing museum and now has morphed into an expansion of 15,000 square feet. The public has not had opportunity for input. The neighbors are flabbergasted. This will have impacts to a National Historic landmark. The

bar should be high for any expansion of the museum. Seattle Parks and Recreation has not performed requisite outreach.

Cassandra Trimble – Lives next to Volunteer Park, she uses it a lot. People love the park. They are adding 13,000 square feet of building to the park. She gives SPR a petition with over 200 signatures. She feels there was not sufficient outreach from SAM.

Charles Ragen - Asks for people to raise their hands if they contribute to the parks. Resident of Capitol Hill since Carter was President. He was surprised to hear contractors were coming to meet with the Seattle Asian Art Museum regarding expansion. The legacy of the Olmsted park, locally and internationally, is important to maintain.

Introduction: Citizens for Off Leash Areas

Presented by Cole Eckerman, COLA

Cole Eckerman - Executive Director of COLA; COLA has advised the department and managed the off-leash areas in Seattle for 20 years. She thanks the supporters for contacting SPR regarding the people, dogs, parks draft plan. She thanks SPR staff for listening and working with COLA she is excited to continue work with SPR for canine needs - like more water access for dogs' health. She wants to collaborate to build an equitable off-leash area system to make it better and more accessible. There needs to be a financial commitment; Seattle spends more for their parks system than any other city in the nation and not enough money resources goes towards off-leash areas. Off-leash areas serve as a gathering place for community and playgrounds for the canine community. COLA believes unfenced options are a good option and they are happy to help secure a grant to conduct a study on multi-use. Cole emphasizes that COLA does not advocate for an off-leash area in every park. There is a greater need for legal off-leash land. She is encouraged by the relationship with SPR.

Presentation: People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan

Presented by Superintendent Aguirre

Written Briefing

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 15, 2016
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Holly Miller, Senior Policy Advisor
Subject: Draft People, Dogs and Parks Plan

Requested Board Action

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) has developed the Draft People, Dogs and Parks Plan (Draft Plan) and is seeking Board of Park Commissioners' (Board's) review and comment on recommendations contained therein, prior to final action on the Draft Plan by the Superintendent. The Board was briefed in February 2016 on the Superintendent's preliminary recommendations, before the Draft Plan was released for public review and has heard extensive public testimony on

the issue and the draft proposal to date. Public comment on the Draft Plan is welcome until October 14. The Board is scheduled to make final recommendations to the Superintendent at the November 8, 2016 meeting of the Board.

Project or Policy Description and Background

The Draft Plan was developed in response to a 2014 City Council (Council) Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI), amended to allow funding from the Municipal Park District (Park District) to provide resources for developing the Draft Plan. The Council requested development of a master plan to identify a long term plan for the City's existing 14 Off Leash Areas (OLAs), and for maintenance, acquisition and expansion of OLA projects. A map of existing OLAs is attached. (See Attachment 1)

The Draft Plan is a long term plan which will guide the operations of existing OLAs, explore alternative service models and create strategies for development of future OLAs. It provides direction on how to spend Park District funding (approximately \$106,000 per year) designated for existing OLAs over the approved six year Park District spending plan (2016-2020). The Draft Plan can be found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/people-dogs-and-parks-strategic-plan>

Public Involvement Process

The Draft Plan is built on research, best practice reviews and outreach information, including:

- Survey of 4011 licensed dog owners;
- COLA report on North American Dog Off Leash Areas Best Practices;
- Seven focus groups of both dog owners and non-dog owners;
- Site visits to Portland, Vancouver, B.C., and San Francisco;
- Review of other city and county off leash plans;
- Discussions with University of Washington animal behaviorists;
- Literature review of impacts of dogs on water quality and wildlife;
- Feedback from the Board's February review of the Superintendent's Preliminary Recommendations;
- Two public hearings before the Board; Two public comment opportunities at the Livability Summits;
- Presentation by COLA to Park Board on August 11, 2016;
- Public hearing for Board to be held on September 22, 2016.

Summary of Recommendations

Seattle welcomes dogs on leash in all of its parks. With the exception of beaches, children's play areas and ballfields, leashed dogs and their caretakers are free to roam throughout the system. This approach adheres to a long, historical tradition of "multiple use" in Seattle's parks which, simply stated, encourages the development of spaces that accommodate diverse activities over the course of a day, a week and a year. The demands for more off leash areas mirror the demands for spaces for many other park activities – among them ballfields, trails, children's play areas, open space, swimming pools and community centers. These requests are all rational given the growth and diversity of interests in our city and yet, geographic and economic limitations impact any significant expansion of our system. The next decades will call on our ingenuity and patience to attempt to address these needs.

The Draft Plan represents, we believe, a prudent approach to managing off leash areas based on the principle underpinning the first cycle of the Park District of "Fix it First." This principle directs

us to focus limited available resources towards making existing facilities more sustainable, usable and accessible. This includes a necessary emphasis on the plan and care for existing facilities, the maintenance, repair and upgrades needed for these existing OLAs and limited law enforcement capacity (one animal control officer assigned to patrol parks). Our proposed Plan also recommends the incremental addition of new OLAs based on community engagement processes but does not create a “blueprint” for future OLAs in certain parks. The Draft Plan recognizes the reality that siting OLAs, like many other park facilities or improvements, requires extensive community engagement and discussion. Similar to the many other current demands on our system and resources, the proposed Plan defines a path forward that allows for reasonable and sustained expansion of services for dogs, within the context of these other needs as well.

The Draft Plan contains recommendations regarding:

- The process for adding OLAs;
- Unfenced OLAs; and
- A process to improve OLA conditions and the user experience.

Process for Add New OLAs:

SPR is committed to working with communities and volunteer groups, most notably, the Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA), to identify and develop new OLAs. SPR supports the addition of new OLAs in several ways, as described below. For each proposed new OLA, SPR will convene a committee including dog advocates, environmental advocates, a veterinarian or animal behaviorist, community members and SPR staff. This committee will consider the proposal and will make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

New OLAs may be added in the following ways:

- Through new park development or existing park redevelopment processes. Land-banked sites will be examined for suitability as OLAs as they are developed.
- Through requests by communities, whether through Neighborhood Matching Fund processes or other community processes.
- By supporting groups like COLA in developing new OLAs on non-park public land suitable for OLAs, by convening a committee, as described above, assisting with design and committing to provide maintenance when an OLA is developed.
- By supporting the efforts of groups like COLA to work with private property owners to provide OLAs on unused property.
- By encouraging private developers, through the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection, to include OLAs as part of prospective developments.
- SPR will support community groups, most notably COLA, in exploring new partnerships and sponsorships to support the improvement of existing OLAs, and the creation of new OLAs.

Unfenced Off Leash Areas

- SPR is committed to continue to offer only fenced OLAs due to the potential for conflict between leashed and unleashed dogs and between dogs and other park users, limited enforcement resources, and feedback from other jurisdictions that have implemented unfenced OLAs and are now moving away from these types of designations.
- SPR does not recommend designated leash-optional trails due to reasons listed above plus maintenance and environmental concerns. Forest stewards report frequent damage to newly planted native plants by off leash dogs.

Process for Improving Off Leash Area Conditions and the User Experience

- SPR proposes using new Park District funding (\$106,000/year through 2020) to improve existing OLAs based on the facility assessments included in the Draft Plan. SPR is committed to working closely with COLA and local community groups on some of the specific improvements at existing OLAs to ensure our assessments and planned improvements are aligned with users' experience, with the caveat that improvements must meet SPR's construction and maintenance specifications as well as all applicable codes.
- As stated above, SPR will support community groups, most notably COLA, in exploring potential partnerships and sponsorships to support the improvement of existing OLAs, and the creation of new OLAs.
- Given the tremendous concerns expressed to us by residents and other dog owners, regarding the number of dogs that some professional dog walkers have typically brought to existing OLAs, SPR's Plan proposes a requirement that requires professional dog walkers using OLAs to become licensed (\$100/year). Further to ensure safety of all OLA users, for two years, dog walkers will be allowed to bring 10 licensed dogs into parks. At the end of two years, dog walkers who have obtained the three-course certification from the UWA or another equivalent program authorized by the Superintendent, will be allowed to continue to bring up to 10 licensed dogs to an OLA. Dog walkers who have not received certification will be restricted to three dogs.
- SPR recommends working with the Seattle Animal Shelter to consider raising fines for repeat violators of this new approach to professional dog walker use of public OLAs.

Implementation Plan

Following adoption of a final Dogs, People and Parks Plan, SPR will work with COLA and other stakeholders to implement the Plan.

Public Input

Public comment on SPR's Dogs, People and Parks Plan is welcome until **October 14, 2016**. SPR staff will then summarize public comment for the Board to consider in their deliberations. SPR has already received numerous emails and letters from parties interested in this issue. Attached is a spreadsheet containing an initial summary of comments received to date (See Attachment 2).

SPR has worked with COLA throughout the development of the DRAFT Plan. COLA has submitted proposals/comments which include, but are not limited, to the following issues/ideas:

- Need for expanding the OLA system in a meaningful way.
- Need for SPR to maintain all OLAs not on SPR property.
- Requests to provide beach access on beaches that are not critical habitat.
- Requests to create 12 pilots for community driven solutions.
- That SPR and the City commit to increasing the maintenance budget for OLAs.
- A request to maintain a 10-dog limit for dog walkers if they advocate for more land.
- Request to provide an OLA in every neighborhood.
- Request to extend the "in lieu of citation" policy to allow unlicensed dog owners one month to obtain a license instead of 24 hours.

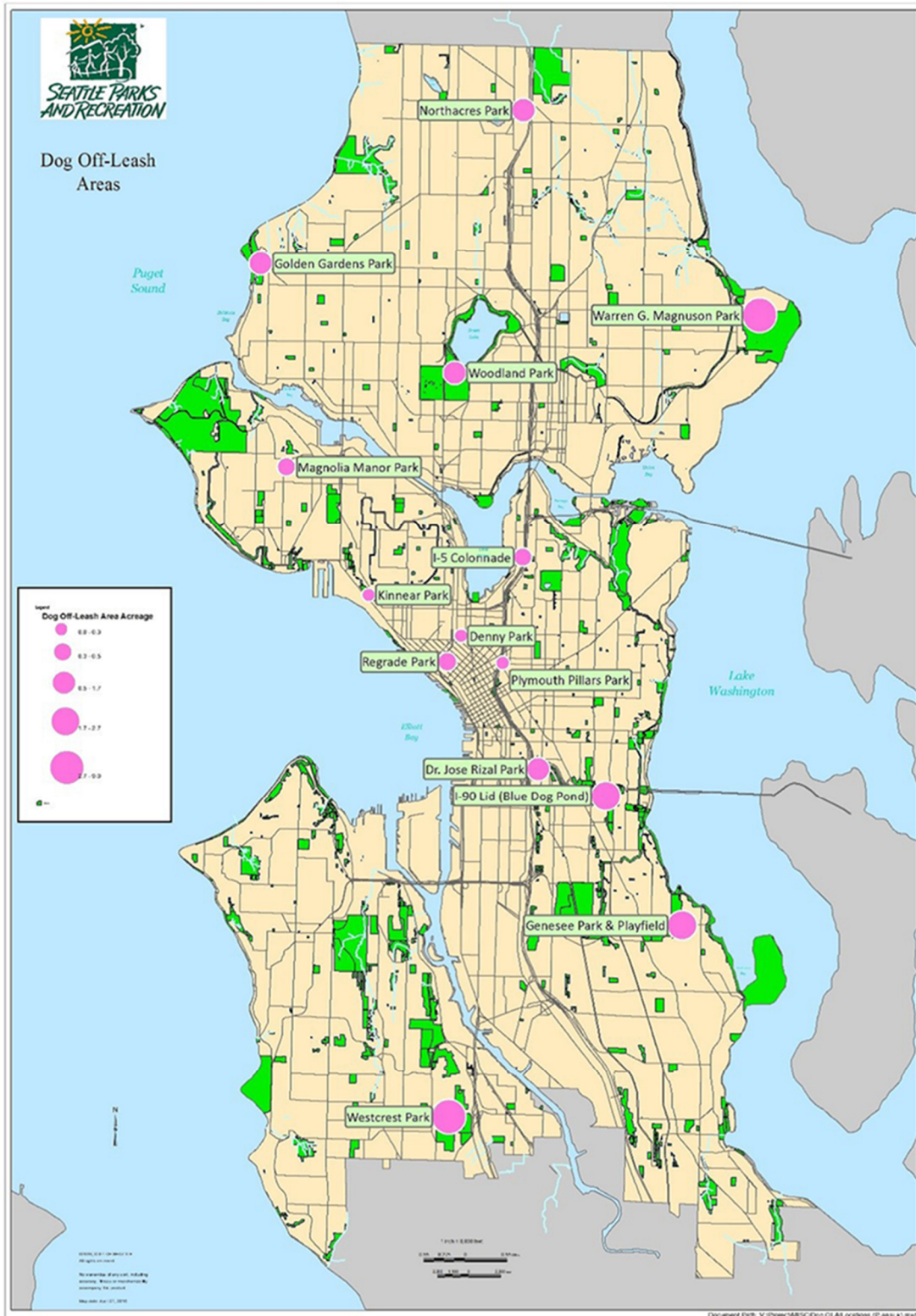
All of these recommendations, from COLA and other interested parties will be summarized for the Board for their consideration during their deliberations.

Next Steps

September 22, 2016: Public Hearing before the Board of Park Commissioners

October 14, 2016: Public comment period ends
November 8, 2016: Board of Park Commissioners' Deliberation
Early 2017: Finalize Plan

ATTACHMENT 1
Map of Dog Off Leash Areas



**ATTACHMENT 2
Summary of Feedback to Date**

Since the publication of the DRAFT People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan, SPR staff have received 150 Citizen's for Off Leash Area (COLA) form letters in addition to the comments below. An example of the letter is attached.

Comments	Frequency
COLA form letter	154
Please provide more off leash areas	33
Please provide more off leash enforcement	22
Please do not provide more beach access	16
Please do not provide unfenced off leash areas	15
Current off leash areas need work and more amenities	14
Please put off leash areas within walking distance to each neighborhood	14
Dogs run loose because there are not sufficient off leash areas	13
Lack of waste removal/dog refuse issues	12
Please provide unfenced off leash areas	10
Off leash dogs drive people from parks	10
Please provide more beach access	7
Off leash dogs destroy newly planted greenspaces, create erosion and bring in invasive plant seeds that stick to their fur	7
Please support increased fees and requirements for dog walkers	6
Existing off leash areas are degraded because too many dogs are using them	5
Please do not spending any more on off leash areas until SPR enforces leash and scoop laws	5
Please do not allow dog parks in greenspaces	5
Please provide leash-optional trails and/or pilot	4
Please provide off leash parks at Carkeek and Discovery Parks	4
Please do not support increased fees and requirements for dog walkers	3
Please stop persecuting dog owners for off leash dogs	3
Please do not allow dog walkers in off leash areas (during certain times)	3
Please provide more and better signage	3
Please provide separate small dog/large dog areas	4
New off leash areas would reduce conflict	4
Please keep dogs out of Lincoln, Seward and Discovery Parks	3
Please support more funding for off leash areas	2
Dog owners should buy their own land for off leash areas	2
Please provide more bag dispensers near garbage cans	2
Comments	Frequency
Please put an off leash area fenced off with grass in every park	1

Please be sure to include visual and audio buffers to design of off leash areas near residences	1
Please provide more fees and more limits for dog walkers	1
Please increase taxes on dog owners to cover cost of waste disposal and destruction of property	1
Dog parks build community, reduce crime and drug use	2
Dogs keep owners healthy and active	1
Please provide ADA accessible dog parks and beaches	1
Please revamp licensing to pay for more staff at unleashed off leash areas to pick up poop and perform maintenance	1
Please require dog owners to take a class prior to getting a dog	1
Please require dog owners to pay \$30 year to pay for more off leash areas and access to off leash areas	1
Please increase the size of existing off leash areas; do not create new ones	1
Please allow owners to determine whether dog is fit for off leash play	1
Please enforce pet licensing	1
Please provide port-a-potties for dog owners at off leash areas where there is no restroom	1
Owning a dog is a luxury	1
COLA needs better stewards and leadership	1
Park District funds were to improve existing off leash areas, not create new ones	1
Survey of dog owners only, please survey park users and citizens generally	1

Example of COLA Form Letter

I am writing to express my disappointment in and opposition to the Parks and Recreation DRAFT Master Plan for Off-Leash Areas. This plan is a disappointment because it fails to address a growing need in Seattle. We need creative, available solutions to redress the years of taxpaying dog owners in Seattle being underserved. Seattle has only 25 acres of off-leash land in 14 OLAs, half of which is in two off-leash areas in Magnusson and Westcrest Park. In the last fifteen years, only 2.3 acres of dog parks have been created. Further, we have extremely limited swimming access for dogs in Seattle, currently limited to one beach for dogs to swim in Magnusson.

Unlike in other urban cities on the west coast, we cannot walk to our dog parks. The tiny unattractive fenced gravel areas called OLAs in some neighborhoods do not serve as anything other than a potty spot and thus cannot address the huge need for exercise and good socialization. In NYC, San Francisco, Portland, and Vancouver BC, dog owners have an average of 120 acres for off leash use which are equitably distributed to be walkable from most homes, and cities such as Chicago, San Diego, New York, Vancouver, and 60 cities across the California coast allow dogs to swim.

Rather than use \$104K of Park District moneys as budgeted (for OLA infrastructure, expanded space, increased accessibility and maintenance), SPR chose to spend the entire 2015 budget on a study. Not only were tax dollars used outside the designated budget, the resulting plan ignores the results of that study and proposes to make very few changes to our current inadequate infrastructure. This will not stand to support the explosive growth our city is projected to experience over the coming years. I demand an innovative approach to including our taxpayer needs as dog owners, with a true gap analysis and equitable framework for growing our system SIGNIFICANTLY.

This is a citizen issue, not a dog issue. And an issue for both dog owners and non-dog owners, as dogs are running loose in all public parks in Seattle creating safety hazards for citizens and dogs alike. As our population continues to grow and become more dense, the need will continue to grow for available, usable off leash areas for our dogs.

Please record my opposition to the Superintendent's recommendations and my support of many more off-leash areas, particularly those with beach access.

Presentation

Superintendent Aguirre states SPR was charged with creating a master plan for off-leash areas. There is \$106,000 in Park District funding. There are currently 28 acres of off-leash and SPR recognizes there should be more and better off-leash areas.

The plan does not identify sites across the city. The plan acknowledges a need and suggests a process to build new ones and maintain and restore existing off-leash areas.

He states the work done between SPR and COLA has resulted in positive interaction and collaboration. There are things they do not agree on but both parties are encouraged by the working relationship. Some changes have already been made to the draft including adding explicit language to clarify SPR understands the need for off-leash areas.

Currently, there is no point of contact at SPR but the department will designate a position to work with COLA to create off-leash areas. Each prospective off-leash area needs to contain significant community engagement. COLA has been identifying sites with the City Councilmembers.

In regards to funding - \$104,000 does not buy the system what is needed for new parks; the department is charged to respond to demands. The City expressed a commitment to ongoing maintenance of new off-leash areas. This makes it more challenging to take on new parks without new operating dollars. SPR is committed to working with communities to create off-leash areas in those neighborhoods; a committee will be formed to make sure locations are thought about holistically.

The pressure on SPR properties are not going to go away. The Superintendent recommends looking at other agency land or private land. These would be city sites that would come under the department's purview.

The plan contains detailed information on existing off-leash areas. SPR staff understand people who use the sites know the priorities more than the department and will collaborate with members of community to assess maintenance needs. Access is the first priority. He recognizes COLA and dog users want water access. Washington State runs the shoreline.

The Department will work with COLA to ensure dogs are licensed so the City has better data. SPR does not support unfenced off-leash areas; too much conflict and not enough funds for more enforcement. There is a lot of passion on both sides of the issue.

Public Hearing: People, Dogs, Parks Strategic Plan

Eliza Davidson - Loves dogs, recognizes there are not many places for them to play. She feels there is no fundamental right to have a dog. Seattle has open space shortage for a burgeoning population; landscape areas is needed for all people. off-leash occurs flagrantly. She has witnessed firsthand the destruction of habitat and wildlife.

Deborah Niedermeyer - Loves dogs and is a dog owner. She wants better enforcement of off-leash dogs. She has been confronted with off-leash dogs; it is flagrant and it is appalling. The off-leash areas are overrun with commercial use; subsidizing dogwalkers' businesses. There seem to be many off-leash violators near to off-leash areas.

Charles Ragen - This needs to be a scientific, rational reason based process and be respectful with no ad hominim attacks.

Katie Bell - 1. increase number of off-leash areas, including beach access; 2. pilot unfenced off-leash areas in some parks; 3. dogwalkers can have 10 dogs and that number need not be lowered. COLA and WOLF shout out - impressive volunteerism in partnership with SPR.

Lucy Flanagan - city council requested off-leash areas in the 1990s. These parks are for dog management, not recreation. Off-leash areas are not about control, but increase potential for aggressive interaction. There is not enough space for high energy dogs which is not a recipe for good socialization. People go into unfenced park areas because it is safer for many dogs; the city's enforcement is entrapment.

Ruth LaRocque - She is a certified dog trainer for the last 15 years and a board member for Certification of Professional Dog Trainers, an international organization. She congratulates the department for raising the bar for professionals working with dogs around the City. She offers a program for professional dogwalkers. She asks the Department to consider dogwalker academy as a potential source for certification.

Mark McDuff - tired of sitting in traffic and going to crowded, dirty off-leash areas. The off-leash policy pushes dog owners into rural areas and suburbs. He feels the City has more money that could be used. Off-leash areas are not expensive.

Judy LaFleur - north stone avenue safety committee - There is a petition to make a dog park in the area; the property is owned by the City, this area is preferred by most people. He prefers a dog park to the illegal activity that goes on there now.

Rick Paulson - Seattle resident since 1980 and Lewis Park Natural Area steward; work of forest reclamation through community members who have volunteered for years. It is a fragile environment. There will always be a broad selection of types of users and recreation. He supports off-leash areas and recognizes their value. Those areas seem used and worn; which poses a disincentive to dog owners. They deserve spaces to be with their dogs off leash. Freshly planted trees/plants shrubs will be destroyed by dogs. Please respect natural areas.

Emily Friedman - Wallingford dog community - Suggests conducting a study regarding how parks are actually being used; any plan takes space, money, and time. Dog owners have to walk their dogs every day. A 4-month pilot could begin immediately. SPR has stated enforcement is too difficult. The plan references an unsuccessful pilot 30 years ago; majority of dog owners were not even born. The plan says "large and small dogs should never mix" this is debatable.

Jack Van Fossen- Lake City resident - 20% residents have dogs. Given demands and growth, Lake City needs an off-leash area.

Genie Middaugh - She fears SPR is not taking dog owners seriously. SPR needs to meet the needs of all people in parks; enforcement is not going to stop dog owners.

Justin Green - lifetime resident of Seattle who enjoys off-leash areas. Off-leash dogs damage planting beds and other natural areas. Suggests fees for dog parks or enforcing licensing as a way to obtain more funds to create more off-leash areas. The department should stay the course.

Morgan - She runs an organization that rescues dogs and would love a Queen Anne dog park. Dog parks make dogs healthier and make it easier for people to adopt dogs. She will continue to allow her dogs to run off leash anywhere she wants.

Kristin Hocking - Lower Kinnear is an underused park. She and others are too afraid to go at night. It is difficult to get her dog the exercise it needs. She would like parks to be multi-use.

Kathy Bliukwitz- forest steward at Discovery Park - She has witnessed natural areas abused by off-leash dogs. These are our last remaining wildlife habitat in the city. The sign was torn down that said off-leash dogs aren't allowed. Dogs kill wildlife and destroy nesting sites. Bacteria from their feces pollutes. Please do not allow dogs in natural areas, make sure dogs are licensed, and enforce leash and scoop laws.

Becky Weiss- Open space is dwindling and the off-leash areas are in poor condition. She feels the plan lacks real or measurable goals, alternative programs, or goals about the amount of off-leash areas. The plan does not say SPR is working to fix the issue.

Sarah Rasmussen - has an active, energetic dog who goes to the dog park. She goes hoping to meet neighbors and achieve a sense of community. The off-leash area is the nucleus of her new community in Columbia City. There is only one large dog park in South Seattle and she feels like it's an equity issue.

Jessie Dye - She lets her dogs off leash in city parks because there is a shortage of off-leash areas. No one else is there when she takes her dogs off leash in parks. She understands environmentally critical areas and natural areas. The City needs more off-leash areas, more beach access and multi-use areas.

Ellen Escarcega - Chair of COLA which tries to bridge the gap between dog owners and non-dog owners. She wants to be clear they do not agree with using all park land. Dog owners are not entitled but lacking land. Dogs are useful to prevent burglaries and increase socialization. New York City has been doing it for 35 years, SPR should figure out how to do it.

Patricia Harvey - lives in North Seattle. Dog parks make communities feel safe and a friendlier environment. Low-income seniors would like an OLA on a bus line. The Stone Avenue area is on a rapid ride line.

Mathew Johnson - adopted a dog in Seattle. People who do not own dogs do not understand the issues dog owners are facing. It is not enough to walk them around the neighborhood. He drives to Marymoor in Redmond to get to a good dog park. Dog owners pay taxes too and SPR needs to address their needs. The plan offers nothing concrete.

Tracy Day - lives in Green Lake area in a condominium. She lets her dogs off-leash because she feels leashed dogs are anxious. She requests more off-leash areas and open parks to dogs.

Adam Kline - Mt. Baker neighborhood resident who takes his dogs to Genesee off-leash area. Funding for off-leash program is low; he feels using \$104,000 for a plan was wasteful.

Aaron Evanson- Seward Park Neighborhood Association suggests the Adams Street Boat Ramp as a possible water location for off-leash dogs. It would allow for positive activations at the boat ramps. A reactivation of this pocket park would be the best use for this park. Seattle Audubon agrees there is no environmental habitat there. Repurposing part of the boat ramp would be considered "fix it first".

Sharon LeVine - Skate Park Master Plan and Joint Athletic Field Development Plan list specific plans to be built in a certain period. It is commendable that SPR is working with COLA. She feels this plan is more of a maintenance plan, not the Master Plan that City Council requested. There needs to be sites in each neighborhood that reach criteria for off-leash areas. Lights are a priority for people. Requests SPR work to create a new plan that includes communities.

Gretchen Hager- Professional dog walker for 16 years. The City needs more dog parks. She is glad the dog walking certification process and hopes it helps keep professional dog walkers accountable. Off-leash areas are school grounds for dogs and their owners.

Valsala Manaloor - Proud mom of 2 border collies who is excited to see so many off-leash parks and explore them. She is newly disabled and cannot walk far. She would like more off-leash areas with ADA accessibility and lighting.

Rob Martin — drives to Magnuson every day rain or shine and feels the park is poorly maintained. SPR does not have a commitment to dog owners and off-leash areas do not get maintenance they need. Ball fields are perfectly maintained. He doesn't have children but takes his fur child to this space. Off-leash areas need more funding.

Charlotte Bontrager - Founder of Walkers are Off-Leash Friends (WOLF)- thanks for partnering and holding dog walkers to higher standards. The safety of dogs is at the heart of every dog walker. It is important to maintain a level of service and make a living. Dog walkers offer assistance at dog parks when there is conflict and only bring well socialized dogs.

Alan Deright - lives on Capitol Hill - Volunteer Park off-leash area shut down. He asks the Superintendent to "make Seattle great again" by eliminating dog areas. Off-leash areas are deplorable. 120,000 unlicensed dogs - that loss revenue adds up to millions of dollars.

Carolyn Loyer - professional dog trainer and graduate student in animal behavior. Dog parks are crowded and surfaces are hard for dogs. She understands the risk of off-leash dogs coming up to on leash dogs. She doesn't want off-leash dogs running up to her on-leash dog. She supports legally and safely allowing dogs off leash.

Andrew Kirsh - Off-leash dogs have a negative effect on trees - keep trees fenced to protect them. New York City trees are stressed from off leash use. There needs to be

criteria regarding damage to trees due to off-leash use. SPR arborists should be involved in setting criteria and determining sites.

Joanna Nelson deFlores - She works for Forterra and came to express support for the plan and acknowledge the need for more off-leash areas. Over 8000 volunteer hours spent doing ongoing forest restoration in Seattle. Keep off-leash areas fenced because fences provide a buffer from the impacts of off-leash dog use; expand current off-leash areas. Please do not create off-leash trails.

Ellen Taft - She grew up with dogs on 2 acres. She is a grandmother to a corgi named Poppy. An African woman from Kenya said to her "you have daycare centers for dogs and jails for children." She prefers to pay tax for daycare, at risk youth out of jail, housing homeless. She opposes creating more off-leash areas in Seattle. Her child was attacked by 3 dogs in Volunteer Park. When the original off-leash areas were developed, there was an implicit agreement that dog owners wouldn't run their dogs off-leash outside of those areas. There are an estimated 200,000 dogs in Seattle, most are unlicensed.

Susan Fink- resident since 1981, dog owners bring economic development to the city; would like more off-leash areas open and better maintenance. Please someone deal with the corrugated metal at Blue Dog.

David DiMarco - lives on Capitol Hill since 1970. He suggests SPR speak with Seattle University about their off-leash policy where they self-police. This provides non-dog owners an educational opportunity to interact with dogs in a natural way.

Mike Daudt - lives on Queen Anne and votes to tax himself every time, but may not do so in the future. Kinnear Off-Leash Area is sketchy. He received an off-leash citation and is contesting it and encourages others to do the same.

Pat Burnett - Owner of a high energy dog that is expensive and requires a lot of time and exercise. Maggie likes to walk in the neighborhood and she loves to swim and makes his bride feel safer when she's alone. He would like more dog swim access. Let Maggie swim!

Lee Goldman- fenced in areas work for certain dogs, but rescue dogs have reactivity problems. His dog's health depends on being able to be off-leash in open spaces. He asks SPR to reconsider unfenced areas. Current OLAs do not serve a large population of the city.

Theresa Letourneau - Need more dog parks and /or expanded dog parks. She was one of the first dog walkers in Seattle. Larger areas for dogs to run and someone at OLAs who is educated to help people. Most professional dog trainers at the dog parks are helpful. She does not support unfenced off-leash areas because people do not properly train their dogs.

Lori Tice - Who keeps their eye on the dog walkers? There is no regulation. Unleashed dogs are a problem for her leashed dogs. Dr. James Hahn, an animal behaviorist -

advised SPR under ideal conditions a professional could handle 6 dogs. SPR caved under pressure and the plan allows 10. She feels the 3rd party certification instills confidence and standards.

Beth Rosen - Used the dog park at Volunteer Park all the time. She thinks the dog park at Volunteer Park was great.

Sean Watts - Seattle Parks Foundation, recognizes SPR is in the unenviable position to manage the parks for many different uses. SPR is working closely with advocates. Competing demands for public space is a contentious issue. There is a strategic way to move forward - finding the greatest benefit for the most people.

Tucker Shouse - North Seattle resident - uses parks for off-leash exercise. Portland and San Francisco do a better job. He understands there is potential conflict. He requests a pilot for unfenced off-leash areas.

Kevin Pelletier - Steward of Golden Gardens OLA. He has been working with SPR and Holly Miller and is looking forward to making proper standards in dog parks.

Oana Gusatu - Seattle Queen Anne Dog Community Group - Athletics more damaging than a dog off leash. She suggests opening athletic fields to off-leash dogs from 6-8am since the fields are deserted and completely unused. She doesn't have children so she pays the same taxes but doesn't get anything for her money.

Lisa Colton - Having a dog gets her out of the house, meeting her neighbors. Off-leash areas provide a social tool for her community. She has seen and spoken to so many people in this room at the dog parks. Dog owners are nice. Dog walkers provide a service. COLA has a large community and are supportive.

There being no other business, Commissioner McCaffrey moves the meeting adjourn; Commissioner Lowe seconds, and the motion carries. The meeting adjourns at 8:48 pm.

APPROVED: _____ DATE _____
Tom Byers, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners