



Minutes

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Via WebEx

Thursday, February 10, 2022

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Akita calls the meeting to order. She postpones the approval of consent items until a quorum of the Board is present. Acting Superintendent Williams asks to modify the agenda to add an item after the Superintendent's Report for Rebecca Bear at Seattle Parks Foundation to allow for some discussion.

Public Comment

- Charlie McGrady – resident of Beacon Hill; He lives adjacent to Jefferson Park Golf Course – the extensions of holes 11 and 12 will result in higher netting. The neighbors do not like the golf course and do not want the course to be extended. The netting is going to create a hazard to the birds.
- Judy Tangen – She is on the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) is curious about the opening positions on the Board.
- Tim Motzer – Lake City Resident; He suggests creating a line item in the next Park District for aging park facilities in the next park district cycle.
- Rebecca Bear – Seattle Parks Foundation Executive Director, she came to talk with the Board and SPR leadership about the Park District funding. In particular, City Council may be limited in its capacity to increase the tax rate due to state law that limits the city to only increasing the total dollar amount of the MPD levy by 1% each year. She asks SPR to look into this. Rebecca offers the support and assistance of Seattle Parks Foundation if a new vote is needed to increase the lid on the levy.

Active Superintendent Williams they are discussing this with Law and with staff.

Response to public comment

- Charlie McGrady - Patrick Merriam, Golf Manager, will contact him to arrange a walk-through with neighbors to talk about the project.
- Judy, is a stalwart member of the Loyal Heights Community Center and an ARC board member. He thanks her.
- Tim Motzer – Active Superintendent Williams thanks him for his good ideas.

Superintendent's Report and Response to public comment

Hiring Priorities: SPR is committed to ramping up our services and programs for the next three months heading into our peak season this summer. A huge part of that effort is hiring the staff needed to keep our parks clean and operate our facilities and recreation programs. Managers and Human Resources staff are busy with all aspects of hiring and are making good progress. I wanted to share with you a few updates.

- Clean Cities (SPR & other City departments collect trash near encampment sites)
 - Recent additions to Clean Cities Team: SA1, Admin Spec2 to support encampment community outreach and engagement
- Active Hiring Processes: Field Supervisor- hiring in process; 10 temporary Utility Laborers approved until Maintenance Laborers are onboarded in early spring

- Park Maintenance - 54 vacancies
 - Active hiring processes: for 3 priority positions – Maintenance, Utility and Laborer (38 vacancies); 3 Crew Chief vacancies – Est. fill date April 1
- Recreation Programs - 33 vacancies
 - Active hiring processes: 11 Community Centers, Program Spec, Equity & Engagement,
 - Lifeguard hiring in planning/recruitment phase: Regular and seasonal lifeguards to ramp up for summer beaches & pools

Youth Basketball: Last weekend, Youth Basketball season started in community centers. This is the first year of basketball since COVID affected scheduling in 2020 and 2021. For this first weekend SPR did not allow spectators into the gyms because there were limited staff to monitor masking and vaccinations, and do a health screening. SPR received a number of complaints from parents.

SPR is reviewing how the first weekend went and are considering options for allowing spectators. Factors to consider include the ability to conduct touchpoint cleaning between games, lay out assigned seating, and align with public health guidelines. As an alternative, SPR will offer a live stream of many of the games to allow caregivers and friends to cheer on their player.

Legislation to Clarify Rules for Commercial Activities in Parks: Last week, SPR attended their first meeting with the new City Council committee covering Parks issues. The new committee is chaired by Councilmember Andrew Lewis and is called the Public Assets and Homelessness Committee. At the meeting SPR staff presented legislation that clarifies the requirements for commercial activities in parks. SPR issues seasonal permits for commercial uses in parks that enhance the user experience by activating parks, expanding recreation offerings such as fitness and small craft rentals, and providing food and beverage services that park users enjoy that align with SPR's mission. The legislation was voted out of committee and will go to Full Council next week.

Recreation Programs Under Way

- Seattle Parks and Recreation community centers have a wide array of drop-in, virtual and in-person programs through February and March. Options include basketball, fitness rooms, pickleball, ping pong, volleyball, creative ballet, music, karate, yoga, fencing, and so much more.
- Prior registration is required, which you can do by calling a community center or going online. For more information, check the schedules in our blog at www.parkways.seattle.gov

Planning, Development & Maintenance

- Fairmount Playground: Earlier this month, the newly renovated south play area at Fairmount Playground opened to the public. Fairmount Playground is located on Fauntleroy Way in West Seattle. The renovated play area includes play structures for children ages 2-5 and 5-12. A future project will improve adjacent paths to meet accessibility standards and connect the north play ramp with a new sidewalk.
- Spring Street Mini Park Play Area Renovation: SPR is working with the Office of Arts and Culture to paint a mural on the park wall as part of the 1% for the Arts program. The work will happen in tandem with a renovation of the play area and park walkways.
- Magnuson Community Center construction to begin: The project to renovate Magnuson Community Center began construction this week. These are a much anticipated improvements for the local community. The project will build out the south wing of Building 47 to allow greater programming capacity and make accessibility improvements to community center parking, entry, and lobby. The department awarded the construction contract to Western Ventures Construction, Inc. The community center will be closed during construction, but center staff will continue to offer programs in Building 406 and Building 30 in Magnuson Park. SPR expects construction to be complete by the end of 2022.

Active Superintendent Williams responds to Commissioner Hundley's questions regarding the encampments at Green Lake that the regional homeless authority will be leading the efforts to clean it up and are providing ongoing outreach in the area.

Approval of Consent Items

Before moving into their first item of business, Commissioner Akita asks for approval of the consent items.

- Minutes to approve for 2021: 10/28, 10/14, 9/23, 9/9, 8/12, 7/8, 6/10
- Minutes for 2022: 1/27

Commissioner Farmer moves, Commissioner Hundley seconds and the Consent Items are approved

Financial Planning Schedule

Michele Finnegan shares a slide of the proposed meeting dates for 2022 to ramp up work on the Park District plan.

- February will have the regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.
- March and April the board members would be requested to work in subcommittees, in addition to the regular meetings.
- The Board will conclude their regular subcommittee work by May 12 and meet again on May 19 instead of the following Thursday. SPR needs to submit the Superintendent's Recommendation on June 1, so the May 19 date allows staff more time with their priorities.
- Green Lake loop follow-up agenda item in June.
- Park District Board meeting on June 24, SPR staff may ask a subset of BPRC attend to talk about the process.
- July and August would each have one meeting on the 2nd Thursday.
- September meeting will be on the 4th Thursday but there will be a Park District Board meeting earlier in the month.

BPRC Operating Procedures – Discussion and Possible Adoption

Paula reviews the changes already made to the Operating Procedures to reflect the composition of the new board and the added responsibilities inherent in the integration of the Park District Oversight Committee. There is also added language allowing Get Engaged members to apply for a regular position.

Some of the potential changes to the operating procedures are:

- To allow flexibility with term dates to ensure continuity of membership during longer term projects
- To attend the meeting in the intended format but if they cannot due to extenuating circumstances, there should be the option for people to attend virtually.
- Be more specific around how often the board tours the city. Paula suggests having a goal to convene meetings at other locations bi-annually.
- The Board is confused by 6H, which discusses the Board voting on motions. Paula will take a look at Robert's Rules to determine what this means.
- More clarity on public comment – if there are a lot of commenters, could less time be allowed? Paula will come up with some language to provide clarity.

With changes heard, if folks want to provide other edits, Paula will receive them and they can be incorporated and ready for approval at the next meeting.

SPR staff will bring it back cleaned up and the Board can adopt at the next meeting.

Old/New Business

New members – Paula says we have 6 new board members coming on. 4 appointed this week at Seattle City Council. 2 will be appointed a little later during the Park Board.

Law may provide an opinion and some guidance on the park district financials. The board requests some more information about this situation and possible solutions.

There being no other business, Commissioner Akita adjourns at 7:55pm.