



Minutes|Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

100 Dexter Ave N/Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom

Remote accessibility via Webex

Thursday, June 8, 2022

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

Attendance

Present: Seyfried, Mays, Umagat, Herrera, Meng, Brockhaus, Stuart-Lehalle

Absent: Farmer, Contreras

SPR Staff and Presenters: Diaz, Finnegan, Catague, Baldwin, Banner, Smith, Lotfi, Bader, Campbell, Hoff, Burtzos

Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

Co-chair Herrera calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and provides logistical instructions for in-person and remote attendees.

Herrera reads the land acknowledgement.

Seattle Parks and Recreation acknowledges and affirms the indigenous Coast Salish as the original caretakers of our waters and landscape, who nurtured and shaped today's parkland. We honor their legacy with gratitude and appreciation and will safeguard their knowledge and stewardship as enduring treasures to promote community welfare, cultivate inclusive expressions of nature and recreation, and commit to land acknowledgment for each ensuing generation.

Commissioners and SPR staff introduce themselves around the table.

Herrera introduces the consent agenda: meeting minutes from April 27, meeting minutes from May 11, and tonight's agenda. Meng moves to approve all three items without debate; Mays seconds the motion. Herrera calls for a vote. The vote is 6 in favor, none opposed.

Adopted: BPRC Meeting Minutes 4/27/23; BPRC Meeting Minutes 5/11/23; BPRC Meeting Agenda 5/11/23

Public Comment

Peter Breyfogle – Burke-Gilman Trail Maintenance – You have heard from me before including my concerns that the Burke-Gilman was not covered in the 6-year plan. I was told at that time my concerns were covered by the maintenance budget. Since that time, Sandi Albertson and Sean Hermes have done a full review of the reported problems. I finally talked to Sandi on Monday, June 7th to get an update because neither Sean nor I were getting any information from her. Sandi did not want to share the news that the current estimate to make the necessary repairs was \$1,000,000 and she only has \$300K in her budget for work this year.

I am dissatisfied with the length of time it is taking to get even the funded projects started. Sean and I reviewed these back in February. Sandi and crew did a survey in March. It is now 8 months since

this whole thing was started and only one repair has been completed. There is no sense of urgency. I am dissatisfied with the lack of a coordinated response from the top to bottom of Seattle Parks and Recreation on these issues that create a legal liability for the City of Seattle. For being the best funded parks department in the country it seems that more money could and should be allocated to making these repairs before someone gets seriously hurt due to the surface quality issues.

In my opinion the Park Board of Commissioners need to direct the Seattle Parks and Recreation to organize a coordinated meeting that crosses the layers of management and the matrix organization to come up with a comprehensive plan for fixing the problems reported back in October 2022.

Superintendent Diaz offers to have Deputy Superintendent Schwindeller reach out to Breyfogle to follow up on his concerns.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Diaz delivers the report.

Summer Beckons: Summer is just around the corner, but many programs and events have already started including the opening of 2 beaches (Madrona and W Green Lake), 11 spray parks, the firepits at Alki and Golden Gardens. Later this month 4 more beaches, 2 outdoor pools and 20 wading pools will open.

Seattle Ranks in the Top 10 Park Systems in the Country: We are proud to announce the Trust for Public Land (TPL) has ranked Seattle among the top 10 cities nationwide in its 2023 ParkScore index. Seattle ranks No. 8 on this year's list, moving up from No. 9 last year! The TPL index is a national comparison of park systems in the 100 most populated cities in the U.S. Published annually, the index measures park systems according to five categories: access, investment, amenities, acreage and equity.

Phillip Zhao Meng: Congratulations to Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Phillip Meng who just graduated from the University of Washington! He is receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration – with honors! Phillip is finishing his term as the Get Engaged member of the Board – a program designed to involve young people in City boards and commissions – but he has recently agreed to serve as a permanent commissioner. The appointment is subject to approval by the City Council.

Recent Shootings: There has been a huge spike in shootings and gun-related incidents in or near park facilities in Seattle in recent weeks (16 in the last 4 weeks). You may have heard about some of these incidents in the news. This is alarming and concerning on many levels including the danger the violent behavior poses to park visitors and SPR staff. We've made sure counseling services from the City's Employee Assistance Program are available for staff. The department's Safety Office and Emergency Management Unit remain on heightened alert and we are working closely with neighborhood police precincts. Assistant Superintendent Christopher Williams and I have met with the Mayor's Office and the Police Chief and attended the town hall meeting held earlier this week at Garfield High School.

One Seattle Day of Service: The Mayor's call for volunteer service happened all over the city on Saturday, May 20. Many of the service sites were at Seattle parks where volunteers picked up litter, removed weeds and spread mulch. Just a few stats:

- Our crews supported more than 800 volunteers at dozens of sites.

- More than 75 staff members were involved.
- Volunteers spread more than 250 yards of mulch.
- District staff collected bags of litter at more than 125 locations.

Crew also recently planted a beautiful array of annuals in the flower beds at Volunteer Park.

Kubota Garden New Restroom Building: Our new public restrooms at Kubota Garden are now open. Thanks and kudos to project manager Morteza Behrooz, Optimus Construction, community partner the Kubota Garden Foundation, which applied for grant funding, and our Southeast Grounds Maintenance Crew for developing a plan to secure the restrooms and clean them twice daily. The Seattle Times had high praise for Kubota Garden in a recent editorial.

2024 Parks & Open Space Plan: The last of three community input meetings was held last night (June 7) to help us develop the 2024 Parks and Open Space Plan, but we are still seeking community engagement and comment through our online Engagement Hub at engage.seattleparksandrec.com/en/

Every six years, Seattle Parks and Recreation updates the Parks and Open Space Plan to align acquisition and capital development program to meet the needs of our growing and dynamic city.

Upcoming Events

Summer is our favorite time of year – and our busiest time!

Pride Month! As most of you know, June is Pride Month- a time to celebrate our LGBTQ+ community. The month culminates in the PRIDE parade in Seattle on Sunday, June 25 beginning at 11 a.m. in Westlake Park. Seattle Parks and Recreation is proud to again march and host a float in the parade.

Bicycle Weekends are back on designated weekends along Lake Washington Blvd. from 10 a.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. Sunday this month on June 17-18 and June 24-25.

City Hall Park Re-opening: We are very excited to announce that City Hall Park will officially re-open next week on Tuesday, June 13. The park looks great – the lawn, trees, new benches – and kudos and thanks go out to our park maintenance, downtown activation and Park Ranger staff for pulling together with our other City (and County) partners to make this happen. Of course this is not just a one-day event – it's a plan and strategy that are integral to the Mayor's vision for re-activating Seattle's downtown core.

Juneteenth Closures: I wanted to mention that many Seattle Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth including community centers and indoor swimming pools. Please check our website for a list of affected sites.

Juneteenth is an important day commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S., and its first celebration as an official City of Seattle holiday was in 2022. To celebrate you can join the City's June 19 second annual Juneteenth celebration!

The second annual event is on June 19, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at our very own Seward Park. This drop-in style family-oriented event is open to City employees, their families, and the public and will feature live music, games for kids, poetry, food trucks, vendors, and dance performances.

Dancing til Dusk: Finally, get out your dancing shoes and get ready for our always popular Dancing til Dusk events beginning in July. This year Seattle Parks and Recreation and partners will be featuring

14 glorious nights of FREE dancing outdoors in mostly downtown parks. 2023 marks our 16th year of Dancing til Dusk!

Other events: Many other events, programs and activities are scheduled for this summer. Please visit our website for the latest news and information: Seattle.gov/parks

Meng thanks Diaz and the department for the recognition and offers gratitude for the effort and investment that has gone into revitalizing City Hall Park.

Stuart-Lehalle asks about business and community stakeholder engagement outreach in advance of the City Hall Park reopening. Diaz clarifies that an inter-departmental group of city agencies has been collaborating with a community group to coordinate both activation and safety planning at City Hall Park. This collaboration has been ongoing for over a year.

John C. Little Award Presentation

Superintendent Diaz introduces the award.

On behalf of Seattle Parks and Recreation, I am thrilled to announce – together with Recreation Director Daisy Catague – that Recreation Leader Buck Buchanan is the 2022 recipient of the John C. Little Spirit Award. John C. Little, Sr. was a member of the Board of Park Commissioners from 1990-1997 and was well known for his support of and advocacy for youth. His motto was, *“In order to improve the life of all people, you must improve the life of young people.”* The Spirit Award is given annually to a Seattle Parks and Recreation employee who exemplifies this commitment to helping youth.

Buck Buchanan certainly demonstrates this dedication every day both in his role as a Recreation Leader and in his personal life. A special thanks to the family of John C. Little, Sr., who helped create the award, including the selection criteria of the award to reflect the contributions and character of Mr. Little.

Daisy Catague, Recreation Division Director, presents the award.

Catague leads the room in a round of applause for Buchanan.

The John C. Little Award encompasses the work we do in the Recreation Division, and I know no one who is as deserving of it as Buck. Anyone who has done teen development work knows that this is a 24/7 job, not just something you do while at a recreation center. In your nomination, your 20 years of service with the department, your years as a foster parent, and your time coaching AAU basketball all painted a picture of someone who uses his platform to amplify the greatness of the children and teens he serves. I am so grateful for you to be here and to be part of the Recreation Division.

[Catague presents Buchanan with the award]

Buck Buchanan, Recreation Leader and 2022 John C. Little Award recipient, speaks to SPR staff and the Board.

Thank you to Mr. Diaz and everyone who selected me for this award. It is an honor. After I was informed that I had won the award, I looked up the list of previous winners; I am extremely proud to be part of such a special group.

Working at the City of Seattle and the Boys and Girls Club, I saw so many children from low-income families that had dreams of going to college but no means to achieve that dream. So I started a travel basketball program for young ladies with the sole purpose of helping them get exposure and seen by college coaches around the country in order to achieve that dream.

By coaching, I also became a foster parent to some of the young people that didn't have the support or stability in their lives to achieve their dreams: going to college, just being successful in life without doing anything illegal. I understand some of the obstacles that Mr. Little and everyone else had to go through when helping a low-income family, because I see it a lot.

I was raised up by my parents to only look down on people when you are giving them a hand to get up. That's what I try to do with each and every one of these young ladies and gentlemen that I deal with today.

Again, thank you to everyone that's here today. I could not be more honored to be the recipient of the John C. Little Spirit Award. Thank you.

[The Board recesses for a brief congratulatory reception]

Equitable Park Development Fund

Superintendent Diaz introduces the presentation.

Seattle Parks and Recreation has created the Equitable Park Development Fund to provide match funding for large-scale community proposals. The fund is supported in part by the Seattle Park District. In the first six-year cycle of the Park District, this program was called the Major Project Challenge Fund. Although the original version of the fund was successful in supporting community projects, there were significant gaps in engaging and advancing projects in underserved communities. SPR convened a task force to study some of the structural challenges and barriers to equitable access and recommended reforms to distribute the funds more equitably through a new program funded in Cycle 2 of the Park District. SPR staff here tonight will present the plan proposal and possible next steps.

I understand that you received a staff briefing paper on this topic earlier this week. Tonight, we are asking Board members, if you're comfortable doing so, to review, comment and potentially endorse the staff recommendations on the proposed new name for the program, the establishment of a Board subcommittee and award cycle framework.

Kim Baldwin, Director of Planning & Capital Development Operations, delivers the presentation. Shaquan Smith and Rachel Banner, SPR Strategic Advisors, support the Q&A.

SPR commits to advancing equity and social justice in our department and in every neighborhood by growing a dynamic and diverse workforce, developing strong investments, growth opportunities and beneficial partner strategies as we acknowledge and pledge to close disparities created by historical practices which often hindered workforce development, environmental justice, access to quality open spaces, programs, and facilities. The program's process will be presented at a follow-up meeting.

At this meeting, we will be providing some background information on the program and presenting three recommendations for discussion and possible approval:

1. Rename EPDF to Park CommUNITY Fund
2. Establish BPRC subcommittee
3. Establish two tiers for awards

We have a few definitions that we want to highlight before diving into this presentation.

Frontline communities are communities that experience high displacement risks, disproportionate exposure to environmental harms, and a history of disinvestment and lack of green space access. These include:

- Black people
- Tribal communities in the Seattle region
- Communities of color
- Immigrants and refugees
- People with limited English proficiency
- People who are trans, non-binary, or gender non-conforming
- People experiencing housing instability or homelessness
- People with disabilities
- People who have been incarcerated
- People experiencing poverty
- Older adults (65+)
- Youth (14 - 21)

This definition represents a terminology change from underserved and underrepresented citizens as included in PDOC documentation.

Priority areas are geographic areas defined broadly by zip code or neighborhood, where communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people experiencing poverty, and limited-English proficiency tend to live, which are also areas highly impacted by socioeconomic and environmental challenges.

We also have some foundational statements that I want to highlight:

The Program will advance park equity through a community-led funding process by:

- Expanding inclusive access to clean and safe parks that foster health, social wellness, and healthy environments.
- Closing gaps in access to quality parks and park facilities that disproportionately affect frontline communities.
- Centering efforts in partnership and transparency with communities to build ongoing trust, relationships, and investment.

Comparing the map of redlining in Seattle in the 1930s to the current map of displacement risk, we can see that there is a correlation between the two maps. There has been historical harm done, and there are many historical practices that have brought about this harm, and as we can see it has affected primarily frontline communities. This is the problem that this program aims to, in part, address.

A 2019 report on equitable access to parks highlighted a need for increased physical access and safety, a need to simplify complex political processes and expand engagement, and a desire for more environmental programs, including safe and maintained green spaces.

We have received feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of the program as of today.

Strengths (based on community feedback):

- Funds many projects in equity priority areas
- Embeds equity in capital projects
- Considers community needs during engagement process
- Secures additional external funding for community-initiated projects
- Supportive staff

Areas for improvement (based on community feedback):

- Expand long-range planning with frontline communities and capacity for community-initiated projects
- Increase inclusive outreach and engagement
- Communicate park development processes and policies
- Build trust with communities by acknowledging past inequities
- Emphasize climate resilience strategies and policies
- Increase maintenance capacity to support expansion of projects and new spaces

Feedback based on 2019-2020 Park District Oversight Committee (PDOC) subcommittee examination of structural challenges and barriers:

- Focus on areas with a history of disparities while remaining open to all communities
- Remove match requirement
- Increase program funding
- Allow for various-sized projects
- Increase staffing to build trust, rapport, and community capacity to navigate process

Our first recommendation is to rename the program. “Equitable Park Development Fund” (EPDF) is complex, long, and requires acronyms. It is also very close to an existing program, the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI). We want this program to have a name that is unique, and easily understood when translated. We received many suggestions from SPR and community members, and the name we would like you to consider is the Parks CommUNITY Fund.

Our second recommendation is the establishment of a BPRC subcommittee. This would allow for the creation of a smaller group within the Board to work more closely with SPR staff on this project, and to allow for more agile and streamlined communication with the whole group. The current proposal for this subcommittee would require a time commitment of about 14-20 hours per 2-year cycle, in addition to about 5 hours for the whole Board. This subcommittee would assist in review and approval of proposals, and participate in some public meetings.

Frontline community members and organizations will be deeply involved in the program, including:

- Serve as community leaders and experts
- Submit and encourage projects for funding
- Support outreach and engagement
- Review community support for proposed projects
- Monitor SPR accountability
- Evaluate the program's process

The third recommendation is to provide for two tiers of awards. One of the major pieces of feedback we heard about previous community-initiated funds was that the grant size was too large and inaccessible. To ensure that we are responsive on an annual basis, can build the skills to advocate for park equity, and support our internal process, we have divided the funds into three different "funding pools":

- Tier I – small in size, a single feature in a park, upgrading or maintaining a facility – less than \$150k
- Tier II – focused on a single larger upgrade like a play area or several smaller features throughout the park – between \$150k and \$1.5M
- Capacity Awards (Tier II ONLY) – 5% of project award – used to support community groups throughout the process

Baldwin briefly outlines the project budget and next steps. A public announcement and the launch of the program is slated to occur in late summer 2023.

Umagat asks how the project tiers, and especially the monetary amounts assigned to the different tiers, were selected. Smith clarifies that other programs within SPR and SDOT that involved community participatory budgeting have shared a \$150k threshold; that praxis was applied to this program as well. The \$1.5M cap for Tier 2 projects was chosen to reflect the desired size of projects, as well as to mirror part of the investment in the Garfield Superblock project. Banner clarifies what an investment of \$150k or \$1.5M might represent; the smaller amount might be enough for a barbecue area or similar project, while the larger amount might be enough for a play area.

Umagat asks if priority areas will follow the City's equity zones or if SPR will be using a different equity prioritization tool. Baldwin affirms that the extant equity zones will be utilized to help guide selection. Banner adds that a potential subcommittee will have the ability to shape these criteria further, and that additional metrics are being discussed to factor in considerations for open space and other Parks-specific issues.

Herrera clarifies debate and voting procedures if a motion does come to the floor.

Stuart-Lehalle thanks Baldwin for including the comparison to the old redlining map; this historical comparison helps to illustrate the necessity for this program. Stuart-Lehalle also appreciates the disaggregation of different frontline communities; the term "BIPOC" can be a bit too comfortable sometimes. Highlighting each community is helpful, and the proposed new name for the program reflects this well. Stuart-Lehalle asks for clarification regarding success metrics, and asks if there might be any opportunity to include community participation in project selection, even if such participation required some form of compensation for participants. Baldwin responds that metric

development is ongoing, specifically regarding how SPR can determine the success of the program and make sure that it is meeting its goals.

Seyfried asks for clarity on the term “community-led funding process.” Smith clarifies that in this program, the goal is to make sure that much of the decision-making power remains in the hands of the community at every stage of the process. When we say community-led, we are talking about not always having a top-down approach to community projects. Seyfried affirms that there is often an impulse with projects like these to dictate the plan to a community; one final piece to consider here might be fostering community stewardship and ownership over these new park elements. Seyfried notes that the word “funding” seems like the confusing element in this discussion; perhaps rephrasing some terminology to de-emphasize funding and focus on community involvement might make the program goals clearer.

Umagat asks if the Garfield Superblock project is a good example of a “community-led” project. Banner affirms that this is a good example, but notes that most community projects are not this large. Other projects need to be paired with the appropriate level of funding and support; Umagat notes that this is where the multiple-tiered response might come in.

Brockhaus thanks Baldwin, Smith, and Banner for their presentation and work, and asks for clarification as to what exactly is being asked or expected of the BPRC commissioners and subcommittee. Baldwin specifies that the department is seeking alignment with the Board but is also looking to the Board to help dictate their scope of involvement. Smith adds that the Board is responsible for approving certain financial recommendations, so there is a desire to incorporate BPRC engagement throughout the process. Finally, Smith notes that the community engagement may bring great candidates for Board membership to the table who may not otherwise have that experience.

Meng asks for more information regarding the responsibilities of the full Board, rather than as a subcommittee. Baldwin notes that oversight of and feedback for the program will be the primary role of the BPRC. Finnegan adds that the BPRC is specifically charged with making recommendations to the Superintendent regarding funding packages and the CommUNITY Fund, so this is a responsibility that the Board has from its founding document.

Mays asks if funding for the Community Response Fund rolls over from year to year, and what kind of “improvement” would this fund be used for? Baldwin clarifies: yes, the funding rolls from year to year, and the Community Response Fund allows for contingency costs or feasibility studies, especially when emergent costs arise, or to add adjacent projects to ongoing work.

Herrera asks if the fund is exclusive to park development, or if recreation programs and facilities will also be considered for funding. Baldwin and Finnegan clarify that while this program is a capital fund, the only restriction is that the money must go to capital improvement projects, whether of parks or recreation facilities. Herrera suggests that any name change to the program might incorporate “Seattle Parks and Recreation” instead of just “Parks” to better reflect this.

Herrera takes a straw poll on the Board’s readiness to vote on the proposed recommendations. The majority of the Board signals a readiness to vote.

Herrera reintroduces the first recommendation: Shall the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recommend renaming the Equitable Park Development Fund (EPDF) to the Park CommUNITY Fund? Mays moves to adopt the recommendation; Umagat and Stuart-Lehalle second. There is no discussion. The vote is 7-0 in favor; the motion carries.

Adopted: The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recommends renaming the Equitable Park Development Fund (EPDF) to the Park CommUNITY Fund.

Herrera reintroduces the second recommendation: Shall the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners establish a subcommittee tasked with assisting the work of the Park CommUNITY Fund, as discussed? Meng moves to adopt the recommendation; Mays and Umagat second. There is no discussion. The vote is 7-0 in favor; the motion carries.

Adopted: The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners will establish a subcommittee tasked with assisting the work of the Park CommUNITY Fund.

Herrera reintroduces the third recommendation: Shall the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recommend the establishment of two tiers of monetary awards to be granted through the Parks CommUNITY Fund? Meng moves to adopt the recommendation; Umagat seconds. The vote is 7-0 in favor; the motion carries.

Adopted: The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recommends the establishment of two tiers of monetary awards to be granted through the Parks CommUNITY Fund.

Baldwin thanks the Board for their participation and support. Herrera shares that the Board chairs will meet with SPR leadership to begin the process of forming and scoping the approved subcommittee.

Off-Leash Area (OLA) Study Report

Superintendent Diaz introduces the presentation.

Seattle Parks and Recreation is excited to share its findings from the 2023 Off Leash Area (OLA) Study, which looked at more than 30 sites across SPR facilities to determine their suitability to become a dog OLA in the future. This is part of SPR's coordinated effort to expand access to amenities where residents can safely exercise and socialize their dogs. The current cycle of the Seattle Park District provides funding for the construction of two new OLAs and the design of a third OLA; for any additional off-leash areas, the department will need to request more funding. This presentation marks the start of the department's outreach and engagement on the OLA Study. An online survey will be going live starting tomorrow, June 9th, to help capture community feedback and will remain open through the end of July. There will also be in-person engagement opportunities this summer that will be announced soon.

The presentation is given by Danyal Lotfi, Community Engagement Advisor; David Bader, Senior Landscape Architect; and Colin Campbell, Planning and Development Specialist.

SPR is among other leading cities in providing access to legal off-leash areas, constructing the city's first Off-Leash Area (OLA) in 1997 and growing the system's footprint to roughly 26 acres across the city today. However, with the exponential growth in the number of dogs we have witnessed among Seattle residents in the last decade, SPR recognizes the need for, and has been working toward, an

expanded OLA system. While we have had some success gradually increasing the number of OLAs over the years in partnership with the community, the current situation called for a more concrete and robust response. The OLA Expansion Study, which looked at over 30 sites across SPR's system to determine suitability for OLA development, is one strategy in that response.

History of the Seattle OLA program

1997: City Council Resolution #29628

- Created the Off-Leash Area System and provided guidance for selecting sites for future Off-Leash Area development.

2017: "People, Dogs, and Parks" Plan

- This plan was developed by SPR in 2017 and it focused primarily on maintenance recommendations of the existing Off-Leash Area System.
- This plan also provided additional guidance for selecting sites for future Off-Leash Area development but stopped short of recommending specific sites.
- This plan was formally adopted by City Council in 2017.

Recent Increase in Dog Ownership in Seattle

- It is a common adage that "Seattle has more dogs than children". According to census data, it's true. In 2021, it was estimated that Seattle had 153,000 dogs and 107,000 children.

Seattle Park District Funding - "Off-Leash Area Expansion Study"

- Funding is available to build 2 new Off-Leash Areas and design a 3rd.
- This is a study to determine suitable sites for new Off-Leash Areas within the existing Seattle Park System.

The site selection criteria for OLA sites were formalized in the 1997 Resolution and expanded in the 2017 "People, Dogs, and Parks" Plan. These criteria include:

- Not conflict with existing park uses in a way that creates safety issues;
- Not be located in a park that is a designated Seattle landmark, or be listed on the State or Federal register of historic places;
- Not be located in natural areas under active restoration, or in an environmentally critical area;
- Have preliminary approval from the site owner, if not on Parks land.

Other considerations include:

- Geographic Need
- Site must be Accessible (or a plan must be created to make it accessible)
- Site must not have significant vegetation and large trees
- Proposed site must be at least 50 ft. away from other property lines
- Flat sites are preferred to slopes, because surfacing erodes over time on slopes
- Consideration for access to parking spots or accessibility by public transportation

Campbell shares map of current OLAs, including three sites currently in development at Smith Cove Park, South Park Community Center, and the Georgetown Flume. The 32 sites considered in the current study include sites in every Council district.

Bader explains how the OLA study group used the above criteria used to narrow down the 32 suggested OLA sites to a preferred list of nine “preferred sites.” These include:

- Lincoln Park
- West Seattle Stadium
- East Queen Anne Playground
- Discovery Park
- Ravenna Park
- View Ridge Playfield
- Powell Barnett Park
- Othello Park
- Brighton Playfield

Each of these preferred sites has some pros and cons, but we believe that each of these nine sites is feasible for the construction of an OLA.

Bader provides a brief overview of each preferred site to the Board. An [executive summary of these sites](#) can be accessed on the [Off Leash Area Expansion Study](#) website.

Online survey on recommended sites available starting June 9th, closing on July 31st. We will also hold in-person engagement opportunities to inform the community and answer questions; the dates and locations of these sessions will be announced soon. After SPR collects and synthesizes public input on OLA Study sites, further engagement with nearby residents of the selected sites, for which we have funding available.

Herrera notes that public engagement will likely be strong for this topic this summer.

Brockhaus asks to what degree park activation is factored into the prioritization process for new OLAs. Lotfi clarifies that while OLA use is considered an active park use, the actual construction lead time probably moves park activation off the top of the priorities list. An urgent activation need cannot be adequately addressed with a 12- or 18-month construction project.

Stuart-Lehalle asks what the process is to account for any program or activity displacement due to new OLA development; and also, if there is any way to “test” a proposed location for suitability with actual “paws on the ground” dog use before construction occurs. Lotfi clarifies that community outreach is ongoing to determine both known and community uses of these spaces, and to address community concerns throughout the engagement process this summer. The construction of an OLA (installing gravel, etc.) is hard to simulate for a trial run; we are hoping to gather information through community outreach and previous lessons learned, and will apply those lessons in this process. Campbell adds that coordination is ongoing between the study group and the Athletic and Events Scheduling team to determine what uses are currently being permitted at the proposed sites.

Herrera thanks the study group for their work and dedication; this is a hot topic right now in the city. Herrera asks if SPR has investigated partnerships with other organizations for additional sites or funding opportunities. Lotfi clarifies that the scope of this study focused explicitly on SPR-owned land sites as “low-hanging fruit”; however, SPR continues to investigate other opportunities. The Georgetown Flume OLA is a good example of this kind of partnership.

Old & New Business

There is no further discussion.

There being no further business, Herrera adjourns the meeting at 8:48 pm.