



# Minutes | Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

100 Dexter Ave N/Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom

Remote accessibility via Zoom

Thursday, July 9, 2026

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Attendance

Present: Zhang, Rasch, Meng, Kahn, Diamond, Mays (emeritus), Haile-Leul, Werner, Williams, Lerer, Stonecipher, Nakamura (co-chair), Chisholm Clare

Absent: Baum (co-chair), Flinn, Bakker

SPR Staff and Presenters: Finnegan, Murphy, Hoff, Burtzos

## Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

Nakamura calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and provides logistical instructions for in-person and remote attendees.

Commissioners and SPR staff introduce themselves.

Nakamura reads the land acknowledgement.

Nakamura introduces the consent agenda: tonight's meeting agenda, and meeting minutes from the 5/28/26 and 6/11/26 BPRC meetings. Lerer moves to approve all three items; Stonecipher seconds the motion. Nakamura calls the vote; without objection, the consent agenda is adopted.

***Adopted: 6/11/26 BPRC meeting minutes; 5/28/26 BPRC meeting minutes; 7/9/26 BPRC meeting agenda***

## Public Comment

The BPRC heard public testimony on the following topics:

- Proposed new athletic field facilities at Lower Woodland Park;
- Maintenance of Burke Gilman Trail;
- Visitor behavior at Denny Blaine Park.

Finnegan briefly responds to commenters.

## BPRC New Member Introduction

New members of the Board offer lengthier introductions, including their residential communities, brief professional experiences, and experience with Parks and Recreation.

## Superintendent's Report

Michele Finnegan, Interim Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, delivers the report.

Before we jump into the Superintendent's Report, I would like to take a few minutes to welcome (and introduce) our new BPRC members and thank Stafford (although he is on the road and may not make it tonight) for his wonderful contributions while serving as the District 7 representative since 2022. You will be missed!

## ***Project Updates***

**Green Lake Community Center, Pool & Play Area Update:** SPR is hosting two meetings to share an update on the Green Lake Community Center, Pool and Play Area project. These meetings are an opportunity for the community to learn more about the design concepts and provide input. **The meetings will be held on Wednesday, July 15 at 5:30 PM and Saturday, July 18 at 10 AM.** Both events will be held at Green Lake Community Center.

**Hiawatha Play Area Construction:** SPR will begin construction on the Hiawatha Play Area Renovation project the week of July 20, 2026. SPR awarded the construction contract to LW Sundstrom, Inc. and together we will work to minimize the impact to Hiawatha Playfield and Community Center. The project replaces the play area on the north side of the park near the tennis court with a new play area located just south of the wading pool.

**Rainier Community Center Play Area Construction:** We also have the renovation of Rainier Community Center Play Area beginning this week. The construction contract was awarded to Peak Construction and we anticipate opening the play area in early 2027.

**Georgetown Flume:** SPR and our City partners at Seattle Department of Transportation and Seattle City Light, and community partners celebrated the new Georgetown Flume Off-Leash Area (OLA) and Georgetown to South Park Connection that is adjacent to the OLA on Sat. June 27. As you can see, the weather did not deter the dogs!

We are currently [soliciting names](#) for the site.

## ***Operations Updates***

### **World Cup Watch Parties indoor/outdoor and Soccer Jamborees:**

Total attendance was at 3,367 as of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Above are a few of the SPR hosted watch parties. We have hosted 16 watch parties and 2 Jamborees and clinics throughout the City to date, in addition to a party sponsored by DSA at Occidental Park.

SPR hosted 11 indoor events at community centers throughout the City, with a total of 512 attendees – the largest number was Ravenna Eckstein (with 70 participants).

Outdoor Attendance at events came to 2,231 attendees, with Ballard in the lead with 800 individuals, and South Lake Union right behind with 685.

Additionally, there was a well-received Magnuson Park Jamboree with 26 registered teams and 226 players in total – as well as 32 participants in the drop-in clinic and 180 spectators.

We have an additional 6 watch parties remaining, 3 indoor and 3 outdoor, that will conclude on July 19<sup>th</sup> at Rainier Playfield.

There were 32 participants in the drop-in clinic.. There were also 32 for the drop-in clinic and 150 spectators.

**Free Summer Meals:** This summer, SPR is teaming up with Seattle Human Services Department and United Way of King County to offer free summer meals at parks and community centers across Seattle. The program runs Mondays through Fridays from June 29 to August 20, rain or shine. SPR is proud to help ensure that children have access to healthy meals during the week, even when school is out, as well as to enriching activities and a safe space. Find the full schedule on our website under Summer Playgrounds and Summer Meals.

### ***Park Resources Staff and Park Rangers Hard at Work During World Cup Events***

### **Park Resources Work Round Up to Keep Seattle Parks Clean:**

To date Park Resources has contributed 4,913 labor hours

- SPR provided a Garbage Packer truck for the last 4 events collecting 9.5 tons of Garbage.
- In addition, 44 Park Resources staff provided continuous support, preparing 21 scheduled FIFA watch-party sites and maintaining park cleanliness citywide from early May through the final scheduled match on July 6

### **Park Ranger Summary FIFA & Direct Patrols June 15 – July 6:**

- Contacted 12,110 People during the FIFA Events - Answer General Questions / Directions
- Provided 228 Verbal Warnings on Park Code
- Provided 236 Direct Patrols to City Parks
- Provided 4,080 customer service advice on Park Regulation - Education
- Community Center Support - 5 Visits during FIFA Events

### **Unified Care Team:**

- Supported the watch parties through their normal operation (inspections, removals, and site cleans)
- Most FIFA-related activity would have impacted SDOT UCT since the Stadium District falls under their purview.

### ***Fourth of July - Vandalism***

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Damage:**

Unfortunately, our parks often see vandalism and damage over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Bobby Morris Playfield and the Madrona Beach Restroom were hit the hardest this year.

**Madrona Restroom:** We anticipate having Madron back online by the end of next week.

**Bobby Morris Playfield:** Unfortunately, there was a fire set on the turf field. The replacement will take longer and we hope to have an estimated timeline next week.

### ***Lincoln HS Playfield Proposal – Next Steps***

#### **Next Steps on Lincoln H.S. Full Size Play Field:**

July 23, 2026: Special BPRC Meeting for Public Hearing

- Briefing paper will be posted next week.
- Meeting will be held at *Miller Community Center* at 6:00 p.m.
- Public Comment / Testimony can be made in writing prior, or day of in person.
- [PKS\\_BPRC@Seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_BPRC@Seattle.gov)

August 13, 2026: BPRC Regular Meeting (location change)

- Possible BPRC vote on recommendation to Superintendent regarding this proposal.
- Meeting will be held at Miller Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

### ***Superintendent Feedback Loop***

I wanted to give you an update on some items we have in the city's supplemental budget legislation that's being funded with 2025 MPD operating underspend.

- **Pool Renovations:** About half of carry forward is proposed to support renovations of our pools recognizing this program had to absorb unplanned expenses to make structural repairs to the roof at Medgar Evers Pool and repair the underground piping system at Queen Anne pool which is leaking. This investment basically makes the program whole – which is important since our pools are both critically important and aging.
- **Be’er Sheva Stage:** The Cultural Stage at Be’er Sheva Park in Rainier Beach suffered significant damage in late November 2024 when a tree fell on it during the “Bomb Cyclone” storm. This happened soon after it was built and the loss disrupted the enhanced vision for the community events programming at the park. This funding would support replacement of the cultural stage roof.
- **Racquet Sports Strategy:** We continue to engage with community in the development of a Racquet Sports Strategy – with additional meetings being held next week. This investment would support implementation of the strategy once finalized (likely some court resurfacing efforts in 2027).
- **Community Center Voice Activated Fire System:** State childcare licensing requirements have been updated to require voice activated fire systems. For SPR, this is triggered when we make changes to our facilities or when new childcare licenses are pursued. We are requesting to carry forward \$500K for fire system upgrades at South Park, Hiawatha, Magnuson and potentially Yesler (to support the Seattle Preschool Program there).
- **Recreation Scholarships:** These funds will provide a nearly 50% increase in resources available for 2026, a much-needed infusion to support access to fee-based recreation programs (most programs with instructors).

Stonecipher asks about funding timing. Finnegan clarifies.

### ***Opportunities to Engage***

- **Green Lake Community Center / Evans Pool:** Project update meetings on July 15 (5:30 pm) and July 18 (10 am) at GL CC (7201 East Green Lake Way N).
- **Marra-Desimone Park @ Duwamish River Festival:** Community celebration on August 8, noon–5 pm.
- **Summer Streets Sports Showdown:** August 8-9 ([arcseattle.org/events/seattle-street-sports-showdown](https://arcseattle.org/events/seattle-street-sports-showdown))
- **Big Day of Play:** Free citywide event on August 15, noon–5 pm at Rainier Playfield and Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center.
- **All Together Skatepark Ribbon Cutting:** Celebration on August 30, 3–5 pm at Rainier Beach Playfield.

Finnegan pauses for questions from the Board.

Stonecipher asks for clarification regarding community engagement process for the Lincoln HS/Lower Woodland Park field proposal. Finnegan clarifies.

Chisholm Clare asks about timeline regarding Lincoln HS/Lower Woodland Park proposal. Finnegan notes that this proposal is in beginning phases, but notes that if recommendation from BPRC occurs in August, a Superintendent decision is possible in September.

Haile-Leul expresses gratitude for increased scholarship funding. Finnegan thanks Haile-Leul for his continued advocacy on this issue.

Nakamura asks about recent Burke-Gilman trail maintenance communications; Finnegan notes that SDOT may be performing maintenance on their portion of the trail.

## **Planning and Capital Development Quarterly Update**

Jessica Murphy, Planning & Capital Development Division Director, delivers the report.

Murphy provides updates on project completions and other progress, highlighting dog off-leash areas, play area renovations, accessibility improvements, synthetic turf replacement, and other accomplishments. The department is keeping a close eye on facility decarbonization progress, dedicated pickleball facility construction, and special community center projects, such as Lake City Community Center.

Murphy provides additional details on the design and construction progress of several new park sites, including Smith Cove, AB Ernst, West Seattle Junction, Terry Pettus, Wedgewood, (48th &) Charlestown, Morgan Junction, and Lake City Floodplain.

Murphy concludes with a brief update on community center development projects:

- Lake City CC went to design commission in February, had a public meeting in March, and presentations are on the website; we are working on design now.
- Green Lake CC had a meeting on design update on July 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The GCCM is on board.
- Queen Anne CC has reached 60% design and submitted for permits.
- Loyal Heights CC has a GCCM contractor selected and a kick-off meeting happened this week!

Planning & Capital Development will be hosting several neighborhood events soon:

- Green Lake Community Centers – **July 15 & 18**
- W Magnolia Play Area and Skate Dot – **July 28 & Aug 1**
- Loyal Heights Community Center – **August 8** (at Tasty Taste event)
- Marra-Desimone Park – **August 8** (at Duwamish River Festival)
- Dr Jose Rizal Park Play Area – **Aug 9** (at Jazz festival)
- Rainier Beach Skate Park Ribbon Cutting – **August TBD**

Murphy pauses for questions from the Board.

Lerer notes appreciation for the playground construction at Bryant and View Ridge. Chisholm Clare echoes appreciation for Magnuson.

Stonecipher asks for additional clarification regarding land banked sites, specifically if those have development funding attached when acquired. Finnegan provides details about the park acquisition program and how new acquisitions are developed (currently through Park District funding).

Williams asks about key performance indicator (KPI) development and communication processes. Murphy discusses the opportunities and challenges faced when communicating around projects on a years-long schedule. Finnegan notes that the BPRC has a subcommittee dedicated to KPI tracking and related work, and this can be a longer discussion offline.

Rasch asks about consideration of public safety concerns during the park design process. Murphy notes that CPTED and other landscape design functions are considered, but park behavior cannot always be a consideration as behavior changes throughout a park's lifecycle.

## Old & New Business

Nakamura acknowledges Stafford Mays, whose term on the Board ended with the appointment of Phillip Meng to the District 7 seat on the Board. Staff and Board members share brief memories of Stafford's time with the Board.

Nakamura invites new BPRC members to stay for a brief meet & greet with staff and tenured members.

Nakamura adjourns the public portion of the meeting at 7:28 PM.