

Welcome –with Kelly McCaffrey, Park District Oversight Committee Chair

Public Comment:

Cindy Krueger- Site leader, Ballard P-Patch

Cindy shared information about the needs of the Ballard P-patch. Cindy stated that the p-patch serves 90 diverse families and provides 1,300 pounds of food to the Ballard Food Bank on an annual basis. Cindy warned that unless the Ballard P-patch and its partners raise 1.8 million dollars by April of 2020, the land supporting the garden will be sold. Cindy shared that Ballard P-patch participants have met with government leaders and were encouraged to apply for funding in the Parks and Open Space Levy for which they have a match.

Tim Motzer- Chair, LCNA Parks, Open Space and Community Center Committee

Tim asked for confirmation of a future meeting between the PDOC and Councilmember Juarez regarding recommendations made at the June 24 Council meeting.

Tim asked that the following three recommendations be considered during the next Seattle Park District financial planning process.

1. Approve the remaining \$501,000 for the Community Center Operations initiative, transferring the funds from the Community Center Rehabilitation initiative.
2. Allow for mid-6-year cycle corrections that would allow increases to the spending plan if needed.
3. Retain the current 2018 property tax rate of 24.5 cents through 2020 to minimize the amount of tax increase that may be needed to fund needed improvements in the second funding cycle.

Erin Shigaki- Participant, Amy Yee Tennis Center

Erin shared historical information and personal stories about the impact Amy Woo Yee had on racial and gender equity in Seattle's exclusive tennis community. Erin attributed her personal success in and her family ties to tennis to the historical figure's legacy. Erin cited the high demand for access to tennis in Seattle. Erin urged Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to retain these opportunities by supporting the Amy Yee Tennis Center.

Alex Tsimerman- Community Member

Alex expressed concern with the way City of Seattle government allocates resources. Alex encouraged the PDOC the consider recommending less money for trees and more money for people.

Mellissa, H. Amy Davis, Michelle Messiner- Potential Fresh Meat (PFM) Roller Derby

PFM Roller Derby representatives acknowledged and thanked Seattle Parks and Recreation for meeting with the roller derby community and addressing their grievances.

Nannette Martin- senior yoga participant, Montlake Community Center

Nannette urged Seattle Parks and Recreation to reinstate the senior yoga class, cancelled due to community center reductions. Nannette expressed disappointment in the decision to cancel senior yoga, requested more information about who to contact and requested a meeting with Justin Cutler, Recreation Director.

Jeannie Shiek- Community Member, for Amy Yee Tennis Center

Jeannie cited the community impacts of the Quick Start Tennis program. The Quick Start Tennis program is a low barrier program that has served over 2,000 youth for 10 years. Jeannie stated Quick Start Tennis builds confidence, builds life skills, and leads to lifelong participation in the sport of tennis.

Gary Epstein, Community Member, for Amy Yee Tennis Center

Gary cited the Quick Start Tennis program as a gateway to more recreation opportunities for a diverse community of youth. Gary stated that the Amy Yee Tennis Center has a diverse teaching staff, including the most women in the Pacific Northwest.

Joyce Moty- Chair, Lifelong Recreation Council and GROW Board of Trustees

Joyce spoke in support of the Ballard P-patch. Joyce stated that green and open space are not luxuries. They are necessary in maintaining a sustainable and livable city.

Joyce expressed concern for the impacts of community center hour reductions on a city that is growing so much. Joyce cited the lack of staffing resource as an issue needing to be addressed. Joyce urged Seattle Parks and Recreation to support additional staff for Lifelong Recreation programs.

Aidan Carroll- Community Member

Aidan expressed concern about removal activities in the boulevard in the middle of Ravenna Park. Aidan stated that the removal of the encampment without an alternative was not okay. Aidan stated that social programs and green programs should not be forced to compete for resources.

Superintendent's Report– with Christopher Williams, Seattle Park and Recreation Deputy Superintendent

Glyphosate Executive Order. A Glyphosate restriction on City owned land will be announced tomorrow.

Big Day of Play. We had a very successful event on Saturday to celebrate our city's diversity and bring together neighbors, communities and families to have fun, build relationships and be active together. The free event featured active recreation booths and activities, including basketball, wheelchair rugby, goal ball, adaptive play equipment, rainbow bingo, sailing, rowing, and much more. Community members also enjoyed cultural music and dance presentations throughout the day. Thanks to those of you that were able to help at BDP, we really appreciated it.

Seattle Sounders FC and RAVE Foundation Event. Yesterday, the Seattle Sounders and RAVE Foundation hosted a Yesler community event to celebrate the new Sounders FC ownership partners. This event included over 100 youth participating in our programs at Yesler Community Center, and provided the kids with games, arts activities, photo booth, Sounders swag, soccer skills training and challenges. They also had an opportunity to see, listen to and meet Seattle celebrity athletes and pop music stars. It was an exciting day of fun for the Yesler community.

Reimagining Civic Commons. Tomorrow, SPR leadership will host a delegation of parks and recreation leaders from around the country who are part of a national organization called Reimagining the Civic Commons, which advocates for investments in civic assets in the urban cores of large cities. They will hear a presentation and panel discussion on the Seattle Park District and take a walking tour of our downtown parks. Let me know if you would like to participate in the tour.

Teen Summer Musical. A reminder that the Teen Summer Musical is at Benaroya Hall until August 25th. This is a wonderful culmination of a 9-week summer program that showcases the talent of dozens of teens of color, providing them an introduction to the world of theater. There is still time to get tickets on the Seattle Symphony (Benaroya Hall) website.

Parks RX

Community Center Hours Reduction. For the last few years through our partnership of ARC, Seattle Parks and Recreation was able to offer additional operational hours at Ballard, Magnolia, Queen Anne, and Loyal Heights. This funding supported building monitors and allowed for free drop-in programming, or other programmed classes. These funds were no longer available to SPR. These centers will return to regular hours in Fall 2019. SPR recognizes that communities would love more hours from their community centers and pools, and we are currently working on re-tooling our model to more strategically provide hours and programs. For some background, in 2014 community centers were open a weekly combined total of 1,194, this year we operated centers at a combined weekly total of 1361.

SPR Reorganization

Planning and Development Division. Michael Shiosaki has decided to take on a new role at another agency in the City of Seattle family. I'd like to thank Michael for his 19-year contribution to the department in the Planning and Development Division. During his tenure, he and the rest of the impressive Planning and Development team have added acres of new park land to our portfolio, developed dozens of new parks, renovated so many others, and completed some impressive projects including Rainier Beach Community Center, the Arboretum Loop Trail, Hing Hay Park, Yesler Terrace Park, and so many more. Please join me in thanking Michael for his significant contributions to Seattle Parks and Recreation. Michael's last day with the department was on August 16.

As Michael departs, I am appointing **Andy Sheffer** to fill the role of Planning and Development Division Director. I have asked **Kim Baldwin** to step into a new role as deputy director of the Planning and Development Division. We will be keenly focused on filling all the current vacancies in the division and will leverage additional resources to better ensure the success of this Division. Andy will transition to his new role this week. With Andy's move from the Facilities Division, I have asked **Pamela Asplough** to serve in an interim capacity as the director of the Facilities Division. Pam will start as the interim director on Monday, August 19.

To better position the Planning and Development Division to focus on the on-time, on-budget, delivery of capital projects, and on project and agency planning efforts, we are making two additional changes:

Seattle Conservation Corps. The Conservation Corps, managed by Ruth Blaw, will join the EPIC Division. In line with the desire to better focus the Planning and Development Division, this move will also provide additional support to the Corps given its proximity to EPIC Division leadership at Magnuson Park.

Property Management. This unit, led by Max Jacobs, will be reassigned to the Policy Unit in the Superintendent's Office and will report to Michele Finnegan, Policy Division Director. Again, this move allows the Planning and Development Division to focus singularly on project delivery and moving this unit directly under my office will support our work in bringing consistency and efficiency in our property management initiatives across the agency.

Human Resources. As many you know, we are in the process of hiring a new HR Director who will be joining my executive team.

Environmental Education Programming. Environmental Education Programs led by Chukundi Salisbury will move to the Recreation Division where the core mission is to provide programs for people. This realignment follows industry best practices in parks and recreation.

Outdoor Parks Programming. Outdoor Parks Programming implemented by Randy Wiger will be reassigned under Victoria Schoenberg in the Downtown Parks Unit which focuses on programming outdoor spaces through partnerships.

Specialty Gardens. This work (under Belinda Gigliotti) will be moved to the EPIC Division to better support their work and focus on partnership development.

The changes I've described are designed to help drive transformation through organizational alignment in order to help us better serve every resident. They will allow us to innovate with greater speed, efficiency and ultimately provide the capability to better serve a growing and dense community amid myriad challenges.

Other Topics Covered

Pilot for Pier 62/63 with Friends of the Waterfront
Ravenna Park Homeless Issues
Sunset Birthday Party at Golden Gardens Park

Community Spotlight: King County Park Levy Briefing – with Doug Hodson, King County Parks and Recreation, Finance Manager

Summary: Hodson provided an overview of the King County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Levy passed in August 2019. The levy renewed a 2013 property tax levy and is estimated to generate \$810 million over six years. The revenue generated by the levy will support county-wide investments in parks, trails, recreation, and open space protection for the benefit of all King County residents.

The presentation covered levy [goals](#), the [proposed levy spending plan](#), and a summary of investments. Some investments of interest included:

- **Community Partnerships & Grants:** \$9M for partners to design, build or program new and enhanced public recreation facilities on County or city-owned lands.
- **Targeted Equity Grants:** \$10M to increase access to and use of recreation facilities in communities that are currently underserved or for people with disabilities.
- **City Capital and Open Space Acquisition Grants:** \$25M for parks capital improvements and land acquisition
- **Public Pools Grants:** \$44M for capital needs at new or existing aquatic facilities the equity grant program and the city capital and local space acquisition grant program.

[Learn more](#) and [See the presentation](#) (Starts at 52:00, Ends at 1:20:00)

Selected Q&A, Comments- Community Spotlight: King County Park Levy Briefing

Q1: How big is your major maintenance backlog?

A1: *We have not done a comprehensive major maintenance study recently, but we did one at the beginning of the current levy and it was very large. We intentionally wanted to put more funding towards things like ballfields, back country trails, sports courts, Marymoor and Dockton Parks.*

Q2: What are the cycles for the equity and grant?

A2: *We have not identified grant cycles yet. We have general guidelines that we developed for the purpose of the levy. We are required end of January to develop a more specific set of criteria We have to get approval from the county council on the specific criteria before publishing. But we do have general guidelines for each of the programs.*

Q3: What portion of the revenue will come from City of Seattle taxpayers?

A3: *Approximately 35% of the revenue will be generated by City of Seattle taxpayers.*

Q4: Who is eligible for the grant programs?

A4: *Eligible entities include*

- *County towns and cities,*
- *Tribes and tribal organizations,*
- *Nonprofit organizations, smaller emerging community organizations without 501(c)(3) status, through a partnership with fiscal agent.*

Recommendations/Decisions Made: NA

Recreation Briefing: Community Learning Center (CLC)– with Out of School Time Manager and CLC Team

Summary: Justin Cutler, Recreation Division Director, provided an overview of the Community Learning Center (CLC) program. Justin shared that CLC programs are Out-of-School Time (OST) programs coordinated by Seattle Parks and Recreation staff professionals, based out of Seattle Public School sites and offered during afterschool, lunchtime, school breaks (winter, spring) and summer. These CLC's are currently active in five middle schools, one elementary school, and one K-8, collectively serving approximately 2300 students each year. At each site, has one CLC Coordinator who works closely with school administration and staff to ensure that OST programs incorporate both effective academic instructional models and youth development best practices.

The presentation focused on four aspects of the CLC program:

1. CLC Partnerships
2. The CLC mentoring program
3. The CLC College and Career Exploration Summer Pilot
4. CLC Student Stories

CLC team (Lori Chisholm, William King, Damien Hicks, Won Choi, Kirsten Bystrom, and Rebecca Brito) shared participant impact stories and photos that illustrate the methods and results of the CLC program. The CLC program is one of the units within the recreation division that really emphasizes outcomes, emphasizes data driven decision making into their program design and delivery. Justin closed by stating that the CLC program is a best practice and it exemplifies the direction of future recreation services offered by Seattle Parks and Recreation.

[Learn more](#) and [see the presentation](#) (Starts at 1:28:00, ends at 1:48:00)

Selected Q&A, Comments- Recreation Briefing: Community Learning Center (CLC)

Q1: Is this the group from Aki Kurose that came to cook with the Park Board of Commissioners last year? We now make pupusas in my house because of that experience.

A1: Yes.

C2: You should make a book highlighting your success stories.

C3: Former DEEL Employee- Denny Aki Kurose and Mercer middle school have had notable, statewide turnarounds in schools that partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation CLCs with support from the Families and Education Levy. Schools that had been failing schools until this program came in. That was not true of every intervention funded by the Families and Education Levy. The CLC program has won awards, they've been recognized, and I wanted to say it was not just incidents of great work, it was a complete school turnaround.

Q4: It was a fabulous presentation. Thank you.

Recommendations/Decisions Made: NA

Old/New Committee Business- with Kelly McCaffrey, Park District Oversight Committee, Chair

The PDOC discussed a potential meeting with Meeting with Councilmember Juarez

- A meeting between the PDOC and Councilmember Juarez is tentatively set for October 24.
- Marlan proposed the PDOC advocate for a meeting location in district 5 (would require staff coordination).
- Andrea, Tom and Marlon are available/interested

Motion that passed unanimously by the Parks District Oversight Committee: Recommend to the Parks District Board that the Parks District tax assessment, currently approved at \$0.22 per \$1000 of the value of assessed property, to remain at a tax rate of \$0.22/\$1000 through the final 2020 year of the current PD 6yr spending plan. This would allow for the collection of additional revenue that would otherwise not be realized were the PD to remain fixed to the current spending plan itself. This motion was supported in order to pay for (a) continued backlog of capital projects caused by declining purchasing power in our competitive local economy, (b) promised funds in the Major Projects Challenge Fund. We believe this keeps rates steady while allowing capture of the revenue to address the increased park stress caused by Seattle's intense growth and increase in park-loving residents.

The Board of Park Commissioners discussed a potential meeting with City of Seattle Mayor's Office staff

- Andrea has contacted Deputy Mayor David Moseley's office (via phone). The call was regarding the recent letter the Park Board sent to the City of Seattle Mayor's Office.
- Andrea will follow up and report back.

The PDOC discussed the ongoing need for a Chairperson and Vice Chair

- PDOC needs both a Chair and Vice Chair
- Interested PDOC member should inquire with Shanyanika McElroy

Strategic Plan Update: Community Outreach and Engagement – with Rachel Schulkin, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Communications Manager

Summary: Rachel shared information about Seattle Parks and Recreation’s strategic plan engagement activities and findings. As of August 2019, 10,000 people participated.

Seattle Parks and Recreation’s strategic plan engagement efforts included:

- A digital and in-person survey offered in 12 languages
- Targeted engagement with all ages (seniors, young adults, kids and adults)
- Advertisement with five ethnic media outlets
- Translated flyers and interpretation at four community events
- Translated social media posts
- 24+ live engagement activities in every zip code in Seattle (and many beyond!)
- A listening tour hosted in partnership with 17 community-based organizations

Themes of our findings included but, are not limited to:

- Support Growth and Density
- Support transportation access
- Mitigate the growing wealth gap
- Address homelessness
- Embrace new ways
- Offer more of what is currently offered
- Support Emerging sports/trends
- Maintain and Enhance existing assets
- Increase safety and ADA access
- Prioritize racial equity and climate resiliency
- Provide community center hours that work for 9-5 employees
- Provide year around bathroom access

[Learn more](#) and [see the presentation](#) (Starts at 1:50:00, ends at 2:30:00).

Selected Q&A, Comments- Strategic Plan Update: Community Outreach and Engagement

Q1: Did you see there was a high level of engagement from non-English speakers? Can we quantify this?

A1: Not as high as we anticipated. We think there are some issues with the data collection process that impact the results. We need to dig in a little more with our Community Engagement Ambassadors.

Q2: Have you seen any trends of community interest in increased access to pools and public pools as a climate resiliency tool?

A2: Yes. There seems to be a community divide regarding whether public beaches or pools are the best solution.

Q3: How do we increase awareness of who to contact with strategic plan feedback? How does the strategic plan effort support continued relationship building with community?

A3: We are building strategies which will support a sustained connection with community. We are trying to diversify and give folks multiple opportunities to participate.

Q4: Did the feedback you received during the in-person engagement activities align with the feedback received on the survey?

A4: Yes. The survey is almost identical.

Q5: Did you hear any really brilliant ideas about the homelessness issues?

A5: We heard a desire to co-locate social services with community centers. People are there already. So, we should be doing things where people are.

C: I think this was a total homerun for PR for Parks and Recreation this year. I was at the Green Lake event. I tried to get people to say something negative and nothing. It was amazing the goodwill for what the department does.

Recommendations/Decisions Made

NA