



## Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2007

### ***Board of Park Commissioners:***

Present:

Neal Adams  
John Barber  
Terry Holme  
Jackie Ramels  
Amit Ranade, Chair

### ***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:***

B.J. Brooks, Interim Superintendent  
Susan Golub, Strategic Analyst  
Sandy Brooks, Park Board Coordinator

The meeting was held at City Council chambers at Seattle City Hall and recorded by Seattle TV. [To view the meeting, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010734>.]

Commissioner Ranade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Ramels moved, and Commissioner Barber seconded, approval of the agenda. Motion carried. Commissioner Ramels noted that she has several items for New/Old Business.**

**Commissioner Ramels moved approval of the June 14 minutes, as corrected, and Commissioner Barber seconded.** Motion carried. Commissioner Adams abstained, as he joined the Board at its June 28 meeting. **The vote was taken and motion carried.** The Acknowledgment of Correspondence was also approved. The June 28 minutes will be approved at the July 26 meeting.

Commissioner Ramels thanked the Board's Coordinator, Sandy Brooks, for her great work on the June 14 minutes. She believes these were especially difficult minutes to prepare.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Deputy Superintendent B.J. Brooks gave a report on several items. For more information on Seattle Parks and Recreation, please visit the web pages at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

Long-time Parks' Employee Retires: Long-time Facilities Maintenance Division Director Woody Wilkinson has retired. His career with the City started in 1965, and he served in a variety of roles: Staff Assistant to the Mayor; Lead Budget Analyst; Division head in the Department of Community Development; Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Director of the Office of Policy Planning; and Deputy Mayor, before coming to Parks. A reception was held in his honor on July 11. Melinda Nichols will be the acting Director of Facilities Maintenance.

Center City Parks Update: Interim Superintendent Brooks distributed a brochure describing the exciting programs and events in the downtown parks, which are helping make the parks safer. As a relatively small part of the Center City Parks initiative, a busker program began last week. Buskers entertain by dancing, singing, or reciting in a public place and are scheduled to perform during lunch time in Hing Hay, Pioneer Square, Freeway, Westlake, and Waterfront parks. They are paid a stipend to perform. The initiative has received a surprising amount of media interest.

Bruce Bentley was in the audience and was recognized by Interim Superintendent Brooks for his hard work on the Downtown Parks Initiative. For more information on the schedule, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/events/centercity.htm>.

Victor Steinbrueck Park: The Market Historical Commission has approved the application submitted by the Downtown Seattle Association and Parks to conduct ongoing programming in the park on a pilot basis through October of this year. A follow-up briefing of the Commission will be held in October to hear public comment on the programming and to report on how it went. SPD and Pike Place Market Security will be asked to attend the briefing. For more information on Victor Steinbrueck Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/victorsteinbrueckpark.htm>.

Commissioner Holme asked for an update on the 90-day emergency change in operating hours at this park. Interim Superintendent Brooks answered that the 90-day permit ends in early August. The community continues to discuss the next steps in the process. This will come back before the Park Board in fall of 2007. Seattle Police Department (SPD) continues to monitor the park. Commissioner Holme asked if the community has changed its mind on asking the Department to permanently close the park earlier in the evening and open it later in the morning. Interim Superintendent Brooks answered that the community and SPD are evaluating whether to leave the popular park open until 11:00 pm during the long days of summer, rather than closing it at 10:00 pm, as they had previously requested.

Aquarium Revels in the Glory! After the long awaited dedication ceremony on June 22, the public flowed through the new entrance, into the Puget Sound Great Hall, and stopped to gape in awe at the new "Window on Washington Waters" exhibit. Since its re-opening ceremony on June 22, attendance has sprung to 50% over the same period in 2006! Also, 1,287 memberships have been sold at the gate from June 22 through July 8. For more information on the Aquarium, see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=183&srcid=-2>.

Fourth of July Celebration in the Parks: The Gas Works Park event and the Myrtle Edwards Park viewing went extremely well this year with an estimated 60,000 people in attendance at Gas Works and 6,000 at Myrtle Edwards Park. For more information on Gas Works Park and Myrtle Edward Park, see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/GASWORKS.htm> or <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/MyrtleEdwards.htm>.

### **Upcoming Events**

Pinehurst Pocket Park Dedication Celebration: Saturday, July 28, from 10:30 am – noon. The park is located at 11700, 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

### **Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience**

The Chair explained that this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and will be timed. The Board's usual process is for 15 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's business. One person signed up to testify. A very brief summary of his testimony is included.

Bruce Bentley: Mr. Bentley was appointed by the Mayor to serve for two three-year terms on the Park Board, and was chair from January 2001 to August 2004. He commented that it is good to see five of the seven positions filled and he was pleased to see old friends on the Park Board.

He appreciated receiving the Center City brochure and believes this is just the beginning of many positive events at the downtown parks, and that the programs will blossom and continue to grow. The Downtown Seattle Association continues its work to program the parks. Keep up the good work!

## **Briefing: Parks' Facilities as Emergency/Disaster Shelters**

Michele Finnegan, Interim Director of Park's Operations Division, presented a briefing on the use of Seattle Park's community centers as emergency/disaster shelters. Commissioners received a written briefing in their agenda packet, included in these minutes. Tonight Ms. Finnegan reviewed the briefing paper and answered questions.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

This briefing is for informational purposes only. The intent of the briefing is to inform the Park Board of Seattle Parks and Recreation's (SPR) role in the provision of emergency shelters and the planning efforts underway to ensure we meet this service need in future emergency situations.

#### **Seattle Parks and Recreation Role in Emergency Management**

The City of Seattle's Disaster Readiness and Response Plan identifies Seattle Parks and Recreation as the lead agency "to provide an emergency shelter system for the City and its citizens". This role is defined under the Plan's Human Services Emergency Support Function (ESF-6). SPR also has support roles in Emergency Support Functions related to Public Works, Public Information, Logistics and Recovery.

The City's Disaster Readiness and Response Plan includes the assumption that "in a disaster it is likely that local government response may be delayed, and that the general public should be prepared to take care of their own basic survival needs for at least the first 72 hours after an event."

#### **Provision of Shelter Services**

People become displaced from their homes as a result of a number of different emergency situations. When this happens to a small number of individuals or families there are social resources to provide temporary assistance (American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other community non-profit agencies). In situations where a larger number of individuals or families are impacted, demands can grow beyond the means of these community agencies. When this happens, the City of Seattle's Emergency Support Function 6 – Human Services is prepared to mobilize City and community assets and services to make available shelter and resettlement help.

Emergency shelter services are categorized broadly in three ways:

- Small localized emergencies requiring the activation of a single emergency shelter, e.g., an apartment building fire.
- Tier I response is defined when ESF-6 in the EOC is activated and damage is considered widespread and displaces as many as 14,000 residents. A Tier I response will primarily involve the use of City-owned facilities as shelter sites.
- Tier II response occurs when the damage is considered widespread and displaces more than 14,000 residents. A Tier II response will involve the use of City owned facilities and facilities owned by other public and private entities. This response category assumes there will be limited ability to transport shelter clients and therefore attempts to operate shelters in all geographic sectors.

Due to the nature of potential disasters in Seattle, we do not pre-determine shelter locations. Locations will be based upon impact of the disaster and safe utilization of facilities. The plan assumes shelters will be operated in accord with Red Cross procedures and will be staffed by trained employees and volunteers of the owner agency (Parks, Seattle Center, Seattle Public Schools, etc) or through Red Cross volunteers as resources allow. However, the plan allows for SPR employees to operate any shelter facility in a large scale disaster and also allows for assignment of non-SPR employees and volunteers to shelter sites once registered by the City of Seattle's Personnel Department.

### **Experience from December Windstorm**

Following the December 14, 2006 windstorm, SPR operated 4 dormitory shelters (duration varied from 3 nights to 6 nights). On our busiest night, we had a total of 78 clients at the 4 sites. While we are proud of the role SPR played in this emergency response, we learned some valuable lessons [these are part of the City's 55 page After-Action Report].

- ESF-6 Human Services needs to improve communication and coordination with vulnerable populations and the agencies that traditionally serve these populations to assess level of need.
- SPR overestimated the level of support that would be provided by the Red Cross in staffing shelters. While we were able to meet the need of this event, we are committed to training more staff in shelter management and working with City Personnel to train non-SPR employees to staff shelters.
- SPR overestimated the continuity of other services we could provide while operating a dormitory shelter.

These lessons are helping us prioritize our next steps both internally to the Department and externally through the ESF-6 Coordination Group.

**Current External Coordination Efforts:** Seattle Parks and Recreation staff participate on the City's ESF-6 Coordination Group. Some of the current coordination activities include:

- The development of a Shelter Typing system coordinated by King County's Office of Emergency Management. This will be used to collaboratively identify additional shelter locations based on type.
- Developing protocols for the provision of pet shelters. To the extent facilities and resources are available, Animal Control will locate pet shelters in different geographical sectors of the City associated with the locations and needs of the shelters designated to house people. SPR may have a role in providing sites for pet shelter and in coordinating pet care with human care.
- The Human Services Department is leading the coordination effort for food resources. SPR may have a role providing sites for food distribution and will require assistance in the provision of food for shelter operations.
- King County Public Health is developing protocols for sheltering of special needs/ medically fragile populations. SPR may have to refer clients requiring this service.

**Current Internal Coordination Efforts:** Seattle Parks and Recreation's Operations Division is focused on the following efforts to ensure we meet our shelter responsibility to the citizens of Seattle in future emergency situations:

- Training all staff in personal preparedness and increasing the number of staff trained in shelter management.
- Working with the American Red Cross to develop and offer a short course for potential shelter workers.
- Working with all recreation facilities to have an emergency response site plan to address safety of staff and participants if an event occurs during operating hours.
- Working with the Associated Recreation Council to ensure all childcare programs have an emergency response plan to ensure the safety of staff and participants if an event occurs during operating hours.
- Working with grounds maintenance districts to develop emergency response plans to ensure safety of staff and a communications protocols for deployment of staff in response and recovery phases.

### **Additional Information**

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Michele Finnegan at 684-7157 or [michele.finnegan@seattle.gov](mailto:michele.finnegan@seattle.gov).

### ***Briefing/Board Discussion***

Ms. Finnegan reviewed the information in the written briefing paper and stated that this is an important role for Parks to play. Communication is key so the public knows what to do in a major emergency/disaster. The City's Human Services Department coordinates the department's monthly meetings and is helping to ensure all participants understand the mega-shelter terms and language. In addition to shelter for humans, Hurricane Katrina highlighted the need for pet shelters. Some pets are brought to shelters by their owners and others are found wandering the streets after a disaster.

During the winter storms in December 2007, Parks staff learned that no cavalry will come to help during an emergency. Staff must be well trained and well prepared at home so they can come to facilities and help the community. Parks is

working with the American Red Cross to develop a shorter worker certification program. Staff are also working with the Associated Recreation Council to train its staff, too, to respond in emergencies. Parks' grounds maintenance staff work all over the city and are developing protocols for calling in nearby conditions to the emergency response headquarter. Facility Maintenance staff are another group of support, as they have a number of heavy trucks that could be utilized. It is a big job to coordinate and carry out these programs.

Pat Barger of the Queen Anne Community Center Advisory Council was in attendance and noted that the City installed a large generator behind the community center. It has been used twice when there were nearby apartment fires and evacuees came to the community center. There is already a large pool of volunteers who have had background checks. At least two of the Advisory Council members live close enough to this community center to walk there and help in an emergency. In addition, the Advisory Council is considering training community members. Commissioner Ramels commented that it is a great idea to train all the Advisory Council volunteers.

Commissioner Ramels asked about background checks for volunteers. Ms. Finnegan answered that many volunteers already have had background checks and it is a requirement to work in any kind of shelter. Commissioner Ramels sees anxiety about disaster preparedness in her community. She lives in the area where Alki Community Center is located and it would be the community center nearest her. However, it is in a "bowl" area [and near Puget Sound.] Ms. Finnegan answered that the public must determine their best source of shelter of community centers and schools based on where they live before a disaster happens.

Commissioner Holme asked if Parks is coordinating with Seattle Public Schools on this. Ms. Finnegan answered that there are a number of park facilities that are co-located with schools and many schools are identified as emergency sites. Parks is partnered with Seattle Public Schools to work on the details at the co-located sites.

Commissioner Holme asked what hierarchy Seattle Parks will use during an emergency. Ms. Finnegan answered that Interim Superintendent Brooks and Interim Deputy Superintendent Williams are the department's leads and will go to the Emergency Operation Center. They, with other Emergency Operation Center staff will determine which shelters will be open and the next steps to take.

Commissioner Holme commented that he frequently questions funding for Seattle Parks' programs and projects. He did not realize that emergency preparedness planning was also a function of Seattle Parks. Is there adequate funding and has the budget been adjusted since 9/11 [terrorist attacks and subsequent increase in emergency preparedness]? How many full-time employees work on this program and does it receive support from the Mayor and City Council? Does the Department need more full-time employees to support this? Interim Superintendent Brooks answered that when the Department goes into emergency mode, regular work stops and staff are utilized for emergency response. Parks' Executive Team members have all been trained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as added training. If staff are called in to work on an emergency, the subsequent costs are given to FEMA and the department works to recover the costs from the federal agency. The department has received no additional funding for emergency preparedness training. Commissioner Holme commented that to do a good job, staff must be well trained. Is the training tracked as a separate budget item? Interim Superintendent Brooks answered that being trained for emergencies is an added value to the public from the work that is already performed by the Department. Ms. Finnegan answered that the Department previously had a ½ time manager working on the emergency preparedness plan. Commissioner Holme stressed that he hopes the Mayor and City Council budget for this training. It is a good thing to do, but should not impact the Department's other programs. He hopes the Council and Mayor appreciate the need to adequately fund the Parks Department to continue this function.

Commissioner Barber asked whether the Department received money from Homeland Security for the training. Ms. Finnegan answered that Parks did receive some grants for both individual preparedness training and pandemic flu preparation training. Commissioner Barber asked if Seattle Police and Fire Departments are purchasing master communication equipment, so they can effectively communicate during an emergency when regular communication systems may not function. Ms. Finnegan answered yes, that they are looking at a system that will also automatically call staff to come to particular sites to help. Barb Gaff is director of the City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM.) To

learn more about this department, see <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency/programs/>. OEM has a community training program, Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP) and does excellent trainings. For more information on SNAP, see <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency/programs/snap/>.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Finnegan for the briefing.

## **Briefing: Seattle Parks' Summer Programs**

Michele Finnegan, Interim Director of Park's Operations Division, presented a briefing on Seattle Parks' summer programs. Prior to tonight's meeting, Commissioner received a copy of the 16-page Guide, which lists the various programs and events for the summer of 2007 in Seattle's parks. A printable version of the Guide is available at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/events/summerGuide.pdf>.

### *Verbal Briefing & Board Discussion*

Ms. Finnegan gave a Powerpoint presentation that represented a portion of the activities that may be enjoyed in Seattle's Parks. She also recognized the successful partnership between the Associated Recreation Council, and Advisory Councils, and Seattle Parks. Many of the events held at the community centers and summer camps would not be possible without this partnership.

Some, but far from all, of the programs Ms. Finnegan mentioned are included below. (For the full list and details, see the link above.)

### **Parks - Overview**

- 6200 acres with open space for quiet meditation, viewpoints, gardens, water access and programs, athletic fields, trails, off-leash areas, and other uses
- Gardens include Woodland Park Rose Garden, Kubota Garden, Japanese Garden, Parsons Garden, Volunteer Park Conservatory, and Washington Park Arboretum (60,000 people visited the Japanese Garden alone in 2006.)
- Center City (Downtown) Parks' programming includes outdoor movies, outdoor ballroom dancing @ Freeway park, bocce ball, wi-fi hotspots, and more
- Community park programming, including outdoor chess tournaments and other events
- Community events and festival – 600 special event permits are issued annually for park events
- Music and theater (concerts, Shakespeare in the Park, Art in the Parks, Peace Concerts, and others)
- 200 weddings are scheduled annually
- picnics
- day camps
- numerous playgrounds, with five having onsite staff in the summer and eight offering free sack lunch programs for kids
- Bicycle Saturdays and Sundays when Lake Washington Boulevard is closed to traffic
- Numerous trails for walking, jogging, and non-motorized wheels
- Off-leash areas for dogs

### **Aquatics**

#### *Beaches*

- 9 life guarded beaches; opened on June 23
- in 2006, 225,000 visitors visited the beaches; even more are expected in 2007
- Free two week swim lessons are given each summer
- Parks started a life jacket loan program

#### *Wading Pools*

- 14 wading pools
- 127,000 visitors in 2006
- open on days when temperatures reach 70 degrees or higher

- conserves water as many people jointly use the wading pools, rather than individuals filling pools or running water hoses at home

*Water sprays/features*

- 8 parks have such features

*Saltwater outdoor swimming pool*

- Colman Pool in West Seattle; also has a spectacular view of Puget Sound

*Outdoor swimming pool*

- Mounger Pool in the Magnolia area
- it provides more swim lessons in the four months it is open than some indoor pools do year round

*Rowing and Sailing Centers*

- Located at Mt. Baker and Greenlake
- Greenlake is hosting the national canoe and kayak competition in August.

*Motorized Boat launches*

- 70,000 boats launched last year

*20 fishing piers*

*8 indoor pools*

- provide swim lessons, programs, lap swims, summer swim league, diving camps, water polo, and birthday parties

*Aquatic special events*

- provides open water swims, dog swims before pool maintenance closures, and a “dive in” movie on July 20

**Sports fields:**

- 204 athletic fields
- Indoor tennis at Amy Yee Tennis Center
- 151 outdoor tennis courts
- 3 municipal golf courses, Interbay Golf, and Greenlake Pitch and Putt. 120,000 rounds have been played during the first half of 2007. Golf summer camps. Seniors play as fundraiser for junior golfers.
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Baseball/softball
- Soccer, Frisbee, lawn bowling, and other sports
- Scheduled and unscheduled use

**Lifelong Recreation**

- Offers a wide range of fitness and social programs for people 50 and better that change each season.
- Annual Old Timers Picnic, 35<sup>th</sup> one is scheduled on August 18 at Woodland Park Zoo. 1,500 seniors attend.

**Specialized Programs,**

- Offers year-round activities for people with disabilities, including Special Olympics Sports of all kinds, wheelchair basketball teams, weekend trips, after school programs, classes such as cooking, dance, and aerobics, and extensive camping program during the summer.
- 150,000 hours of programs in 2006

**Environmental Learning Centers and Environmental Stewardship Programs**

- Carkeek Park
- Camp Long
- Discovery Park
- Seward Park

**Arts and culture:**

- Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center will present “Cinderella, A Love Story with the Sound of Motown”, August 21-26

## **Skills for Youth**

- Job Readiness Program, lifeguard training, interviewing and job training skills
- 90 kids are members of “Youth Engaged in Service.” Each donates 120 hours of volunteer time to the community.

## **Working Behind the Scenes**

- Planners and project managers
- Grounds maintenance crews (remove 2,000 tons of garbage yearly from the parks)
- Maintenance shop crews
- Pool staff
- Custodial staff
- Recreation staff
- Volunteers (donate 250,000 hours annually to Seattle’s parks)

In closing, Ms. Finnegan read the Department’s mission statement: “Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community.”

### ***Board Discussion***

- Commissioner Barber thanked the Department for the quality of care at Leschi Park. He has observed great improvements in the park over the past two years that have put it in the best condition he has ever observed. Peppi’s Playground wading pool is in his neighborhood and the community is really enjoying using it.
- Commissioner Holme asked if polo is played on the tennis courts and Ms. Finnegan answered that it is played on the outdoor basketball courts.
- Commissioner Ranade was pleased to hear that the department recirculates water at its outdoor activity sites.
- Commissioner Ramels asked if the outdoor movies at Occidental park are new programming. Ms. Finnegan answered that it is part of the Center City programming and this is the third year of the outdoor movies. Crowds of people attend this popular event. Commissioner Ranade attended one and found it to be very fun.
- Commissioner Ramels asked if outside agencies schedule day camps at the parks and whether they are charged a fee for this. Ms. Finnegan answered that outside agencies do schedule day camps (YMCA, etc.) and are not charged a fee.
- Commissioner Barber asked how his community could initiate a new volunteer program and Ms. Finnegan referred him to Randy Wiger of Seattle Parks.
- Commissioner Ramels asked who maintains the walking trail behind the Museum of History and Industry. Ms. Finnegan answered that the City of Seattle owns and maintains the MOHAI park. Ms. Finnegan, UW plants, City hardscape.
- Commissioner Adams has participated in park activities for many years and his grandchildren frequently use the parks. It was very nice to see this overall presentation of park activities and opportunities. Commissioner Ranade commented that he really enjoyed the presentation and Commissioner Ramels agreed and described it as a wonderful presentation.

Interim Superintendent Brooks stated that Ms. Finnegan is doing a phenomenal job as interim director, as well as other staff. Ms. Finnegan commented that there is a lot of passion for Seattle’s parks and it is fun to show all the parks have to offer.

## **Old/New Business**

**South Lake Union Tours:** Commissioner Ramels referred to Seattle Park Foundations’ tours of South Lake Union Park. King County Executive Ron Sims was invited to a reception to talk about the County’s park levy. Commissioner Ramels will send a copy of the invitation to the other Board members.



Statue of Liberty Controversy “Heads Up”: Commissioner Ramels referred to a Neighborhood Matching Fund project in her community that she believes has the potential of becoming controversial, as there are differing opinions on the project. An NMF was awarded to renovate the Statue of Liberty at Alki Park several years ago. When the original advocate left, two citizens offered to take up the project. The time lag, and increasing cost, has created a communication gap in the process. This has given her a new understanding of how problems can arise. If this controversy comes before the Park Board, she will reclude herself as she is Alki Community Center President as well as a Park Board Commissioner. She hopes this project can be a learning lesson for future NMF projects, especially on the timeline of projects.

Interim Superintendent Brooks hopes that Neighborhood Matching Fund staff can work out challenges in the community and not have to bring this to the Park Board for a public hearing. This is an idea that outgrew its budget. The statue is being repaired and the detail of the pedestal has proved to be a challenge and more than the budget will allow. She has asked Parks’ NMF project coordinator, Pamela Kliment, to set up a discussion with the community and look at the options. If the community leans to the more costly option, it will need to raise additional funds. Ms. Kliment will help resolve this in the community.

Community members wrote City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen recently and his staff forwarded the letter to Parks for an answer. Parks staff will send the Board a copy of the Department’s response letter.

Madison Park Project: Commissioner Holme questions whether this NMF project has been resolved, and asked for an update report. A difficulty of this project was that at least two groups in the community had different plans for the park and the controversy remained right up until the final plan needed to be determined.

He believes that NMF projects can have “scope creep.” The Board periodically receives a report from Ms. Kliment, listing all the NMF projects that have received awards. Perhaps Ms. Kliment should flag projects the Board should be briefed on, especially ones that might develop “scope creep.” That would keep the Board ahead of the game. Interim Superintendent Brooks agreed with the suggestion. She will update the Board on NMF projects as they are approved and will give an update on the Madison Park Project at the next meeting.

Lake Washington Vegetation Management Plan: Interim Superintendent Brooks stated that this project now has a facilitator and also has a Project Advisory Team (PAT.) There is a great deal of passion regarding the vegetation management plan involving vegetation, views, and wildlife corridors. Commissioner Holme commented that many homeowners’ property fronts the Boulevard. The project requires much outreach to many homeowners who may have very different philosophies.

Commissioner Holme commented that two projects are going on: the vegetation management plan and a Pro Parks Levy project. He asked if any facilitation is needed for the Pro Parks Levy project. Interim Superintendent Brooks commented that this is a good question. She has instructed staff to treat these two projects individually at this time. In the fall, the two projects will mix together more. Commissioner Holme hopes that the vegetation management plan will move along quickly so that the Pro Parks Levy can also move ahead.

Open space advocates hold two positions on the PAT and one recently resigned. Commissioner Barber is his alternate to the PAT and is also president of Parks Open Space Advocates (PoSA.) Interim Superintendent Brooks asked Commissioner Barber to fill the vacancy to represent the Board of Park Commissioners, rather than as an open space advocate and Commissioner Barber agreed to do so.

Commissioner Ramels wondered whether it would be difficult for him to switch from his role on PoSA to that of the Park Board. Commissioner Ranade was a member of the Center City PAT and represented the Park Board — not as a volunteer or resident.

Commissioner Barber agreed to be the Park Board’s representative to the PAT, take a broad perspective on the project, and to work closely with Commissioner Ranade on proper protocol for this position. Interim Superintendent Brooks stated that the facilitator can help guide this process. **Commissioner Holme moved that Commissioner Barber**

**represent the Board of Park Commissioners on the Lake Washington Vegetation Management Plan and Commissioner Ramels seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Barber will bring regular reports back to the Board of Park Commissioners. Commissioner Adams requested a written statement, making it clear that Commissioner Barber is the Board's representative. This could set a precedent for future Board representation to Project Advisory Teams and will protect both Commissioner Barber and the Board. Interim Superintendent Brooks will have a Parks staff person prepare the statement. Staff will also send Commissioner Barber information on the next PAT meeting.

Filling Park Board's 7<sup>th</sup> Position: Once the 6<sup>th</sup> position on the Board is filled (a mayoral appointment), the Park Board will work to fill the 7<sup>th</sup> position. Several people have already shown interest and submitted their resume. Commissioner Holme is chair of the search committee and will be assisted by Commissioner Barber. The Coordinator will work with the committee on this effort and was asked to post information on the Park Board's web page that resumes are now being accepted.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Jackie Ramels, Acting Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_