



Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

Via WebEx (Please see the video [here](#))

Thursday, April 8, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 8:05 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting is called to order at 6:35pm and the Board members introduce themselves. Commissioner Farmer acknowledges that we are on the unceded land of the Coast Salish people. The board members and staff introduce themselves.

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

Welcome Back Seattle: It's been a busy last two weeks as Seattle Parks and Recreation staff prepare to reopen our facilities, parks and programs and get ready for what we are calling Welcome Back Seattle. We will have a separate presentation on Welcome Back planning efforts in a few minutes.

- Volunteer Program: In other news, you may have heard the exciting news that we have restarted our Volunteer Program.
- From recreation coaches to park inspectors to trail and forest stewards, volunteers are essential to the work we do. The pandemic greatly curtailed our volunteer programs, however, and it's only now that conditions have improved enough for us to feel safe in re-starting some larger, outdoor volunteer projects.
- Among the tasks volunteers have been very eager to help with is the work of the [Clean City Initiative](#)
- On Saturday, March 27, we had a very fun and successful volunteer launch with cleanup events at four of our busiest parks: Alki, Golden Gardens, Magnuson and Jefferson parks.
- Pictured above are volunteers in action at Golden Gardens and Alki Beach.
- Because of COVID precautions the number of volunteers was limited from six to 12 people at each location. Staff supplied volunteers with safety vests, buckets, litter sticks, and gloves.
- Future volunteer events are being scheduled including 4 events in mid-April. Check our website at seattle.gov/parks/volunteer for information.

Clean Cities Initiative

- Clean Cities: The citywide Clean Cities Initiative continues with trash collection at parks, especially those with encampments.
- Jamborees: We also continue with special emphasis park cleanings we call “Jamborees.” Last week our crews focused on Bitter Lake Park and Othello Park
- Graffiti Removal: An important part of the clean-up is removal of graffiti. Pictured here is our crew removing graffiti from a building at Magnuson Park
- Eyes and Ears on Parks: In addition to Clean Cities, we have made a departmentwide commitment to keep our parks and facilities clean and safe. We have a goal of keeping eyes and ears on every one of our 400-plus parks in our system.
- New Smart Phone App: At a following Board meeting, SPR staff will demonstrate a new smart phone app developed in-house to help staff enter and collect real-time data on litter, debris, graffiti and anything else that needs cleaning up.

Parks and Environment Division

- Crews at Work: The crews in the Parks and Environment division continue to do incredible work. This happens every year in every season, but it’s especially true this year.
- Examples of Recent Work:
 - The Urban Forestry team removed several downed limbs from the March 27 wind and rain storm.
 - Ballfields all over the city continue to be prepped for community use
- Vaccination: Our grounds crews were identified to as the next work group to move forward with vaccinations that started on March 30th.

Facilities, Planning and Development

- Yesler Terrace Park: We are proud to announce that Yesler Terrace Park (pictured here) was selected by the Washington Park and Recreation Association (WRPA) as one of the Spotlight Facilities & Parks Award winners selected for 2020. The award ceremony is April 29 online.
- SLU CC: The second outreach effort for the community center in South Lake Union wrapped up last week with good turnout at the online open house and meeting.
- Pickleball: The Planning unit is working on a partnership with the Laurelhurst Pickleball Group on fundraising that will contribute to pickleball and badminton courts at Lakeridge Playground, which has a historically marginalized community.
- Spray parks and Wading Pools: The plumbing shop and facilities staff are working hard to get the spray parks and wading pools open for the summer season.
- Volunteer Park Amphitheater: construction of this improvement project is under way.
- Thornton Creek Water Quality: SPR, SPU and a nonprofit partner are partnering on a project in Northeast Seattle to improve Thornton Creek water quality, in-stream and riparian habitat, and on-site stormwater management, while creating an accessible natural area for the Lake City community. Work begins this month.

Finance and Administration

Our Finance and Administration staff mostly works behind the scenes but their work is critically important to how we operate –

- **Pool Reservation System:** Business Service Center (or BSC) has set up a system for the opening of Rainier Beach Pool on April 19. It will work like the system set up for Medgar Evers Pool: Beginning on April 15, customers can reserve a time for lap swim or personal fitness times online or over the phone. This is also similar to the timed ticket entry system at the Japanese Garden.
- **Event Fee Reductions:** Also in the Finance Division, staff are processing applications for event fee reductions if an organization offers significant public benefits
- **Joint Use Agreement:** Staff are working on renewing the joint use agreement between SPR and Seattle Public Schools.

Policy, Performance, and Property

Our Policy, Performance and Property Division will be making several presentations tonight. Also part of that division is the management of Magnuson Park.

- **Public Benefits at Magnuson Park:** Magnuson Park Administration manages 63 tenant leases, concession agreements, and licenses. Of these, 10 tenants are required to submit an annual public benefit report. Half of the 2020 reports have been approved and so far the public benefits of these five totals more than \$500,000. The benefits include:
 - Public access
 - Scholarships
 - Programs
 - Community outreach events
 - Capital improvements
- **Magnuson Park Tenant Rent Forgiveness and Deferral:** This week, letters went out to Magnuson Park businesses and artist informing them of ongoing rent relief through the end of Q2 2021. Many tenants continue to express gratitude for this support. Tenants of other SPR facilities received similar letters.
- **Magnuson Park Security:** Magnuson Park and SPR security staff continue to work with tenants and SPD to address concerns over property crime including vandalism and theft. SPD offered on-site CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) reviews for any tenant who would like one. SPR Security provides seven-day-a coverage of the campus while working closely with SPD.

Recreation

- **Reopening:** Reopening planning continues. You'll hear more about that in the next presentation.
- **Spring Break Camp** is virtual this year from April 12 to 16. Signup is under way
- **CLC Spring Programming:** Spring programming has begun for all but two Community Learning Centers. Collectively sites are at 104% of target enrollment at 542 individual students registered for programming. Last week 75% of all students attended.

- Rainier Beach Pool: Exciting news: The pool is reopening on April 19 with registration for lane reservations opening next week
- Food Distribution: SPR's partnership with Food Lifeline will continue through the end of April. Food Lifeline has distributed thousands of boxes of nutritious food to community members in need at Rainier Beach Community Center since July of 2020.
- Keep Moving Streets: Lake Washington Boulevard, from Mount Baker Park to Stan Sayers Memorial Park, reopens to people walking, rolling and biking from April 9th to 18th! These areas will be closed to drivers during this time. This a City of Seattle partnership between SPR and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

Communications

- New Signs: Christina Hirsch and our Communications Unit have developed some great new signs that will soon be put up at Green Lake and other locations.
- Cal Anderson Park History: One other communications note: there was a wonderful article in the Seattle Times over the weekend about the fascinating history of Cal Anderson Park – including the recent history. I urge you to check it out.

Update and Next steps on Park Board/Park District Oversight Committee Consolidation

Update

- Working with the City Attorney's Office to identify the legislative changes that need to be made to consolidate the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Park Commissioners and PDOC.
- Identifying positions that need to be filled, terms, etc.
- Exploring what voices, constituencies we feel are important to have at the table in order to advertise the open positions.

What's changing:

- Park Board to increase to 15 members generally aligned with PDOC membership structure
- Consolidated board performs Park District-specific duties
- Appointments:
 - Council: 7 districted seats
 - Mayor: 4 "at large" seats
 - Commissions: 4 seats (confirmed by Mayor)

What's staying the same:

- Term length: 3 years
- Get Engaged! member will remain
- Minimum one meeting per month
- Board procedures & policies set outside legislation (e.g., additional meeting, subcommittees, etc.)

Legislative Amendments

- Seattle Municipal Code

- Section 3.26.010 - Board of Park Commissioners Membership
- Replace 9-member board with 15-member structure (including Get Engaged)
- In legislation (not code changes)
 - Reference board expertise and diversity of perspectives (see next slides)
 - Reference PDOC roles as specified in ILA

Interlocal Agreement

Section 4.4: Community Oversight Committee

- 4.4: Strike description of duties and refer to relevant SMC section (3.26.010)
- 4.4.1: Re-name “Major Projects Challenge Fund” to “community response and equitable park development fund”
- 4.4.4: Shift report timing
 - Mid-Cycle closer to end of cycle
 - Cycle-End following each 6-year cycle, to include annual report for final cycle year

Paula reviews the membership and open positions for the not yet combined board.

The Board express an interest in board members with diverse interests, backgrounds and experiences.

- BIPOC and other historically underserved communities
- Community Engagement
- Contract Management
- Human Centered Design
- Landscape Architecture
- Nature and Environment
- Parks Management
- Public Financing
- Recreation
- Urban Horticulture
- Youth Development

Timeline and Next Steps

- April:
 - SPR staff finalize legislative package (with City Attorney’s Office)
 - Mayor’s Office & Council Central Staff Review
- May:
 - Park Board/PDOC Update at May 13 Joint Meeting
- June/July:
 - Park District Board vote on ILA amendments at June 21 Park District Board meeting
 - Full Council vote on Ordinance amending SMC and ILA amendments (July)
 - SPR initiate recruitment for vacancies, plan for onboarding, confirm 2nd terms

2020 Seattle Park District Cycle End Report Prep

- Approach: Hybrid of annual reports & mid-cycle
 - Highlight accomplishments & lessons learned
- 2020 Activities: Included (no standalone report)
- Timeline: June 21 Park District Board meeting
 - Deeper dive discussion next meeting (May 13)
- Outline
 - Joint letter from SPR & Boards (*volunteers needed!*)
 - Accomplishments (*project highlights, map, etc.*)
 - Lessons Learned
 - Financial Overview
 - 2020 Spotlight (*pandemic response*)
 - Commitment to Continuous Learning
 - Initiative-Level Review (results, metrics)

Preview: Lessons Learned

- Funding critical
 - Sustaining SPR as designed
- Shift to reporting by line of business
- Interlocal adjustments needed
 - Emergencies
 - Board consolidation
 - Report timing (annual, mid- & end-cycle)
- Reexamine community engagement and equitable funding initiatives
- Can't do it all
- Data-informed decision-making is an ongoing journey

Old/New Business

Next Park Board meeting on April 22, 2021

There being no other business, the Board adjourns at 8:05pm.