

Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2006

***Board of Park Commissioners:***

Present:

Angela Belbeck  
Jack Collins  
Terry Holme  
Kate Pflaumer, Chair  
Amit Ranade

Excused:

Debbie Jackson

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

Ken Bounds, Superintendent  
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Commission Chair Kate Pflaumer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Commissioner Holme moved approval of the Acknowledgment of Correspondence, the February 9 minutes, and the February 23 agenda. Commissioner Ranade seconded. The vote was taken and motion passed.**

**Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent reported on the following:

Summer Concerts Update: The City received notice on Tuesday that opponents of the Summer Nights Concert series being held at Gas Works Park have filed a lawsuit, asking for an environmental review process based on noise and traffic impacts.

Aquarium/Pier 59 Construction Project: The final piling was installed on February 13, two days before the permit deadline for in-water work. These pilings will hold up the portion of the sidewalk that has to be re-built over the old railroad trestle remnant discovered against the seawall. The Department is working with Seattle Aquarium Society to proceed with the exhibit construction and will present an update briefing to the Board at a future meeting. For more information on this project, please see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/about/pna/index.html>

Freeway Park: This week Sea Reach Ltd. installed the first phase of Freeway Park's wayfinding signs. The first phase includes five directional signs with arrows pointing to downtown hotels, First Hill, hospitals, Freeway Park Central Plaza and the Convention Center, and maps and information. The second phase of signs will be installed in June, and includes three kiosks each with a map of the immediate neighborhood and a map of Freeway Park. Parks is partnering with Seattle Department of Transportation on sign fabrication and installation. For more information, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/projects/NMF/FreewayPark.htm>

Seward/Audubon Community Campaign Kick-off: Parks and Audubon kicked off their campaign last week. For more information on the agreement between Seattle Parks and the National Audubon Society, Inc., to renovate the Seward Park Music Annex Building and the Hatchery for environmental education program, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/sewardpark.htm>

Arboretum Cleanup: Seattle Parks' and University of Washington's crews completed a project along Lake Washington Blvd last week to remove invasive plants and hazardous trees, prune, and spread mulch and crushed rock where needed. For more information on the Washington Park Arboretum, please see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/>

Senior Volunteers Recognized: More than 40 senior volunteers attended the annual Volunteer Recognition Lunch held recently at Yesler Community Center. Seniors donated more than 4,000 volunteer hours in 2005.

Occidental Park Construction Begins: Parks issued the notice to proceed to the contractor, CA Cary, on Friday, February 17, and the park was fenced that morning. CA Cary is now working to remove all salvaged/save items and anticipates the removal of trees to begin on Monday, March 6, and completed in two to three days. The project is expected to be complete at the end of June. Contractors and the project manager have reported some continuing interest from passers-by and the community at large in the tree removal. For more information on this project, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/pioneersquare.htm>

Local Youth Marimba Group on National Television: Shumba, the youth marimba program of Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, is traveling to New York by invitation of the historic Apollo Theatre. The young musicians will have the opportunity to compete in the popular "Showtime at the Apollo," which will be broadcast on national television. (For more information on the Apollo Theater, please see <http://www.apollotheater.com/about.shtm>.) Sheree Seretse, Community Center Coordinator for Seattle Parks and Recreation, is Shumba's instructor and director. For more information on Langston Hughes Cultural Art Center, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/Centers/langston.htm>

Bike Expo at Magnuson Park: The 18th Annual Group Health International Bike Expo was hosted by Cascade last weekend attracting about 9,000 visitors on Saturday and Sunday. The event went off without a hitch and drew positive responses from the public. For more information on Magnuson Park and events held there, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/magnuson/default.htm>

Seafood Watch Partner: On February 13 the Aquarium began a partnership with the upscale Oceanaire, a fully sustainable restaurant in Seattle, as the Aquarium's newest Seafood Watch partner. The restaurant participated in the Department's Seafood summit in January and has expressed an interest in handing out Seafood Watch pocket guides to their guests. This will be the second restaurant partner that provides Seafood Watch cards to their patrons, with the first being Anthony's Pier 66. The Aquarium hopes to add more sustainable partners over time as relationships build and the word gets out. For more information on the Seafood Watch, please see <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/conservation/seafood/>

## **Upcoming Events**

**Ballard Commons Park Dedication:** On **Saturday**, March 4, 1:00 -2:30 pm, the Mayor will join Councilmembers David Della and Jan Drago as well as community members to dedicate the newly-completed Ballard Commons Park. The project was officially opened at the end of 2005. This event will be the official park dedication and ribbon cutting and will feature an ice cream eating contest, live music, entertainment for children and adults, informational tables, and refreshments donated by local vendors. For more information on this park, please see: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/BallardCommonsPark.htm>

**Montlake Community Center Expansion:** The groundbreaking is scheduled for **March 4, 3:00 – 4:00pm**. Construction is scheduled to be completed in of December 2006. For more information on Montlake Community Center, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/montlake.htm>

**Japanese Garden Opening:** The Japanese Garden opening ceremonies are scheduled for **Sunday, February 26, 12:00 – 1:30pm**. Representatives from the Japanese Consulate, Japanese Garden Advisory Council, Washington Arboretum, and Parks will be present. For more information on the Japanese Garden, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm>

**Bitter Lake Community Center Pancake Breakfast:** Bitter Lake will hold its fourth annual Community Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **February 26, from 9 am - noon**. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Bitter Lake Shoreline Enhancement Project. For more information on the Community Center, please see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/Centers/Bitterlk.htm>

## **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 her testimony follows:

**Cathy Palmer:** She is a member of the Wallingford Community Council's Gas Works Park sub-committee, thanked the Park Board for its letter to City Council re: the Summer Concert series being held at Gas Works Park, and requested that the Board give this proposal its active oversight. Don't just listen to the citizen testimony and disregard it.

## **Briefing/Public Hearing: Jefferson Park Expansion Project Schematic Design**

Randy Robinson, Seattle Parks' project manager, briefed the Board on this project's schematic design. The Board received both a written and verbal briefing. A public hearing followed the verbal briefing.

### *Written Briefing*

#### **Requested Board Action**

At the February 23, 2006, Park Board meeting, Parks staff will provide a briefing and a public hearing will be held on the schematic design for Jefferson Park. At the March 9 Park Board meeting, Parks staff request the Park Board to make a recommendation to the Parks Superintendent on the Jefferson Park Schematic Design Plan.

#### **Project Description and Background**

The Jefferson Park Expansion Project is an outgrowth of many years of neighborhood planning to improve Jefferson Park and is funded from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. The improvement of Jefferson Park was a major component of the 1999 North Beacon Hill Neighborhood Plan. Between 2000 and 2002, there were a series of public meetings and Project Advisory Team (PAT) meetings that helped craft the Conceptual Site Plan of 2002 which identified approximately \$30 million worth of improvements to Jefferson Park. The current Schematic Design Plan incorporates all of the major components of the previous planning efforts but revises some of the

features to reflect current thinking. The Jefferson Park Expansion Project will propose \$7.3 million worth of park features to be advanced into Design Development to be constructed between 2007 and 2009. Development of the remaining park elements will be considered as part of future phases.

### **Schematic Design Plan**

This project will construct park improvements in Jefferson Park and the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) site that was formerly dedicated to water storage at the North and South Beacon Reservoirs.

The Schematic Design Plan envisions an expansive park with large open spaces for passive and active recreation, many inviting pathways that offer spectacular views of downtown Seattle and the region, areas dedicated for families and children, interesting land forms, water features, and opportunities for art. The Schematic Design Plan strives to create a beautiful neighborhood park with regional attributes that reflect the diversity of Beacon Hill.

Park entries will be developed that invite people into the park. Pathways will lead people around and through the new park areas with a network of wide promenade walks and smaller paths designed for different walking experiences. Paths will lead to several viewpoints that take advantage of the spectacular northwest views that make Jefferson Park the great park that it is. The play area will be created for different age groups with exciting opportunities. The plaza will accommodate local events and incorporate reflections of the diversity of the neighborhood. Water will play a role in reminding people of the old reservoirs and also serve a storm water function. Large open grass areas will allow a variety of activities ranging from family picnicking to soccer for little kids. Dedicated fields for soccer and baseball will crown the reservoir lid in the center of the park and the Jefferson Field in the southwest corner of the park will serve soccer, baseball, and Samoan Cricket. Improved access and parking will enhance the Community Center, Lawn Bowling area, and the entrance at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dakota Street. Space is also provided for a future pedestrian overpass on Spokane Street, a potential skateboard park, bocce ball courts, and additional tennis and basketball courts.

Some of the highest priority elements of the Schematic Plan will advance to the next stage of design — Design Development. These elements will be determined through the public involvement process or are infrastructure components that sequentially are needed to precede future park development. These elements are concentrated in the former reservoir land in the north central areas of the park and may include: the plaza, some pathways, play area, tennis courts, athletic fields, open lawn areas, viewpoints, picnic areas, storm water features, tree groves, planting, and a new restroom. Budgetary factors will determine how many new park elements will eventually be constructed as part of this project.

### **Public Involvement Process**

The Jefferson Park Expansion Project set up a Project Advisory Team (PAT) consisting of nine members of the community representing various neighborhood organizations. Parks staff has held four PAT meetings in September, October, November, and January to discuss visions for the park, design issues, and to prioritize elements to be included in this project. Additionally, we have conducted three public meetings in September, December, and February. The standard Public Involvement Plan procedures were followed for each meeting that was conducted. At the February open house, translated material was provided for people who have English as a second language.

The first public meeting on September 29, 2005, was geared to informing the neighborhood about the status of the project and soliciting guidance from citizens about what was most important to the community to be included in the park design. People understood the need to choose between the various park elements that may be funded as part of the Jefferson Park Expansion Project. There was good discussion about athletic fields, trees, the play area, the plaza, water features, and art in the park. Many voiced the need for a restroom facility that would be open when the community center was closed. Neighbors also gave Parks staff and consultants an extensive list of events that could, and do presently, take place in the park. About 20-25 people attended.

The second public meeting on December 15 was intended as a presentation of Schematic Design plans. The meeting was well attended with a variety of concerns coming to the surface. The primary concern voiced at that meeting was about lighting of the athletic fields over the underground reservoir. Parking was also mentioned as a potential problem after the park is fully developed. Many questions were also asked about the grading in the park, size of the water features, the character of the play area, picnic areas, and plants. There was wide support for the Schematic Design Plan in general and most of the main features of the park. About 30 people attended the December meeting.

The open house public meeting on Saturday, February 4, was intended to provide information to community members who have been unable to attend the previous evening meetings. Schematic Design plans were on display along with sketches of the various eye level views within the new park areas. 30-40 people circulated through the room during the four hours of the open house. Staff and consultants had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with most of the guests and hear the concerns and positive remarks about the Schematic Design. Concerns about athletic fields and parking were voiced as well as praises for the project's efforts to provide a wide variety of park elements for the diverse park users.

### **Issues**

- Athletic Field Lighting Issue

The planning process over the years has always recognized the importance of sports to the Beacon Hill community. There is consensus among the current Project Advisory Team members around providing expanded opportunities for sports in Jefferson Park. However, the issue of where to provide lighted athletic fields is contentious. The 2002 Plan, as well as the 2001 Joint Athletic Field Development Program, have called for an improved field at the existing Jefferson Playfield (next to Mercer Middle School) in the southwest corner of Jefferson Park that included synthetic turf, lights, picnic shelter, restroom, and other amenities. The athletic fields over the new Seattle Public Utilities Beacon Reservoir lid have been proposed to be un-lighted.

The issue of lighting over the reservoir lid was not discussed in any detail over several years of planning including the North Beacon Hill Action Plan (1994), the North Beacon Hill Neighborhood Plan (1999), and the Jefferson Park Site Plan (2002). Those documents reflect some discussion of field lights, mostly in the context of Jefferson Playfield. The lack of discussion about this important issue was probably initially due to the ambiguity of the decision to put the SPU Beacon Reservoir underground or to have a soft cover over the existing, above ground reservoir. Furthermore, in the period from 1999-2002, there was only cursory discussion about the use of a synthetic turf surfacing over the reservoir lid. Only after the water quality issues and maintenance ramifications of natural turf over reservoirs became known at Lincoln Reservoir/Cal Anderson Park – did serious dialogue begin about synthetic turf over the Beacon Reservoir.

At the Park Board meeting of July 11, 2002, a past and current PAT member expressed a desire for lights over the fields on the reservoir lid. The PAT member submitted a petition with over 300 signatures of people requesting an: “all weather surface and lights that turn off at 9:30 pm”. On July 25, 2002, the Park Board recommended to the Superintendent approval of the 2002 Jefferson Park Site Plan as proposed. The 2002 Site Plan did not include lights on the athletic fields on the reservoir lid.

The Jefferson Park Site Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) did examine the option of lighting the reservoir in the Light and Glare Section (page 3-15). The scenario of lighting the fields over the reservoir is presented as causing some adverse impacts to views. The scenario of not lighting the reservoir fields has, of course, no view impacts.

Opinions from community members, all of whom seem to live in Beacon Hill, are generally split on this controversial issue. A number of people have stated that they oppose ball field lighting over the reservoir in the middle of the park. They tend to be supportive of unlit athletic fields in that location but do not want lights to impact the night views of the city. That group approves of the 2002 Plan that shows a lighted field at the Jefferson

Playfield location. Unlit athletic fields were also mentioned as being more in keeping with the Olmsted legacy at Jefferson Park.

A number of soccer coaches, players, and parents of children have stated that they supported the idea of lighted ball fields for use by local residents because Beacon Hill does not have a synthetic, lighted field. Some of these citizens have stated arguments about lighting of the reservoir lid being inconsequential in the context of the existing Jefferson Golf driving range lights. They have also stated that having lit fields near the Community Center was advantageous.

It has also been noted at several meetings that SPU will not provide funding for synthetic turf over the reservoir.

The technical aspects of lighting the reservoir lid has not been a focus of the Parks' design team up to this point. However, the project's electrical engineer consultant has extensive experience with athletic field lighting and has examined the feasibility of lighting this particular site. The first technical problem with lighting a reservoir lid is the structural restrictions of reservoir construction that would disallow standard light pole construction directly over the reservoir. Light poles can be placed outside the reservoir foot print so as not to present a surcharge to the reservoir structure. The reservoir foot print is very large though, and spacing of light poles would need to be more distant than is the current practice. The height of poles would, most likely, need to be increased. Light levels may be more irregular, especially in the center of the reservoir, which would be more than 275' from the poles. Lighting of the reservoir lid is probably technically feasible but would be non-standard and more expensive to build.

In summary, the neighborhood opinion is generally split on the issue of lighting the athletic fields over the reservoir. The approved 2002 Site Plan for the park did not include field lighting over the reservoir. Technically, the proposed reservoir fields could be illuminated but will encounter design challenges and more costs. Jefferson Playfield next to Mercer Middle School is shown as being a synthetic and lighted field on the current Schematic Design plan.

### **Budget**

The project budget is \$7.3 million for planning, design, and construction, funded primarily from the Pro Parks Levy, but also includes about \$450,000 from the Cumulative Reserve Fund. Current estimates show that with our budget we can develop approximately one quarter of the elements that are shown on the Schematic Design Plan (estimate: about \$30 million). Due to the very large size of the reservoir areas and escalating construction costs we believe that the entire budget will be needed to implement the basic park elements of the plan in the Jefferson Park Expansion Project Phase I Development.

### **Schedule**

Schematic Design: July 2005 – January 2006

Design Development: February 2006 – June 2006

Construction Documents: July 2006 – February 2007

Construction Stage One: March 2007 – December 2007 (Concurrent with SPU reservoir)

Construction Stage Two: March 2008 – June 2009 (Concurrent and after SPU reservoir)

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommendation is for the Board of Park Commissioners to recommend to the Superintendent to approve the Schematic Design Plan as shown. The current plan is a continuation of many years of neighborhood planning and site planning for the park.

### **Additional Information**

Randy Robinson, Project Manager, (206) 684-7035, [randy.robinson@seattle.gov](mailto:randy.robinson@seattle.gov). Also see: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/JeffersonPark.htm>

### *Verbal Briefing*

Mr. Robinson displayed several large maps and designs of Jefferson Park and reviewed the written briefing information. He pointed out different elements of the schematic design, as well as the layout and view directions of the park. He next briefly described the higher priority elements of the project, which would be completed first. These include infrastructure, grading, pedestrian safety lighting, ADA accessibility, tennis court, play areas, and promenade. The medium priority items — picnic tables, benches, landscaping, and trees — would be funded after the high priority elements. Issues on this project include recently-proposed lighting at the new field above the reservoir and parking.

The Chair asked in what order the higher priority elements would be approached and Mr. Robinson said the area of the north and south reservoirs would be a high priority. He pointed out the projects in the northeast corner of the park including the play area and tennis courts and indicated that that area would be constructed in the first stage of construction in 2007. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is giving one fourth of the north reservoir for Parks construction in 2007. The staging of these projects is tied to SPU's schedule for the lidding project.

The Chair asked where golfers who use Jefferson Golf currently park. Mr. Robinson answered that Beacon Avenue has approximately 350 on-street parking spaces which are used, in part, by the golfers.

### *Public Hearing*

The public hearing began. The Chair reminded speakers that they have up to three minutes to speak and will be timed. 15 people signed up and testified. A very brief summary of the testimony is included below:

Kathleen Harris: She has lived on Beacon Hill since 1996 and urged the Park board to recommend approval of the plan that resulted from years of neighborhood planning — don't approve lights above the reservoir lid field.

Mike Carney: He requested that lights be added to the new field, as there is a shortage of soccer fields. He asked that the park be shared equitably between both the need for a view and needs of soccer teams.

Robert Hinrix: He lives near the park and is a member of the Project Advisory Team. He believes the plan as presented (without the field lighting above the reservoir) is the right way to go and that there is inadequate funding in this project to fund the lights.

Mira Latoszek: She is a member of the Project Advisory Team and the neighborhood has been working on this plan for 10 years. She requested that the Board recommend approval of the schematic design as presented by staff.

Daniel Williams: He lives near the park and has lived on Beacon Hill for 10 years. He asked the Board to support the plan as presented.

Frederica Merrell: She lives on Beacon Hill and chaired the North Beacon Hill Planning Committee. She urged the Commissioners to support the plan as presented. She suggested that Parks should open up and re-configure its parking area next to the Jefferson Horticulture facility to help address parking issues.

Mark Holland: He has lived on Beacon Hill since 1997. He asked that the Board not support the field lighting above the reservoir. He believes the 9-hole golf course is much larger than it needs to be and suggested that the excess area be turned into parking spaces.

Kathy Plautz: She was born in Seattle and lives two blocks from the park. She stated she is excited about this plan and asked the Board to support it as presented.

Judi Johnson: She has lived a few blocks from the park for three years and stated that few people use the park at night. The field lights would be much shorter than the golf course lights, there is a shortage of fields in the Beacon

Hill area, and lack of lighting is a safety issue as it is scary there at night. She supports field lighting above the reservoir.

Julie Van Arcken: She bought a house on Beacon Hill in May and asked the Board to support the proposal as presented.

Craig Larch: He has lived on Beacon Hill since 1987 and was the first chair of the neighborhood planning committee. He urged the Board to support the plan as presented, with no field lights added above the reservoir.

Nhan Vo: He is a 16-year-old member of the Beacon Hill Youth soccer club and stated that soccer has been a very positive influence on him. He doesn't want to take away anyone's view, but more fields are needed in the area to accommodate the number of players.

Jessica Breznau: She stated that if the new fields are lit, it would add 1,000 hours yearly of field time and would be a huge amenity to youth. She urged the Board to look at the options and at how many people would really be affected by them. She also requested more parking, as parking is currently a major issue.

Felipe Maquedo: He has been a coach for Beacon Hill soccer club for several years and he urged that the fields be lit to provide much-needed fields for kids who want to play soccer. This is not just about the view — the soccer playing is a positive influence on the kids.

Erin Fanning: She lives near the park and is very excited about the project and believes that it doesn't need to polarize the neighborhood. Lights on one playfield would best serve the city. She requested that lights not be installed now, but leave the possibility open.

The public hearing concluded.

The Commissioners will accept written testimony through Wednesday, March 8, and plan to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation at the March 9 meeting.

### ***Board Questions & Answers***

Mr. Robinson commented that both the parking and field lighting were studied in the Environmental Impact Statement. The parking at the horticulture facility, referred to in earlier testimony, is a graveled parking lot that is gated and locked at night. The Superintendent stated that it may be possible for use as additional parking.

Commissioner Ranade asked what level priority the playfield on the south end has and Mr. Robinson answered it is a mid-priority project and would need to have future funding. Commissioner Ranade asked whether \$1 million is an accurate amount for the playfield's cost and Mr. Robinson answered that it hasn't yet been costed out, but would likely cost several million. Commissioner Ranade asked how many participants use the Samoan cricket field; Mr. Robinson will send that information to the Commissioners. Commissioner Ranade asked if the Samoan cricket field could be moved and the Superintendent stated that it wouldn't. It has a high fence, is played with a hard ball, and isn't the same sport as regular cricket. Commissioner Holmes asked if the lights would cost as much as \$3 million. Mr. Robinson answered that these also haven't been costed out. He will send these figures to the Commissioners prior to their March 9 discussion and recommendation.

Commissioner Holme commented that, several years ago, a task force did a turf and field light study. He believes the Board needs to look back at those decisions that were made on the distribution of lighted fields. Commissioner Holme asked for clarification on when the City made the transition from installing a soft lid over the reservoir to a hard lid. Athletic field supporters fantasized earlier about having fields at that site and he wondered how the decision to hard lid and the design process meshed. Mr. Robinson answered that Seattle Public Utilities made the decision in early 2002 and the design was brought to the Park Board in July 2002.

Commissioner Holme asked if Jefferson Park is an Olmsted Park. Commissioner Collins had recently read “Jefferson Park Reconstructed: A 100-Year History” and stated that it is clearly part of the Olmsted Park system. He also commented that there is no other Samoan cricket field in Seattle and only one other lawn bowling green.

Commissioner Holme asked about the lights in relation to the EIS. Mr. Robinson will also send the language relating to this to the Commissioners prior to their March 9 discussion and recommendation. Commissioner Pflaumer asked about the cost of installing the conduits for lights now, for a future light installation, and how much that would cost.

Commissioners decided to do individual self-guided tours to the site before the March 9 meeting.

### **Discussion/Recommendation: New Park Exclusion at Cal Anderson Park**

Larry Campbell, Seattle Parks’ Security Supervisor, presented a briefing on this proposal at the Board’s February 9 meeting. The briefing was immediately followed by a public hearing, with no one testifying. Tonight the Board will discuss the proposal and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Seattle Parks.

#### *Discussion and Recommendation*

Commissioner Collins asked at what point the “felony exclusion” begins and Mr. Campbell answered that it begins on the date of the citation. **Commissioner Holme moved to approve the staff recommendation to create a new City park exclusion zone that would encompass Cal Anderson Park and 12 other nearby parks. Commissioner Ranade seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous.**

### **Discussion/Recommendation: Orchard Ravine Project**

At its February 9 meeting, the following Seattle Parks’ staff briefed the Board on the Orchard Street Ravine project: Kevin Crouthamel, Pro Parks Levy Project Manager, Karen Galt, Landscape Architect, and Mark Mead, Senior Urban Forester. The briefing was followed by a public hearing. Tonight the Board will discuss the project and make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Seattle Parks.

#### *Discussion and Recommendation*

The Chair commented that nearly all the Commissioners toured the project site and the Board received lots of thoughtful written testimony, as well as the testimony heard during the public hearing.

**Motion #1: Commissioner Collins recommended approval of the staff recommendation of a flat loop trail system at the lower south end of Orchard Street Ravine as well as extensive vegetation management to restore and preserve a native habitat. Commissioner Belbeck seconded.** Commissioner Ranade made a friendly amendment, which was not accepted by Commissioner Collins [note: Commissioner Ranade made a second motion (below) that included language and intent from his friendly amendment.]

Commissioner Collins stated that he was one of those who toured the site this week and went up and down the trails. He was persuaded that the current budgeted amount fund is too constrained to include a stairway. He does think it is a good idea for a later date. He believes the current funding should be used to clear out invasives, build a short trail into the park, and perform habitat restoration. **The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion #2: Commissioner Ranade moved to recommend to the Superintendent that he seek negotiations with Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to control drainage on the 38<sup>th</sup> Ave street end and to seek funding for a safe through trail to be built there in the future. Commissioner Holme seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Holme recommended that some portion of the budget be used to enhance the Orchard Street end, which is SDOT property.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Crouthamel, Ms. Galt, and Mr. Mead for the presentation.

**Presentation: Pro Parks Levy and Community Center Levy Art Projects**

Carolyn Law, Seattle Arts Commission staff, distributed maps showing the location of the art projects and presented a 20-minute Powerpoint presentation on the art projects for both the Pro Parks and Community Center Levy. (For more information on the Pro Parks Levy, please see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/>. For more information on the Community Center Levy, please see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/comcenlevyprog99.htm>

Following the presentation, Ms. Law commented this is a great opportunity for artists to work in a park setting. It is also a big project to take on art projects in so many parks at once. Commissioner Holme recommended that, at the end of the art projects, staff assess how the project went.

**New/Old Business**

- Urban Park Summit in Chicago: This summit will be held on May 17, 2006, with representatives from the 25 largest U.S. cities attending. The Superintendent will confirm that there are funds for one Commissioner to attend. Commissioner Collins had previously voiced his interest in attending.
- Retreat: After additional discussion, the Board confirmed that its April 13 meeting will be used as an annual retreat date. The Board has asked to meet with the PELL Committee and staff will continue working on this request.
- Newspaper Articles: Commissioner Collins referred to today’s newspaper articles regarding a planned protest rally at the Zoo on Saturday. Commissioners will decide after the rally what, if any, action to take.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kate Pflaumer, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE \_\_\_\_\_