



Minutes|Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

100 Dexter Ave N/Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom

Remote accessibility via Zoom

Thursday, August 8, 2024

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

Attendance

Present: Flinn, Baum, Mays, Lerer, Brockhaus, Haile-Leul, Meng, Diamond, Lanham, Nakamura

Absent: Umagat, Seyfried, Contreras

SPR Staff and Presenters: Diaz, Takami, Graves, Burtzos

Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

Brockhaus calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and provides logistical instructions for in-person and remote attendees.

Commissioners and SPR staff introduce themselves.

Brockhaus reads the land acknowledgement.

Brockhaus introduces the consent agenda: 8/8/24 BPRC Meeting Agenda; 6/13/24 BPRC Meeting Minutes; and 7/11/24 BPRC Meeting Minutes. Lerer moves to adopt all three items; Mays seconds the motion. Brockhaus calls for a vote. The vote is unanimous in favor of passage.

Adopted: 8/8/24 BPRC Meeting Agenda

Adopted: 6/13/24 BPRC Meeting Minutes

Adopted: 7/11/24 BPRC Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

Public comment is offered on the following topics:

- SPR tree replacement practices related to urban tree canopy reduction
- Possible unsanctioned park closure at Denny Blaine Park

Diaz briefly addresses commenters.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Diaz delivers the report.

Department Update

Seattle Aquarium's New Ocean Pavilion Opens Aug. 29: The 20-year vision of the Seattle Aquarium's spectacular Ocean Pavilion will be realized on Aug. 29, when the new building and exhibit will open to the public. Tickets can be purchased now at the Aquarium website. Located across the

street from the main Aquarium structure, the Ocean Pavilion will feature the Pacific Northwest's largest tropical reef ecosystem in the Coral Triangle—a region in the Indo-Pacific so rich in biodiversity that it's referred to as "the Amazon of the ocean." For the first time, guests will come face to face with 3,500 extraordinary animals and plants, including sharks, rays, schooling fish, seahorses, mangroves, nearly 30 species of coral and so much more.

High Level of Park Use During Peak Season: We are enjoying our usual amazing summer weather this year and this means our parks and facilities are more popular than ever. Big crowds are flocking to SeaFair and other popular community events. This also means some issues and challenges such as amplified sound complaints at our big beach parks and some safety concerns at boat ramp parking lots at Stan Sayres and Atlantic Street. Our Park Rangers staff are out there reminding folks about park rules. We try to strike a balance between enforcing those rules and broad public access and enjoyment of our parks and amenities.

Victor Steinbrueck Park to Re-Open: We will be re-opening Victor Steinbrueck Park in September after the completion of a recent capital project to improve sightlines into the park, renovate the seating area and play area, improve lighting, and enhance landscaping. During construction the totem poles that were in the park were temporarily removed and transported off site; they won't be in place next month but they will be reinstalled once restoration of the poles is complete. Significant work is needed to restore the poles and SPR is working with a conservator and a Native carver on this work. We expect the restoration work to begin this fall and the poles to be reinstalled by the end of 2025. You may recall that, earlier this year, the department decided not to reinstall the poles because they were deemed non-native, but the Hearing Examiner ruled against us and will now be reinstalling them.

Parks and Environment

A few photo highlights from our hard-working Parks & Environment Division [[see video for photos](#)]

Feathered Friend (photo on top left): Pictured in the top left photo is gardener Steve Guardi on a break in Cal Anderson Park; you'll notice he is being visited by a friendly starling (on his knee). Co-worker Justin Green snapped the photo

Seafair Prep (bottom left photos): Crews trimmed grass along Lake Washington north of Seward Park in preparation for Seafair Weekend

Torchlight Parade Cleanup: (center photos) Before and after shots of Westlake Park on the morning after the Torchlight Parade in downtown Seattle in late July.

Licton Springs Trimming: (top right photos): Before and after shots of hedge trimming

"Jambeaveree" along Lake Washington (Lower right photo): Last month our Natural Area and Tree Crews installed caging around trees and shrubs along Lake Washington to protect them from beavers. This involved mapping out 34 areas to protect using GIS mapping technology.

Recreation Division

Soccer Watch Parties and Clinics (left photo)! SPR's Outdoor Activation Mobile Recreation teamed with the RAVE Foundation and Seattle Housing Authority to use the excitement of the recent Euro 2024 and Copa America 2024 international soccer tournaments to build community through FREE

youth soccer clinics on Saturdays in late June and early July, and an all ages watch party of both tournament finals on Sunday, July 14.

Fall Programs Registration Opens on Aug. 13 (center photo): Believe it or not it's time to register for Seattle Parks and Recreation's full and varied slate of fall programs. Scholarships are available. Please check our website at www.seattle.gov/parks

Foods Summer Playgrounds 2024 Program (right image): We are more than halfway through our annual Seattle Foods Summer Playgrounds program, at 13 sites where our HungerCorps Associates are serving nutritious food. Through the first two weeks we delivered just over 2,000 meals! In addition to food, we are also providing multiple activities through fitness, arts, crafts and other enrichment programming.

Youth Programs in Full Swing in July, August: Summer is also peak season for youth programming at Seattle Parks and Recreation.

- Youth at Work interns: This summer we are deploying 56 Youth At Work interns (age 16-24) to work at their assigned sites, including the Associated Recreation Council, community centers, Facilities and Maintenance locations, and Teen Life Centers.
- Youth Engaged in Service: In July, we started our pilot YES program (for youth age 13-15), with a turnout of 20 participants. Partnering with Junior Achievement, we introduced participants to 16 diverse career paths, managing money and budgeting, and working on pitches for building their business project.

Facilities Division

Recent examples of work by our stellar Facilities crews!

Graffiti abatement on the Aurora pedestrian overpass bridge near Woodland Park Zoo.

New Crosswalks at Magnuson Park. Our Paint Shop and Maintenance Crew recently painted down some new crosswalks in Magnuson Park. Crew members included Marian Baginski, Thomas Wilson, Erin Bishop, Shane Youngblood, Carlos McArthur, Jonathan Gravida, Rolondo Dudley, and Vance Sieber.

Planning & Capital Development

Hoa Mai Park opens: On July 27, we were proud to join with the Friends of Little Saigon and special guests to officially open the new Hoa Mai Park in the Little Saigon neighborhood at 1224 S. King Street. The new park features a play area, concrete seat walls, paths, landscaping and more. SPR purchased the .27-acre site in 2013 to provide the neighborhood access to more open space in this urban area. Funding for park development is provided by Seattle Park District.

Lincoln Park South Play Area: Last week we reopened the newly renovated Lincoln Park South Play Area. Kids are already enjoying the space!

Ballard Playground Athletic Field Improvements: Construction will begin at the end of August to renovate the field, and improve drainage, irrigation, and accessibility.

Park CommUNITY Fund Community Selection Process: We are happy to announce that the Community Selection process for the Park CommUNITY Fund is open from Aug. 1-31! Thank you to the Board Commissioners who have participated in process including Josh, Stafford, Lauren and Justin.

The CommUNITY Fund is a new funding source that relies on public participation and prioritizes frontline communities or communities (particularly those most affected by racism, oppression, and colonization) that experience high displacement risk, disproportionate exposure to environmental harms, a history of disinvestment, and a lack of green space access.

A brief summary of the process to date:

- We collected over 240 ideas in from March 18 to April 30.
- In May, ideas were screened for initial eligibility, feasibility, and community priority and narrowed to 103 ideas.
- In June, Frontline Community Partners developed full proposals for the ideas. List narrowed to 55 proposals
- In July, SPR staff, community partners, and the BPRC conducted reviews of all 55 projects; 27 projects moved forward
- August Community Selection Process:
 - This is a chance for community members to select their top projects.
 - Folks may choose to 3 projects in each of 4 regions – North, South, West and Central
 - They can submit their selections online or at one of the events we will be at during the month of August.
- In September, staff, BPRC, and partners will assess community feedback and determine top recommendations for approval by AP, the superintendent.
- An announcement will be made in October for projects selected.

Policy & Finance

Park Naming Update: I'm pleased to report that two parks have been recently re-named:

- Lake City Beach Park is located at the street end at NE 130th St. and Lake Washington in Northeast Seattle. The new name will replace the Cedar Beach Park name. Including "Lake City" in the name was important to community members who worked so hard to ensure this street end became a public beach.
- Will Stacey Fields at Maple Leaf Park, previously referred to as Maple Leaf Reservoir Park Baseball/Softball Fields #1 and #2, have been named in recognition of Will Stacey. Will was an all-star for the Roosevelt-University-Green Lake Little League every year from 1998 until 2003. He went on to play varsity baseball for Roosevelt High School. Will joined the Marine Corps in 2007, and at age 22, became one of the youngest sergeants in the Corps and received a number of leadership awards. Unfortunately, Will's life was cut short when he was killed in the line of duty in January 2012. Will was beloved by all whose lives he touched.

City Council Briefing on State Grant Application: On July 24, our staff presented legislation to our City Council parks committee on our 2024 grant applications to the State Recreation and Conservation Office or RCO for \$10 million in funding for 5 projects. RCO is a competitive grant

program for park improvement projects that has provided critically needed funding to the department since the mid 1960s. This year we are requesting grants for projects at:

- Smith Cove Park
- Walt Hundley Playfield
- Dr. Jose Rizal Park
- Hutchinson Park
- Lake City Floodplain Park

We hope to hear about grant awards by next June.

Two Concession Contracts Extended: Our Contracts Office recently extended two concessions agreements with popular vendors.

- A one-year extension has been completed for the Marination Ma Kai restaurant at Seacrest Boathouse. This extension will move their contract end date to March 31, 2026.
- An extension for Seward Park Clay Studio at Seward Park Bathhouse has been completed in alignment with their long-term contract. They will remain in contract for the facility through May 7, 2030.

Upcoming Events

We are finishing up a VERY BUSY summer with a flurry of fun events for the whole family.

Downtown Seattle Events (Aug. and Sept.): Many events – music, dancing, movies are going on in downtown Seattle spaces including Seattle parks organized by the Downtown Seattle Association and Seattle Parks and Recreation. Visit LoveSeatown.com

Street Sports Showdown: (Aug. 10-11): The Sports Showdown is a FREE youth basketball and soccer tournament and City of Seattle Downtown Activation Event hosted by Associated Recreation Council in partnership with Seattle Parks & Recreation. Games will run from 9:30am-5:00pm across 10 courts / pitches. Each game will run for a maximum of 25 minutes (to 16 points for basketball and 3 points for soccer).

All-Gender Swim (Aug. 11): Seattle Parks and Recreation invites the Queer, Trans, and Allies community to the All Gender Recreation Swim at Meadowbrook Pool on Sunday, August 11 from 2-4pm. FREE event, all ages and open to all!

Diving boards, rope swing, sauna, access stairs and ADA lift available for pool. We will offer:

- Privacy curtains in place
- Communal locker rooms gender neutral
- 2 single stall locker rooms available

Big Day of Play (Aug. 17): This is our signature summer event – a free community event at Rainier Playfield and Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center. Put on by Seattle Parks and Recreation, Get Moving, and Associated Recreation Council. The goal of the event is inclusivity, community, wellness, and creating/ sharing opportunities for under-served communities. The event will feature live performances, a Fun Run, instructor-led workouts, food trucks, sports, games, and water activities.

Teen Summer Musical (Aug. 23-25) Seattle Parks and Recreation and Acts on Stage, a Black owned and operated community theater, are proud to present the annual Teen Summer Musical, Snow Whyte & The Seven at Benaroya Hall.

The summer musical is an opportunity for local teens (mostly of teens of color) to perform in a musical theater production that reflects their culture and community while learning the disciplines of stage. Summer musical participants earn a stipend for rehearsals and performance during this 10-week summer program. Through workshops and collaborative practices, a staff of professional artists develop the talents and skills of 73 youth who work together for 10 weeks on acting, dance and vocal training and hands-on work with the technical aspects of theater – costume, lighting and set design. Tickets are \$30 per person. Visit parkways.seattle.com for information and tickets.

CID Celebration (Sept. 7): The Chinatown/International District community invites you to come join them for a day full of multicultural entertainment, activities for kids and family, raffles, games, and more! Hing Hay Park, on September 7, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I'd be glad to answer any questions Commissioners may have.

Meng asks for clarification regarding SPR's role in programs like the teen summer musical. Diaz responds that sometimes SPR conducts summer camps through in-house staff and sometimes partners with professional groups.

Flinn asks if park naming application, in this case for Maple Leaf/Will Stacey Ballfields, normally would return to full BPRC for consideration. Takami clarifies that issue was considered by Park Naming Subcommittee.

Lerer asks for update on Burke-Gilman Trail. Diaz notes that some funds from the transportation levy will be available for repairs on that trail, and that he will be riding along with commenters regarding trail maintenance in September to better understand the concerns. Graves adds that SPR does have a small paving program for small fixes.

Update on Green Lake & Lake City Community Centers

David Graves, Strategic Advisor, provides presentation.

Green Lake Community Center & Pool Background

Green Lake CC was constructed in two phases; the two-story field house with the gym and pottery studio was constructed in 1930; Evans Pool and new entry lobby was added in 1955. It is one of the oldest community centers in our system and totals approx. 26,000 sq. ft. The Evans Pool building is a City landmark – demolition requires approval from the City's Landmarks Preservation Board.

Green Lake Community Center & Pool Redevelopment Process

RFQ issued in 2019 – Miller Hull hired

- Public process started in 2020 with survey regarding uses and potential alternate sites for the CC – 75% of respondents preferred the existing location (3,200+ responses)
- Initial redevelopment schemes were \$77M+ (2020\$, 92K sq. ft.); 2021 VE exercise reduced construction costs to \$58M+, 46,000 sq. ft.

- Considered the possibility of just renovating existing structure to bring it up to current code requirement = \$30-35M
- 2023 project restarted with \$59M budget, \$3M in hand for design, remaining \$56M through bonding. \$59M total cost = \$35M construction plus soft costs and contingencies. Design team working on schemes with \$35M target construction cost – design will progress to 60%; project could be phased moving beyond 60% based on estimated costs and funding
- Outstanding issue with Landmarks Preservation Board related to the Evans Pool building

Diamond asks what steps were taken to ensure SPR had a diverse response with online engagement, i.e., digital equity with seniors, non-native English speakers, and others who may not be tapped online. The pandemic exposed fissures and assumptions or engagement with these groups. Graves states that SPR had opportunities for translation services with the Green Lake CC project but states that this concern was much more important with Lake City. Per Graves, Green Lake residents are English speakers. Translations were provided if needed, but it was primarily English speakers. Lake City is a much different neighborhood, and so there is definitely consideration of non-English speakers in how we do our outreach.

Green Lake Community Center & Pool Next Steps

- Meet with Landmarks Preservation Board to get approval related to partial demolition of pool building
- Restart public outreach
 - Project timeline
 - Phased approach based on available budget
- Seek grant funding
 - King County Aquatics Grant
- Procurement via Alternative Delivery Mechanism
 - Design/bid/build
 - General contractor Construction/construction manager
 - Design build

Baum asks for clarification regarding alternative delivery methods; Graves clarifies that final method has not been determined and that permission needs to be secured from City's Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) department.

Lake City Community Center Redevelopment

Redevelopment of community center site with a new community center w/4-5 stories of affordable housing units above. Project to be developed in partnership with Seattle Office of Housing.

- Unique site and opportunity to add housing as a pilot partnership with the Office of Housing – context is similar to the International District/Chinatown CC
- Existing community Center demolished in early 2024 due to arson fire
- SPR w/Broadview Planning leading a community needs assessment to inform the development teams. Community survey closing on August 9.
- Office of Housing issued RFQ to prequalify developers for the project on April 12, 2024. Three developers have been prequalified:

- Bridge Housing
- Mercy Housing
- Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)
- Office of Housing issues RFP on July 29, 2024

Project Timeline based on RFP

Timeline	Date
RFP release	July 29, 2024
Virtual information session (mandatory)	September 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
RFP responses due	November 22, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.
Anticipated notification of interview	February 14, 2025
Anticipated date for interviews	February 17 - 28, 2025
Anticipated date for designation of development team	March 31, 2025

Graves pauses for questions from Board members.

Flinn asks if Lake City CC programming and engagement have been relocated to keep momentum up. Graves and Diaz affirm that programs have been relocated.

Old & New Business

Flinn asks for clarification regarding appropriate questions or topics during this agenda item. Diaz and Burtzos clarify.

Flinn asks for update regarding status of cannabis advocacy/1st amendment event that BPRC members received correspondence about prior to tonight’s meeting. Diaz and Mays provide some clarity. Diaz notes that there had been some concerns about the need for additional security for the event, and the event eventually was relocated out of SPR spaces.

Brockhaus adjourns the meeting at 8:14 PM.