



**Minutes for the Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Services Board / Tree Board
Regular Meeting**

**October 27, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

**Shoreline City Hall
Room 303**

1. Call to Order/Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robertson at 7:00 p.m.

Park Board Members Present: Betsy Robertson, William Franklin, John Hoey, Christine Southwick, Christina Arcidy, Katie Schielke, Gillian Lauter (youth), and Natalia Sandico (youth)

Absent: Cindy Dittbrenner

City Staff Present: Eric Friedli, Director; Maureen Colaizzi, Parks Projects Coordinator; Kirk Peterson, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Lynn Gabrieli, Administrative Assistant III

2. Approval of Agenda: Chair Robertson called for a motion to approve the agenda as written. So moved by Ms. Southwick and seconded by Mr. Hoey. The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: Chair Robertson moved to approve the September 2016 Regular Park Board Meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Southwick. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment: Janet Way of the Shoreline Preservation Society stated that the parks most worthy of attention are not always the most popular parks. She requested the Board's attention to parks nearest the light rail station subareas asked advocated for the acquisition of a wetland on the east side of the 145th St. Light Rail station area.

5. Director's Report:

- Director Eric Friedli followed up on September's question about whether developers could be offered incentives for including parks and open spaces in development plans. The Planning Department has considered options, but no incentives have been implemented. There are open space requirements for development which staff will identify and make available to the Board.
- Recreation Superintendent Reidy and Director Friedli presented the PROS Plan process to the YMCA Board of Directors last evening. The YMCA expressed interest in the pursuit of a new aquatics/community center and inquired about possibilities for partnership.
- The soccer field at Twin Ponds Park is scheduled for turf replacement in summer 2017. The project will go to bid this winter, so a determination about replacement materials is due the end of January. The results of an in-depth federal study due at the end of December will inform the final decision. The Board requested a history of the field's maintenance, possible alternate materials, and examples of materials chosen by other regional entities. Staff will supply the Board with resources.
- The Public Art Subcommittee is making progress toward the development of the Public Art Plan with good input from the September Public Art Forum.
- The Parks Dept. will go on retreat next Thursday to discuss progress on the PROS Plan, the Department Mission, Vision, Values and Goals, and how day-to-day work interfaces with these things.

- Mr. Friedli attended the National Recreation and Parks Association conference in St. Louis earlier in the month. He shared insights from the book, “The Wild Child,” which advocates for outdoor experiences for children. He also described the “13% Club,” which concluded only 13% of all major plans reach implementation for a variety of reasons. Barriers to implementation are important to keep in mind as we engage in this period of intense plan-writing.
- Mr. Friedli also attended the Washington Recreation and Parks Association conference at Magnuson Park and participated in a conversation about homelessness in parks. Ideas were shared about how to constructively handle this increasingly complex issue. The Board inquired about plans for low income housing in Shoreline.
- Diggin’ Shoreline will host an event on November 5 at City Hall with the showing of Fern Gully. They will be joined by the Washington Plant Society and members of the parks maintenance staff who will provide information on urban forestry. The Board is invited to attend and participate with staff.

6. **PROS Plan: Capital Improvement Plan Recommendations**

Ms. Colaizzi, Parks Projects Coordinator, reviewed the CIP recommendations via PowerPoint presentation. Information distilled from tonight’s meeting will inform the November 1 public open house. The PowerPoint presentation referred to the materials in the agenda packet for context.

Criterion for capital improvement priority rankings include:

- a) health and safety,
- b) code requirements,
- c) shovel-ready/funded projects,
- d) facility integrity, which refers to parks and facilities that are heavily used,
- e) operating efficiencies including utility savings and staff labor,
- f) meets adopted plan goals.

After applying these criterion and additional ranking systems, major themes emerged identifying major repair and replacement projects, major improvement projects, density and growth projects related to the light rail station subareas and along Aurora, and parks in need of additional planning.

Board comments included the following:

- An acknowledgement of the Briarcrest neighborhood’s desire for increased amenities in their area.
- Do facilities draw people or do you need to have people to justify amenities?
- Master planning verses individual projects and plans: Would it be a worthy experiment to complete a couple of improvement projects and see whether a master plan emerges? Is the public patient enough to wait for a comprehensive park plan or is it better service to the public and more efficient stewardship to identify projects for faster completion? Is it possible to do both: to implement “low-hanging fruit” while at the same time drafting longer-term plans.
- Do we continue to make our great parks better or do we raise the standard of less popular parks in need of significant attention?
- With the coming of higher-density demographics it is important to guard against investing in the disparity between those who have access to parks and those who do not.
- What if James Keough Park could be connected to Ronald Bog Park to enhance both parks?

- Could the gate to James Keough be removed? Mr. Franklin distributed a partial site plan of James Keough Park for purposes of discussion and he proposed the following improvements for consideration:
 - Open and close the gate following the same practice of other gated parks
 - Install signage
 - Add parking along 167th Street
 - Minor grading could mitigate significant drainage issues
 - Leveling the grade between the park and the freeway could create a berm to lessen traffic noise
- The Meridian Park neighborhood is discussing what kinds of amenities they want to see in their area parks. Staff stressed the importance of capturing public feedback now for inclusion in the PROS Plan.
- The Board affirmed the visual aspects of the presentation as particularly helpful for the public meeting and encouraged even more. They suggested breaking information into the categories of “Securing our Foundation” and “Shaping our Future” to explain the differences in rationale for particular projects.
- Any plan in the subareas should have a score of at least “3.”
- The Board commended staff’s work on the supporting materials so far.

7. Comments from the Board

- Board members are encouraged to attend both the November 1 and 15 public meetings.
- Mr. Hoey commented on the King County Park on 163rd as an under recognized and underutilized space not owned by the City with partnership potential. Ms. Arcidy supports taking a broad view of open spaces to maximize partnerships for a greater common good.
- How do we prioritize parks in need of improvements that lack an advocate?
- Chair Robertson inquired of the Board’s interest in a Martin Luther King Day project. The Board agreed to check in again at the December 1 meeting.
- Ms. Southwick requested additional Tree City USA signage along main City entry points.
- Chair Robertson inquired of the youth about their most interesting takeaway from this evening’s discussion.
 - Miss Sandico wondered how youth could be attracted to lesser-known parks for recreation, and expressed concern about high school fights in South Woods.
 - Miss Lauter suggested reaching out to and through the Y to get the word out about youth-friendly places to gather. She stressed the importance of providing areas with benches and tables. Improvements don’t need to be large, just useful.
- The Board inquired about the status of aquatic/community center siting. In depth siting plans will not be included in this PROS Plan process.

8. Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Chair Robertson called for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Ms. Schielke and seconded by Mr. Hoey. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Signature of Chair
Betsy Robertson

Date

Signature of Minute Writer
Lynn Gabrieli

Date