



**Revised Meeting Minutes for the Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Services Board**

December 3, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Shoreline Center
Ronald Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was taken.

Park Board Members Present: Kevin McAuliffe, Joe Neiford, Boni Biery, Londa Jacques, Shari Tracey, Jesse Sycuro, Andrew Delgado, Patricia Hale, William Clements.

Excused: Carolyn Ballo

Absent: Ian Fike

City Staff Present: Dick Deal, Director; Kirk Peterson, Park Superintendent; Lynn Cheeney, Recreation Superintendent; Ros Bird, Public Art Coordinator; David Buchan, Project Manager; Robin Lesh, Administrative Assistant III

2. Approval of Minutes

An amendment was requested to Ms. Biery's statement about the magazine article she shared with the group. She requested it read: "some toxic parts are among the inactive ingredients." Ms. Hale moved and Mr. Neiford seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Biery moved and Mr. McAuliffe seconded the motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried.

4. Pubic Comment

Laethan Wene, Shoreline

Mr. Wene shared that there was a large event planned by Seattle Parks & Recreation for individuals with developmental disabilities the following week at Shoreline's Meridian Park Elementary School. He asked that Shoreline provide these programs for its own community instead of another city hosting such an event in the community.

5. Public Art

(a) Hamlin Park Goddess Project

An artist who lives in Seattle would like to provide a temporary art installation of a tree stump with crocheted objects coming from the stump, as if to represent and feature a woman's connection with the Earth.

The artist is requesting an endorsement and use of the City's logo in her promotional materials. The Board discussed the endorsement, with concerns of an unknown artist and other factors. Due to various items in question, the Board will postpone until the January meeting when perhaps the artist can make a presentation.

(b) Kayu Kayu Ac Art

Artist David Franklin gave a presentation on his vision for the park's entry gate. He described wide posts and a nice gate, elevating the artwork above the ground. His inspirations include native marine transport such as canoes, and paddles. He discussed possible materials of cottage stone finish and a core-ten finish to the steel gate. The Board discussed these ideas with the artist, touching on design options, materials, construction, safety, placement and access concerns.

Ms. Biery moved that the Board accept Mr. Franklin's design for the park entry gate. Mr. McAuliffe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

(c) Kayu Kayu Ac Art – part two

Artist James Madison of the Tulalip tribe presented a model of his art proposal, an inverted geometric shape of an elongated pyramid, with aluminum salmon and orca images. Ms. Jacques moved that the Board accept Mr. Madison's design proposal. Mr. Sycuro seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6. Kruckeberg Master Site Plan

Mr. Deal explained the process and steps taken to date, and shared that this will be an informational item. Concern was raised by an audience member and Mr. Deal clarified that this item is intended to ask the Board for their general consensus of staff heading in the right direction with this process, rather than asking for specific action with the plan.

After a brief review of the history and process of the project, the steering committee and some consultants present were introduced, including John Swanson and Carly Mendelsohn.

Mr. Swanson's presentation consisted of focusing on five principle elements of the process, reviewed the draft mission statement, conservation easement overview, conditions, challenges, site characteristics and comparable sites. Also reviewed were the slider exercise, programming approaches, plant collection and location. The consultant's role now is to take all elements and form a plan that is a sustainable programming approach for Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. This segued into a review of the Garden's financial summary, with possible revenue solutions of rentals and admission fees.

The presentation also touched on recommended site improvements that included a proposed location of activity rooms and a parking concept diagram that would feature 15-20 spaces maximum and 2-3 spaces further into the site from 15th Avenue NW. Mr. Deal added that a neighborhood traffic study will begin in January that will provide further information for the Richmond Beach traffic patterns. Additionally, staff shared an education opportunity, focusing on sustainability and guiding principles as the center of the Garden's development.

6a. Public Comment Segment A re: Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Master Plan

Dan Johnson, Shoreline

Mr. Johnson thanked the consultants. He shared that the neighbors are being asked to consider a change of use for the site, such as removing trees for additional parking, and he is concerned that as the garden activates, how the users and types of users change the noise level. Living screening material should be a thought for mitigation. The conservation easement on the property is specific about types of uses, and Mr. Johnson said the City of Shoreline has a real challenge on its hands to follow the City's sustainability and tree policies, which can contradict the conservation easement. He advises small, smart and good design.

John Thull, Shoreline

Mr. Thull has been a neighbor of Kruckeberg Garden for more than 13 years. He is concerned that when talking about a business plan, what is glossed over is the volume of users in a short period of time, for example at the Mother's Day plant sale. He described the challenges are the users park on neighbors lawns, car accidents, employee actions and parking behavior. Mr. Thull also voiced concerns over 15 parking spaces using up all of the allowed space by the easement, removing plants for parking, and foot traffic having unintended consequences such as plant life loss.

Mr. Deal addressed these speakers, thanking them for their input. He gave additional information about revenue options in the form of admission fees. Comparable sites have a wide range of fees and it is the responsibility of the organization to make access available to all despite those participants who have the means to pay the fees, so fees and parking strategy will need to be further evaluated.

Mr. Swanson added that the goal of these initial concepts is not specifically to increase the volume of visitors, but rather to preserve the resource as a legacy for the future.

After the presentation and public comment, Mr. Clements asked for Board member input from around the table. Board member comments included:

- A great presentation, valid concerns voiced tonight. Supportive of admission fee and sponsorship days. Need a parking plan without taking up too much of the Garden.

- There was little discussion of Maple Knoll and the resident should perhaps be more involved with the Garden. Supportive of limited hours of operation, no alcohol allowed on the site, sustainability, provide grant support through the City of Shoreline to support Garden events, activities and operations
- Parking is a big issue, not a fan of large events like weddings at this location. Supportive of admission fees and family passes.
- Supportive of admission fees and specific events that would engage all ages.
- Perhaps Kruckeberg Garden should serve as Shoreline's Tilth organization? Suggestions also included a botanical library resource with public outreach and partnership/integration with local library activities and operations, proposals of various tours specific to trees, plants, birds; also extending the Mother's Day sale to elongate the volume of customers. Concerns of the parking option as presented – parking should be integrated into the Garden, not vice versa - avoid damaging plants. (Mr. Thull added that he recently walked the Garden area with Art Kruckeberg who has concerns about removing several specimens.)
- Supportive of admission fees. This site is an experience for the educated gardener and not the novice. Concerned with removing plants for sake of parking, doesn't like idea of weddings here as the site is not the right space for crowds.
- Supportive of admission fees, expanded programs for adult & youth focus, suggestion of parking fees?
- Supportive of the admission fee and future potential but concerned about loving the site to death as seen in some Shoreline parks now. Should more closely examine the sustainable level of human impact for the Garden. Suggested reconsidering angle-in parking to reduce the number of plants to be removed or transplanted. An opportunity exists to use some of the resources to help sustain the community and local botanical needs.
- Thanks were given to staff and consultants for their efforts. Recommended more information on parking and would feel better about it if land was added for this purpose. Supportive of expanding outreach to off-site locations, focus on strategy and the pace of growth, show some projections of revenues and expenditures. Other necessities include a combined parking and traffic strategy.

Motion to Extend

Due to the topic and current time, Mr. Clements entertained a motion to extend the meeting until agenda items were completed. Ms. Jacques moved and Ms. Biery seconded. The motion carried.

6a. Kruckeberg (continued)

Additional comments from the Board included suggesting a plant restoration project, as well as tapping into research done by Art as a resource.

Mr. Deal summarized the concerns mentioned and asked the Board for their consensus and general approval of the direction of the project, staff and consultant team.

Mr. Clements asks that staff and consultant keep in mind the benefit of slow growth. Mr. Deal added that the group will continue meeting.

6b. Public Comment Segment B re: Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Master Plan

Karen Russell, Shoreline

Ms. Russell is on the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation Board and shared that she is optimistic to see revenue ideas make money before they lose money. She agrees with the earlier comment of loving the Garden to death and is concerned with the business plan.

Dan Johnson, Shoreline

Listening to the comments regarding Mother's Day, why not implement some of the changes now? Asset management has changed. 100 years ago decisions were made and today someone has to take care of them. The recommendation of small-smart-good steps struck a chord with him. He also voiced concern with the more done now, the more difficult it can be for the next guy. On Maple Knoll, this is the first public meeting that concept has been voiced in. The property serves as a buffer for condominium development and residents of 13th Avenue NW. He is offended that the property be considered for development pertaining to the Garden and offered some feedback on the Kayu Kayu Ac gate proposal.

John Thull, Shoreline

Mr. Thull explained that he has been in business a long time, is experienced in profit and loss statements. He guaranteed that this property would be a monetary burden for the next 50 years, advising the City should be careful how it spends money as this group will pay salaries of Garden staff then call it a day.

Mr. Deal responded that he agrees with slow, steady steps, and even if the Foundation walks away from the situation tomorrow, the City will be there; it will be the City's responsibility.

Ms. Hale added that she was on the transition team when the parks were passed from the County to the City of Shoreline. It was known the Parks would not sustain themselves, they would require City funding, too.

Mr. Clements recognized Ms. Tracey for her service at this, her last meeting on the PRCS Board, as she will now serve a term on the Shoreline City Council. He also congratulated both she and Ms. Hale for well-run, positive campaigns.

7. Meeting Adjourned

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Ms. Tracey and seconded by Mr. Neiford to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Signature of Park Board Chair

Date

Signature of Minute Writer

Date