

203034 ✓

FILE NO.

Suggestions

OF

William S. Kelton

On establishment of parks in the south end business district and regrade district.

5/10/49 Plan Comm
7/23/63 File

May 9, 1949.

FILED

W. C. THOMAS
CITY COMPTROLLER AND CITY CLERK

BY *W. C. Thomas* DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED

MAY 9 - 1949

REFERRED

REPORTED

REPORTED

REF. FOR ORD.

JUL 29 1963

TO ~~FINANCE~~

Public Grounds

TO STREETS & SEWERS

REPORT ADOPTED

REPORT ADOPTED

C. B. ORD.

DISPOSITION

On File

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your

Streets and Sewers

Committee

to which was referred the within

Suggestions

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that the same be

placed on file.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN





U. S. APPRAISAL CO.

SEATTLE • SPOKANE • PORTLAND • SAN FRANCISCO • LOS ANGELES

- Consulting Engineers
- General Appraisers
- Valuation Engineers

968 Dexter Horton Building
Seattle 4, Washington

May 6, 1949

City Council
City of Seattle
Room 514, County-City Building
Seattle, Washington

Gentlemen:

For the past two weeks I have, in my professional capacity, been examining the earthquake damage to many of the buildings between Yesler Way and Jackson Street, First Avenue and Third Avenue, and it is my opinion that a great many of them will have to be entirely removed or at least brought down to a one-story affair. I believe that you will find Mr. Moses and Mr. Cain of the Building Department in substantial agreement with this.

Some time ago I advocated the establishment of a park in this area, together with another park in the Regrade District, and this article was published in the Seattle Times of November 30, 1947.

A great many of the owners of the property between Yesler Way and Jackson Street are now undetermined whether to go ahead and try to rebuild or to tear their buildings down. It would seem that now would be an ideal time to decide once and for all if this area should be turned into a park.

I have for a number of years done condemnation work for the City of Seattle under Mr. VanSoelen and know that although the City can condemn this area for purely park purposes, it would have some legal difficulties in condemning it and then using it for an automobile parking area. These legal difficulties, however, I believe could be overcome by attaching this parking area to the County-City Building and using it in conjunction with the needs of the employees for the city and county cars that are parked now at various points around the County-City Building.

If a park were established between Occidental Avenue and Third Avenue and Jackson Street and Yesler Way on the south end of this area a bus terminal could be built for public busses coming in from the area south of Seattle. The present Fire Headquarters could remain where it is, and the north end of the area could be used as a parking lot with at least one floor under the street level.

City Council
City of Seattle

May 6, 1949

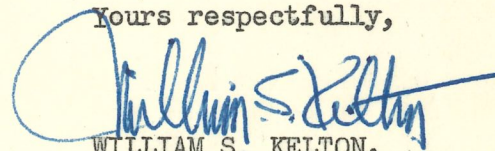
In regards to a park in the Regrade District covering an area between Fifth Avenue and Seventh Avenue and Battery Street and Blanchard Street, this space could be used as a bus terminal for busses coming in from the districts north of Seattle, as well as an automobile parking lot with four decks below ground. The surface could be landscaped more or less similar to Union Square in San Francisco.

These two parks would serve for parking areas for visitors coming in to Seattle either from the north or the south or the east. They could park their private automobiles at these two points and use the municipal bus for their local needs in the downtown shopping area. This arrangement would solve the downtown parking problem for many years. There would still be plenty of automobiles to park in private parking lots and garages.

But for the grace of God there could have easily been ten thousand injured people on April 13th. Where would you have taken them for even first-aid treatment?

I presume that your Planning Commission has had this project or similar projects in mind. I believe under the present circumstances this is the time to decide, and I urge you to give the matter your due consideration. When the owners of the various properties in the south end rebuild their buildings, or the owners of the properties in the Regrade put up substantial buildings, it will be either too late or very much more expensive than it would be at the present time to establish these park areas.

Yours respectfully,



WILLIAM S. KELTON,
Partner.

WSK:gc