

Superintendent's Report
Parks and Neighborhoods Committee
June 21, 2012

Opportunity Fund. Proposal letters for the second round of Opportunity Fund allocations were due June 11. Up to \$8 million is available to allocate for community initiated development or acquisition projects. We received 112 letters citywide! Staff will work with constituents over the summer months to refine their proposals and help them with the application process. Applications are due September 17. Information on the Opportunity Fund can be found on the project's webpage.
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/levy/opportunity.htm>

Strategic Planning Process. We are very excited about launching our Parks Legacy Planning effort. This will be a data driven needs assessment with a cost recovery analysis component. The assessment of programs and services will be completed at the end of March 2013.

Seacrest Boathouse. We have just received notice that the State Dept. of Ecology has approved their review of the site. A 21-day waiting period is required for 'public appeal' from the date of filing (June 11, 2012). This period will end July 3, 2012. After that date, Marination will begin tenant improvements to the site. We anticipate the restaurant will open between mid-August and the beginning of September. Marination hopes to have a presence at Seacrest during the tenant improvements, but not daily. They hope to schedule a couple of evenings and one day of the weekend most weeks.

Participation in Pride Parade. Both KOMO TV and KOMO Radio interviewed Sue Goodwin regarding Parks participation in the Pride Parade. This is the first year Parks is participating in the parade and we are looking forward to it.

Seasonal Concession opening. The Seasonal Concession permits have all been issued, and many are opening. This year there are 28 concession permits active, with 70% of those being minority and women owned businesses.

Cascade People Center. The final long-term agreement with the YMCA of Greater Seattle was delivered to David Kelly-Hedrick of the YMCA for signature. We should be getting it at my office for signature soon.

Olmsted Parks Trust. Seattle Parks and Recreation staff is working with citizens who are interested in forming an Olmsted Parks Trust. The overarching purpose of the Trust is to develop partnerships between citizens and Seattle Parks, and provide financial and volunteer resources to revitalize Olmsted parks. The initial focus of the Trust will be on safety, activation, and enhanced maintenance at Volunteer Park. The Olmsted Trust group and staff will meet regularly to work on an enabling agreement to ensure that the appropriate trust/conservancy model is developed for Seattle.

Partnering with King County and Human Services on Youth Grant. In January the King County Public Attorney office partnered with community leaders in the Rainier Valley and formally launched the 180 Program, an innovative new program designed to divert approximately 350 youths out of the criminal justice system each year. The 180 Program is designed to reach youth who are facing their first or second low-level misdemeanor offense. Parks met with King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg and

Human Services to discuss ways to incorporate Parks services such as Late Night Recreation and our youth employment opportunities and trainings into this model. We are working to partner on a joint grant application.

Parks Mentoring Program. At the all staff retreat I promised employees that there would be opportunities for them to learn more about the department and to develop professionally. To aid in this development process, the Human Resources Unit put our mentoring program into full gear. Mentorship is a process where a more senior/experienced employee (mentor) meets with a less senior employee (mentee) to form a partnership to develop personal and professional success. All members of the Parks and Recreation Expanded Executive Team volunteered to serve as mentors. To kick off the program about 100 Parks and Recreation employees participated in a speed networking event at Magnuson Park on April 5th. Each potential mentee had the opportunity to meet with 13 different potential mentors for four minutes each. It was a spirited event with rooms containing 13 conversations at once. Room monitors often had to stop the conversations to keep the process running smoothly. Participants reported that they met new people and learned a lot, even in the short four minute conversations. The learning went both directions with the potential mentors also learning from the mentees.

Assignments have been made and there are over 70 pairs of employees meeting regularly. Many of the pairs already report success for both mentoring partners. Additionally, enhancement activities have helped employees learn new skills.

The Citywide Youth Track and Field Championships. Our youth track and field sports season concluded with the City Championships on May 23-24 at West Seattle Stadium. Twelve Community Center teams and 989 youth ages 5-17 competed in this year's program. Teams organize and began practicing in late March and conclude with the City Championships at the end of May. Typically teams have 2 practices and one meet experience each week. Team coaches are registered volunteers with Parks. Our Parks program is a grass roots program and often is the first experience in running, jumping and throwing for children who go on to participate in recreational and competitive programs throughout the rest of their lives. Track and field is the most participated sport of all high school sports in the country and is a great lifetime endeavor.

Life Long Recreation Program. Recently we set-up a facebook page for Life Long Recreation, we are finding that our facebook pages are great marketing tools.

Special Olympics - Adult Program update.

This year the Specialized Programs took 93 adult athletes to the Track State Tournament at Fort Lewis and 12 adult athletes to the Aquatics State Tournament on June 1 - 3. The staff did a great job of preparing for the overnight weekend. They charter bus, scheduled appropriate staff including a nurse, coordinated medication, base passes for family members and coordinated with Special Olympics regarding housing and food at the base for the team members.

Out of the 93 track and field participants 79 individuals went on to compete at the state meet and, collectively amassed copious amounts of awards, here is the total medal count:

- Youth: 12 registered and 12 youth athletes competed in the regional tournament, 6 qualified for the state tournament and all attended.

- Adult: 81 registered and 73 competed in the regional tournament, 39 qualified for the state tournament and 36 attended

Twelve swimmers participated at the King County Aquatic Center in a day long swim competition, and then spent the night at Fort Lewis the barracks. They had a great time, and there were no major incidents to report. The total medal count for swimming was:

- 4 gold medals
- 7 silver medals
- 13 bronze medals
- 11 ribbons

Reminder of upcoming events.

- Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Gala – June 30
- Georgetown Spraypark - soon
- Jefferson Park Jubilee – July 14
- Children’s Concert at Westlake Park to announce play area July 25
- Kirke Park – Ballard – August
- Big Day of Play – August 25
- Belltown Community Center – Sept 8

REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENT

Camp Long Supports Youth Violence Prevention Initiative On Wed June 13th, Camp Long’s Low Ropes Challenge Course provided a significant, bittersweet ending to Southwest Youth and Family Services’ 10-week grief support group for teens. The program was paid by a grant awarded to the Camp Long Advisory Council/Associated Recreation Council. The kids were engaged in actions that inspired trust, support for each other and learning to ask for help when needed. And, as research has shown, the healing process is accelerated in a natural, green environment.

Race and Social Justice

Somali Food and Fitness The Somali Senior Nutrition Program at Rainier CC cooked from scratch on Wednesday May 23 and 30 with the help of Seattle Tilth. Katie from Seattle Tilth brought fresh produce for the group to cook and assisted in the kitchen preparing the meal. The purpose of scratch cooking is to engage the member’s in cooperation and in producing their meals. The Somali Seniors and Seattle Tilth will discuss and evaluate the cook from scratch option as a way to decrease the need for ordering catered food for their meetings.

Race and Social Justice update. We will be doing a full report in August.

