



June 3, 2014

To: Councilmember Jean Godden
Chair: Parks, Library, Seattle Center and Equity Committee

From: Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Report

Upcoming action items for Council

Art Museum 2008 Levy Funds

Authorizes using the \$9 million of 2008 Parks Levy funds allocated for renovation of the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park for Parks major maintenance projects; and sets aside \$3 million of Parks CRS funds over three years to fund the museum's renovations, should the Seattle Art Museum raise the required match to the Levy funds.

Center for Wooden Boats Lease Amendment

Amends a current lease with the Center for Wooden Boats to construct an education center at Lake Union Park. The amendments are mainly housekeeping with no financial or building/use impacts.

Seacrest concession agreement with Marination

Revises current concession agreement with Marination at Seacrest Park, reducing Marination's payment to Parks to ensure its continued ability to exist at this location, while providing for stable revenue for Parks (considerably higher than received from previous concessionaire at this location).

Long-term concession agreements at four Parks

In order to foster a stronger likelihood for concessionaire improvements and marketing, the ordinance proposes five-year concession agreements at Gas Works, Green Lake, Madrona and Seward Parks. After a Request for Proposal process, all operators selected are minority-owned small businesses that have a history of operating successful Parks concession locations as well as other stand-alone food service businesses in Seattle.

Burke Gilman Trail – Sprint agreement

Extends a current agreement with Sprint to locate cable underneath the Burke Gilman Trail. The new agreement increases the fee Sprint pays to Parks.

Sisley property judgment

The City has received close to \$1 million in judgments against Hugh and Martha Sisley, property owners in the Roosevelt neighborhood. The ordinance proposes using the judgment funds to purchase Sisley property at auction for use as a future park.

Informational Items

Park District Ballot Measure

We would like to thank City Councilmembers for their support in helping to get the Park District on the ballot. The Council has been a strong supporter of long-term, stable funding for Parks. Many Councilmembers have met in person with Parks staff to ensure a deep understanding Parks' funding needs, and to offer valuable insights and direction. The 8-0 Council vote in favor putting the measure on the August ballot sends a strong message of support to the department and its employees.

Seattle Parks and Recreation volunteer trends and data. Seattle Parks and Recreation volunteers logged more than 380,000 hours at events, work parties and assignments in 2013. More than 42,000 volunteers worked an average of 9.1 hours at over 350 sites throughout the city. Of these volunteers young people under 18 comprised 31% of our volunteers - twice their proportion (15%) of the population in Seattle. Teens volunteered in community learning centers and several youth programs. Teens volunteering in restoration and urban agriculture projects were supervised and supported by four AmeriCorps volunteers.

"Echo" Installation at Olympic Sculpture Park

On May 16, the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) completed the installation of "Echo," a 46-foot sculpture by artist Jaume Plensa. The artwork was installed in the park boulevard section of the Olympic Sculpture Park. This work required a two-month closure of a small section of the bike trail. Parks worked with SDOT and SAM to ensure that word of the closure was widely circulated to the biking community. A ribbon cutting for the new sculpture was held on Thursday, May 29th.

Mentoring Program

This is the third year that our Human Resources Unit has managed our mentoring program. On April 17, more than 70 people participated in the kick-off. The program runs from May – October and we anticipate 40 mentoring pairs will participate. The purpose of the mentoring program is to encourage the professional development of Parks employees. The program offers career development, cross-divisional training, and supports employees in their efforts to improve skill sets making them more competitive in the hiring process. Additionally, many Seattle Parks employees are eligible for retirement demonstrating the need to increase upward mobility and impart institutional knowledge.

Parks Projects Completed

A number of park projects were completed earlier this year, greatly enhancing the neighborhoods they serve. Among them were.

- **Lower Kinnear Park:** Neighbors marked the completion of the first part of a major park improvement project in Lower Kinnear Park in Queen Anne on April 26th. The Friends Lower Kinnear Park helped raise nearly \$1 million for improvements including widened pathways, removal of many invasive plants and expanded views into the interior of the park. Funding also came from the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund, and the Department of Neighborhood Matching Fund.
- **Bell Street Park:** Renovations at downtown's Bell Street Park converted one traffic lane and reconfigured parking to create a park like corridor through the heart of Belltown. The work was completed in early April. The four-block area was improved with landscaping, better lighting and more open space. The Parks and Green Spaces Levy provided \$5 million for the project. The artwork is commissioned with Parks and Green Spaces Levy 1% for Art funds.
- **Woodland Park Play Area:** Open in April 2014, this project replaced outdated play equipment with climbing dome structure and tree house themed play equipment. A loop trail circulates around the play

equipment with benches and picnic tables. The Parks and Green Spaces Levy provided \$350,000 toward planning, design and construction of the project.

- **Santos Rodriguez Memorial Park at El Centro de la Raza:** The Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund contributed \$350,000 to integrate this park space with the community and provide landscape improvements making the park more welcoming to the general public with new fencing, signage and ADA accessibility. The renovation celebration occurred on April 30.

Bicycle Sunday

A new series of Bicycle Sundays began on May 4, 2014. Lake Washington Boulevard will be closed to motorized vehicles 10 a.m.-6 p.m. during Bicycle Sundays. Come bike, jog or stroll along the boulevard between the Seward Park entrance and Mount Baker Park's beach. Upcoming event dates are:

- June 1, 15 and 29
- July 6 and 13
- August 10 and 24
- September 14 and 21

Magnuson Park design wins award

In April, the [Berger Partnership](#) received a [Merit Award in Design](#) from the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA) for its work in Magnuson Park. The firm was tasked in 2001 to integrate a system of five ecologically distinct, yet interconnected wetlands among the trails, athletic fields, roads and parking lots. The project was completed in 2010. The WASLA awards committee said they were impressed how the park's history and ecology were represented in the finished design.

Ospreys return to Seattle for spring

Ospreys have returned to two different manufactured nest sites near Seattle parks. Three years ago, staff from Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle City Light, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Burlington Northern and the U.S. Coast Guard worked on getting a replacement nest site for ospreys at Commodore Park in Magnolia. The old nest had been dismantled because it was located on a telegraph tower on rail lines above the park. The tower was in disrepair and was in jeopardy of falling into the Ballard Locks below it. Staff worked together on siting the new nest, getting permits, fabricating a nest platform and installing a 70-foot pole and platform. Two ospreys showed up at the platform the month after it was built, and two babies were born.

Rainier Beach Pool staff assists in Oso recovery

Rainier Beach Pool operator Sue Bonney and her dog, Luau, played an important role in the recovery effort after the Oso mudslide. For 11 days, Sue's 6-year-old Labrador and certified search dog led her owner through debris at the mudslide site. Sue and Luau spent two years completing rigorous trainings to become FEMA-certified to assist in disaster recovery efforts. Sue and Luau were deployed just three days after the slide. Search and rescue dogs were an invaluable resource at the site because of their sense of smell. Sue and Luau worked 10-hour days. Bonney said it was the most difficult work she's ever done.