



Parks and Green Spaces Levy Meetings

Meetings Summary

May 4, 2009 at Rainier Community Center - 20 people in attendance
May 6, 2009 at West Seattle Golf Course- 40 people in attendance
May 12, 2009 at Green Lake Community Center – 55 people in attendance
May 13, 2009 at Parks Headquarters – Dexter – 30 people in attendance

The four Parks and Green Spaces Levy meetings held the first two weeks in May were successful in reaching out to the community and educating the public about the levy. The agenda for each meeting included a brief introduction by Kevin Stoops followed by an overview presentation by Michael Shiosaki and finished with a questions and answer period. In attendance at each meeting was a representative from Department of Neighborhoods, P-Patch program, a member of Parks acquisition team, Donald Harris or Lise Ward and Mark Mead Park's Urban Forester was present at 3 of the 4 meetings.

The concerns at each meeting were similar with particular questions detailed below per district.

Common comments and questions

- **How are acquisitions made? How can the community come forward with acquisition ideas?**
Particular urban areas and green space extensions were called out in the levy and acquisitions emphasis for acquisitions will occur in these areas. These spaces were identified in the 2006 Gap Report Update. The acquisition team does not have pre-determined properties in mind for these purchases. They are researching different options and looking for community input on potential parcels for purchase.
- **What is the Opportunity Fund? How will projects be determined?**
The Opportunity Fund is a \$15 million fund that will be appropriated to projects brought forward from the community. Ideas for potential Opportunity Fund projects were brought forward at all four meetings. Project ideas were diverse and ranged from new basketball courts to improving green spaces in existing greenbelts or parks. There are suggested criteria for Opportunity Fund projects, however, the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee will determine the final criteria for projects and the timing of the application process. Parks recommended that projects be part of an existing planning process and have backing from a large constituency.
- **What is the best way to get a certain project noticed?**
At each meeting people wanted to know how to get their project noticed. Parks staff suggested attending the Oversight Committee meeting, organizing their community, and talking with appropriate city organizations such as Department of Neighborhoods, Parks, City Council and the Mayor.
- **What is the Oversight Committee, how was it chosen, who is on the committee?**
At three of the four meetings Oversight Committee members were present. Members were introduced and gave a short biography. It was explained that the Oversight Committee is a 16

person committee some of which are appointed by City Council and the mayor's office. Some of the members served on the previous Pro Parks Levy Citizens Oversight Committee.

- **How were decisions made for the projects that are already started? How will Parks determine the timing of additional projects and the timing involved?**

As part of the Mayor's "Seattle Jobs Forward" it was determined that five playgrounds throughout the city, renovation of Lower Woodland Park fields #2 and #7, Colman PlayGarden improvements, Langston Hughes improvements, Jefferson Park phase II and Magnuson Park Trail project would be accelerated into planning and construction to stimulate the economy. Parks staff has suggested additional projects for funding to the City Council and to be reviewed by the Mayor. In June the Management Plan will be submitted to the Council.

- **Federal stimulus package for green building – Is parks applying? What is Parks doing to obtain federal money?**

Parks suggested project ideas to be considered but presently has not received notification that stimulus money will be directed to any Seattle Parks projects.

- **Environmental Category – what are we doing with this? How are we nurturing our green spaces and being good stewards of the land.**

There is a \$6.6. million Environment category that is divided into Forest and Stream Restoration, Community Gardens, and Shoreline Access.

- **Why artificial turf? How are fields determined?**

Artificial turf is the preferred product by sportsfield users in all weather and for year-round playability. Fields for conversion were identified in a park system wide assessment of all playfields.

- **What is Parks doing to address safety?**

This concern came up at all meetings, in particular in the southeast area and downtown at Victor Steinbrueck Park. The safety question was addressed in regards to the playgrounds that updated equipment for the play grounds will improve the safety. In the central downtown areas more playgrounds were requested. Parks staff suggested a playground in Freeway Park might be a good application for the Opportunity Fund.

