

Lake Washington Boulevard Trail and Drainage Improvements Public Meeting 2

December 7, 2006

Lakewood/Seward Park Community Club
4916 S. Angeline Street

Q = Question; S = Statement; R = Response

Q: Could Parks provide a web site showing all projects related to Lake Washington Boulevard?

R: Yes, links to the following websites will be included on this project's Pro Parks Levy website:

- SDOT bike planning
- Parks Vegetation Management Plan
- Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center
- NW native plants

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/bikemaster.htm>

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/LakeWashingtonBlvd/vmp.htm>

www.seattle.gov/parks/boats/Mtbaker.htm

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/>

Q: Will the project manager for this project make presentations to the Mt Baker Community Club and Seward Park Community Club?

R: Certainly. Please issue an invitation to the project manager, Lynn Sullivan.

S: Would like to replace cherry trees with cherry trees.

R: This is under discussion at Parks since we have found that site conditions along Lake Washington Boulevard are not conducive to healthy cherry trees.

S: A member from the newly formed *Friends of Genesee Park* suggested that all the related community groups work together to come up with strategic plan and make recommendations to Parks.

Q: What will be the hours of construction? Could it be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and avoid conflicting with Saturday and Sunday's summer bicycle events?

R: Parks will work diligently to reduce traffic impacts. We also recognize that SeaFair and the Danskins Triathlon require special consideration.

Q: Can Parks repair a drainage problem in the lawn below the catch basin at the north entrance to Seward Park?

R: Parks sewer crew reports that the observed pooling of water is the correct action. Water is collected from the street and piped down to a drainage structure in the park which allows the collected water to up-well onto the lawn. Impurities are removed as the water filters through the soil on its way to the lake.

Q: Can you leave standing snags for birds and allow other snags to fall into the water?

R: Standing snags can be left so long as the original tree is not a hazard. However, past experience has shown that this can be controversial as other people consider snags to be unattractive. Parks spoke with personnel at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife about placing snags in the water. A specialist there reported that logs along the shoreline create bass habitat. Bass is an exotic species that threatens our natural fish populations. The specialist offered that scientists for the City and tribes would likely not support installation of logs in the shoreline. Parks will not pursue the issue any further.

Q: Will a 3-foot wide path last longer than a 1-foot wide path?

R: No.

Q: Will bikes be permitted -- or not permitted -- on the trail? What is the policy?

R: There is no policy; it would be impossible to enforce.

S: Leave the path as it is and keep it simple.

S: Like wood chips for path surfacing. Don't like crushed rock.

S: Advocate for light. Prefer deciduous trees.

Q: How do you deal with Japanese knotweed?

R: This project will be spending up to \$12,000 on knotweed abatement. Parks urban foresters have ascertained that when knotweed is cut along the shoreline, tiny pieces float away and propagate elsewhere. Research on the Skagit River has revealed that the most effective method of knotweed abatement is to hand-wipe an herbicide on the leaves. Park crews will be applying this herbicide over the course of three days in the spring and fall over the next several years in an attempt to exhaust the knotweed root stock.

Unfortunately the lake's wave action may mitigate the success of this application: it remains to be seen. If this method doesn't work, a dramatic earth moving project must be undertaken requiring Army Corp of Engineer permits. All the soil along the shoreline will have to be removed in order to eliminate the chance of root stock remnants being left behind to re-propagate.

Much of the vegetation management plan can't be implemented until the knotweed issue is resolved. Our native plants can't compete with the knotweed.

S: Keep the trail small and natural.

S: Like the natural approach.

S: The slope on the west side of the road above the Mt. Baker Swimming Beach is wet and soggy. This causes a mess on the roadway.

- R:** Repair of the pot drains along the road should eliminate this problem.
- S:** Keep the trail small and simple. Prefer native trees. Don't support locating plant materials based on SeaFair's perspective.
- S:** Gravel is noisy, leave dirt. Use gravel only in necessary patches; just fix the eroded spots.
- S:** Support a 1-foot trail.
- S:** Support a 1-foot trail.
- Q:** Can you use some of the extra money for on-going maintenance?
- R:** No. By ordinance the money has to be spent on development in the Neighborhood Park Development Program; the money is not allowed to be moved into funding programs for operations and maintenance.
- S:** 1-foot gravel path, great. Second the idea of continuous maintenance.
- S:** 1-foot gravel path, great. Put money aside to keep it up.
- S:** Existing Linden trees along the boulevard aren't healthy. Reluctant to see the species used again.
- R:** The existing Linden trees are in poor health because they have been hit by cars. Parks is willing to consider other species.
- S:** Favor a narrow trail. Wider trail will invite mountain bikes. Eliminate the proposed gravel path around the "bay" just north of Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center. Leave that area as open, uninterrupted lawn.
- S:** Add a link on the web site for information about native plants.
- R:** Done. <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/>
- S:** Prefer a 3-foot wide trail as opposed to the proposed 5-foot wide trail in the area of Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center.
- S:** Proposed cross-walk location at 43rd Street and Lake Washington Boulevard is really dangerous.
- R:** Parks will coordinate with SDOT.
- S:** Leave open, uninterrupted lawn around the "bay" north of the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center.
- S:** Can you add speed-reducing bumps along the boulevard?
- R:** This falls under SDOT's purview but Parks will forward the request to them.

Q: Are the Friends of Olmsted meetings open to the Public?

R: Yes, the next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., January 8, 2007, at 100 Dexter in the Parks Boardroom.

S: Prefer to run on the existing skinny trail.

S: Proposed cross-walk at 43rd Street and Lake Washington Boulevard is a hazard.

Q: Can you make park improvements in other areas such as south of Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center?

R: Will propose the idea to management.

S: Like smaller, shorter, native trees.

Q: Is this project being coordinated with the Vegetation Management Plan work?

R: We are coordinating the selection of tree species with them. These are two separate projects with different implementation schedules.

S: Trees are important. They are our legacy.

S: We need trees. They provide oxygen and create wildlife habitat.

S: Favor open views and vista. Prefer lower trees: 40 feet.

S: A 1-foot wide trail is a good idea.

Q: Would like to see the final plan. Will you hold a 3rd meeting?

R: A third meeting is certainly a possibility. The subject matter of another meeting needs to be evaluated. It may be just as effective, and certainly less expensive, to post the information on the web site. That determination will be made in the next couple of months. The meeting will likely be held during the first quarter of 2007.

S: Consider views based on people walking along the trail rather than people living upslope.

R: Both groups of people need to be considered.

S: Eliminate use of the phrase urban forest; it raises red flags.

Prologue

One of the meeting attendees e-mailed me a question in the days following the second meeting. It was a very good question eliciting an informative response:

Q: What is the spending priority? During the meeting several items were identified for spending:

- The walking path

- The pot drains and other drainage hotspots
- Landscaping

R: Parks first goal is to make the park more attractive and appealing. As such, the path repair and its extension around the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center is the first priority. The knotweed abatement and replacement of the 35 trees is also certain to be included. The last piece of work that the project budget must cover is the repair of the drainage structure at Dose Terrace (estimated at \$53,000). The five drainage "hotspots" will be addressed with the remaining budget.

The feedback from the gray sheets that some meeting attendees filled out indicates that the community sees the drainage problem at the entrance to the Mt. Baker Swimming Beach as the worst problem. The source of that problem is primarily the pot drains. Parks management will decide upon the priority of the 5 hotspots based upon staff recommendations and community input. Repair of the "hotspots" will be undertaken as the budget allows. The final project scope will be posted on this web site as we move closer to bidding.