

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
March 9, 2009

Committee Members Present: Ryan Barth, Matthew Lee Johnston, Dan Hughes, Scott Shinn
Staff: Susan Golub

Guests: Craig Martin, Joe Henrickson, Adam Christopoulos, Tony Davies, Jason Lucas, Brice Niebur, Kristen Ebeling, Ashley Jones

The meeting began at 7:05 PM.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Public Comments

Adam reported on the mission and goals of the Service Board, including work on social justice and public spaces for skateboarding and youth habitat. Matt underscored the importance of the group, noting the proximity of the Service Board's office to the future site of the Delridge Skatepark. The Service Board is also hosting regular snowboarding busses for teens. Anyone interested in joining them on the mountain or learning what TSB is about can contact Adam (ultimullet@hotmail.com).

General Business

Matt noted that it is important to understand that all the skateparks constructed to date are in the North end of Seattle, and that more effort in the South end is required in the future because the demographic distribution is uneven, and that issues of class and race warrant this.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of the SPAC as a sounding board for Seattle-wide skatepark issues. Matt noted that neighborhood-level advocacy is required to make things happen, and that the current organization of the SPAC is based on three people who generally support skateparks in their respective neighborhoods, and that broader sustained support is required moving forward.

Dahl Playfield Skatespot

Scott reviewed the history of the project. Ryan provided an update from Kelly Davidson, noting that the construction documents are 95% complete, and that the bid to build the skatepark will be advertised in April, to be filled within six weeks, and construction to be completed around June.

Seattle Center Skatepark

Ryan reviewed the history of the project and technical issues related to building the skatepark in its current location. The status of the project is that the Pavilion building is being demolished and the entire project is scheduled to be complete in June.

The Bite of Seattle will also feature skateboarding lessons coordinated by Skate Like a Girl (SLAG). Discussion ensued regarding integration of skateboarding into the various festivals. Kristen reported on SLAG's proposed program, including female pros from Los Angeles on Friday afternoon, local women skateboarders on Friday evening, local male skaters on Saturday, and family skate plus a masters' competition on Sunday. The music situation is still under discussion given that Funky Monkey has the contract for programming the Bite of Seattle. The goal is to provide local music for skating. Discussion ensued regarding contests, construction oversight, major team demos, strategic and political issues related to the economic value of skateboarding for festivals, the optimistic outlook for the future of this skatepark, and the need for local skaters to provide feedback to the park builder, Grindline, as the project unfolds.

River City Skatepark

Ryan reported that groundbreaking will occur at the end of the month.

Delridge Skatepark

Matt reported that the last public meeting revealed that the scope of the skatepark design is 10,000 square feet, and that this is less than the original project goal. Outstanding questions remain around the reasons why more money is required to design a larger skatepark, and why the size of the design ended up being 10,000 square feet. Matt will continue working with Kelly Davidson to answer these questions.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the level of community support that exists for this skatepark, which is unprecedented in the history of Seattle skatepark advocacy, and the funding that is currently available for other skateparks under the new 2008 Parks Levy. Unfortunately, now that the economy is in recession, funds are lacking to build the Delridge skatepark which were originally allocated to the 2009-2010 Parks Capital Improvement Program by the Mayor's Office and were subsequently cut. Additional community support efforts are underway to write a Department of Neighborhoods grant for this skatepark. Additional options that may exist are Opportunity Fund dollars from the 2008 Parks Levy. Susan noted that the Levy budget for Myrtle Reservoir is \$250,000 and that the Opportunity Fund contains \$15 million to be distributed in 2010, likely with project-specific caps that will be similar to the Pro Parks Opportunity Fund. The Levy budgets for the Roxhill and Judkins skateparks are each \$600,000, and the Jefferson skatepark is \$1 million.

Additional discussion ensued regarding next steps for the Delridge design and public meetings. The SPAC recommends that a fourth public design meeting occur, to be paid with by funds from the skatedot pot where necessary, and with additional time donated by Grindline if possible. Discussion ensued regarding the need for another meeting to provide public input from the skate community on this important skatepark design, the best way to communicate the process to the public, and the need to "shop for our meetings" carefully, perhaps spending less than \$2000 and maximizing community donations to make the fourth meeting happen. Ryan is to communicate these sentiments and recommendations to Kelly.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the keeping Levy dollars in place for existing projects rather than reallocating them for Delridge.

Lower Woodland

Ryan reported that the maintenance request submitted per the January SPAC meeting minutes has been fulfilled, that the bowl has been freshly tagged, and that the divots in the transition are growing in size and number. Matt noted that additional outreach with the BMX community needs to occur, or that police enforcement needs to occur. Tony noted that experienced bikers are probably not responsible for the damage. Discussion ensued regarding BMX advocacy, the roundtable discussion that occurred with BMX advocates at a SPAC meeting two years ago, the inevitability of bike damage at this skatepark, the interests of skate advocates and taxpayers to protect this public asset, the need for increased police presence in this area to enforce the “no bikes” and other posted rules, and questions about why the police don’t patrol this area despite requests from skate advocates and Parks officials.

Discussion ensued regarding an “art signage” campaign around the fence of the skatepark describing dollar figures required to fix it, including graffiti removal, concrete repair, a new skatepark etc. Susan is to follow up with Parks Maintenance and Public Information Officers regarding next steps for this campaign within two weeks.

Ryan reported that brooms and a lockbox are still unavailable. Discussion ensued regarding logistics and next steps to make this happen, and the fact that many skaters usually carry their own brooms.

Scott reiterated his recommendation to add a permanent garbage can and recycling bin at the East entrance of the park, which is the side that faces Greenlake Way. Scott is to follow up with Linda Hubert regarding this issue.

Northgate Redevelopment

Ryan reviewed the history of the project and current status.

John and Summit

Ryan reviewed the history of the project and current status. Parks now has funds available to build the base project. The skatedot is approved to be included in the final design, and a contractor’s estimate is required to determine its final cost. Ryan is to follow up with Kelly Davidson on the next steps for this process.

Proposition 2 Skatepark Funds

Discussion ensued regarding the need to track skatepark funds as they move through the 2008 Parks Levy process.

Roosevelt Skate Spot

Scott reviewed the history of the project and reported on his recent meeting with City Councilmember Richard Conlin to discuss next steps for this process. Councilmember Conlin is planning to draft legislation that will create a partnership among citizens, the city and the Washington State Department of Transportation to create this skatespot over the next several

years, as funds become available, with the intent being similar to the legislation that created the I-5 Colonnade bike park (Council Bill Number 115125, Ordinance Number 121704).

Wall of Death

Scott reported that Ruri Yampolski from the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs continues to work with the Seattle Department of Transportation and the artist to remediate recent skatestopper changes to the art.

Skate Like A Girl

Kristen reviewed the history and mission of SLAG and the current status of the organization, including three chapters in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco, and various local skate clinics. Visit www.skatelikeagirl.com for more information.

Currently, the Seattle Center is providing SLAG office space next to the new skatepark, with paperwork to be signed and keys to be received next week. Huge thanks to Seattle Center Deputy Director John Merner for the outreach and work he has done to help make this happen, as well as his tireless work on previous versions of this skatepark.

Additional discussion ensued regarding security concerns for the skatepark, including the employment of guards in addition to SLAG liaisons, security cameras, and the history of skateboarding advocacy for previous versions of this skatepark.

Public Comments

Brice reported on his work with the DoGood Conservancy, which is an international program with 35 branches worldwide that provides free skateboards to youth. Discussion ensued regarding the church across the street from the new Seattle Center skatepark as a possible depot for skateboard donations, SLAG's forthcoming outreach program of a similar nature, and opportunities for coordination and partnerships among these organizations. Joe noted that Torn Skateshop in West Seattle is part of The Skate Church organization which has a similar mission. Adam reported that the Service Board is looking to host a summer skateboarding program this year, and that donated skateboards will help support its clinics and workshops.

Kristen reported that she will publicize forthcoming SPAC meetings at local skateshops and skateparks. Thanks!!

Joe reported that an article will be published regarding the history of Seattle skateboarding in Northwest Skateboarding Magazine. See www.fingerflipnw.com for details.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:02

The next meeting will occur on Monday, May 11, 7 PM, 100 Dexter Ave.