

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
May 12, 2008

Committee Members Present: Nancy Chang, Matthew Lee Johnston, Ryan Barth, Scott Shinn, Dan Hughes

Guests: Craig Martin, David Forsyth, Tony Davies, Joe Walker

Staff: Susan Golub, Tim Gallagher, Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to allow Tim to speak first about Myrtle Reservoir and skatedots.

Myrtle Reservoir

Tim noted results of his discussion with Matt regarding plans for a skate facility at Myrtle Reservoir. Announcements in the most recent public meeting confirmed that there is a site for a skatepark but no funding. At this time, the site plan does include space for a District Skatepark (similar in size to Lower Woodland). There is \$380,000 in the current capital budget for skateparks, the majority of which will be allocated for Dahl playfield and the remainder is slated for skatedot implementation. Tim noted that Parks will request approximately \$750,000 for skatepark funds in the 2009 budget, the majority of which will be allocated for a West Seattle skatepark. Tim clarified that there was some misinformation about the Myrtle Reservoir budget, and clarified that the Mayor and Council must approve the budget. Matt asked about when public support should be directed to the Mayor's office regarding this skatepark. Tim clarified issues related to this, and noted that the opening of the Lower Woodland skatepark will provide a track record for community support for a future skatepark in West Seattle.

Skatedots

Ryan noted that the SPAC would like to standardize the Request for Qualifications and construction document process for skatedots, and recommended that the \$165,000 included in the 2008 budget should be as smooth as possible. Tim noted that a skatedot master plan could be developed with conceptual designs at a level of detail that is not construction documents. Susan noted that since this phase of skate dot implementation does not include a large capital outlay, it would save money to designate selected skate dots and just build them, with construction documents going back into the "pool" of information. Matt noted that existing skatespots could be initially constructed as skatedots, and then expanded in future phases. Tim noted that in-house resources could be used to save money. Matt noted that donated labor and materials could be used to save money. Tim noted that designating and constructing a skatedot quickly would be the best way to just get it done and move on to the next skatedot. Ryan noted that Keith Strobel is working with the 35th skate shop to discuss integration of a skatepark at the future John and Summit park. Next steps: Matt to write an email to Tim, Susanne

Friedman, Kevin Stoops and Susan to kick off the effort and get moving. Parks will work internally to make this happen.

Northgate

Tim noted that New Line Skateparks has posted information about the Northgate Park n' Ride designs, and that they range from 6,000 to 12,000 square feet.

SeaSk8

Ryan noted that last Thursday was the second design meeting for the Seattle Center skatepark, and that New Line Skateparks is currently tracking input about it on their web site. Next steps include design commission review. Dan asked for clarification about the nature of the Seattle Design Commission. Susan noted that the Commission generally reviews designs for new construction within the city for aesthetics and other issues. Next steps following this include the final design meeting on June 5th at the Seattle Center Shaw Room from 6:30-8pm. Matt noted that other examples of changes to park designs and park features following completion of the final design meeting have occurred in the past, and that there is an historical tendency for changes to occur without additional stakeholder input. Ryan will continue to track potential design changes following the final design meeting to ensure the skateboarding community understands the truly final design.

Ryan also noted that recent correspondence with Seattle Center regarding SeaSk8 included designation of the space for festival use in 2009 for a maximum of 52 days during the peak summer period (i.e., May to September). This decision has already been made by Director Robert Nellams, but Ryan is continuing to work with constituent festival groups to build consensus around keeping the park open to the public during the festival periods. Dan asked for clarification regarding this. Ryan noted that the space would be completely closed during the festivals, which includes move-in, move-out, and festival days, in addition to litter and vehicles in the space that could impact the skate surfaces. Ryan noted that the loss of use at this space for a maximum 52 days is not acceptable to the skateboarding community and future discussions will be aimed at keeping the skatepark open to the maximum extent possible.

Skate Like A Girl

Nancy explained the scope of Skate Like a Girl and noted that they met today with John Merner from Seattle Center to discuss programming and outreach for the future SeaSk8 skatepark, including opportunities for community-building, eyes on the park, and deterrence of negative behaviors within this public space. Skate Like a Girl is working on proposals for this type of programming, and potential housing for Skate Like a Girl on the Seattle Center campus. Skate Like a Girl is excited about this opportunity. Skate Like a Girl will be holding clinics in Atlanta, Winnepeg, Portland, and elsewhere, and is working to diversify its geography throughout the country and in the Puget Sound region. Additional efforts are underway to support female skaters over the age of 18, and to

delegate clinic work for younger girls to veterans of these type of clinics, with an emphasis on drawing parents and other community members into the fold under the Skate Like a Girl banner. Dan asked for clarification regarding the scope of the Kirkland clinic and other types of clinics throughout the Puget Sound region. Nancy provided details about these day camps, including information about scholarships, times, and parent training clinics. Please see www.skatelikeagirl.com for more information.

Lower Woodland

Tony provided an update on the current state of poaching in this skatepark, which is amazing and unbelievable.

Matt noted that the park will open on June 7th, that the Mayor and Superintendent Tim Gallagher will be attending, and that the SPAC will need to provide a speaker. Matt is working with Snowboard Connection and other local resources to get a variety of professional skateboarders, a DJ, product giveaways, and food for a great opening party and 45-minute skate demo. A promotional poster is currently being designed, and the Parks Department has provided budget for the opening day ceremony. Scott, Ryan and Dan nominated Matt to speak on opening day. Matt accepted.

Nancy noted that a Friends of Group should be established for this skatepark.

Tony asked about the lighting situation at this skatepark. Additional discussion ensued regarding lighting improvements and changes to existing lights using existing poles. Dan noted that a policy of lighting skateparks should be investigated.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the use of vandal-resistant bolts for rules signs, outreach to the police about the no-BMX policy, and outreach to skaters about how to enforce the rules using the policy. Susan to follow up with Kim Baldwin regarding signage.

Matt noted that a post mortem review and audit of this skatepark should be performed. Kim Baldwin will be invited to the July SPAC meeting, along with other interested parties. Susan noted that this skatepark was the reason the SPAC was created in 2004. Dan noted that this skatepark was the “replacement” for the Ballard Bowl.

Dahl Playfield

Scott provided an update on the current status of this skatedot project. There is \$205,000 available to build it, and Kelly Davidson is the Parks project manager. Additional discussion ensued regarding the potential role of a reputable design/build company building the skatedot from the existing conceptual drawing. Craig noted that an intermediate step would be to have a design/build company roll the construction documents into their bid.

Others

Susan noted that the Pro Parks Oversight Committee will be providing recommendations about the Neighborhood Park Development Program, and that opportunities may exist for building skatedots or a skatepark at Myrtle Reservoir. The minimum application amount is \$250,000. Applications are due July 31. Susan to provide application materials to SPAC next week. [NOTE: Since the SPAC meeting the Neighborhood Park Development Project has been put on hold. News about it will be reported at the July 14 SPAC meeting.]

Next Meeting

The next SPAC meeting will occur on Monday, July 14 2008 at 7PM, 100 Dexter Ave.