

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
July 10, 2006

Committee Members Present: John Carr, Chair, Dan Hughes, Matthew Johnston, Ryan Barth, Keith Stobel, Roxanne Thomas, Scott Shinn

Staff: Susan Golub, Susanne Friedman, Chris Reed

Guests: Fleur Larson of Skate like a Girl, Diane Geurts, Jay Seidler

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Public Comments – Pre-Meeting There were none.

PROJECT UPDATES

Skatepark Master Plan Update

Susanne Friedman, Parks Planner, staffing the Citywide Skatepark Plan project, reported that the first round of public meetings has been completed and now Task Force members are doing outreach to community and district councils. The next set of public meetings will be in September. The City Council's Parks Education Libraries and Labor Committee were briefed on the project as was the Board of Park Commissioners. An additional briefing before the Park Board will occur in November.

Staff are beginning to evaluate sites based on the criteria the Committee approved. Environmental review signs will be placed at each potential site, and every sign will show all of the sites and will have dates for all of the public meetings.

Dan Hughes asked what decisions had been made regarding the weighting of the site evaluation criteria. Ms. Friedman responded that the consultants, Arai Jackson, and staff are still working on this – no weighting decisions have been made.

Ballard Open House

Scott Shinn reported that the Open House held on June 24 at the Ballard Skatepark was a big success. Lots of kids showed up to skate and there were information tables for Dahl Skatepark, Marginal Way Skatepark, Skate like a Girl and the Citywide Plan.

Lower Woodland

The Declaration of Non-significance for the project has been appealed by the Lower Woodland Neighbors Association. A hearing before the City's Hearing Examiner is scheduled for September 26. SPAC discussed the cost of delay and requested information as to what the actual cost to the project might be due to the delay.

Seattle Center

John, Scott and Matt went on a tour of the Seattle Center with Councilmember Della and Center staff. A number of potential sites (for replacing the existing Seattle Center skatepark) were identified. Matt expressed a concern that the Seattle Center will shrink the size of the skatepark, or put in several skatedots around the perimeter of their campus. He wants to see a skatepark at the Center that is artistic and colorful, like public art.

Skate like a Girl

Fleur Larson, from the non-profit organization Skate like a Girl, reported that the video, "Getting Nowhere Faster," will be shown at Kincora Pub as a fundraiser for Skate like a Girl. The organization has clinics scheduled for July and August. They are considering whether to find a fiscal sponsor or become a registered charity.

Feature Discussion: Graffiti

Chris Reed, Parks Paint Shop Crew Chief, talked about Parks approach to graffiti removal. His shop is responsible for removing graffiti from all Park facilities: 2 people provide 2,000 hours per person per year. Parks receives about 300 reports of graffiti in the parks per month. He noted that stickers, the same as paint, are graffiti and need to be removed.

Mr. Reed reported that Labor and Industries defines a skatebowl, such as we have at Ballard, as a confined space. Workers are not allowed to enter a confined space without a means of egress, so our crews cannot work in the bowl without a confined space permit. The requirements to get this permit include having 2 extra crew members on hand and a way out of the space. To avoid this problem, Parks generally contracts with an outside business to remove graffiti in confined spaces. SPAC members noted that the Ballard bowl has been hit frequently by graffiti, but that someone has been painting over it with gray paint.

Mr. Reed stated that Parks generally sandblasts to remove graffiti, or removes it with paint thinner; painting over the surface is not done. For a skatepark, where the concrete is sealed and it is important to maintain a smooth surface, pressure washing might be best. Mr. Reed offered to work with SPAC to find the best method for removing graffiti from skateparks and said his crews can be called upon to be sure the park is clean before special events. SPAC offered to research what other cities use and what builders/designers recommend to effectively and safely remove graffiti from skateparks.

Feature Discussion: Skatepark Recipe Book

The Committee reviewed an early draft of the Skatepark Recipe Book. Scott noted that the goal is to provide an umbrella site for all skatepark related information. There will be an introductory page with a welcome from the SPAC and a description of what can be found on the site. Sections include: Advocacy and Organizing, Planning, Fundraising, and Design and Build Consultants.

John noted that it is important to have a simple one page document that makes getting a skatepark built seem simple and doable. Matt concurred, stating that a simple marketing piece, that is not a summary of the site, might be good. Diane Geurts, who writes a blog for the Seattle P-I about skateboarding, offered to help with writing and editing. Her blog can be found at: www.wayoutoffline.com.