

# Park Funding Exploratory Committee

Meeting Summary

September 13, 2011, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## Welcome

City Councilmember and Committee Chair Amy Walen welcomed committee members and discussed the desired outcome of the committee's work.

## Introductions

Committee members and staff introduced themselves and shared the organization each is representing.

## Committee Chartering – Roles & Responsibilities, Expectations

Facilitator John Hoey, Project Manager at Trust for Public Land, outlined his role as facilitator, provided ground rules for meeting conduct and shared the purpose and goal of the committee meetings.

## Overview of Kirkland Parks

Michael Cogle, Interim Deputy Director of Kirkland Parks & Community Services, presented an overview of the Kirkland parks system and a history of Park Bond measures in Kirkland.

## Small Group Discussion

Committee members broke into four small groups and were given this topic to discuss: "If you had the opportunity to make only one change or addition to our community's park and recreation system, what would it be? (could be a project, a program, a facility, etc.)." Following the discussion, each member wrote down their own answer.

## Small Group Report

The answers provided by each committee member were sorted into one of six categories and are listed (verbatim) below:

### Funding

- Sustainable park funding source through stronger use fees.
- Create a metropolitan park district that can do big projects (acquire entire Eastside Rail Corridor from Bellevue to Woodinville, create the indoor recreation center)
- Sustainable funding for restoration of natural areas
- Define and implement a tax-equitable process for Kirkland Parks Dept. to take over management & operations of OO Denny Park, as soon as possible
- Corporate sponsorship
- Park Foundation Endowment Fund

### Indoor Recreation

- Multi-city management authority: Indoor Rec Space
- Year-round aquatics program and pool to replace loss of Juanita Pool
- Indoor Recreation Center

### Maintenance

- Sustainability. Maintain parks whether newly purchased or long-standing
- Perpetual long-term fund. Repair & maintenance for existing facilities

### Parks

- Increase parking for isolated neighborhood (street-side 30 minute parking)
- Continue and expand partnership with school district in field development and community use – expanding “park” spaces
- East of 84th Avenue on Finn Hill: pocket parks, Juanita Heights expansion (purchase of 2-6 parcels)
- Edith Moulton Park Master Plan/redevelopment
- To have a park be the ‘center’ of each neighborhood, a place to gather, play, walk, etc
- Increased park security for high-use areas from play areas to bike trails to areas where people gather. These could be fixed cameras to mobile temp cameras
- A 40-50 year park development plan that interconnects parks & green spaces so that Kirkland is defined as a ‘necklace of parks’

### Trails

- Eastside Corridor purchased and interconnected with parks and business areas and to transit
- Acquire Eastside Rail Corridor (a real asset)
- Develop Eastside Rail into trail space
- Boardwalk and active park system from Carillon Point to Heritage Park, possibly extending further north and south
- Acquire and develop trail corridor
- Rail to trail
- Acquire and develop Eastside Rail Corridor as a multi-purpose park use
- Purchase and develop rail trail
- Burlington Northern Railway acquisition

### Other

- Incorporate arts representation into the Parks Division
- Cannery museum

## **Wrap-up and Closing**

Councilmember Walen thanked the group and summarized what was accomplished.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm in Room 233 of the Health & Sciences Center at Northwest University. Agenda and homework will be provided via email in the next couple of weeks.

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### Committee members present:

Chair Amy Walen, Barbara Ramey, Bonnie McLeod, Chris Norwood, Don Schmitz, Georgine Foster, Jackie Pendergrass, Jay Arnold, Jill Keeney, John Rudolph, Kathy Schuler, Kevin Hanefeld, Laura Caron, Laurene Burton, Lisa McConnell, Loita Hawkinson, Lynn Stokesbary, June Fletcher (for Nona Ganz), Paul Banas, Rick Ostrander, Rick Smith, Robert Kamuda, Sandeep Singhal, Sants Contreras, Scott Morris, Steve Lytle, Suzanne Kagen, Tom Reichert, Val Gurin, Vince Armfield

### Staff present:

Cheryl Harmon, Jason Filan, Jennifer Schroder, John Hoey, Linda Murphy, Michael Cogle