

FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2014

Meeting commenced in the Denny Park meeting rooms at 7:00pm

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Ott, Jenifer Rees, Ann Hunt, Penny Kriese, Doug Bayley, Bob Baines, Eliza Davidson, Kathleen Conner, Richard Piacentini

Also Present:

Cheryl Eastburg (Seattle Parks), Allen Lord (SPU), Andrew Lee (SPU)

Meeting Minutes:

Doug moved to approve February's minutes, Eliza seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Announcements:

Adrienne will be leading a test "yoga in the park" session on March 29th, from 11am to 1pm, at the Arboretum.

Jennifer announced that May's board meeting will start at 6:30 so as to allow NAOP conference attendees some time to report.

Parks Business/ Action Items:

Seward Park – Andrew Lee addressed the board, introducing Allen Lord to present progress on the project and noting that the presentation will be tailored to address comments from our last review. Allen reviewed progress on the project, noting that the team is nearing 60% design completion and preparing for permit submittal. He reviewed three design concepts – a "boardwalk" concept, a "shoreline" concept, and a "pervious" concept – for surface restoration of the area. The "boardwalk" design would be of stamped concrete and would provide a 12'-wide access lane for service vehicles on the waterside of the rebuilt tennis courts. The "shoreline" concept would have roughly the same amount of concrete but in a slightly different, more serpentine layout and utilizing exposed aggregate concrete surfacing. The "pervious" concept would maximize green surface area by carving out lawn areas between the tennis courts and as a median strip within the 12'-wide access lane. Allen noted that planting between the tennis courts is very limited, because soil cover is very shallow (9"-17") and because much of the area is maneuvering space for maintenance vehicles.

In all three concepts:

- the new sidewalk will be extended to meet up with an existing walk across the entrance drive
- new trees will be clustered to provide view opportunities to the water
- utility cabinet location and orientation will remain the same as in previous concept, with access provided via existing grasscrete on the north side. No screened planting is planned for CPTED reasons

The board responded with questions and comments, Doug asking for some low planting -- ~24" height – to partially screen cabinets and soften the view from the parking lot. Jenifer asked about prior recommendation to rotate the cabinet layout and provide service access from the parking lot (rather than from the direction of the entry drive) – Allen responded that, due to the grades in the area, rotating the utility pad and accessing it from the parking lot would be difficult. Ann asked

about having sign interpretation in the area – Kathleen mentioned that a walking tour app of the area will be developed, and Allen added that it will include stories about the lake history. Jennifer asked about saving the Atlas cedar – Allen noted that it's located in the middle of the utility pad area. Doug asked about lighting – Allen responded that the neighbors did not want lighting. There were several comments about the amount of paving between the tennis courts – Jennifer suggested shifting location of the access hatches (and vehicular access) closer to either the north or south tennis court so as to allow for a larger planting area on the opposite side.

In general, the board favored the “shoreline” concept but requested that paving type be explored further, perhaps using unit pavers and/or crushed rock in some areas. Jennifer suggested going further with the undulating edges, extending the curving edge treatment to the walk along the parking lot and meandering the terrace wall, as well. Jennifer requested special care be taken to save any tree they can, and to be careful that the pathway feels like a meandering path rather than a road.

Allen noted that the Friends of Seward Park is interested in having a “natural” play area established in the green south of both tennis courts, and he asked for input on this idea. SPU will come back with design concepts for board feedback.

Allen announced that SPU will be going to the city council for approval of this location, and they anticipate some very vocal, lively opposition to it. He requested the board communicate to the city council and to Jean Godden that we prefer this location. Kathleen asked Allen to let her know when this goes before council, so that she can notify the board.

Kinnear Park Ribbon-cutting – Jennifer announced that groups are being invited to participate with events and/or tables at the ribbon-cutting, and she asked the board whether we want to do a table. Penny mentioned that she's preparing a tree walk on the top of Queen Anne – Jennifer suggested we might do something in conjunction with the Tree Ambassadors. She will find out more and get back to us.

Board Business, Reports and Announcements:

Membership Committee – Doug noted that there's a basic question of how many (current) members we have and who they are – Jennifer mentioned that Faye has been going through the membership database in order to assess new membership. She noted also that we've been transitioning from a mailed newsletter to an emailed version. Ann volunteered to create a Facebook page for us, since we don't have one yet. Jennifer noted that we post meeting agendas and minutes, and she posed the question of whether we want to encourage members to attend board meetings. Richard asked what we want to do with our membership; Bob suggested planning an annual event for them. Penny noted that one thing we already offer is a “voice” for protecting this citywide legacy. Doug suggested that, after putting up a FB page, we dedicate money towards a PR effort. Eliza suggested that we can do a postcard right away. Jennifer volunteered to create a postcard/flyer (1/3 page flyer was suggested, to keep expenses light) and aim to have it ready for the Kinnear event. She'll bring a sample flyer to the April board meeting.

Walking Tours – Ann passed around a matrix with parks listed, asking each board member to indicate for which parks they'd be willing to lead a tour. She queried whether we want to add boulevards to the list and noted also that Sue Nicol has a lot of information on many of these parks. Ann stated she aims to have a tentative list of tours for April's meeting. Eliza suggested we think about adding an after-tour get-together, eating out somewhere nearby, as a way to continue discussion further.

Volunteer Park Trust – Doug mentioned that work parties are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, and that a large work party is planned for April 27th. Future events include a Founders’ party at the museum on May 1st and a picnic sometime in July. The Trust is also looking at grant organizations, including a \$25k grant opportunity to install irrigation from the conservatory to the system’s pump.

Magnolia Park Boulevard Restoration update – Richard announced that the Trust has met with the new Parks crew chief and will meet with other new staff. Richard also recognized the Magnolia Community Club, for their ongoing efforts and support over the past several seasons to revitalize the boulevard. Jennifer noted that we haven’t really tried reaching out to neighborhood community clubs, but that they might be very good partners for some neighborhood projects.

FSOP Archives – Jennifer announced the Seattle Public Library staff is “ecstatic” about receiving our archives, and Faye is working on pulling together files now. The plan is to deposit our records with the library in early summer with the anticipation they’ll be ready for public use by this fall.

Scanning Project update – Jennifer announced that the contract between WSDOT and the State Archives has been signed, and that the Archives will be hiring an indexer to start the filing process. She also announced that she and Ann have developed a working list of search words to help with seeking out information once the records are scanned. And, she noted that the Archives will not be charging for any preparatory work ahead of the scanning.

NAOP – Eliza reminded everyone of the NAOP Conference happening at the end of March, in Palo Alto, CA.

Next Meeting:

The next FSOP meeting is scheduled for April 7th at Denny Park, 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm