



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Julie Bassuk
Chair

Seth Geiser

Laurel Kunkler

Shannon Loew

Tom Nelson

Julie Parrett

Osama Quotah

Ellen Sollod

Debbie Harris

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

November 15, 2012

Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 4:30pm

Projects Reviewed

North Transfer Station
Zoo West Parking
SR 520 I5 to Medina West Approach Bridge

Commissioners Present

Julie Bassuk, Chair
Julie Parrett (excused from 1:00-4:30pm)
Seth Geiser
Debbie Harris (excused from 8:30am-1:30pm)
Laurel Kunkler
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah (excused from 8:30-9:00am)
Ellen Sollod

Commissioners Excused

Tom Nelson

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino



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November 15, 2012 **Project:** **Zoo West Parking**
Phase: Pre-design
Last Reviewed: N/A
Presenters: Monica Lake, Woodland Park Zoo
 Ed Weinstein, Weinstein AU
 Karen Kiest, Karen Kiest Landscape Architects
 Matt Aalfs, Weinstein AU

Attendees: David Schaefer, Woodland Park Zoo

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Disclosure

Commissioner Kunkler's office is working on the zoo's Asian Tropical Forest project.

Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented its plans for the concept design of the Zoo West parking lot. The 180 space parking expansion also includes landscaping improvements and builds upon the zoo's West Entry project that opened a few years ago. To make room for the parking lot expansion, the zoo will relocate the administrative trailers to an area behind the penguin exhibit, fulfilling a move planned in the design of the west entry. The new parking design protects the existing, well-established conifer and cherry trees. The parking lot's pathways will also gather pedestrians from the northwest playfield, which is to the north of the new lot. The zoo's master plan and blue ribbon panel of neighbors and experts recommended enhancing the parking area in the northwest quadrant of the zoo.

ACTION (by Loew)

The Seattle Design Commission approved by a vote of 4 to 3 the early conceptual design of the Zoo West Parking project. The commission supports the intent to keep the trees in the middle of and along the boundary of the new parking area. It has with the following recommendations:

- Further study the pedestrian experience within and to and from the parking lot in more detail from several different perspectives; consider the overall experience of being in the zoo, interpretive features, wayfinding design, desire lines from all modes into western plaza, the use of trees and signature trees, and the duplicity of paths and ways to reduce them.
- Consider views for design and screening, specifically from the parking lot to the zoo, from the zoo to the parking lot, and to and from the trailers in their new location. Study whether the

trailers need to be further separated from each other to meet code and so they function as intended.

- Develop the procession and sequence of the new parking area to not degrade the entrance sequence at the West Entry. It may be a new entry sequence but the design should be commensurate with the existing sequence. Consider removing the parking in front of the West Entry plaza's northern edge to make a more gracious entrance.
- Consider breaking up the volume of the hardscape, using permeable paving and adding more vegetation to improve the project's sustainability.
- Explain how this scheme for more parking fulfills the zoo's needs for parking capacity, and how it relates to a thirst for developing even more capacity.
- Develop a plan and provide more detail on signs and wayfinding.
- Consider adding more bike stalls.
- Expand the scope of the design to improve the North Parking Lot and Inner North Parking Lot and the connections between them and the zoo, even if the plans cannot be realized until a later date.

Commissioners Parrett and Bassuk voted no because fundamental issues in the design need to be addressed before the team can move on to schematic design.

Commissioner Loew voted no because the single greatest way to deter parking is to make it hard to do. It's not the team's mission to satisfy the neighbors. By providing greater parking capacity, the zoo will create same problem of needing more parking in the future.