

To: Lake City Neighborhood Alliance
From: Tim Motzer, Chair, LCNA Parks, Open Space and Community Center Committee
Date: April 19, 2018
Subject: LCNA Parks Committee Report for April 12, 2018 LCNA Meeting

1. **\$30,000 King County Youth Sport Field grant:** A \$30,000 King County Youth Sport Field grant has been approved by King County to be used to establish a soccer field at Virgil Flaim Park, with the funds being available for construction, equipment, and programming associated with the soccer field.

We are currently waiting for Parks to approve this project so that we can proceed with defining scope with the Lake City Soccer Club, RAVE, and key community stakeholders.



Drop-in soccer alive and well at Virgil Flaim!

2. **33rd Ave NE Park Project: Parks Project Manager**—Kelly Gould; **Community Contact**—Cheryl Klinker or Nancy Blaze; **Status:** An update from Kelly Gould indicated that he was experiencing delays in getting building permit approvals and that their bidding was being delayed. Kelly indicated he was hopeful that construction would start before July if not sooner.

Mini Cooper Site: Parks was not successful in securing the property. The new owner, the Stratford Company, is proceeding with constructing a mixed-use boarding house (congregate units), live/work, office and parking project.

3. **NE 130th Street Beach Purchase/Condemnation: Community Contact**—Dave Pope; **Status:** The Appellate Court has ruled in favor of the City but the two plaintiffs Kaseburg/Holmquist have 30 days to appeal to the Supreme Court. The the City has 30 days to respond. Then the Supreme Court has 90 days to decide if they will hear the case. The issue of compensation still needs to determined.

4. **Victory Heights Playground/Play Area Renovation:**

Park Project Manager—Katie Bang; **Community Contact**—Ann Forrest; **Status**—Work on the installation of the new play equipment was completed in mid-February as shown is this picture. The installation of the perimeter path has been delayed due to weather as well as the need to install additional drainage improvements. Completion of the entire project is anticipated either in June or July depending on weather.



5. ADA Improvements to the Lake City Community Center: Park Contact—Redi Karameto, Park Architect; **Community contact**—Tim Motzer; **Status**—The work on the project is complete, which included the following items:

Exterior work:

- Replacing existing ADA parking space on the east side of the CC with two ADA parking spaces located to the North of the CC; and
- Providing new signage, parking symbol, and thermoplastic striping for ADA parking spaces, loading area, and crosswalk path to front door.

Interior work:

- Provide ADA accessible restrooms on east and west side of community center; designate upper level mezzanine space to storage use (no physical changes); and evaluate costs of addition of ADA door actuators to East vestibule doors to facilitate entry for patrons.
- On the east side, convert storage/closet next to men’s restroom to a single-user, ADA restroom with new fixtures and grab bars; relocate men’s restroom door further south to provide independent entries to both men’s restroom and ADA restroom; add new signage for men’s, women’s, ADA restrooms and directional signage to the restrooms; and adjust location of drinking fountain as necessary to provide clearance requirements for signage.
- On the west side, remove foyers to men’s and women’s restrooms to increase restrooms’ interior open spaces; remove one toilet fixture in each restroom to accommodate larger ADA stalls for each restroom; replace existing drinking fountain with new, hi-lo unit to comply with ADA.

A conversation with Redi regarding how much was spent on the project has been delayed since he was on vacation. This question is important since this funding has been tied to the Community Center development, which means that if all the funding for the ADA project (\$500,000) including a study of needed upgrades to the building, did not exceed that amount, those funds can be added to the community center renovation/replacement project.

- 6. Mini Park:** Continued scheduling of music and dance events through the summer by LCFF and Parks to provide activation of the Park.
- 7. Cedar Park the School Yard/Park, and Albert Davis Park:** No change since the September 2017 Park Status Report.
- 8. Little Brook Park:** The bathrooms have been open for the summer season from Memorial Day to late September and closed during the winter. The new Little Brook Youth Corps program has completed their restoration project next to Little Brook Creek and a new project for 2018 is in the planning stages.
- 9. Implementation of the LCNA Strategy to Fund Aging Park Facilities that includes our Lake City Community Center:**
- A number of concerned citizens attended the October City Council Budget Hearings and the November 13th (public hearing) and 20th (comments from the public) Seattle Park District Board of Commissioners meetings. There was little discussion and no action was taken by the Park District Commissioner to adopt our 27.5 cents solution (maintaining the current Park District property tax assessment rate at 27.5 cents through 2020 that would have generated an additional \$33 million for community centers). They adopted their standard set of resolutions to implement their 6-year spending plan amount of \$51,000,331 for their 2018 Park District Budget. Given the large increases in the taxable base of the City for 2018, this action lowered the Park District property tax assessment rate from 27.5 cents to 24.5 cents/\$1000 assessed value.
 - Although our recommended 27.5 cents solution was not adopted, the City Council did approve the Mayor’s recommended \$270,000 funding from added funds to the Park Operations Budget to pay for 2.75 FTE staffing to operate the our Community Center starting January 1, 2018. The City Council also adopted the Mayor’s recommended capital funding from additional REET (real estate excise tax) funds of \$3,000,000 in 2018 and \$2,000,000 in 2019 but with a change initiated by Green Sheet Budget action by the City Council. Mayor Murray in his 2018 budget recommendation had included two slightly different scope descriptions for the funding of our center. On page 25 under the title of “Managing and Preparing for Growth”, the

Mayor's scope statement for Lake City read as follows:" A similar situation has arisen in Lake City. The existing Community Center is no longer sufficient for the needs of this growing neighborhood. In support of the development of a new Lake City facility, the budget includes \$3 million in 2018. Per the plans set out in the proposed 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), an additional \$2 million of City funding is anticipated in 2019. There is the prospect of additional state and private funding. With the City's funding commitment in place, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will begin to work with the community to design an appropriate facility. This first scope description is consistent with the desires and expectations of the Lake City Community. On page 156 under the heading of Budget Overview, the Mayor Murray provided what appears to be a different scope definition for the Lake City Community Center that states "design and construction of new recreation spaces at the Lake City Community Center". The approved Green Sheet by the City Council included the second scope definition, which was included in the adopted 2018 Capital Budget.

- Coincidentally, the 46th District Delegation sent a letter dated November 14, 2016 to the City Council providing a conceptual financing proposal where the State might be willing over several bienniums-to provide up to \$5,000,000 in matching funds if an equal amount was provided by the City for a new Lake City Community Center. The \$5 million recommended by Mayor Murray and approved by the City Council meet that requirement.
- These somewhat conflicting scope statements may have influenced the February 26, 2018 Mayoral Expectation memo to Interim Parks Superintendent Christopher Williams (who replaced former Superintendent Jesús Aguirre who resigned effective January 1, 2018). The second Mayoral Priorities/Major Projects item on page 4 asked that Parks analyze the Lake City Community Center options for the use of the \$5 million budgeted for the Lake City Community Center in consultation with the Mayor's Office, Office of Housing, and working with the City Council. The Lake City community was not included as a working partner.
- A recent phone conversation with Budget Director Ben Noble indicated that the scope wording in the adopted Capital budget did not imply any particular approach to what should be done with the existing center. He indicated that the City needed to look at all the financial resources available to determine what level of reconstruction/new construction could be implemented.
- A recent phone conversation with State Senator Frockt indicated that the \$2 million capital appropriation has passed. That appropriation would help fund the renovation of existing space at the Magnuson Community Center jointly with the replacement of the Lake City Community Center. Senator Frockt also indicated a \$500,000 supplemental capital appropriation for the replacement of the Lake City Community Center had also been approved. He agreed to revisit the November 14, 2016 letter given the City's decision to provide \$5,000,000 of capital funding for the Lake City Community Center.
- A DPR Open House was held on April 4, 2018 to provide an opportunity to meet the staff, talk about the management efforts to date of the Community Center, and briefly discuss efforts related to the approved capital funding of our community center. Karl Fields, NE GEO Manager for Community Centers, moderated. D5 Council Member Debora Juarez and DPR Interim Superintendent Christopher Williams both spoke. CM Juarez complimented the efforts of the Lake City community and LCNA related to getting City action on funding a new, full-service Lake City Community Center on the current site, which she totally supports and will be asking the Mayor for more budget support in the future. Superintendent Williams commented briefly about the efforts to fund the replacement of the Community Center, and though he could not provide any details, he indicated that the Community's needs were heard loud and clear and that our concerns about the scope of the project were being addressed.

People who attended the meeting seemed to be happy with DPR efforts to manage the center that culminated in the first DPR-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt at **Albert Davis Park** (300 people attended and 2 photos were in the *Seattle Times*). Efforts will be continued to try and accommodate all of the former users of the building as best as possible.

Fit for the occasion



ALAN BERBER / THE SEATTLE TIMES
She's all ears as mom Kase Demirkan helps daughter Milena, 4, on Saturday after her bunny look. Faith Avellana, 5, checks it out at the Lake City Community Center after an egg dash in adjacent Albert Davis Park. Seattle Parks and Recreation hosted egg hunts, an Easter tradition, at various locations throughout the city on Saturday.



ALAN BERBER / THE SEATTLE TIMES
Kids and helping parents pursue candy placed throughout Albert Davis Park in Lake City.

ON THE WEB For more photos, go to seattletimes.com/photos

From *Seattle Times*, B-1, April 1, 2018

10. LCNA Parks/Open Space/Community Center Committee (referred to as the Committee): The Committee last met in November 2017 and has not met since that time due to conflicts. Our next meeting will be on April 30th and we are looking for more people from the Community to participate in our discussions. We may try again and look for different meeting date since several original Committee members ended up with conflicts with the 4th Tuesday. Please contact me if interested in serving.