



## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**Mike McGinn**  
Mayor

**Diane Sugimura**  
Director, DPD

**Marshall Foster**  
Planning Director, DPD

**Mary Johnston**  
Chair

**Andrew Barash**

**Julie Bassuk**

**Graham Black**

**Brendan Connolly**

**Lauren Hauk**

**Laurel Kunkler**

**Julie Parrett**

**Norie Sato**

**Donald Vehige**

**Guillermo Romano**  
Executive Director

**Valerie Kinast**  
Coordinator

**Tom Iurino**  
Senior Staff

**May 20, 2010**

Convened 8:30am  
Adjourned 4:30pm

### Projects Reviewed

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement  
History of Seattle City Planning  
Crown Hill Park  
Fire Station 9 Fremont  
South Transfer Station

### Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair  
Andrew Barash  
Brendan Connolly  
Julie Bassuk  
Graham Black  
Lauren Hauk  
Laurel Kunkler  
Julie Parrett  
Norie Sato

### Staff Present

Guillermo Romano  
Valerie Kinast  
Tom Iurino  
Jenny Hampton



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**May 20, 2010**      **Project:**      **Crown Hill Park**  
**Phase:**      Schematic Design  
**Last Reviewed:**      N/A  
**Presenters:**      Kim Baldwin, Parks and Recreation  
                         Pam Alspaugh, Parks and Recreation  
                         Shwu-jen Hwang, Parks and Recreation  
  
**Attendees:**      N/A

**Time:** 1:00pm-2:00pm

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## **ACTION**

The Design Commission thanked the project team for the presentation of the Crown Hill Elementary Park project. The Commission denied approval of the schematic design with a vote of three to five. The project was denied because of flawed integration of the Parks and Recreation portion of the site with the parts of the site under Crown Hill Center control and SDOT jurisdiction. The Commission recognizes that constraints of external forces are the underlying cause of the difficulties in integrating to the other parts of the site and supports trying to work through some of these barriers to create more cohesion at the edges of the project area. The following recommendations were provided:

- Although the Design Commission understands that Parks and Recreation owns only a portion of the site, it is strongly of the opinion that the most successful project will be one in which the entire site is considered. The Commission urges Parks and Recreation, SDOT and the other property owners to think of the site holistically, especially along mutual property lines. It asks Parks and Recreation to consider what is adjacent to the project area, particularly near the former school building, and the fence line and gates and for areas that abut the project area. Make all attempts to avoid redundancy and make a visually and spatially seamless fit. Consider the interaction, materials, and special relationships between the school building and the landscape. Work to make the park appear less truncated by the property line.
- The Commission strongly recommends the development of the right-of-way of 13<sup>th</sup> Ave NW as public access to the park from NW 95<sup>th</sup> St. Although the Commission understands that the Crown Hill Center owns the property adjacent to the right-of-way, and currently uses a portion of it, the right-of-way is public and should be used to create an unobstructed neighborhood connection to the park.
- If a fence must exist between the Crown Hill Center property and the park, the design should be a mutually agreed on design that suits the needs of both the park and the privately controlled areas of the site.
- Give attention to making the north gates both a beginning and a conclusion to the park. Integrate the paths on the south that connect to the playground area as starting or ending points instead of a sudden change of treatment or drastic boundary change.
- Incorporate/integrate art into different areas of the park, do not limit it to only one entrance or just a free standing piece. Consider an art piece that would be dispersed at multiple entrances rather than located at only a single entrance.
- Consider reducing the extent of the treatment of the south east entrance and committing more resources to the other entrances.
- Give attention to how the trees and other plants are used to avoid creating hidden or “dead” spaces.

- **Simplify the path configuration in the park, avoiding redundancy and the creation of small “green islands”.**
- **Consider how the fence along Holman Rd NW can appear permeable to avoid pedestrians feeling like they are being funneled along the roadway as they pass the site.**