



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Julie Bassuk
Chair

Malika Kirkling

Laurel Kunkler

Tom Nelson

Julie Parrett

Osama Quotah

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Debbie Wick-Harris

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

September 15, 2011

Convened 11:00 am
Adjourned 2:00 pm

Projects Reviewed

Westlake Plaza

Commissioners Present

Julie Parrett, Chair
Malika Kirkling
Laurel Kunkler
Tom Nelson
Osama Quotah
Norie Sato
Debbie Wick-Harris

Commissioners Excused

Julie Bassuk
Don Vehige

Incoming Commissioners Present

Mary Fialko

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino



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September 15, 2011	Project:	Westlake Park
	Phase:	Street Vacation
	Last Reviewed:	N/A
	Presenters:	Chip Nevins, Parks and Recreation Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Victoria Schoenburg, Parks and Recreation
	Attendees:	Beverly Barnett, SDOT Marylou Whiteford, Parks and Recreation

Time: 1:15pm – 2:00pm

Disclosures

Commissioner Parrett disclosed she is on the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Sato disclosed she is on the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Presentation

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department presented its request for a street vacation at Westlake Park. The existing park is partially on the street right-of-way, so the proposal is just a change in real property interest. Westlake Ave is already truncated and vacated north of Westlake Mall so there is no impact to the urban fabric. By owning the right-of-way, the department will be able to manage the park better and have greater control over programming and security. The department proposed a public benefit package of: improved programming; improved safety and security; and assurance of permanent open space.

ACTION

The Design Commission thanked Parks for its presentation of its request for a street vacation at Westlake Park. The commission believed that vacating the street right-of-way did not affect the area's urban design. By a vote of 7-0, the commission approved the urban design merit portion of the street vacation.

By a vote of 7-0, the commission recommended SDOT approve the street vacation and the public benefit package which included the existing Westlake Park and opportunities for additional programming, increased safety and enforcement of the park, and an assurance that the street vacated will be permanent park space. The commission made the following conditions:

- **Make a commitment to fund, enhance and broaden the programming of the park. Keep the activities and types of allowed uses as broad in content as possible to make sure it remains a valuable civic, public space.**
- **While giving over the right of way to Parks allows some additional ways to restrict illegal and disruptive behavior, which can be very useful, continue to be very prudent in the use of these enforcement mechanisms. Emphasize the programming of the space and not enforcement to shape the behavior of park visitors.**