

## Parks Committee

LSPNA Parks Committee Update August 2016  
By Jeannie O'Brien, Parks Committee Chair

**PEOPLE, DOGS and PARKS** Parks Superintendent Jesus Aguirre just released a 164 page draft plan for public review. The draft is professionally prepared, and has some awesome photos. You can find **Seattle People Dogs Parks Draft Plan** at: [seattle.gov/parks/projects/offleash](http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/offleash). A public hearing on the plan by the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Thursday, July 28 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Northgate Community Center, 10510 5th Avenue NE. Public testimony will be accepted at the meeting. Written comments will also be considered and should be submitted to [Rachel.Acosta@Seattle.gov](mailto:Rachel.Acosta@Seattle.gov) by August 17, in order that they Board may consider all comments before they meet to consider the plan on September 8. This draft plan was just released so your Parks committee has not had an opportunity to review and summarize. Stay tuned. And if you are interested in working on this review with us, please attend our next Parks Committee meeting (details below).

**ADAMS STREET PARKING LOT** Discussion continues over how to balance the interests of those who hang out at the parking lot with those that are bothered by the noise and illegal activity. Parks will not close the parking lot early or utilize automated bollards, so closing continues to be at the whim of Seward Park's caretaker. The Parks committee has discussed options to activate the park with positive uses, including an off leash dog park, a children's play structure, a roller skating/blading outdoor rink, and food trucks. Council President Bruce Harrell promises us funding in the 2017 budget if we present him a viable plan. This continues to be a work in progress.

**WARSAW STREET END** Tom Wolken with the Friends of Martha Washington Park delivered a presentation to the Parks Committee, explaining their many efforts to maintain the natural habitat currently in place at SDOT's Street End at Warsaw. The LSPNA board agreed that this particular Street End serves the neighborhood better in its current state as natural habitat, and its conversion to a trail with lake access and views conflicts with efforts to maintain urban forests in Seattle. Board President Aaron Evanson wrote a letter to Council President Bruce Harrell, CM Debora Juarez (Parks Chair) and SDOT Director Scott Kubly explaining the board's position supporting Friends of Martha Washington Park. Neighbors are encouraged to show support for maintaining Warsaw's Street End as natural habitat by calling Harrell, Juarez and CM Tim Burgess.

**CROSSWALKS AND SPEED HUMPS ON LWB** LSPNA Board Members Marty Oppenheimer, Sheri Richardson and Jeannie O'Brien attempted to gain approval of a plan to improve pedestrian safety in the neighborhood by presenting to the Southeast District Council on May 25, 2016. Unfortunately, there were many worthy projects and only five of 22 could advance to the next round. Our Land Use / Transportation and Parks Committees have not given up on the plan to add crosswalks and speed humps throughout the neighborhood, and will continue other sources of funding for this much needed work.

**LAKWOOD MOORAGE** A plan created by Jeannie O'Brien, founder of Friends of Lakewood Moorage, was vetted by the Parks Committee and approved by the LSPNA Board, with the ultimate goal of keeping Lakewood Moorage publicly managed and improved with public funds generated by the moorage. This plan has been circulated and has been well received. We expect to learn Parks' final decision in September, when the involvement of Foss Waterways Management in public moorage operations may be less than originally anticipated by Parks.