



## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**Saturday March 8, 2025**

**West Lake Ave Street End**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityoflakewoodwa>

**Telephone via Zoom: 253.215.8782 Participant ID: 920 3804 6123**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Jason Gerwen called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present: Jason Gerwen-Chair, Vito Iacobazzi- Vice Chair, Kate Read, Janet Spingath, Shelly Thiel

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Excused: Alan Billingsley, Anessa McLendon

Staff Present: Mary Dodsworth – Director, Davi de la Cruz- Parks Capital Project Manager

City Council Liaison Present: Ryan Pearson, Jason Whalen-Mayor,

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Welcome + Introduction**

### **Street End Planning Background**

### **Conceptual Review of Westlake Street End**

### **Community Input: Breakout Speed Sessions**

- a. Site Challenges and Concerns
- b. Hopes and Dreams for Waterfront Access
- c. Westlake Site Improvements

## **Summarizing key points / Q & A**

The notes below provide a summary of what was discussed at the meeting to include the input sessions from each breakout table.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. Some came early, some came towards the end but everyone was able to share their issues and concerns and have their questions answered.

### Table 1: Westlake Site Improvements:

This table discussed Access & Connectivity, Public vs Private Space and Boundaries, Community Engagement and Social Interaction, Amenities and Facilities, Environmental and Ecological Considerations, Signage & Regulations, Safety & Design Considerations.

#### 1. Access & Connectivity

- Driveway clearance and access for immediate neighbors
- Survey to delineate ROW
- Sidewalks from nearby roads to access improvements
- Easy/straight/direct access for heavy non-motorized boats (canoes/heavier kayaks)
- ADA Pathway as close as possible to water
- Hand-launch only
- More than 1 parking stall
- Signage that identifies the street end as a public access point into the water

#### 2. Public vs. Private Space & Boundaries

- Fencing or natural/artificial barriers to identify public and
- Fencing or natural/artificial barriers to keep people away from private property
- Natural barriers to reduce noise from users
- Adding a gate to identify when the site is open or closed for access

#### 3. Community Engagement & Social Interaction

- Building community to work together and know each other through site stewardship
- Work with volunteer groups for simple maintenance to extend limited resources
- Join the new Neighborhood Association to address issues and solve problems together

#### 4. Amenities & Facilities

- Need more picnic tables
- Add a garbage can that is collected often
- Restroom to ensure fishers who are around for a long time have somewhere to go (besides lake or bushes)
- In-water or floating dock to get over the water for fishing

#### 5. Environmental & Ecological Considerations

- Tree health assessments
- More bird habitat + support of pollinators
- More native plants and taller trees
- Remove invasive plants

#### 6. Signage & Regulations

- Signage with park hours and rules/expectations
- No Dogs Off leash!

#### 7. Safety & Design Considerations

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- How is safety considered throughout design recommendations?
- 60 feet of street width for right of way
- Lights?
- Consider long term/minimal maintenance in design that can meet safety considerations and perceptions

#### Table 2: Site Challenges and Concerns:

This table discussed: Access and Mobility, Safety and Security, Privacy and Boundaries, Environmental and Aesthetic Considerations, Community Engagement & Stewardship, Amenities and Sanitation, and Cost & Funding Considerations.

#### 1. Access & Mobility

- Don't block driveways, mailboxes or where garbage cans are placed
- Turn-around for mail carriers, postal carriers, garbage trucks, utility providers, and other wide trucks
- Better street maintenance
- Street improvements including sidewalks

- Extent of ADA access? Where should it end?
- How can unintended consequences be designed for this effort? This street end can become an informal pick-up site for boater guests, which may impact parking for local residents.

## 2. Safety & Security

- Lack of police patrols
- Lack of street lighting
- Citywide concern: Crime, litter, noise, safety, theft, drug use, addiction issues, transients and trespassing issues
- Noise ordinance enforcement? How are loud sounds from users mitigated in design?
- Ensure secure at night when visibility is low through a barrier/gate
- Use material at the beach that will mitigate hazards from broken glass (such as sand or gravel)

## 3. Privacy & Boundaries

- Ensure privacy for neighbors
- Maintaining current fencing or establishing new fences to ensure privacy from site and to keep dogs from entering people's yards
- Ensure users can see the difference between public and private areas.
- Protect private docks/structures that belong to neighbors

## 4. Environmental & Aesthetic Considerations

- No underbrush, reduce perimeter vegetation height
- Impacts of design on cost, access, erosion

## 5. Community Engagement & Stewardship

- Ensure good stewardship of public dollars
- Public/private partnership: community monitors, volunteer support, connecting neighborhood associations

## 6. Amenities & Sanitation

- Method of controlling litter (more than 1 garbage can)
- Portable Restrooms (support for and against)
- Identify signage for restrooms that are nearby if none added to this site, for example at Fort Steilacoom Park
- Explore opportunities for seasonal sani-can

## 7. Cost & Funding Considerations

- Cost-effective design so any funds not used for this project can be used at other street end sites

Table 3 - Hopes and Dreams for Future Waterfront Access: This table discussed the future of waterfront access citywide

## 1. Land Use & Access

- Distinguish between public land and private land/residences
- Kayaking + canoeing at every street end
- Identify other parking in the neighborhood and along ROWs
- Parking areas designated with signage to reduce conflicts with residences
- Rent encroached lands, whether public or private
- Docks for fishing in several locations

## 2. Safety & Hazard Mitigation

- Remove vegetation so there are clear sightlines
- Site security/monitoring/visibility to low point of water's edge
- Discourage skateboards from being on site
- Monitoring of site should be critical to design
- Enforcement of park rules and city laws
- Increase police presence on lakes as well

## 3. Accessibility & Inclusivity

- ADA pathways with switchbacks with permeable/gravel material
- Accessible portable toilets / restrooms
- This is the first time I've been able to view Lake Steilacoom except from driving by in a car. It's beautiful. I'm glad I can walk to this site from my home (which is not a waterfront home) and enjoy the view.

## 4. Regulations & Signage

- Regulatory signage with hours, and rules (no smoking)
- Wayfinding and public access signage
- Provide maps of other street-end sites
- Education of other street end sites

## 5. Environmental & Ecological Considerations

- Logs for habitat
- Refer to projects in Seattle for street end ideas

- Stumps can have an impact on boaters, but can prevent erosion, weigh out impacts for stump removal against erosion and habitat impacts
- Track Ordinary High Watermark as well as Low Water Mark during the design process

### **Next steps**

- Website updates and refresh by April 25, 2025
- Hire consultant to develop design, permitting and construction drawings, and construction support by May 2025
- 30% design and cost estimates shared with PRAB, June 24, 2025
- Final Design Review with PRAB September 23, 2025
- Council Study Session – October 20, 2025
- Post bid solicitation/Construction – 2026
- *Note: Lake Steilacoom “in water work” window is from July 16<sup>th</sup> - September 30<sup>th</sup>. This timing window is set by Department of Fish and Wildlife using knowledge of emerging and out-migrating juvenile fish in this water system.*

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Lake Room at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

  
Jason Gerwen, Chair

  
Nikki York, Office Assistant