

Resolution to Replace Parklands Taken from the Arboretum

Whereas, land east of Lake Washington Blvd. East, west of Foster Island Drive and south of SR 520 is currently occupied by the R.H. Thompson ramps (known as “ramps to nowhere”) and the Washington Park Arboretum ramps to SR 520, both of which will be removed; and,

Whereas, this land called “the WSDOT Peninsula” by WSDOT and “WSDOT wedge” by some of the neighbors will soon be surplus to its transportation uses; and,

Whereas, this land was part of the Washington Park Arboretum until it was taken for the construction of the original SR 520 and a proposed R.H. Thompson interchange about 50 years ago; and,

Whereas, the area being taken for the current project had been conveyed by state law to the University of Washington and the City of Seattle exclusively for “Arboretum and botanical garden purposes” and no in-kind for replacement for land taken from the north side of SR 520 has yet been made; and,

Whereas, until it was occupied by the bridge contractors, this land was maintained by the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department as open space, with most of the site’s wetlands being enjoyed by kayakers, canoeists and waterfowl, and its uplands serving as green embankments with a small parking lot; and,

Whereas, this land fits well as a natural area and was, for 50 years, part of the Olmstead Plan for the Arboretum and Lake Washington Blvd; and,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the 46th District Democrats urge the City of Seattle, the University of Washington and the Arboretum Foundation move actively and promptly to acquire the wetlands and uplands described above as a replacement for the Arboretum property taken from the north side of the new SR 520 project; and,

Therefore Be It Finally Resolved, that the 46th District Democrats call upon its legislators, WSDOT, Governor Inslee, Mayor Murray, the City Council, the University of Washington, and the Arboretum Foundation to preserve and restore this land to the stewardship of the Washington Park Arboretum.

_____ *by the 46th District Democrats at their April 17th, 2016 District Caucus*

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