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SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAREN DAUBERT TO STEP DOWN

FOUNDING DIRECTOR WILL DEPART WELL-POSITIONED ORGANIZATION AFTER GRAND OPENING OF LAKE UNION PARK

SEATTLE – Karen Daubert, founding Executive Director of Seattle Parks Foundation, announced that she will step down from her position, effective October 2010. Over the next five months, Karen will transition out of her role, giving the Board of Directors the necessary time to design a smooth change in leadership upon her departure.

Karen started in 2001 as the only staff member of the Foundation. Today she is supported by a highly effective team and new partnerships that are extending Seattle Parks Foundation's reach in the community. Karen's tenure concludes with the Grand Opening of Lake Union Park on September 24 and 25, the first major park project spearheaded by the Foundation.

Karen will leave Seattle Parks Foundation on a strong footing, having cemented its place as a leading local parks and green space organization over the last nine years. Some of Seattle Parks Foundation's milestones during Karen's tenure include:

- Developed Lake Union Park, including planning, design, \$20 million capital campaign, construction, and Grand Opening, launching the organization into the next exciting phase of its history;
- Completed 30 Neighborhood Park Projects, which have all involved passionate partners and fond memories;
- Promoted Bands of Green, the visionary report which led to implementation of the \$2.6 million Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop and now Lake to Bay Loop;
- Played leadership role in the Parks and Green Spaces Levy which is providing \$146 million for parks and continues to leverage more matching funds; and
- Participated in Central Waterfront planning in the hopes this will be considered one of the next major projects of the Seattle Parks Foundation.

"Karen will be incredibly missed and we wish her the best in her next endeavors," said Board President Bruce Blume. "However our mission, 'to improve and expand parks and green spaces throughout Seattle, continues to guide us. Our goals include completing Lake Union Park, working on 2-3 neighborhood park projects a year, implementing the Bands of Green Report, and partnering with others to create a magnificent Central Waterfront. We look forward to a new chapter in Seattle Parks Foundation's growth."

In Karen's own words: "After considering this transition for nearly a year, I'm confident that leaving now will afford the Board the opportunity to find new leadership that will take the organization to a higher level than I can even imagine."

Seattle Parks Foundation will be conducting targeted recruitment to find an outstanding candidate for the role of Executive Director. The selection committee is charged to continue to build upon the foundation that Karen has helped create by finding the right person to succeed her.