

**Minutes for Magnuson Park Advisory Committee**  
**March 9, 2016**  
**Lower Conference Room, Building 30**

**Members Present:** Loren Hill (Chair), Tom Kelly (Vice Chair), Adrienne Karls (Secretary), Lynn Ferguson, Carol Valdrighi, Arden Forrey, Gabrielle Gerhard, Humberto Alvarez, Mary Anne Ward, Ken Sparks, Herb Curl, Chandra Hampson, Tracy Bennett, Scott Marshall

**Absent:** Julianna Ross, Aaron Hoard, Nino Johnson, Pete Zimmermann, Emily Dexter

**Magnuson Park Staff:** Brian Judd

**Guests:** Ed Bronston, Alisa Luber, Peggy Printz, Tom Ansart, Brian White, Jodi Sinclair, Kevin Volkmann

**Call to Order:** Loren Hill calls meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Public Comment:** None

**Radiation Testing Report – Jodi Sinclair:** all health and safety assessments for levels of Radium on Magnuson Park’s grounds show no radiological contaminants. Solid Ground housing, where children live and play in the park, garden areas, and dog park show no other than “normal” levels of radium. There is a full report available on Magnuson Park’s website.

**Gaelic Games in Magnuson Park - Brian White:** The annual Gaelic Games are a time honored Irish tradition for the past 400 years. Magnuson Park will be the host of these games over Labor Day weekend. There will be Gaelic football (which is a cross between soccer and rugby) and Hurling. There will be approximately 2,000 athletes coming to participate in these games. These athletes will be housed in Bellevue and shuttled in for events over the weekend. This will assist in decreasing the amount of traffic and parking issues in the park. The games will run from 9am – 7pm. There will be two playing fields that are free to watch and in the upper field they will be charging a \$10 admission fee. There will be food trucks set up there, and a beer garden located in the old tennis courts.

**Director’s Report – Brian Judd:** MPAC now has its own email; [mpac@seattle.gov](mailto:mpac@seattle.gov).

Jesus Aguirre toured the park for 2 hours recently; visited Building 11, space for Waldorf, Building 9 and the wetlands; it went very well. There have been no car robberies, only 2 cars vandalized/smashed (nothing was taken) near Sail Sand Point. There will be search and rescue helicopter practices on March 30th between Magnuson and Discovery Parks; there will also be a press conference. Please notify surrounding neighborhoods by email and/or word of mouth. There are continuing meetings with NOAA concerning the opening of the road for park traffic to go through. There are some barriers concerning issues with NOAA employees and it will essentially be up to NOAA whether or not the road will be opened for use. There are ongoing communications regarding this.

**School budget, services, road improvements, after school need and bell time changes – Chandra Hampson:** there is work being done for better communications between schools in the neighborhood. The budgets are in process but will not be final for quite some time. The families leaving Sand Point Housing has had a large impact on the school budget due to lower enrollment numbers. The change in bell times for dismissal in the fall is going to present some possible problems for young school age kids and their older siblings who usually look after them after school. Elementary dismissal in the fall will be

at 2:05pm while middle and high schools dismissal will be at 3:15pm; older kids may not be home until around 4pm due to transportation times. This leaves a larger gap where younger kids were able to be cared for by older siblings. This is a serious problem, especially for low income families who rely on the ability for siblings to care of one another. The PTA has applied to DON and DOT to establish safe routes to school via safer crosswalk at Sand Point Way and NE 64<sup>th</sup>, walking school bus.

**Community Center, Bldg. 47 challenge fund letter of support – Carol Valdrighi:** There is a desperate need to create after school care for kids getting out of school before their older siblings. There has been a site visit with University Rotary and an architect has offered pro bono services in designing the 6000 sq. ft. of unfinished space in the community center. There will be an environmental specialist to evaluate the space available. Our request is for a letter of support from MPAC. Loren so moved that we write a letter of support for the community center and Gabrielle seconded. All members vote in agreement. Carol will write the letter.

**Way finding signage in the park – Tom Kelly:** the goal is to improve a portion of signage and way finding in the park which could be done at relatively small expense, but have high benefit with goals which are specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable, and possible to be done in a set time. It's currently confusing or not informative enough for visitors unfamiliar with the park to trying to find things like sports fields, picnic shelters, or walking routes. Suggest additional map signs (such as kiosks) placed around the park in 1-3 areas such as near the swim beach, and the large parking lots off NE 74<sup>th</sup> and NE 65<sup>th</sup>.streets. There are two map sign board style choices; a rustic system wide standard (which fits natural areas well) or a local standard art deco style (which fits historic or developed areas well). A problem with current arrow blade signage is that some arrows are pointing in the wrong direction, use nomenclature which doesn't describe destinations well, and signs omit desirable destination and route information. At least a couple of additional arrow signs would be useful. There is also a need for small "No Bike" symbolic or post style signs at three natural area locations and also for a supplemental sign near building 308 where a fence screens an otherwise good large directional sign from being visible from the parking lot.

During discussion some members suggested a goal should be to remove all of the sandwich boards currently used, especially at the 74<sup>th</sup> St. entry and asked if there's been any thought to making the old gas station into an information hub. Several ideas were for the station were mentioned. Desire for consistency and some improvements in the historic and other developed portions of the park was also expressed. Also suggested was use of an application that park users could download and could provide a map and show where the different areas are in the park for biking and walking. This needs further discussion as to what type of signage, where it will be posted and how.

**Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report; Working group update on priority recommendations - Loren Hill:** the two most important projects are Building 47 (the community center) and Building 31 (boat house). They will provide the most benefit and are high priorities for serving park patrons. The current list can be assessed and items combined or removed to set priorities. There is a large demand from current field users to add a new synthetic field. There would be multiple benefits to the community. Hopefully emerging technologies would be used including LED lighting which would save energy and cut glare and the use of cork as the infill material instead of crushed rubber.

Removing debris on shoreline and land priority; does it include unified path through the park? Will send out priorities as they have changed. Art programs are all ranked as priority. Is there a market study of how many people visit here? No; there has been discussion surrounding Building 20 becoming a grocery type store instead of a restaurant. Selling fresh food, local baked goods and giving mom's with kids a place to eat. Holding a farmer's market has been discussed as well.

**Brian Judd:** Unfortunately Jesus Aguirre will not be at next month's meeting as he will be out of town with his family (it's spring break).

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:37pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Adrienne Karls