

Minutes of Magnuson Park Advisory Committee
September 8, 2015
Lower Conference Room, Building 30

Members Present: Loren Hill (Chair), Ed Bronsdon (Vice Chair), Julianna Ross (Secretary), Pete Zimmerman, Gabrielle Gerhard, Arden Forrey, Aaron Hoard, Peggy Printz, Herb Curl, Adrienne Karls, Maryanne Ward, Ken Sparks, Peggy Printz, Lynn Ferguson, Tracy Bennett, Tom Kelly, Herb Curl, Gabrielle Gerhard

Absent: Nancy Bolin, Parks Commission rep., Solid Ground rep.

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd, Cheryl Fraser

Guests: Superintendent Jesús Aguirre, Carol Valdrighi, Alisa Lubber, Diana Kincaid

Call to Order: Loren calls meeting to order at 6:05pm.

July minutes are approved.

Public Comment: None.

Director's Report: The Parks Department is applying for one-time King County funding for historic preservation projects as administered through 4Culture. It is rare for grants to allow municipalities to apply. They are writing the grant to get funds for the roof, windows and historic plaque for Building 138 and making the maximum request allowed of \$250K.

Two weeks ago, Brian provided a park tour to Vasko Espinoza, the new site manager for NOAA. They spoke about the NOAA road and the conversation seems to be taking a promising turn.

The park has a new admin in the office, Flossie Pennington. She has a background in real estate environments, contracting and office management and is very happy to be in the park.

A tree was accidentally cut down on Solid Ground property. It was a mistake and a penalty fee will be assessed, debris removed and two trees planted in its place.

Magnuson Nature Programs has another successful year. A 2-page report is shared. Brian says the program provides opportunities for children and adults in the community. Ed Bronsdon affirms that it is an "extraordinary" program.

Brian hands out the latest update to the 2012 Strategic Plan, asks us to review and this will be a big topic on our November agenda.

Cheryl Fraser reports that the Oiselle lease is moving forward and that Boyer Medical Clinic will present to City Council in December. They have issued two RFPs for a restaurant in Building 20 (often seen as a part of Building 11 but actually its own building). No qualified responders but once the rest of the building is leased and filled up, no doubt this opportunity will attract more attention from qualified investors and restaurateurs.

In follow up to the Building 2 Charrette, the Parks Dept. is answering the community's call for them to take a leadership role with the building and are working on an RFP for the building to be issued toward the end of the year.

Brian and Cheryl have met with Maryanne and Sail Sand Point about safety issues involving areas where kids are swimming – they are jumping off docks in areas where they shouldn't be because of boat traffic, rocks, etc. Maryanne stresses the problem is not that the kids are swimming, but where they are doing it.

New Superintendent Jesús Aguirre is introduced. He incidentally now lives near Magnuson Park and says he enjoys coming here with his kids and dogs and is coming to appreciate the challenges and opportunities of Magnuson Park and the whole park system.

MPAC Introductions:

Lynn Ferguson: Has lived one block from the park for 40 years and has/does serve on the boards of Friends of Magnuson Park and Friends of Naval Air Station Sand Point. She was the lead on achieving the designation of the Sand Point Historic District. Neighbors have made a big difference in how the park has developed.

Loren Hill: Loren Hill: A field user rep, he moved here 15 years ago and didn't know anyone. It was through his involvement with ultimate Frisbee at Magnuson that he's made many close friends. Ultimate Frisbee Leagues started in Magnuson close to 30 years ago with a weekly Sunday game with that group starting the seeds that now have created multi leagues and brought it to all the Seattle High Schools and Middle Schools. He was a member of the Project Advisory Team associated with phase II of the Wetlands –Sports Fields Master plan development prior to becoming an MPAC member.

Julianna Ross: Involved with Sand Point Arts and Cultural Exchange, which was formed in 1994 to ensure a place for arts and culture in the park. SPACE manages the public gallery, provides arts programming for the community and is starting a low-power FM radio station.

Herb Curl: He is an environmental stewardship rep and cares about anything involving the natural environment. Magnuson is a good place to bird. Audubon Society does bird surveys in almost every park and Magnuson has a record number of birds and habitat.

Ken Sparks: Gives a quick history of the park's significance from its service as a U.S. Navy support base. First flight around the world took off from here. 50K people gathered here to greet Lindbergh's landing in 1924, when it was a rural area.

Tom Kelly: is a Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance (MESA) rep which came out of a neighborhood committee. They engage a lot of volunteers providing about \$100K/year of time, not including the donated materials they also provide. They work all over the park, boundary to boundary.

Tracy Bennett: is Head of School for Waldorf High, which opened a year ago. They have 86 students. They were drawn to the park by its integration of environment, arts, etc. They already have a lot of partnerships on behalf of their students in the park and their students participate in things like Days of Service, volunteering to benefit non-profits in the park with cleaning, repairs, weeding, etc.

Arden Forrey: He is on the board of Friends of Magnuson Park and tries to convey news to his neighborhood. He served at Sand Point as a reservist. He's very appreciative of all the work everyone has done for the park.

Gabrielle Gerhard: is Co-Chair of NEDC and on MPAC she represents four neighborhoods.

Pete Zimmerman: Tonight he is serving as an alternate for the member representing residents of Solid Ground. He's involved in all sorts of groups (NEDC, MPAC, etc.). In the mid-1960s, his family would come to Sand Point for the commissary and often lived nearby. The lofty goals of Magnuson inspire him.

Maryanne Ward: is ED of Sail Sand Point and touts the organizations accomplishments over the summer as they gave a record number of scholarships. They are incorporating STEM and adaptive sailing into their programs.

Ed Bronsdon: ED of Outdoors for All, notes the challenges of running a local/regional park. Says the parks staff is strong here and notes Outdoors for All has already had a chance to meet Jesús and his daughter, who is in a wheelchair.

Carol Valdrighi: is an incoming MPAC member (Jan 2016) and volunteer advocate for the children of Solid Ground and Sand Point Elementary. She reminds everyone there are 250 kids living in the park now and possibly 200 more when Building 9 is redeveloped. She wants to make sure the kids have supportive, healthful and engaging things to do.

Diana Kincaid: now a guest, Diana is former Chair, Parks Board of Commissioners and MPAC member. She advocates for pedestrian safety and transit and wants the superintendent to know how dangerous it is crossing Sand Point Way to walk into the park. SDOT says they have no plans for modifications. She has a long list of improvements which could be made.

Peggy Printz: She is an alternate for Friends of Naval Air Station Sand Point and she commends all the great work people have dreamed up - arts, workable wetlands and the historic district.

Alisa Lubert: works for Mercy Housing and Building 9 is their project. They are honored working with the community.

MPAC Issues, Loren Hill

Loren gives as comprehensive a history of Magnuson as any individual possibly can in 10 minutes time. He explains the various decisions and processes that have both failed and

succeeded in an effort to illustrate how we got where we are today and where we want to go next. He points out that costs of Magnuson to the parks department are over compensated by the quantity and quality of volunteers and public benefits in addition to \$1.7 million in overall revenue brought in annually. This includes field fees, rents from our leases/concession agreements, special event permits, etc.

With the 2012 Strategic Plan, Loren felt optimistic. Now he feels the funding has been sidelined without proper consideration to important and overdue needs. Parks claims these can be met by partnerships, grants, etc., but shows minimal leadership and offers little direction on how this will happen. The park is a neat growing ground for people with ideas, but the historic buildings, the circulation and wayfinding plans, the additional ball fields and more bathrooms - none of it made it into the plan.

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Some roads are owned by SDOT.

Jesús acknowledges this park represents the crux of the department's challenges. How to balance the environment with recreation. 1. They have to be really clear about their mission and 2. Really clear about what isn't. This park highlights that. Parks doesn't have the resources. The MPD helps, but it goes in six-year cycles. City Council and the oversight committee are key.

Circulation is on the list of collaborations with SDOT and the school district?

Tom Kelly mentions implementing the vegetation management plan, providing more environmental education and nature walks especially for disadvantaged youth perhaps in part by including more partner providers, expanding opportunity for youth to gain work experience and earn stipends for natural area work to all seasons from only summer, addressing challenges to institutional memory for stewardship due to staff turnover rate within a park seeming to average 5 year or less, concerns about maintaining wetland maintenance standards after federally required monitoring ends and about continuing to improve them by increasing desirable diversity, and questions if staff is adequately sized for maintaining Magnuson's vegetation in the long run, and concerns about off leash dogs outside of the off leash area.

Loren asks if there are any updates on the 520 mitigation. Brian will look into

Meeting adjourned to applause at 7:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julianna Ross