

Minutes for Magnuson Park Advisory Committee
June 12, 2019
Lower Conference Room, Building 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Lhorna Murray (Vice-Chair), Tom Kelly, Jan Bragg, Aaron Hoard, Dianne Hofbeck, Jon Carver, Humberto Alvarez, Sandy Miller, Megan Castellano, Julian Horan,

Members Absent: Atsuko Tamura, Chauncy Gibbs, Diana Kincaid

Magnuson Parks Staff: Brian Judd, Oliver Bazinet

Guests: Lynn Ferguson, Mitch Cameron, Frank Chopp, Tony Yuchasz, Karen Delucas, Amy Davis, Michelle Messmer, Marissa Chavez, Tom Ansarf

Call to Order: Gabrielle Gerhard called the meeting to order at 6:04pm, followed by introductions.

Approval of May minutes: Gabrielle asked if members had a chance to read the May minutes and if there were any comments or corrections. There were no comments. Tom made a motion to adopt the minutes and Jan seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted with two abstentions (Aaron and Jon).

Public Comment:

- Lynn Ferguson announced:
 - A new exhibit Sand Point history, showcasing Naval Air Station Sand Point and the Seabees. The exhibit is currently on display at the Brigg, but will rotate when Parks begins a remodel of the Brigg.
 - Friends of Sand Point Magnuson Park Historic District are working with Parks on the sign to the park over the main entrance to Magnuson Park.
 - Friends awarded a scholarship to a Roosevelt High School student and park resident, who will begin studying computer science at the University of Washington this fall.
- Gabrielle recognized Mitch Cameron for his exemplary service to MPAC.

Director's report:

- Brian Judd announced:
 - Oiselle signed a lease agreement with Parks to use space in Building 11 for administrative personnel. Building 11 is near capacity as a result. Oiselle is a Seattle-based running apparel store for women.
 - He is working on signs re: keeping dogs on leash in the park, per suggestion from our February 2019 MPAC meeting.
 - The Parks Department staff at Magnuson Park has been in flux. Cole Dietrich (contracts) recently resigned. Flossie (admin) received a promotion and will be the facility coordinator at the King Street location. Brian asked for patience during this transition period and noted that response times will be slower than normal.

Magnuson Housing Planning: Speaker Emeritis Frank Chopp described his vision for additional workforce housing at Magnuson Park. He is leading an effort to develop a small portion of land on the south side of the park (off NE 65th St.) with 16-20 small, affordable "cottages." The cottages are specifically designed for low-wage workforce housing, including staff participating

in various workforce programs. These programs provide staff to assist with environmental, teaching and other important community programs, but there is no place where they can afford to live. The idea is to build attractive cottages that are generally 12 x 24 feet and contain a basic kitchenette, sink, shower and bedroom. Laundry facilities and a full kitchen are part of the master plan as are porches and a central community area. Contact Speaker Emeritus Chopp directly on his cell phone: 206-612-7071 or at frank.chopp@comcast.net with questions or comments.

- The housing is designed by Ross Chapin Architects (<https://rosschapin.com/>). The plan is for 1-2 people to inhabit each cottage.
- Labor to build the cottages will be supplied through an apprenticeship program with the cottages assembled off site.
- A selection process to live in the new cottage community has not been established yet. Some sort of selection process will be established and MPAC members are invited to provide input.
- The average cost per unit to build each cottage is \$100,000, significantly less than the funding provided for the Magnuson Mercy housing project.
- The design team plans to present the site plan and sample cottage design at the July 10 MPAC meeting.
- In response to Tom's suggestion, Frank said they are open to natural landscaping.

Restoration Ecology Network team projects and on-going natural work: Tom Kelly presented information on restoration ecology work in Magnuson Park implementing the Magnuson Vegetation Management Plan. He stated that vegetation contributes to psycho-social well-being and human health and other ecosystem services such as air and water cleansing, temperature moderation, wildlife habitat, storm water flow reduction, and prevention of erosion. He showed the Green Seattle Reference [Map](#) (Link to map added in below), which provides information on vegetation across various zones. Color shading on the map indicates a zone's restoration status based on several metrics, such as the number of regenerating trees and species. Tom provided an update on several sections of the work at Magnuson:

- North Shore area west and north of Sail Sand Point: Much progress has been due to a very dynamic forest steward's efforts adding onto work done in previous decades for shoreline mitigation or by other volunteers and the park crew.
- South end: Contracted maintenance work between February and October 2018 removed invasive plants from Promontory Point area, the 2008-11 Wetland project areas, and some other areas south of the Cross Park and Frog Pond trails. After that, nearly 13,000 plants were installed in portions of those areas via a contract with EarthCorps. Still another contract with EarthCorps will provide establishment care for those plants and do additional maintenance between March and October of this year (2019). All of these contracts were funded and administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation natural area section, which also plays a large role in the Green Seattle Partnership work with forest stewards and Forterra.
- Central area between swim beach parking area and the off-leash area including Kite Hill: Work around the Kite Hill area is intended to link and enhance about 9 acres of partially wooded area into what will be the second largest contiguous forested section of the park. That requires removing dense "old-growth blackberry" with massive roots and other invasive plants and replacing them with native tree, shrub, and ground cover plants. EarthCorps has been contracted to recruit and lead volunteer events in the

wooded cottonwood grove area west of the swim beach parking area and in area between it and the mowed portion of Kite Hill, Other work in the Kite Hill area is being done via all volunteer forest stewards and by partnering with the University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network (UWREN). There have been 10 school year long UWREN projects in this section of the park since 2012. Each UWREN project area is analyzed by a student team comprised of about 6 seniors or graduate students who then plan and implement the project in coordination with a forest steward and the Department. Projects are typically one to two tenths of an acre in size. Tom showed a video compressing a 2018 team's clearing, mulching, and planting work into less than two minutes and also shared project posters from the two 2019 teams' projects located near the north cross park trail. All teams have been very productive, but the team which worked near the west toe of Kite Hill this year was exceptional. It restored 0.38 acres, held 25 volunteer events. The team provided over \$42,000 worth of labor via those events and additional team member time. The sum of both of this year's teams combined added up to over \$60,000 worth of labor (calculated using rates established by the Independent Sector, national coalition of non-profits, foundations and corporate giving plans.)

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- Link to Map referenced above: <https://www.greenseattle.org/information-for/forest-steward-resources/gsp-restoration-map/>

Magnuson Park Projects: Oliver Basinet highlighted several maintenance projects for the park, which are part of the Magnuson Park Master Plan, funded through the Seattle Park District. Several electrical upgrades were completed to the Northshore area. In addition, a circulation plan will begin in 2020 and will attempt to focus on improving vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation. It will also evaluate restroom locations, accessibility, and signage. A number of important projects have been endorsed and may happen in the future, assuming Park District major maintenance funding, including:

- Hanger 2 roof replacement. Seattle Parks is responsible for maintenance of the structure, while the space within can be leased.
- Consistent with the circulation plan, this project would replace the vandalized tower comfort station, or replace it with a new comfort station elsewhere in the park.
- Turf replacement on fields #6 and #7 summer 2020. The plan is to replace the elastic padding and crumb rubber with new cork infill.
- New junior league play area.

PFM Roller Derby Update: Amy Davis provided an overview of the community contributions that PFM Roller Derby has made since January 2018. She stressed that the program has become a part of the Magnuson community through extensive outreach to neighbors and partners. The program is LGBTQ friendly and supports adult and youth skating with investment in equipment and people. Amy asked for MPAC support at the meeting as the group seeks to address concerns raised by Parks about Community Center maintenance. Specifically, Amy asked for a general letter of support regarding PFM's programming and said the letter would be used to make the case that the program should have access to the community center on weekends provide its programming. Following discussion, Lhorna moved that MPAC should write a letter of support for the roller derby program. Jon seconded the motion, which passed with 7 "yay" votes. Gabrielle volunteered to write the letter.

MPAC Letters of Support: MPAC members discussed how to potentially improve the letter of support process. Several points of view were raised, including developing a process to review draft letters prior to the meetings. Some MPAC members were concerned that it's very difficult to say "no" to a well-intentioned group making a pitch for a support letter. However, without all the information, it can be very difficult to fully evaluate the proposition. In addition, others wondered about providing a generic letter that recognizes the programming, but does not explicitly endorse the program. This type of letter would presumably avoid the appearance of MPAC getting involved in business that perhaps it has no role in. Finally, others wanted to wield what little power MPAC does have more effectively, which is to use letters of support to advise the superintendent on issues in the park. No resolution was achieved during the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.