

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)

March 13, 2019

Lower Conference Room, Bldg. 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Mitch Cameron (Secretary), Humberto Alvarez, Megan Castellano, Sandy Bricel Miller, Tom Kelly, Juliann Horan, Dianne Hofbeck
Diana Kincaid, Jon Carver.

Guests: Connor Inslee (Outdoors for All), Lynn Ferguson (FOSP), Carol Valdrighi (MCCAC)

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd

Call to order: Gabrielle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of January and February minutes: Mitch made the motion to accept the minutes from January and February, Diana did second that motion. The motion to pass both months meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Announcements: Diana announced that on Monday April 1st there will be an Open House at the Community Center from 5 to 8 p.m. for the Seattle Parks and Recreation's first Public Outreach for Construction Design Concepts at the Community Center in many years. This Public Outreach will highlight design options for comment. The Community Center Advisory Committee will be working with Seattle Parks and Recreation to do widespread information and flyer mailings, social media and word of mouth.

In addition, the Magnuson Community Center Advisory Committee has sent letters to the Superintendent of Parks Christopher Williams and the Executive Director of ARC about its concerns for the programming at the Community Center for local residents' kids and students that is being monopolized by Rental opportunities. The University Prep School will no longer be using the Community Center, for any of its after-school activities, which is a huge step at reclaiming more Community Center programming time for local kids and residents.

Members of the MCCAC met with the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and several leaders of ARC to discuss the challenges facing Magnuson Park Sand Point Residents and kids. In particular, those who face obstacles and daily challenges to their participation in basic physical and social activities that Parks patrons and our surrounding neighbors currently enjoy. Superintendent Williams was open and accepting to discussing just those subjects. He began by asking for the floor for a few minutes. Superintendent Williams intends to:

- Propose Sensitivity training for his staff, to begin with. His thoughts are to bring in a third-party trainer for this purpose.

- The Superintendent also acknowledged the need for a Budget to be created. So, he gave a nod to moving the discretionary Soda Tax as a source for the Budget and he looked to his staff, present around the table, to create other opportunities to fund the Budget.
- The Superintendent Introduced his new Deputy Justin and urged MCCAC to put our heads together with ARC leadership to continue negotiations and programs for the future.

Mitch added that the design team from Buffalo Design would be showing up at the next MCCAC meeting next Wednesday at 4pm (Bldg. 30) and everyone was invited to take a look at some previews of the concept boards that will be available at the Open House on Monday April 1st from 5 to 8 p.m., more information to come. Gabrielle asked Diana to ensure that the MPAC members were included in her email list so everyone can send it out to their audience.

Tom wanted to announce that if we wanted to 'Make a Mark on the Park' that there were Volunteer opportunities coming up for the next couple of weeks. The Green Seattle Partnership website has more information and provides a sign up for all activities. Great for kids also.

Gabriella wanted to remind us about the 'Debuts and Discoveries' event which would be March 16th a flyer was passed around. The event is sponsored by Sunrise Rotary Club and hosted by Outdoors for All.

Gabrielle also reminded those who signed up for the tour through the Mercy Magnuson Place construction site on Thursday the 14th at 8:30am.

Gabrielle reminded us to share our information with our neighborhoods and neighbors as is appropriate. We can send them a copy of the finalized Meeting Minutes or invite them to view the Minutes on the website.

Gabrielle informed us that she did indeed send the letter that we all contributed to, to the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation Christopher Williams. he has replied as of March 27th thanking us for our contributions and deliberations for the proposed tenant for Building 2, our input would be considered in their final decision.

Director's Update: Brian announced that the building 18 RFP has concluded and Outdoors for All has been invited by the Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent to move forward in the next steps of contract negotiations for the fire station building. Seattle Parks and Recreation and Outdoors for All are excited to move forward together. Connor Inslee said a few words for Outdoors for All.

Brian went on to say that the RFP for the building 47 (Theater) is forthcoming within the next few weeks. The community center side of the building will not be included in the RFP documents, to be clear. The document will be sent to MPAC and park tenants when released.

Brian also had a building 41 Update, Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Tennis Center are moving forward to draft a new lease agreement that will return Building 41 to Seattle Parks and Recreation and update the Tennis Center's public benefit language in the current agreement. Brian and park staff are excited about the idea of building 41 becoming an Interpretive Center operated by Lynn, Diane & Company with the Friends of Sand Point.

Tom asked what was the length of the lease extension duration and Brian answered that it was a five-year lease extension option.

Magnuson Parks' Summer Security Planning, **Officer Nick Boys** is the new community police officer for the Seattle Police Department. He and Brian have been meeting regularly to prepare for the upcoming peak season. Officer Boys will attend the April/May MPAC meeting.

Brian intends to send an update to the Master Plan to the Committee via email for review and Q&A at the April or May meeting, look for it in your inboxes, thank you.

Diana asked if in the middle of all of this leasing & negotiating if there were plans for a cafe` anywhere in the park?

Brian is not sure whether he will be available for the April MPAC meeting, as he has a jury duty summons. Brian also said that for the May MPAC meeting he will bring a fairly robust schedule of events for the summer for all of the committee members.

Brian's final update is to thank Gabrielle for her excellent Leadership of the MPAC committee and her dedication to the park. Gabrielle is volunteering her time in the park this year as chairperson in the hopes that someone else will step up and work with her, with the intent to take over as chairperson in 2019. Brian wanted to put the idea out there for group discussion if another chairperson is not something that is attractive to the committee there might be other ways that we could run the committee, he just wanted to put that out there for all to consider. Gabrielle pointed out that she is on her second three-year term, third-year occurring right now and that she would like sometime this year, or by the end of the year to transition to another chairperson. Dianne asked how many hours a month that Gabrielle spends being a chairperson and Gabrielle responded about 5 hours a month not including meetings.

95th Anniversary of the Fight around the World Update: Dianne started out by giving a summary of how important this piece of property was to the Navy and how important it was even before that. Dianne said that Mr. Boeing was very frustrated with the fact that there were only a couple of places in Seattle where you could land and take off an airplane that wasn't commercial. That was at the Jefferson golf course in West Seattle or in Magnuson Park in the mushy muddy Prairie that the native peoples had created. Dianne showed us a copy of a bond from those days for the Improvement of that area at NAS Sand Point. Please refer to the documents Dianne has already sent out. Dianne points out that NAS Sand Point was the point of departure and landing for the first circumnavigation of the world in an aircraft and these facts of history are not evident or obvious in the park anywhere.

Bob Dempster has built a replica of the plane that actually flew around the world and he has told us that he has his permits and permissions, and has only a couple obstacles left before he is able to undertake this re-creation of the flight around the world. Bob Dempster is planning on leaving on April 6th from Pontiac Bay even though history says that April 7th was the actual date of departure.

Tom asked how and when the Navy took possession of the area we know as Magnuson Park. Lynn replied that in 1927 the Navy took possession of the land, by that time the NAS Sand Point area was a municipal airport.

Building 41 - Interpretive Center Update: Lynn informed us that building 41 used to be a gas station and that they would pump gas from buried tanks up in the North Shore area of the park. It finally became a part of the Tennis Center lease as their clubhouse, in was earmarked for demolition even though it was a contributing historical building. Once the Tennis Center realized that the building was on soil that was polluted and left the building to deteriorate. Lynn calls Building 41, "The building that almost wasn't".

The building was never intended as an Interpretive Center, it's only 1500 square feet, fairly small but will serve our purposes well. The building has one bathroom but the location is perfect. Lynn also explained that this is perfect timing as the Park activities are increasing. Lynn filled the Park Champion position last summer, saying it was well received and appreciated by the public. The Friends of Sand Point has been looking for a location where we can highlight the Military History and the Native American that frequented the land. Lynn thanked Seattle Parks, Brian, Cole, and Cheryl for their part in keeping the vision alive.

Lynn was hoping to get MPAC feedback and has distributed a sketch of the ground floor of the building 41 floor space. If you would like to sketch, draw, write or by any other means to make your thoughts and suggestions known to the Friends of Sand Point, here is your opportunity. Please include your top three choices or suggestions and return your suggestions to Dianne before the next meeting, would be helpful.

The Friends of Sand Point display cases: Diane explained that the Friends of Sand Point has acquired some display cases and Mitch has generously donated time to fixing them up and making them ready. We'd like to at least put one in the Brig and one in the Mercy Magnuson Place Lobby. They are currently located in building 18, shortly the display cases will be moved to building 138. Eventually they will all end up at The Visitor Center/Interpretive Center.

Diana wanted to say thank you to the Friends of Sand Point for their efforts to bring the Interpretive Center and History of the Park area for both the Navy and the indigenous natives as well, to the public.

Sandy made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mitch did second that motion, the motion was carried unanimously in a vote to Adjourn the March MPAC Meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

The next MPAC meeting will be April 10th, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Building 30 Lower Conference Room

Secretary Mitch Cameron