

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

May 10, 2017

Lower Conference Room, Building 30

Members Present: Mitch Cameron, Lynn Ferguson, Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Tom Kelly (Vice Chair), Mary Anne Ward (Secretary), Jon Carver, Jan Bragg, Carol Valdrighi, Aaron Hoard

Members Absent: Scott Marshall, Tracy Bennett, Sandy Miller, Humberto Alvarez

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd

Guests: Geri Morris from Rep. Rob Johnson's office

Speaker: Mike Schwindeller, Capital Projects Manager Seattle Parks Dept.

Call to Order: Gabrielle Gerhard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Approval of April minutes: Tom Kelly moved to approve March and April minutes with a few minor changes to them. Lynn Ferguson seconded; all members present voted in favor.

Gabrielle announced that Mercy Housing will join us for the June meeting to discuss delays they are having with their funding.

Lynn stated that there are coyotes in the Park. They are no danger to people but do protect their young. Tom suggested shouting at them. He also indicated there is a big rabbit population.

Speaker: Brian Judd introduced Mike Schwindeller. Mike is in charge of the current wetlands. There is a plan to maintain the beaver population. The water level control devices were installed ~2 years ago and permitted by WDFW. They have been recently revised by Applied Ecology so that they empty farther downstream.

Green Seattle has come in as a new partner for planting and are adding conifers.

The funding for building wetlands is expiring so Seattle Parks will need to come back later when there is new funding. Parks does not have the capacity to monitor past 10 years. Mike stated that we are in year 8 of the required 10 year monitoring period. Parks does not have the capacity to pick up or assume monitoring after the 10 year required monitoring period. We have never seen a report for the north wetlands. Tom suggested an advisory team to consider future oversight.

Mike has reached out to the monitoring group for institutional knowledge as turnover has been high. Parks is behind in management of vegetation.

Questions were asked about the 520 mitigation plan. The last part of the mitigation funds are not going to Magnuson Park. Lynn noted the shoreline needs to be rebuilt. The money is scheduled to go to the Arboretum.

Discussion on reporting to constituents: Brian and Gabrielle wanted to know how we report on the committees activities to our constituents. There are groups that advocate for the fields and they meet over a beer. Jon would like a more formal line of communication with field use groups. Lynn suggested the Sports Advisory Council as a vehicle for communication.

Lynn reports to a board, Tom gets the word out that the minutes are on the website. Mary Anne reports to her staff and board.

The suggestion was made that we speak at the Parks Commissioners meetings. We could take turns reporting to them. They meet twice a month on Thursday evenings.

Jan Bragg reports back to the Conservation Manager at Seattle Audubon..

Committees: There is a committee about signage and one looking for members for MPAC. The signage committee has met a couple of times. The membership committee has not met yet.

There is no by-law committee.

Development of MPAC focus and priorities: Brian and Gabrielle will review old documents from the 2012 strategic plan and list what remains to be done. Lynn suggested we have both financial and non-financial goals. Tom suggested we have a capital list if we can have an operating and maintenance budget. Jon would like to review the field projects. Mary Anne suggested a review of the emergency plan for the Park in case of an earthquake. Brian will try to talk to us about the emergency plan in July. Please bring a list of priorities to the June meeting. Next year is a critical year for funding as we have a biennial budget period for the city.

Director's Report: Brian commended the signage committee for their work. The radio station open house went well. Younger people came to the open house. They will be creating a podcast of the history of the Park.

Parks has requested interest in a restaurant. There are 3 bids for bldg. 20 and they will be reviewed next week.

The project at Bldg. 11 is going well. Water and electrical repairs and upgrades will be completed later this year and seismic will start the first of the year.

Group Piranha Blonde who used to do the Fremont outdoor cinema will be bringing food trucks into the Park which we hope will grow into a farmer's market and night market. There will be four different vendors in four locations seven days a week year round.

The Building 2 RFP is closed. Parks is creating a draft criteria for anyone interested. Brian has had a lot of interest since the RFP closed. There was criticism that the criteria especially financially was not clear in the RFP. Brian is asking for our input on the draft criteria.

Aaron asked about the differences between the requirements for a non-profit and for profit business. Jan would like the statement marked D be moved to A. The finalizing of the RFP timeline is due soon on Bldg. 18.

Tom motioned to adjourn, all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Submitted by: Mary Anne Ward, Secretary