

# **Magnuson Park Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Notes**

**November 8, 2023**

### **Attendance**

MPAC Members: Mary Bicknell, Jan Bragg (co-chair), Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), Ruth Fruland, Gabrielle Gerhard

Absent: Lhorna Murray, Evan Briggs, Aaron Hoard, Bladimir Recinos, Lara Watson

SPR and Presenters: Joanne Orsucci, Kim LeMay, Ben Burtzos

### **Welcome and Introductions**

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves around the table and share one good thing that has happened in their life since the last meeting.

A quorum of members not yet being present, De Abreu postpones voting on the consent items until later in the meeting.

### **Announcements and Information Sharing**

Gerhard relays concerns from former MPAC member Lynn Ferguson regarding unhoused persons residing in the park, especially concerning one person with a history of lighting small fires near the trees and buildings along Sand Point Way. Ferguson also has concerns about an encampment near the Environmental Education pavilion. Gerhard has encouraged Ferguson to relay concerns to SPD.

Bragg is leading a birdwatching walk for Birds Connect Seattle at Magnuson Park this Friday, 11/10, at 10:00 am. The group will meet at the northeast corner of the E5 parking lot.

Fruland enters prepared comments on behalf of Friends of Magnuson Park:

“Our major update is all of the activities leading up to the big event of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first world flight. We will increase the number of tours and other educational events, culminating over four days – September 26 – 29, divided between the NOAA campus/Magnuson Park location on Saturday, September 28, and the Museum of Flight for the other days.”

Fruland also reiterates Ferguson’s concerns about two unhoused persons and ongoing encampments in the park. Fruland notes that the encampment residents near the Environmental Education pavilion appear to be buying and selling propane canisters.

Gerhard provides operational updates from Sand Point Arts and Cultural Exchange (SPACE):

- 11/18 – Opening of the Small Works show in the SPACE gallery in Building 30; reception from 2:00-5:00 pm
- 12/2 – Open Studio event in Building 30 West (all ages) from 12:00-4:00 pm

Bragg shares updates regarding Solid Ground and Picardo Farm on behalf of Recinos:

- Food is delivered to us on Sundays.
- Ava [Clennon] and her team at Picardo Farm [P-Patch] bring food and spread love to make our community a better place to live and grow. It has helped to bring our residents together, to share recipes, and their knowledge about how to cook the certain items. In order words, it gives residents something to talk about, to share their customs and traditions about food, and to learn more about each other.
- At our Sunday Table: Picardo Farm provides a variety of good nutritional food items for residents to choose from, including fruits and vegetables, and flowers for the mom, and sometimes a special treat for the kids. The produce and flowers are arranged on the tables and the residents can shop and choose what they want.
- Benefits of Partnership: Having the partnership with Picardo Farm is exciting because we are in a food desert, and through the partnership food is delivered to our door; the food is free which saves on the food budget because food is expensive in the grocery store; additionally, many residents don't have cars so that means one less bus ride to the store. And a few residents are more interested in growing food. So, having good food and the partnership with Picardo Farm is a beautiful thing.

### **Magnuson Park Manager's Report**

Joanne Orsucci, OOC Magnuson Park Manager, delivers the report.

[See attached report]

Bragg asks for clarification regarding the chain and overall setup currently used to restrict access to Lake Shore Dr. NE. Currently, SPR is employing a chain strung between two eco blocks as a temporary gate to block vehicle access to this road in the evenings. For various reasons, this solution has been debatably effective. Bragg states that last night the chain was strung across but not taut, i.e., was on the ground/could be easily driven over. Orsucci clarifies that the security company which is present ~midnight is not locking the chain; the chain is locked ~7:30 pm now by SPR staff. She adds that new signage is forthcoming to specify closure time but is not sure if other decisions have been made at the supervisory level re applying for permits for a more permanent gate. When further decisions are made, Orsucci can communicate those to MPAC.

Some questions arise regarding the origin of the soil testing around Buildings 406 and 11 that resulted in remediation. Orsucci is unsure of the process but indicates that this was not an unusual procedure, and the mitigation work was neither substantial nor terribly invasive.

Orsucci opens the floor for discussion regarding encampments:

- The Unified Care Team (UCT) has begun its outreach and relocation process regarding the encampment near the Environmental Education pavilion.
- Bicknell notes that the encampment near the pavilion appears to be buying and selling many propane tanks.
- Several MPAC members and former MPAC members appear to share a great deal of concern regarding the pavilion encampment.
- Bicknell notes additional safety concerns surrounding encampments and notes that she does not feel safe near the Environmental Education pavilion when walking by herself.
- A consensus is reached that multiple and repeated encampment reports through the Find It, Fix It app need to be the next step for all encampments.

- Bicknell proposes that SPR add clear signage declaring/reiterating that cooking fires are not permitted at the Environmental Education pavilion and referencing the relevant SMC.
- Fruland notes that CPTED principles should be observed or strengthened for this area.

## **Magnuson Community Center Report**

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator, delivers the report.

On October 27 and 28, MCC and Broadway Bound Community Theatre (BBCT) successfully collaborated for a community haunted house. The event garnered over 500 attendees and is expected to be even bigger next year. There is still some leftover hay behind the building from the “haunted cornfield” room.

There are several ongoing fall programs, including karate classes, piano lessons, and youth soccer. Signups for winter programs begin on 12/15.

On December 8, MCC will host an open house, including an open gym. At this event there will be information about scholarships and the establishment of an MCC advisory council. De Abreu interjects that the Magnuson CC Advisory Council has historically had one seat on MPAC and that we would welcome a member from there.

Finally, registration for boys’ and girls’ youth basketball is ongoing.

## **MPAC Biennial Priorities – One Year Check-In**

De Abreu walks through progress made and steps still remaining for MPAC priorities established at the beginning of 2023.

[See attached presentation – MPAC Priorities]

De Abreu mentions that she received an email re lighting on 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, that Andy Sheffer was looking into coordinating replacement of non-working bulbs with SCL to be completed this month. Burtzos states that he’s seeing Andy S tomorrow and will ask for an update.

There continues to be some concern about traffic management for large events that do not reach the Citywide Special Events calendar. Orsucci explains that SPR is not qualified to manage traffic but defers to the City to manage large events, i.e, over 500 people. Orsucci and Burtzos suggest that there may be some ability to navigate this situation with more nuance, but SPR Events Scheduling would likely be the office to negotiate these terms with event organizers. Lisa Nielsen, currently on parental leave, will probably be the best contact person for this.

Fruland asks how MPAC and SPR can best facilitate community coordination with residents of Mercy Housing, Solid Ground, and the Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI). Should Friends of Magnuson Park, SPR, or other organizations consider translation services for printed material? If so, what languages would be helpful? De Abreu clarifies that Amharic, Tigrinya, and Spanish are probably the most common languages spoken at Mercy.

De Abreu asks that members consider for the December meeting if we should replace any of our resolved priorities and with what new priorities, still following the 3 pillars of the SPR mission.

## **2024 MPAC Recruitment & Leadership**

Several MPAC member terms are expiring at the end of the year. Bragg and De Abreu remind members to inform MPAC and SPR of their intentions regarding membership, including finding a successor member if needed.

- De Abreu intends to serve another term on MPAC.
- Lhorna Murray has let De Abreu know that she has a replacement for her seat in mind.
- Bicknell intends to step down from MPAC and has a replacement for her seat in mind.

MPAC leadership elections will take place during the December meeting. MPAC chair/co-chair positions are elected to a term of one year; it is traditional, but not mandatory, that one or both leaders remain for a second year to provide continuity.

### **Old & New Business**

Porta-potties: Bragg reads October 12 email from Markeith Blackshire, Parks & Environment Division Director, to Burtzos into the minutes:

“We removed the Sani-cans to reduce cost. At Magnuson park alone the city was spending approximately 20 to \$30,000 a month to provide a service at a park that has brick and mortar locations that are usable for all parks users. At one point there were over 24 Sani-cans located throughout the park.

Consequently, this contributed to the NE District alone paying over (approximately) \$400,000. This year alone the City had spent over \$900,000 in Sani -can services compared to years past where the total spending was \$400,000 or less citywide.

At the request of the gentleman who expressed his concern we replaced the unit. It’s a simple request that needs to be made and we hope all citizens understand that we are a phone call away and will provide the services needed to accommodate their needs.

We will replace the boat launch Sani-can when the season reopens for fishing to serve that user group but in the meantime would hope that they could use one of the facilities in the park.

I hope this helps.”

Gerhard asks about the closing and location of the brick-and-mortar restrooms in Magnuson Park. Orsucci states that security closes the bathrooms at park closing time, i.e., 11:30 pm. Burtzos clarifies that there are restrooms at the swim beach, near the sports meadow, at the Tennis Center, and at Building 11.

Cyclocross: Bragg notes that the recent cyclocross race at Magnuson Park used a different race map than in previous years. In 2023, the map took racers off the paved road into an environmentally critical area; Bragg shows pictures from the event showing racers off-path. Gerhard moves that MPAC authorize Bragg to continue investigating the origin of the approval of the 2023 cyclocross race map, what remediation can be done to repair the environmental damage, and who should be responsible for the remediation. Fruland seconds the motion. De Abreu calls for a vote. The motion passes by a vote of 5-0.

***Adopted: MPAC authorizes Bragg to continue investigating the origin of the approval of the 2023 cyclocross race map, what remediation can be done to repair the environmental damage, and who should be responsible for the remediation.***

A quorum of members now being present, Burtzos suggests that MPAC now consider the consent items. De Abreu notes that tonight's agenda is no longer relevant for formal approval, and that the conduct of the meeting has served as tacit approval.

Fruland moves to approve the 10/11/23 MPAC Meeting Minutes. Bicknell seconds the motion. De Abreu calls for a vote. The motion passes by a vote of 5-0.

***Adopted: MPAC Meeting Minutes 10/11/23***

There being no further business to discuss, De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:36 pm.



## **Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)**

Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) – Joanne Orsucci  
November 8, 2023

Topic	Updates/Notes
<b>MPAC Priority #1: Healthy People</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure and Lighting.</li> <li>• Improve safety and reduce crime.</li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing Building Security Concerns</b> Phoenix Security continues to patrol Magnuson nightly. They are checking the restrooms in the park for negative activity and driving through the park to observe activity.  Phoenix has regularly been turning in incident reports to SPR security if they observe negative activity.  SPR Grounds Crews are locking the gates to Lake Shore Drive nightly at 7:30PM during the winter months.
<b>MPAC Priority #2: Healthy Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address event-related traffic.</li> <li>• Addressing garbage/litter + animal waste in the park.</li> </ul>	Crews recently had a contractor clean up some contaminated soils north of Bldg 406 and north of Bldg 11. The contamination was the result of generators used in those areas. Both generators used above ground tanks, but the soil was found to be polluted with fuel and exhaust, so the soil was removed and replaced with clean fresh soil.
<b>MPAC Priority #3: Strong Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Communication within Magnuson Park + surrounding community.</li> <li>• Inclusive and communicative planning.</li> </ul>	
<b>MPAC Roster and Recruiting</b>	Over the summer, Magnuson Admin. staff have attempted to recruit for the vacant tenant seats. We have not found folks who are interested in filling these seats regularly.  I will be asking the membership to provide an update on the various seat terms coming up for expiration at the end of this year. These seats are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercy Housing resident</li> <li>• Solid Ground resident</li> <li>• MESA</li> <li>• NE Seattle Community Councils</li> </ul> <p>Election of chair positions for 2024</p>

<b>Sail Sand Point Concession Agreement</b>	After 2 years of negotiation, contract development, and moving through the legislative process, SPR and Sail Sand Point signed and executed a new Concession Agreement on August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023. This Agreement improves public benefit deliverables and provides SSP incentives to renovate buildings within the historic district for public access.
<b>Department News</b>	<p>SPR took an inventory of spaces and opportunities and determined that we have 80 pickleball courts in our system.</p> <p>SPR sent 29 employees to NRPA conference this year to learn, collaborate and share best practices among parks and recreation departments nationwide.</p>
<b>Magnuson Park RFP Process Update</b>	SPR issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) process seeking a consultant to propose alternative management options for Magnuson Park's next 25 years. SPR received one proposal and the review team has invited them to an interview the last week of September. Following this interview, the panel will submit a recommendation to the Superintendent on next steps in this process. Panel recommended the firm that submitted the proposal and we're moving forward to contract with the consultant. SPR staff received the approval to move forward today. We'll be contracting with the consultant over the next few weeks and once that happens, they'll begin working on the study to recommend management options for the next phase at Magnuson Park.
<b>PickleBall Update</b>	<p>SPR staff have had several pickleball meetings lately. In evaluating this need, they took inventory and determined that SPR has 80 pickleball courts in our system.</p> <p>Next steps will be to assemble pickle ball advisory committees and hold public meetings. It's estimated that one will occur at MGSN before Thanksgiving.</p>





# MPAC Meeting

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# Agenda

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**6:00 pm Call to Order, Introductions**

Samantha De Abreu, Magnuson Park Advisory Committee, Co-Chair

**6:10 Approval of Consent Items**

October 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes; November 8, 2023, Meeting Agenda

**6:15 Announcements & Information Sharing**

Members of the public must sign up for public comment ahead of time by emailing [mpac@seattle.gov](mailto:mpac@seattle.gov) before 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

- Recinos – Solid Ground/Picardo P-Patch Update

**6:20 Magnuson Park Manager's Report**

Joanne Orsucci, OOC Magnuson Park Manager

**6:30 Magnuson Community Center Report**

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator

**6:40 MPAC Biennial Priorities – One Year Check-In**

**7:05 2024 MPAC Recruitment & Leadership**

**7:15 Old & New Business**

**7:30 Gratitude & Adjourn**

Next meeting: December 13, 2023

Category	Goals	Accomplished	Remaining
Safe and Healthy People	1) Safety infrastructure and Lighting in the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPR crosswalks painted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPR/SDOT/SCL aware of lighting issue, not completed</li> <li>• SDOT crosswalks requested, not yet painted</li> <li>• Traffic calming measures still needed on 74th</li> </ul>
	2) Increase resources to improve safety and reduce crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gate closure on 65<sup>th</sup> street is on SPR radar, in progress</li> <li>• Let SPR know at Park Board meeting of our desire to have the ranger program expanded to Magnuson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for negotiation w/ police union on ranger program when budget is re-visited</li> <li>• Set up meeting of SPD with MPAC with goal of improving communication between SPD and SPR</li> </ul>

Priorities  
Selected  
last  
December

Category	Goals	Accomplished	Remaining
Healthy Environment	1) Event traffic and carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action on gas generators</li> <li>Requested changes to event protocol re: traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protocol for traffic measures and requirements to advertise public transit requested from SPR, need to check in</li> </ul>
	2) Garbage, litter, and animal waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocated for garbage/recycling in additional locations</li> <li>Learned that SPR does not receive GPS coordinates from Find it Fix it app</li> </ul>	

Priorities  
Selected  
last  
December

Category	Goals	Accomplished	Remaining
Strong Communities	1) Improved communication within and around the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website Improvements (Thanks Ben!)</li> <li>• Addition of Kim to MPAC meetings helping w/ community center info</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term solutions for calendar</li> <li>• Long term publicity for stakeholders, events</li> <li>• Calendar management</li> </ul>
	2) Inclusive planning and decision making between SPR and the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased communication between MPAC and SPR Division Staff</li> <li>• MPAC participation in RFP Mgmt. model process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to capture MPAC decisions that SPR agrees to – how do we ensure institutional knowledge passes on if staff change?</li> </ul>

Priorities  
Selected  
last  
December

# Next Steps

- Consider the priorities and come prepared to discuss in December
- Keeping the same SPR categories, what priorities do you want to continue and build upon?
- What ones do you want to replace and with what new priority?



A photograph of a forest in autumn, with trees displaying golden-brown foliage. The scene is misty, and a teal-colored rounded rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing white text.

Thank You!  
See You in December