

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

November 13, 2024

Attendance

MPAC Members: Samanth De Abreu (co-chair), Jan Bragg (co-chair), Bladimir Recinos, Jonathan King, Dave Hudacek, Ruth Fruland

Absent: Nancy Wilder, Virginia Humes, Aaron Hoard

SPR Staff and Presenters: Kim LeMay, Joanne Orsucci, Justin Hellier, Sara Belz, Ben Burtzos

Attendees: 7

Welcome and Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Members introduce themselves and share something that went well this week.

Approval of Consent Items

De Abreu introduces tonight's consent items: the agenda for tonight's meeting, and the meeting minutes from the October 9, 2024, meeting. Both items are approved unanimously.

Adopted: 10/9/24 MPAC Meeting Minutes

Adopted: 11/13/24 MPAC Meeting Agenda

Announcements & Information Sharing

Public comment is offered on the following topics:

- Advocacy regarding the Magnuson Park tennis courts and youth tennis programming
- Opposition to proposed 24-court pickleball development at E5 parking area

De Abreu provides update on SDOT's Safe Routes to School project.

Bragg provides update regarding park gate across NE 65th St.

Fruland notes that Friends of Magnuson Park is replacing damaged flag in front of Building 25.

Magnuson Community Center Report

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

The recent MCC haunted house was very successful, and very scary. MCC and Broadway Bound Children's Theatre had another successful partnership for this event.

Youth basketball programs are actively registering. MCC is currently out of scholarship funds, but more may become available soon.

12/7 – Tot Winter Carnival – Flyer out soon

Magnuson Governance Study – Broadview Planning Update

Sara Belz (BVP) provides brief update.

BVP recently met with Sand Point property owners and conducted an open tabling outreach session at the MCC haunted house. The next steps include updating the draft study report to include this final outreach and coordinate with SPR's steering committee.

The preliminary options presented in the report are as follows:

Options Set #1: Federal Lands to Parks Public Benefit Conveyance (PBC) Retained

- Option A: SPR retains current PBC and governance model and continues to oversee all operations, maintenance, and capital improvement work at Magnuson Park.
- Option B: SPR retains current PBC and governance model with a separate nonprofit organization providing modest fundraising and operating support.

Options Set #2: Federal Lands to Parks PBC Amended

- Option C: Federal Lands to Parks PBC is amended and SPR retains current governance model.
- Option D: Federal Lands to Parks PBC is amended and SPR operates Magnuson Park in partnership with a nonprofit entity.
- Option E: Federal Lands to Parks PBC is amended and a Public Development Authority is created to oversee operational and redevelopment activities at Magnuson Park.

MPAC Priorities and Goals

Justin Hellier, SPR Policy Advisor, leads the discussion.

Hellier provides an overview of SPR's Healthy/Thriving/Strong mission framework and emphasizes the department's equity toolkit and focus.

Question regarding the role of wetlands in the H/T/S framework. What is the balance in the park?

Fruland compares Magnuson to Rainier Beach urban farm – does SPR have interest in an urban farm at Magnuson? Hellier is familiar with the model, but notes that this is not the best discussion to talk about policy specifics. Fruland also notes some concerns about the impact of capitalistic economic development on the park.

Hellier provides overview of SPR and City budget, including high-level summary of capital projects debt service, CommUNITY Fund, and upcoming reduction to major maintenance.

Fruland asks if there is any movement towards converting existing buildings to climate shelters. Hellier clarifies that this effort is being led by the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE).

Bragg asks for clarification regarding the reduction in grounds maintenance. Hellier notes that this is a reduction in budgeted staffing levels but may actually represent an increase in actual staff on the ground relative to 2024 staffing levels.

Hellier leads MPAC members in "Closest & Furthest" exercise relative to proposed vision goals shared by members in advance of tonight's meeting. What goals are closest to being realized, and what is farthest away?

Fruland notes that public safety has been challenging this year.

De Abreu adds that large-scale historic preservation seems to be going well. Ongoing ecological restoration is ongoing but takes a lot of effort and work. Magnuson Park does have a lot of recreation opportunities.

Bragg seconds that recreation and historic and historic preservation are doing fairly well, and that Kim LeMay is doing very well with MCC. Bragg notes the need for more trees and litter control.

Fruland adds that litter issues are connected to issues of homelessness, park maintenance, and restroom facilities. De Abreu notes that Magnuson Park is a “garbage can desert.” King notes that this issue affects environmental restoration as well as the safety and welcoming nature of the park.

Hellier calls for priority suggestions to be submitted to Burtzos and Hellier.

- What is one item that should be an action item for MPAC?

Old & New Business

Bragg announces that Jonathan King has volunteered to chair MPAC meetings in 2025.

King asks for update on member recruitment; brief discussion.

Bragg reminds MPAC members and attendees about pickleball project planning meeting 11/21.

Gratitude & Adjourn

Fruland moves to adjourn the meeting. King seconds the motion.

De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:30 PM.