

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

July 12, 2017

Lower Conference Room, Building 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Mary Anne Ward (Secretary), Humberto Alvarez, Aaron Hoard, Lynn Ferguson, Jon Carver, Sandy Brice-Miller, Mitch Cameron, Tracy Bennett

Members Absent: Scott Marshall, Carol Valdrighi, Jan Bragg, Chandra Hampson

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd

Guests: Lhorna Murray, Ed Bronsdon, Dee Hillis, Mike Stewart, Kevin, Diana Kincaid, Joel Modesto, Heather Niceworger, Shannon Koller

Guest Speaker: Patty Petesch, Emergency Manager, Seattle City Parks

Call to Order: Gabrielle called the meeting to order at 6:10. Introductions were made.

August meeting or not- tradition not to – committee agrees no meeting in August.

Approval of May and June minutes: Everyone had time to review the May and June minutes. Lynn moved to accept as amended. Mitch seconded, past.

Public Comment: Ed spoke: Amazing community at this park. I am delightfully encouraged by the number of kids having fun, laughing and having a great time. There is so much goodness going on in the Park and we need to celebrate that. Told a story of an individual with learning disabilities getting separated from his care giver and all the kind people helped and he was found quickly.

Updates about Solid Ground: With the death of Charleena Lyles there has been a huge impact on the Park. Some people wanted to share information or make comments.

Humberto said it has been a very difficult last month. Everyone is dealing with lots of raw emotions and there is still a lot of healing that has to happen. There has been a great deal of outreach and support.

Lhorna said lots of people were really caught off guard. It was exacerbated by the rallies in the park. It was close to the playground and upset the kids.

Joel realized she is not as involved as she should be. She is looking for a positive outcome from tragedy. Joel would like more residents come to hear our decisions and to voice their opinions.

Gabrielle introduced Mitch to the committee and guests and suggested that they get to know him as he lives in the Park and has a lot of insight.

Dee mentioned the tragic event. No one expected this event. Would like to applaud the park community for their support. The children have the least amount of voice and have a lot of emotion. Dee and Shelly Parish decided to host a day of activities for the kids. They had a great day of fun and

were able to enjoy just being kids. Dee has just hired 2 weekend staff – one a licensed Counselor, to engage with the kids and parents.

Humberto said this event took on a life of its own. Humberto formed a group to help deal with intrusive media, media wranglers. They had 24 hour staff for the 1st week. They tried to protect the residents from the media.

Lynn thanked Dee for putting on more weekend staff. Lynn has felt that is was needed. Humberto asks that Lynn take that need to funders as they have asked and been refused.

Lhorna thinks it is important to think about more staff, programming and security at the Community Center. They have met with Rob Johnson to help find matching funding.

Ed's Rotary Club (Sunrise Rotary) hosted a block party here in the Park. They had 350 people...200 last year. Their members are getting to see the kids grow up because they come every year. Housing is not so transient here.

Diana has been involved at the Community Center and she asks that the community come to one of their meetings. Kevin commented that it is great to have the kids involved in other things in the Park like Sail Sand Point.

Sandy teaches art and wondered if there is art at the community center. Lhorna said they would love that. Sandy will suggest grant money for funding.

Update about the Community Center: Lynn gave Community Center update on Carol's behalf. Update financial – There are 6,000 sq. ft. of unused space within the building. They need to do a feasibility study and are working on that. It should be ready the end of July. The feasibility study was done by the private company. The CC had a \$60,000 grant to pay for it. One million has been given by King County. Won't be allocated until the City approves which they can't do until they have the feasibility study.

They are trying to get 2 million from the state. It has passed in the House but stalled at the Senate. It is the Republics who are holding things up. They are hoping to get money from the City additionally. All of this is for the physical space but there is no funding for staff.

Brian indicated that the staff are park employees but the instructors come from ARC.

Swim lessons have been opened up at View Ridge for a couple of weeks in August to accommodate Park kids.

Guest Speaker: Patty Petesch – Emergency Manager of the Park Dept.

Patty works preparing for smaller emergencies and the Big earthquake. She works in coordination with other divisions of Parks. The Park Dept. is a major land owner in the City. All elevated bridges will collapse in a severe earthquake. How will supplies get to other parts of the city without helicopters? The helicopters are under the supervision of the Fire Dept. They will be used to deliver aid after the first days. The golf courses will be used for cemeteries if there is major death. Community preparedness, mitigation and recovery are all part of her work. Magnuson is a very important piece but we will encourage people out of the park not to gather here. It will have to be housing for military, debris will be stored here, triage will happen on site. This will be a first responder base camp. Magnuson will be a secure area as soon as possible.

Her suggestions are: gather your people, have evacuation plans with more than one option. The city won't be serving people for 7-10 days. They will not have any care immediately.

We can't re-enter our buildings until they are inspected. Shelters are not 1st priority.

Sandy asked if there is a plan for stage one, etc. Patty said that plan is being written and mapping done by the middle of next year.

Patty said they will not talk about what they will use specific spaces for due to security.

If you have children in your program you will need to house children outside. We all need to buy tents.

If you are housed in a building that is still standing you may stay. Meadow Brook is the nearest sheltering site.

Us draft a Northshore emergency plan and share with Patty. If we are housing kids after 2-3 they will work with us to establish a reconnection center.

Patty will send us a template to develop an emergency plan for our business. We need to know who is working, be prepared to have drinking water and feed yourself and kids for 7-10 days. Develop and out of area contact. Radios might work to get to a HUB. Smaller parks will be HUB centers.

If you text as soon as the tower is back in service the texts will go. The Tower will hold the texts until it is restored. This is much more effective than trying to call.

July 29 Big Drill for each of the communication HUBS. Each HUB will run the various scenarios of different emergencies. Where there is an established neighborhood there will be HUB. Closest HUB is at Victory Garden, Lake City in Fred Meyer upper parking lot. Children's Hospital at Center for Spiritual Living will be putting in a HUB. Another consideration maybe in the small park by the Ronald MacDonald House.

Tracy has hired a professional planner for emergencies and is willing to share the templates etc. Tracy said he helped them focus on the right things. Goals for who does what, where to store water and food.

Patty recommend that they take Incident Command course. You can take it through FEMA.

Director's Report: Brian reported there are great things going on in the Park. Brian discussed the Navy's work for remediation. (Near 65th entrance, Northshore). They do not expect to find anything. After they finished the radium clean up based on use of the Park they decided to do this additional work. Results should be out by fall.

Brian mentioned that the food trucks are now in the Park. They are working together to find best locations. Locations are on calendar. They have signed a one year contract as a test. The food trucks will be in the locations for 2 hours.

Where is the best place to get information about what is happening in the Park? There is no one site. There is a Magnuson Park Calendar so we should send Brian information to add.

Brian gave a review of the Mercy House meeting. The construction team was there and they reviewed the schedule. In Sept we can have the construction lead at MPAC. Brian is setting up a meeting with the construction staff and the Park staff.

Lhorna asked: There was a sewage system problem. Do they call Brian? Yes, call Flossie.

Lynn wanted to talk about Park safety. She has two suggestions – one a park ranger- thought that would be great. The police union contract does not allow them here in Magnuson Park.

The real issues are not ranger issues as they are more serious issue than the rangers are equipped to take care of. How can we approach this? Rob Johnson is looking into it.

Lhorna likes the idea also because it isn't a police officer for the kids in housing. It might be a more positive influence here in the park for the kids to look up to.

Who do you think we should send a letter to? Superintendent of Parks

Lynn feels that the time is now as we have a lot of issues. Lynn would like to recommend the ranger program be extended to Magnuson. We can work on the draft that Lynn sent out.

Lynn made a motion that Gabrielle with Lynn write a letter to request the program be expanded to Magnuson Park. All in favor.

Aaron made the motion to adjourn, Mary Anne seconded. We adjourned.