

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

December 13, 2017

Lower Conference Room, Bldg. 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Tom Kelly (Vice-Chair), Jan Bragg, Jon Carver Lynn Ferguson, Chandra Hampson, Aaron Hoard, Carol Valdrighi, Lorna Murray

Members Absent: Mary Ann Ward (Secretary), Humberto Alvarez, Sandy Bricel-Miller, Mitch Cameron, Tracy Bennett

Guests: Mike Stewart - Boyer Children's Center; Gerry Morris - Council Member Johnson's office; Spike Mafford – artist, Diana Kincaid

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd, Carl Fields

Called to order: Meeting came to order at 6:10pm

Approval of October & November minutes: Jon mentioned that a few additional comments from Jan Bragg were outstanding, but they were minor and mostly grammatical corrections. Tom moved to approve the October minutes and Lynn seconded the motion. The October minutes passed with one abstention (Lorna abstained). Carol moved to approve the November minutes and Tom seconded. The November minutes passed with two abstentions (Gabriel and Jan).

Public Comment: Spike commented on park signage. He stated that black and white signage throughout the park would be unifying. The black and white signage is also reflective of the historical nature of the park. He doesn't especially like the multi-colored (red) signage. Lynn said that Erin Doherty, the Landmarks Preservation Board Coordinator, also doesn't like the multi-colored signage. The MPAC signage subcommittee is currently looking at this issue.

Security Incident in the Park: An armed robbery suspect was shot by police after a chase through North Seattle that ended up near the boat launch in the park. Brian mentioned that Parks is looking to replace the gate to the boat launch, which was heavily damaged in the car chase. According to Brian, the Parks department has a new security contractor and the gate had been regularly closed until it was damaged. Security is on site at the park from 7-11pm, after which the gates are closed. MPAC members mentioned hearing gunshots around midnight. Additional information about the incident, including the video of the shooting is online: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/seattle-police-release-video-of-officers-shooting-man-at-magnuson-park/>. Viewer discretion advised.

A new Magnuson "Campus Team" has been established with various MPAC representatives and it is designed to inform and activate park residents and stakeholders during serious incidents. The Campus Team has arranged a meeting with Seattle Police Department to answer questions about park safety for Friday, December 15 @ 2:30pm in the Officer's Club. Since there is an active investigation underway, Seattle Police will not be able to take questions about the specifics of the shooting.

Brian plans to invite Officer Beck to the next MPAC meeting to discuss park security issues.

Gatehouse Signage: Park signage is complicated. Lynn stated that although there was always a sign over the entrance gate to the base, it changed according to base function. Lynn's group ([Friends of Sand Point Magnuson Park Historic District](#)) has worked hard on preserving the physical buildings in the park and a new City of Seattle historic district now protects them. The next phase of the group's work is to figure out how to publicize the buildings.

The Navy numbered buildings based on when they were built and these numbers are historic and must be maintained. Signs were originally black and white. Lynn's group is currently taking an inventory of the internal and external artifacts. The buildings were assessed by the City when the federal historic listing was done. The long term goal is to create a small interpretive center showcasing park history. She stated that some structures and historical property (such as a second guardhouse) exist somewhere in storage.

The original sign over the front gate (gatehouse) entrance to the park never included the words "Sand Point." Sand Point is a place name given by early settlers to the peninsula. The original sign over the gatehouse was taken down and has been lost. A sign should be restored there and MPAC should consider the wording.

The Navy did not like Sand Point, given its existing Naval station at Sandpoint, Idaho, and never referred to its facility as "Sand Point" although locals always did. The navy had 7 names for the property. Those names include: Naval Station Seattle, Naval Station Puget Sound, Naval Air Station Seattle, etc. Currently, the official name of the federal historic district is "Naval Air Station Seattle," while the local landmark district name is "Sand Point Naval Air Station."

Lynn stated that historical signage across the entrance should have art deco letters and preferably be Navy blue and white or the original aluminum cut out letters. She is hoping to put up official Dept. of Interior national listing small bronze building "plaques" to the right of the main entrance to the historic buildings. She would also like to see signage having mitigation value or public benefits, which could be taken into consideration during future lease agreements between Parks and future tenants.

Jan mentioned that there are 5 interpretive signs in the wetlands area of the park, including some with pictures showcasing park history, although the park is currently lacking in signage on dog leash rules.

Members leaving MPAC: Brian thanked the 2 members (MaryAnn Ward and Tracy Bennett) leaving MPAC at the end of December. Both MaryAnn and Tracy represented park tenant seats. Brian was especially appreciative of MaryAnn and Tracy's perspective on north end security issues and their collaborative approach to working with the Parks Department.

Campus Team: The new campus team represents different campus stakeholders. Current members include: Lorna, Chandra, Aaron, Humberto, Alisa Luber (Mercy Housing), Officer Beck (Seattle Police Department), and Carl Fields (Parks Community Development). The key benefit

of the campus team is facilitating communication lines and getting the word out when something happens. The campus team will also look to organize one community event each year. Brian suggested that it would be good for the campus team to have an affiliation with MPAC. MPAC members were supportive of this type of affiliation, and generally agreed to keep the group smaller so as to facilitate rapid responses.

Diane Kincaid asked if it would make sense to include neighbors living outside Magnuson Park?

Chandra discussed the Northeast Seattle Equity and Social Justice Council. This group is looking to support community connections and raise awareness of racial inequity in Northeast Seattle. Chandra has connections to the neighborhoods bordering Magnuson Park through this council and Sand Point Elementary PTA. She stated that one challenge for park residents that go to school at Sand Point Elementary School is the lack of bus route designation in the Park that effectively prevents teachers from walking kids home from school. The school needs crossing guards and has been unable to fill these positions. Lorna agreed that the lack of a bus route designation presents a bureaucratic barrier, which is tough to overcome, and which makes it more difficult to integrate into the community.

Carol stated that her condo membership is interested in volunteering, but mentioned that it can be difficult for schools, community centers and other organizations to figure out how to use volunteers. Making it easier to volunteer may help address some of these issues.

Magnuson Park Community Center Update: Carol met with David Graves (Parks employee) about community center needs, especially in light of the 100s of new residents to the park after Mercy Housing opens.

Lorna asked about the process to use the space that is currently being developed by Mollusk Brewing. Brian confirmed that there have been two public RFP processes. He also mentioned that the lease for the Seattle Musical Theatre at Magnuson Park is expiring in 2018 and Parks will be looking for a new tenant. The theatre may apply to the RFP application. If they are not chosen, the Theatre will need to move its equipment. Brian stated that Parks provided notice to the Theatre 1 year in advance of the lease expiration.

Walking Loops: Two issues were raised around creating walking loops in the park. First, creating a loop around the perimeter of the park would be good. The loop basically exists. Second, signage is needed to provide walkers with directions.

Creating walking loops is something that MPAC has addressed previously according to Tom. He mentioned that Magnuson will never be like Green Lake with the wide open vista created by the Lake. He mentioned that you could have loop segments based on distances and use environmental design to prevent crime. The biggest thing though is getting users on the trails.

Aaron discussed the cost of signage. He suggested that printing maps and placing them in plastic boxes could be more economical than creating signs, which can cost in excess of several thousand dollars per sign.

Brian stated that Parks is implementing a new “Park Champions Program” and Magnuson has been selected to have an on-site volunteer starting this spring. Brian will be providing more information about this program at a future MPAC meeting.

Dianne emphasized that accessibility throughout the park is really important and this continues to be a problem for less able-bodied individuals. She wondered about a work party for artists and community members to create signage. Brian countered that any signage would need to meet historic standards.

Director’s Report:

- Good news: Magnuson Park is set to receive \$8 million for projects identified in the Master Plan. This money is part of the 5-year Strategic Plan for Seattle Parks. Magnuson ranks #30 on the list of parks, which means it is relatively high on the priority list. Brian intends to invite Park planners to the February MPAC meeting to discuss this further.
- Reminder: Brian sent out an email to MPAC members with a link to a survey. Results will be presented in January.
- EarthCorps recently signed a 10-year lease for Hanger 30. Chandra stated that she does not know a lot about EarthCorps and would like to learn more about the organization. Brian agreed to invite Steve Dubiel, Executive Director, to a future meeting to talk about their organization and how they are engaged in the park.
- Parking: Lynn mentioned that parking will be at a premium with new residents. Only 70 parking spots are being created for the 140+ units at Mercy Housing.
- MPAC members for 2018:
 - Welcome to Lornha Murray
 - Gabrielle has agreed to continue as Chair of MPAC for another year.
 - Chandra has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair
 - Tom (currently vice-chair) will continue to serve on the board
 - Chauncy Gibbs of Arena Sports and Porsche Daggett of the YMCA will be joining as new tenant representatives.
 - An orientation for new members will be held and Lynn volunteered to provide a Park history session during the orientation
- Kevin Bergsrud, a long-time Parks employee at Magnuson Park who has been involved in planning activities is relocating to the RDA building downtown, but will continue to be part of the Magnuson team. He will be available by appointment.
- Jan Bragg is officially on the MPAC as a voting member.

Lornha motioned to adjourn the meeting and carol seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm