

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

September 14, 2022

Meeting Notes

Present: Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), Ruth Fruland (co-chair), Mary Bicknell, Jan Bragg, Evan Briggs, Karey Kessler, Lhorna Murray, Bladimir Recinos

Also in attendance: Gabrielle Gerhard, Brian Judd (SPR), Benjamin Burtzos (SPR)

Welcome & Introductions

Samantha calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Lacking a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, the group agrees to postpone voting on the consent items until later.

Samantha leads a round of introductions. Attendees share their stake in MPAC as well as one good thing that has happened in their lives this week.

Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) Update

Josh Castle, LIHI Community Engagement Director, gives presentation.

LIHI manages over 3,000 units of low-income housing in the region, as well as 2 urban rest stops and 17 tiny house villages.

Currently, construction on a community of small cottages is progressing just south of Magnuson Park on the south side of NE 65th Street. The groundbreaking for this site was in April 2022. This community will feature 19 1-bedroom cottages and 3 studio cottages, as well as a large community building and other shared amenities. Pre-apprenticeship students constructed 6 of the cottages; the initial goal was for students to play a larger role in construction, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced plans to change.

Josh provides brief overview of the partners in the project, including architects, contractors, and funding partners.

LIHI community outreach in Sand Point neighborhood began in early 2019, including community meeting in June 2019 and a presentation to MPAC in July 2019. LIHI will manage the property with onsite staff, including case managers, and are aiming for an opening in the first quarter of 2023.

Josh extends ongoing invitation for communication and outreach with MPAC, as well as tours for MPAC and neighborhood members.

Ruth asks about schedule for tours. Josh notes that no tours are scheduled yet.

Jan asks how the renters will be chosen and if people working in the park, such as EarthCorps, will be given priority, as presented to MPAC in July 2019. LIHI is in the process of forming relationships with the Conservation Corps and FareStart.

Samantha asks about the property management organizational structure. LIHI manages its own properties; the Sand Point village will have on-site staff, overseen by a regional manager. The on-site staffing is currently in the hiring process.

Gabrielle asks whether designs for the cottages always included full kitchens. Josh does not recall if the original plans from 2019 included full kitchens.

Jan asks about plans for landscaping and community garden, specifically regarding native plant and habitat inclusion since habitat was lost from the site. She further asks if the planting plan is to be as shown on the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection website. Josh does not have details ready but invites MPAC members to remain in contact with LIHI regarding these concerns.

Ruth asks about plans for cooling the cottages and other buildings. Josh outlines ventilation plans and states with confidence that the community building will be air conditioned.

Mary inquires about the construction cost of the cottages. Josh estimates that each cottage costs roughly \$40k.

Evan asks if Josh has any information regarding resident demographics, especially whether school-age children will be living in the community. Josh doesn't have any specifics yet, but helping families settle into school and community will be part of case manager's project.

Evan outlines her outreach with LIHI regarding cottage furnishings and community gatherings. Lhorna suggests reaching out to Ed Bronsdon (Outdoors for All) to help coordinate a welcome BBQ once the community is open and getting settled.

Action items for Josh Castle to follow up on:

- Shade trees/cooling
- Cost of cottages
- Furnishings plan
- Welcome plan
- Native plants/community garden details
- Potential dates for tours

Josh will send follow-up to Ben Burtzos for distribution.

Discussion of MPAC Operating Principles

Ruth provides overview of goals established by MPAC in previous years and introduces idea of putting these goals into broad categories to provide structure instead of "shotgunning" topics and priorities into discussion *[see attached brainstorming document]*

Jan advocates for "Natural Environment" to be reframed as a standalone category. Ruth prefers keeping categories few in number and broad/inclusive.

Jan asks what MPAC's responsibility or purview is regarding SPR recreation programs. Brian explains that Magnuson Community Center used to have a separate advisory committee with a shared seat on MPAC. Lhorna clarifies that the CC group is no longer active. Brian opines that the reopening of the Community Center could be a good opportunity to reform that partnership or even that group.

Lhorna proposes re-instituting dedicated officers (e.g., president, chair) for MPAC in order to instill accountability in members. Samantha points out that Ben is now contractually serving as permanent note-taker anyway.

Lhorna advocates for “Programming and Inclusion” to be reframed as a broad prioritization topic.

Samantha observes that this discussion will probably require longer conversation than the remaining scheduled meeting time will allow and proposes a special session in October to continue this discussion.

Ruth moves for a vote for a special session on Wednesday, October 12, at 6:00 pm. The motion passes, 5-2. There is discussion about whether members would be better able to attend on a different day. Samantha proposes an amendment to the motion, moving the proposed meeting to Wednesday, October 19, at 6:00 pm. The amended motion passes unanimously.

Adopted: MPAC will hold a special session to discuss priorities and operating principles on Wednesday, October 19, at 6:00 pm.

Bladimir closes discussion of MPAC prioritization by articulating that he views collaboration between Magnuson Park/Sand Point stakeholders as necessary to maintaining the safety and security of the campus.

Old & New Business

With a quorum now present, Samantha asks for a motion to approve the 9/14/22 MPAC Agenda and the 7/13/22 MPAC Meeting Notes. Ruth moves to approve, Mary seconds. There is no discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Adopted: 9/14/22 MPAC Agenda; 7/13/22 MPAC Meeting Notes

Bladimir introduces question about installing signage on Solid Ground property discouraging trash dumping and camping. Solid Ground is seeking MPAC approval before erecting signage in this open space.

Solid Ground owns this parcel of land, so objecting to this signage seems to be outside the jurisdiction of MPAC. General consensus on this point; MPAC does not offer any strong objection. However, several members offer suggestions of other outreach and community-based solutions.

Ruth suggests that addressing some of the underlying conditions that create houselessness might be a good prioritization goal for MPAC to consider at the October session.

Ruth and Samantha agree to remain as co-chairs for the October session.

There being no further business, Samantha adjourns the meeting at 7:33 pm.