

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

March 8, 2023

MPAC Members Present: Samantha De Abreu, Jan Bragg, Bladimir Recinos, Mary Bicknell, Ruth Fruland, Gabrielle Gerhard

SPR Staff: Brian Judd, Kim LeMay, Ben Burtzos

Public: Lynn Ferguson, Diana Kincaid, Neal Simpson, Tom Ansart, Jill Geary

Welcome and Introductions

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

MPAC members, SPR staff, and meeting guests introduce themselves.

De Abreu asks for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes and tonight's meeting agenda. Fruland moves to approve the items; Recinos seconds the motion. There is no discussion. The motion passes by unanimous consent.

Adopted: 2/8/23 MPAC Meeting Minutes; 3/8/23 MPAC Meeting Agenda

Announcements and Public Comment

Ferguson expresses concerns about park safety. Solid Ground Housing has reportedly hired an armed night security guard. Ferguson asks two questions: what was the rationale behind hiring security? And, can MPAC dedicate some time and effort to finding creative solutions for parkwide safety?

Recinos responds to Ferguson on behalf of Solid Ground. Many factors (encampments, post-eviction concerns, unauthorized guests/visitors, residents propping doors open) led to the decision to hire security service. Solid Ground was also surprised to learn that personnel was armed; however, security personnel have been employed onsite intermittently since December with no incident.

De Abreu emphasizes that the lack of communication and shared knowledge among residents and stakeholders is disconcerting. Mercy Magnuson residents, for example, were not aware of the presence of security personnel until very recently. De Abreu also raises question of jurisdictional boundaries; Solid Ground, Mercy, SPR, and SDOT property may all have different regulations regarding security and firearms. De Abreu states that a collaborative approach to solve multi-stakeholder challenges facing the park is needed.

Kincaid concurs that increased communication between community stakeholders is needed.

Fruland emphasizes that park safety is a complex problem with a complex solution. The process will take time to resolve.

De Abreu shares that the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (BPRC) will be discussing the proposed expansion of the Park Ranger program tomorrow, 3/9/23, and advocates for individual

members of MPAC to attend and offer public comment in support of expanding the program to include Magnuson Park.

De Abreu shares comment from neighbor Rudi Schmidt concerning possibility of volunteers cleaning the façade of Building 138 (the gatehouse building). The group discusses viability of volunteer organizing for this type of park maintenance. Judd advises that building cleaning is on a maintenance schedule and is protected work for maintenance crews. The group agrees to move on for now while Brian looks into getting it cleaned up.

Magnuson Park Manager Report

Brian Judd, Magnuson Park Manager, delivers the report [see attached “Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023”]

Bragg asks about next steps for conditional letter of award to Hangar2 organization if March 31 fundraising deadline is not met. Judd clarifies that the letter can be renewed, but that decision will ultimately be up to Superintendent AP Diaz.

De Abreu asks how MPAC can best support and/or influence the prioritization of SPR funding for capital projects at Magnuson Park. Judd suggests not waiting until budget season, and stresses that engagement with the BPRC and formal correspondence with the Superintendent’s Office are likely the most powerful tools available to MPAC.

Ferguson asks about the development of a master plan for Magnuson Park and offers proposals for inclusion regarding not installing new sports fields in place of the ephemeral wetlands because of the impact habitat loss has on frog species. She cautions that the wading pool and tower building are historic structures. Judd notes that the 2004 Magnuson Park Master Plan was, unusually for this sort of document, signed into city ordinance; any updates or alterations will need to be legislated, but this is not an insurmountable barrier.

Bragg asks if any mandate is enforced for groups to advertise public transit options when hosting large events at Magnuson Park, and who would be in charge of such a policy for SPR. De Abreu adds that it would be great if such an information/advertising requirement were included in special event permit agreements. Judd points out that SPR cannot force organizations to include transit options in their advertising but agrees that increased public transit is in line with SPR’s sustainability goals. Judd will ask Lisa Nielsen from the Athletics Scheduling office to present at a future meeting to respond to Bragg’s other queries and related topics.

Bragg asks for a status update on Andy Sheffer’s proposal to move park gate on 65th closer to the north end of the E2 parking lot (the boat launch), along Lake Shore Dr NE. There is no update to share yet.

Updates on Lighting Progress and Crosswalks

De Abreu provides update on her outreach with Seattle City Light (SCL) regarding the lighting along 62nd Ave NE. There are currently 21 globe and acorn lights out along this stretch of road. De Abreu has learned that some lights are owned by the various landowners, but many are owned by SCL. After her initial Find It/Fix It request was closed with no explanation, De Abreu filed an official complaint with the Customer Service Bureau. Currently, coordination between SCL and Department of Neighborhoods (DON) is progressing.

- De Abreu is working with Kevin Gorman (SCL) and Erin Doherty (DON)

Bragg provides brief update on her advocacy for crosswalk restriping and installation at Magnuson Park.

- SPR owns the crosswalk at NE 74th St and Sportsfield Dr NE; SDOT owns NE 74th Ave farther west (near 62nd Ave NE)
- The Magnuson Park Circulation Plan calls for a crosswalk closer to Building 29, but barriers on NE 74th St now impede this area. The group recommends Bragg continue to advocate for a crosswalk at 62nd Ave NE
- Bragg will proceed with letters on behalf of MPAC to SPR (recommending repainting existing crosswalks) and to SDOT.

Bragg asks about potential crosswalks on Sportsfield Dr NE on the east side of Building 47. Judd advises that this location has some ADA concerns (i.e., that past attempts were abandoned because the street has no adjacent sidewalks).

Ferland requests a printed copy of the Magnuson Park Circulation Plan. Burtzos will make those available.

Meeting Wrap-Up

De Abreu requests that Burtzos look into posting monthly manager reports on MPAC website, along with other Magnuson Park reports and supporting documents.

LeMay shares that the Magnuson Community Center will move back into Building 47 on April 5, with a full slate of activities scheduled for spring and summer. Plans are in motion for a grand reopening event. LeMay offers to coordinate a tour of the renovated spaces for MPAC.

Bragg asks who is responsible for updating the reader board on the south side of the Community Center; LeMay states that it is the responsibility of the Community Center staff, and that it will be updated soon.


De Abreu asks for an update on the fallen owl nesting box near Building 47. SPR's Natural Resource Unit is aware of the issue and will hopefully restore the nesting box soon.

The next meeting will be on April 12.

Ferland moves to adjourn; Gerhard seconds. There is no opposition. De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

This report contains updates on the prioritized items in the 2012 Strategic Plan and additional items of interest to the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee.

Item	Status
2012 Strategic Plan Priorities	
<p data-bbox="110 449 347 478">Buildings 2 and 12</p> 	<p data-bbox="894 489 1344 789">Building 2: Via a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, SPR issued a conditional letter of award to a group named Hangar2. Hangar2 would like to convert Building 2 into a lacrosse and archery center. This letter expires on March 31, 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="894 1068 1354 1369">Building 12: This building is located on the same parcel as Building 2 and was included in the RFP process. The Hangar2 group was not interested in including it in its plans. This building is vacant; SPR has funded a roof replacement to help stabilize the building.</p>
<p data-bbox="110 1528 509 1558">Building 18 (Former Firehouse)</p>	<p data-bbox="894 1528 1349 1866">SPR issued an RFP for this building in 2018. There was an interested organization to developed plans and move close to implementation prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This group has since backed away from its plans and SPR is open for new opportunities. This building remains vacant.</p>

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023



Building 11



Building 11 is well activated with only a few vacant premises remaining. Current tenants include Seattle Waldorf High School, Cascade Bicycle Club, Magnuson Café and Brewery, and Sail Sand Point.

Additional Information Requested by MPAC



Building 31 (Boathouse and Dock)



A recent conditions assessment showed that the Building 31 boathouse is in poor condition, and some of the pilings attached to the pier are not in solid shape.

Access to the boathouse has been restricted. The pier will remain accessible to pedestrians, but vehicle access will be restricted. SPR is currently coordinating the placement of eco-blocks in front of the pier and has been working with Sail Sand Point on this issue.

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

	<p>SPR has included potential restoration projects for both structures in its 6-year Park District funding plan. Brian provided the list of proposed projects to MPAC in his December 2022 report.</p>
<p>Building 41 (Gas station)</p> 	<p>Building 41 remains vacant. Friends of Magnuson Park designed and installed lovely murals to enhance its aesthetic quality to much praise and appreciation.</p>
<p>Building 47 (Community Center and Theater)</p> 	<p>The community center improvement project is set to conclude in Spring 2023 and should reopen in the same quarter. This improvement will expand programmable space in this facility.</p> <p>Broadway Bound Children’s Theater entered into a Concession Agreement with SPR for the theater side of the building. There are major building improvements planned by this group over the next 5 years.</p>
<p>Building 138 (Gatehouse)</p>	<p>A roof replacement project is scheduled for 2023. Several tenants continue to operate out of this building, including the SPACE radio station and The Goodtimes Project.</p> <p>Several spaces in the south portion of the building remain vacant.</p>

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023



Building 406



Building 406 remains activated with SPR programs and several tenants, including the YMCA, Outdoors for All Foundation. A building improvement project concluded in 2020 yielding enhanced climate control and utilities efficiencies.

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

Land	
Restoration of park shoreline-erosion control, debris removal and addition of gravel in priority areas south of boat ramp and north of swim beach.	SPR is monitoring gravel levels as part of its beach and aquatic habitat restoration program.
Preserve and Enhance Natural Areas by continuing to implement the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), and maintain and preserve open space, especially, in the north park area and south of the boat ramp parking.	The NE Crew continues to align work to satisfy the goals of the VMP, engaging volunteers, MESA, and habitat committee in planning.
Develop additional sports fields as defined in the Wetlands/Sports Fields Master Plan (2 soccer, 1 little league, 1 baseball).	Dependent upon future funding and priorities. Need funding for plan, design, and implementation.
Additional Information Requested by MPAC	
Make safety improvements to shoreline immediately surrounding boat ramp	No current project planned. Added to the major maintenance list.

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

Infrastructure	
Modernize the historic campus electrical system by connecting all buildings to Seattle City Light system, and, where needed, increase electrical capacity to support future development.	Accomplished. \$1.2 million project completed in 2014 with additional upgrade work in 2018.
Improve traffic circulation and safety by opening the NOAA access road to provide a north entrance and constructing improvements that provide coordinated access into the park and increase pedestrian and bicycle safety.	In December 2020, Brian Judd provided MPAC with a list of projects slated for Magnuson Park over the next 6 years. On this list is a project named Magnuson Circulation Improvements that encompasses some of these topics. This project is pending scheduling and prioritization.
Construct a primary trail loop (similar to Green Lake) and provide landscape features, comfort stations and commercial concessions where people can rest and enjoy the park setting.	See above. This is included in the Magnuson Circulation Improvements proposed project.
Install signage, such as way-finding and directional signage, to make getting around the park easier. Also, install historic interpretive signs to educate the public about the historic significance of the park.	See above. This is included in the Magnuson Circulation Improvements proposed project.
Construct additional comfort stations (public restrooms) at athletic fields, near the off-leash dog park and children’s playground.	In December 2020, Brian Judd provided MPAC with a list of projects slated for Magnuson Park over the next 6 years. There are two projects that touch on this: Magnuson Junior League Play Area and Tower Comfort Station Relocation and Magnuson Park Sports Meadow Comfort Station Renovation .
Address safety issues on north-south road (Avenue A) linking NE 74 th Street and the North Shore Recreation Area, in particular the areas adjacent to The Mountaineers Headquarters.	This is included in the Magnuson Circulation Improvements proposed project.
Additional Information Requested by MPAC	
Explore construction of Burke-Gilman Spur connection and safe crossing of Sand Point Way. Additional safety measures needed along this connection.	No current plans in place for this. This would also require SDOT participation.

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Report (Highlighted Updates. Please refer to full report for more details)	
2023 Highlighted Accomplishments	<p>SPR staff at Magnuson Park are regularly reporting graffiti as it is noticed in the park.</p> <p>The NE Crew conducts regular landscaping in key areas to maintain sightlines.</p> <p>Community Center parking lots remain on 24 hours a day in response to community requests.</p> <p>SPR staff have invited key partners, park visitors, and neighboring property owners to use the City’s “Find It, Fix It” smartphone app to report non-emergency problems they come across.</p> <p>Encampments are addressed as quickly as possible within citywide priorities and resources.</p> <p>Outdoor basketball court has been repaired and revitalized.</p> <p>SPR staff coordinated a meeting between Magnuson Park business tenants and Seattle Police to discuss safety and security concerns, and how tenants can work well with SPD.</p> <p>Several of the items in this report align with the Magnuson Circulation Project listed for potential funding within the next 6 years.</p>

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

Green Status Report (Environmental Stewardship Topics of interest to MPAC)	
Reduction of gas-powered fleet (NE Crew)	Pending response from NE Crew.
Solar Panel Installation in Magnuson buildings	Building 406 has solar panels. In 2022, the solar production was 34.6 MWH, enough to power 204 average homes for 1 year.
Funding of LED conversions in Magnuson buildings	Approximately 50 fixtures were converted to LED in 2022. These use 1/3 of the electricity of previous models. Most of these replacements were in the community center.
Baseline Data on Magnuson electric crew equipment	Pending response from NE Crew.
Utility Consumption	Report pending from Sustainable Operations Team.
Gasoline Consumption by vehicle	This data is not readily available.
Carbon offset measuring for tenants	This data is not readily available.
Training on reducing engine idling for NE Crew	Pending response from NE Crew.

Magnuson Park Strategic Development Plan Progress Report 2023

2023 MPAC Priorities (Relevant Highlights and Information) What is noted in this section are SPR's current approaches to each of these areas. MPAC members may notice gaps that they may contribute to resolving and/or advocating for.	
Healthy People	<p><u>Infrastructure and Lighting</u> Please see items reporting above in the CPTED report and items regarding circulation. City Light and SDOT are also involved in several of these concerns based on the location in question.</p> <p><u>Improve Safety and Reduce Crime</u> Please refer to the CPTED report-out in this document.</p>
Thriving Environment	<p><u>Event Traffic Impacts</u> SPR encourages event holders to ask their participants to use public transit to get to Magnuson Park.</p> <p><u>Addressing Garbage/Litter in Park</u> The NE Crew regularly addresses garbage and debris as it can within capacity. I encourage MPAC and other engaged stakeholders to potentially view further litter remediation via volunteerism.</p>
Vibrant Communities	<p><u>Improve Communication within Magnuson Park and Community</u> I look forward to discussing and planning with MPAC on how we can improve and partner in this area.</p> <p><u>Inclusive Engagement and Planning</u> SPR's commitment is to be inclusive in engagement and planning, and there is always room for improvements. I look forward to discussing and planning with MPAC on how we improve and partner in this area.</p>

ATTACHMENT B: CURRENT & UPCOMING POTENTIAL MAGNUSON PARK PROJECTS (December 2022)

Projects in Planning / Design / Construction: These are all active projects in various development stages funded by Park District, REET, and/or other funding. Many have yet to go out to bid and may require some funding adjustments.

Magnuson Community Center Improvements

This project makes improvements to the lobby and south wing of Magnuson Building 47 (theater and community center) and site to add more programming space to the community center and ensure accessible parking and route. The project is in construction and is anticipated to be complete in the first quarter of 2023.

Magnuson Building 2 Roof

This project will replace the currently failing roof over the north hanger of Building 2 and make repairs to the roof over the south hanger to preserve the building and prepare it for improvements by a future tenant. If budget allows, the project will also make some seismic safety improvements (parapet bracing) for the building. The project is in design, expected to go to bid in Spring 2023 in conjunction with the Building 138 roof project, and be completed by fall 2023.

Magnuson Building 138 Roof

This project will replace the currently failing roof of Building 138 (Gatehouse), preserving the building for future anticipated improvements. The project is in design, expected to go to bid in Spring 2023 in conjunction with the Building 2 roof project and be completed by fall 2023.

Magnuson Junior League Play Area and Tower Comfort Station Relocation

This project will renovate the Magnuson Junior League Play Area, replacing the equipment and making it compliant with current accessibility and safety standards. The project will also develop a site plan for the vicinity, including a new restroom building and future spray feature to replace the current problematic wading pool at the beach. The new restroom will serve as a relocated replacement of the Tower Comfort Station, which will be demolished and replaced with a picnic shelter. This project is in planning and is expected to be completed in 2025.

Mickey Merriam Field 5 Synthetic Turf Replacement

The synthetic turf field at Field 5 was installed in 2009 and has reached the end of its serviceable life. This project will replace the field "carpet" and repair any damage to the drainage system. The newly installed synthetic turf system will adhere to current SPR standards with a shock absorption pad and cork infill material. This field will have higher impact attenuation values than typical to support competition rugby.

Mickey Merriam Field 8 Synthetic Turf Replacement

The synthetic turf field infield at Field 8 was installed in 2009 and has reached the end of its serviceable life. This project will replace the field "carpet," and repair any damage to the drainage system. The newly installed synthetic turf system will comport to current SPR standards with a shock absorption pad and cork infill material.

Magnuson Building 12 Stabilization

This project will replace the failing roof at building 12 (steam plant) and if budget allows, provide additional stabilization measures that may include asbestos abatement, window coverings, structural improvements, and access ladders to slow deterioration of the building, make it less prone to vandalism and make it safer to maintain until a tenant is found that can renovate the building to make it occupiable. This project is in design and is anticipated to be completed in 2023.

Magnuson Parking Accessibility Improvements

This improves the beachside Magnuson Park parking lots and accessible routes along the east edge of the park to make them compliant with current accessibility standards. Designs have been developed for the E-1, E-2, E-3, and E-4 Parking lots. Construction will begin on the E-4 lot (the northernmost, serving the bathhouse and swim area) in Q1 2023 with the other lots to receive funding in subsequent years.

Other Planned Projects for 6-year Cycle (some may extend past 2028): These projects are included in the Park District 6-year funding cycle and may potentially require other types of funding.

Magnuson Pier Restoration

This project would include repairs to the north end pier at Magnuson Park to ensure safe access by the public. SPR is currently in the process of discussing the results of a recent evaluation with a structural engineer and looking into potential interim actions.

Magnuson Building 31 Restoration

Through this project, SPR would contribute to cost sharing for Sail Sand Point to restore the boat house, storage area, and small classroom space that they use for their operations. A feasibility study conducted with a Major Projects Challenge fund grant estimated a cost of \$9-11m for such a project in 2019 and Sail Sand Point is looking into alternatives.

Magnuson Circulation Improvements

In 2021, Seattle Parks and Recreation conducted a circulation study of Magnuson Park that identified several desired improvements focused on pedestrian and bicycle circulation within the park, including the development of a barrier-free loop trail within the park. Magnuson major maintenance funding within the Park District cycle 2 financial plan will be put toward a number of these improvements, and where possible combined with other projects in the immediate vicinity. Potential options for this packaging include Magnuson Park Site Accessibility Improvements, Magnuson Parking Lot Accessibility Improvements and the Magnuson Junior League Play Area and Comfort Station Renovation projects.

Magnuson Park Accessibility Improvements (Site and Buildings)

Magnuson Park has over 1,000 documented barriers in the city's barrier removal schedule pertaining to walkways, parking, restrooms, and buildings. As part of the Park District cycle 2 financial plan, SPR has committed to ameliorating several of them, including further construction of the Magnuson Parking Accessibility Improvements project, in conjunction with the Magnuson Circulation Improvements and potential building and comfort station renovation projects.

Magnuson Park Sports Meadow Comfort Station Renovation

The sports meadow comfort station was identified as a high priority for comfort station and shelter house renovation program because of condition assessments and planning work conducted in 2016-2018. The renovation will bring the comfort station to current SPR accessibility and maintenance standards by replacing structural and envelope elements, partitions, fixtures, and finishes as needed.

Magnuson Building 138 Seismic and Decarbonization

Magnuson Building 138 (Gatehouse) is one of the known occupied multistory unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings in SPR's inventory. Its boiler is also nearing the end of its useful life. If budget and timing allow, the building will be renovated to current seismic standards and the existing gas-fired heating system will be replaced with an electric heat pump system. If the boiler shows signs of failure before such a project occurs, it may be necessary to replace it with a salvaged boiler from another facility in the interim.