

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

April 12, 2023

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

SPR Staff and Presenters: Brian Judd, Oliver Bazinet, Ann Forrest, Ben Burtzos

Welcome and Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves and the organizations they each represent.

De Abreu asks for approval by acclamation of the March 8, 2023, MPAC meeting minutes. There is no opposition.

Adopted: March 8, 2023, MPAC Meeting Minutes

Gerhard and Hoard each move to approve tonight's meeting agenda. Fruland seconds the motion. There is no discussion. The vote is unanimous in favor.

Adopted: April 12, 2023, MPAC Meeting Agenda

Announcements and Public Comment

Fruland distributes an information sheet for Friends of Magnuson Park annual scholarship award. FOMP is requesting assistance from MPAC in spreading the word about the scholarship program, and distribution of information to members' networks. Next year (2024), FOMP plans to award two scholarships: one for a high school graduate pursuing post-secondary education, and another for a student pursuing vocational school or training. De Abreu offers to distribute within Mercy Magnuson; Gerhard asks if Recinos can distribute to relevant residents of Solid Ground.

De Abreu provides brief update on Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners meeting from March 9. At that meeting, SPR Superintendent AP Diaz provided an update on the proposed expansion of the Park Ranger program. At present, Rangers will only be assigned to downtown corridor parks, but there is a possibility that the program could expand geographically in the future. De Abreu adds that if the Rangers program is successful, there is a potential that MPAC could advocate for it at Magnuson Park.

Gerhard shares that Sand Point Arts & Cultural Exchange (SPACE) is hosting an artist reception event with L. Kelly Lyles, the current featured gallery artist, from 2:00-5:00 pm on Saturday, April 22. Other upcoming events at SPACE include the 3rd annual Plein Air Festival in May and June, and the first of two annual Open Studio events in Building 30 on June 17. For more details, please visit www.spaceatmagnuson.org/

De Abreu and Bicknell joined Magnuson Community Center Coordinator Kim LeMay for a tour of the renovations in Building 47. Both report that the renovated space is looking great!

Presentation on Circulation Plan and Signage

Oliver Bazinet, SPR Senior Planner, delivers the presentation.

Magnuson Park has several projects that are currently in various stages of development:

Building 2 Roof: This project will replace the currently failing roof over the north hangar of Building 2 and make repairs to the roof over the south hangar to preserve the building and prepare it for improvements by a future tenant. If the 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.

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, if funding permits, a 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 this summer: 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 comport 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. The plan is to replace the synthetic turf at Field 8 in 2024; with that, all the crumb rubber fields will have been replaced.

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 which would 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.

The 2020-2021 Magnuson Park Circulation Plan outlined three basic goals:

1. Improve the safety of the transportation system;
2. Improve accessibility and remove barriers for all modes of transportation; and

3. Make it easier to navigate to and through the park and historic district.

Some of the proposed improvements, such as improvements to the NE 74th Street (Main Gate) Corridor and new North Shore access at NOAA Drive NE, will require interdepartmental or intergovernmental cooperation. Other improvements, including a barrier-free loop trail, a multi-use trail along Sportsfield Drive NE, and pedestrian access improvements to the North Shore, are entirely on SPR property.

Funding in the 2023-2028 Metropolitan Park District Cycle has been designated for future capital projects at Magnuson Park:

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. This is a project which **has** to be done.

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 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 shelterhouse 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. This is planned for 2027-2028.

Magnuson Building 138 Renovation: There are several drivers pushing us toward a large-scale renovation of Magnuson Building 138 (Gatehouse). It is one of the known occupied multistory buildings with unreinforced masonry (URM) in SPR's inventory. Its boiler is also nearing the end of its useful life, and it has a number of identified accessibility barriers on the barrier removal schedule. Right now we are looking at this for later in the current park district cycle.

De Abreu asks Bazinet about the status of funding for these projects and others that may arise during the current cycle. Bazinet explains that parts of the loop would be improved as projects are completed along the loop. For example, improvement of the loop near the playground area would be made during the playground project; any time we upgrade parking lot accessibility, improvements made will be consistent with the loop plan.

Bazinet outlines the current project and bid status, and explains that SPR's ability to complete future projects will largely depend on cost escalation. Judd notes that the funding for these projects is coming

from the Metropolitan Park District, not the General Fund; Magnuson is receiving more investment than any park property (with the possible exception of Discovery Park/Ft. Lawton).

De Abreu asks how MPAC can maximize the impact of its advocacy for specific priorities in budget conversations. Bazinet and Judd explain that direct advocacy with SPR leadership early in the budget year, i.e., now, paired with ongoing dialogue with SPR management and planning staff, will be the most effective path forward. The annual budget is presented to the City Council in September.

Hoard asks how signage and wayfinding improvements will be implemented in the planned projects. Bazinet clarifies that signage additions and replacements will be tied to ongoing CIPs, rather than as a standalone project. Implementation of signage will be directed by the 2020-2021 Circulation Plan. Signs will not all be done at once.

De Abreu thanks Bazinet for the presentation and asks him to return when we have more questions; he is always welcome.

Presentation on Emergency Hubs

Ann Forrest, volunteer coordinator in Seattle's Office of Emergency Management, delivers the presentation.

The basic concept of an emergency hub is a place for neighbors to gather after a natural disaster (i.e., earthquake) or another catastrophe to help each other. Currently, there are 71 such hubs in Seattle. Most are located in open spaces to minimize the potential of falling debris; Magnuson's hub is located behind the Magnuson Community Center (Building 47).

Hubs have containers of emergency supplies to help organize neighbors and connect them with mutual aid. These supply containers do not contain food or water; the main focus is organization.

Goals of Emergency Hubs

- Gather and Share Information
- Match needs with resources
- Systematize volunteer and other human resources
- Provide education on safety and emergency procedures

Magnuson Park currently needs one dedicated hub captain or two co-captains. Ideally, this person(s) would reside in or near the Sand Point peninsula, as proximity to the hub in case of earthquake or other disaster would be of paramount importance.

Anyone interested in volunteering to be Magnuson Emergency Hub Captain or Co-captain should contact Ann Forrest at NorthSeattleHubs@gmail.com.

Magnuson Park Manager's Report

Brian Judd delivers the report.

MPAC Roster and Recruiting Update

The following alterations to the MPAC membership slate have been approved by Assistant Superintendent/Chief of Staff Christopher Williams:

- Change membership from 16 to 12 seats.
- Consolidate some seats.
- Eliminate three seats (BPRC, Magnuson CC Advisory Council, and Athletics Advisory Council)

Building 11 Masonry Repair: SPR is conducting a repair of the masonry along a section of Building 11. The work should be completed this week.



Building 31 and Pier Eco-block placement: In response to a conditions assessment of the Building 31 boathouse and the pier, a set of eco-blocks have been placed in the front of the pier to keep vehicles from driving onto it. Pedestrians can still access the pier.

Sail Sand Point Concession Agreement: SPR and Sail Sand Point have reached agreement on a Concession Agreement. This contract is being prepared for legislation and I am hoping it will be signed and executed by the end of this summer.

Oiselle Running, Inc.: Oiselle has been a tenant in Building 11 since 2016. Another business recently acquired the brand. Oiselle has provided SPR will notice of vacation from the Building 11 premises they previously used. SPR is starting to explore options for future uses.

Park Ranger Job Opening: SPR is hiring a new team of Park Rangers. Please help us spread the word. Link to the job opening:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/seattle/jobs/3916447/park-ranger>

De Abreu expresses concern about not having one resident per housing entity; each housing organization is different, and the experience of residents can differ markedly. She recommends that each housing entity continue to have a resident representative. Bicknell shares De Abreu's concerns. There is some discussion about whether housing organization staff will be able to effectively coordinate if staff seats are reduced to 1; Recinos offers to take on the responsibility of liaising with staff at LIHI and Mercy.

Hoard understands the elimination of the Athletic Advisory Council seat if interest is lagging, but would like to maintain outreach and relationship with sports field users and to keep the possibility open of reinstating that seat later on.

Gerhard expresses interest in the establishment of a seat dedicated to youth and/or young adult representation. Fruland supports Gerhard's idea.

In response to De Abreu's query as to whether the slate changes are temporary or permanent, Judd emphasizes that the slate can be revisited as interest and demand necessitate changes, calling it "needs-based." He states that he would want the CC Advisory Council seat back if the CC Advisory Council returns. He also states that he took down MPAC's feedback (since Assistant Superintendent Williams wanted MPAC's input) but that this was not up for a vote.

Judd asks for help recruiting for the business seats. Hoard asks how many commercial tenants there are. Judd replies that there are 60-65 contracts at Magnuson which his office manages.

Old & New Business

De Abreu asks if Judd is aware of the \$350,000 designated for Sail Sandpoint in the 2023-2024 King County Adopted Budget, or what that might be for. Judd does not have any details on that allocation.

Bragg received a response from Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, regarding crosswalk restriping which De Abreu reads aloud. [See attached correspondence]

Frulan provides updates on road damage to 62nd Ave NE. The road substructure appears to be eroding. Multiple Find It/Fix It requests have been submitted; Frulan will update at next meeting.

Bicknell notes that the Park's tree frogs are starting to sound, especially in the warmer weather of the spring.

Frulan moves to adjourn. Hoard and Bicknell second the motion. There is no opposition.

De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:29 pm.