

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

July 12, 2023

Attendance

MPAC Members: Bragg, De Abreu, Bicknell, Ferguson (for Fruland)

SPR and Presenters: Judd, Rasmussen, LeMay, Burtzos

Attendees: Seth Muir, Tom Kelly

Welcome and Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves and share one thing that went well for them this week.

A quorum of members not being present, De Abreu defers approval of the June 14 MPAC meeting minutes until the September meeting. De Abreu asks if any member present objects to proceeding with the published agenda, despite the lack of a quorum to approve. There are no objections; the meeting proceeds as usual.

Public Comment and Information Sharing

Seth Muir – Executive Director, Sail Sand Point – SPR and SSP are approaching the completion of a new agreement, which Judd and Muir have been working on for over three years. Muir thanks SPR for their partnership and asks for MPAC's support with Council if possible. SSP has been a strong tenant in Magnuson Park for many years, completed numerous tenant improvements, and offers myriad public benefits each year. Muir also invites MPAC to a fundraiser and celebration to be held at Magnuson Café and Brewery 7/27; tickets can be found on SSP's website.

De Abreu asks when SSP will present to City Council. Muir clarifies that the agenda is not yet set but expects to present on 7/19 to the Public Assets and Homelessness Committee.

Ferguson asks for details regarding the questions that Council will be asking of SSP and SPR. Muir notes that Council has asked for greater detail regarding public benefits, scholarship numbers, etc.

Burtzos agrees to coordinate communications between Muir and MPAC cochairs.

Jan Bragg – Shares that there are at least two and likely three baby ospreys in the nest at Magnuson Park. They will be in or near the nest for another one to two months.

New Approaches in Park Maintenance

Andy Rasmussen, SPR Northeast District Crew Lead, gives the presentation.

Staffing and budget remain the biggest issues for the district crews, but we continue to do our best to take care of Magnuson and the other northeast district parks.

This summer and fall, our crews are busy with several daily maintenance tasks, including litter and garbage removal, athletic field prep, safety, mowing, and work orders. In addition, we take

the lead on invasive weed identification, removal, and control. We work with Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) to identify and clear invasives from shorelines and natural areas (targets: blackberry, Scotch broom, hemlock, knotweed, morning glory). Later in the year, we will shift our focus more towards wetlands trail and natural area pruning for safety (to clear sight lines and for CPTED), trail and service road re-surfacing, and irrigation repairs.

Our crews are also involved in a number of ongoing projects:

- Improving Litter, Garbage, and Recycling collection
- Battery Powered Small Equipment
- Pilot Project: 1 Yard Dumpsters
 - Rasmussen seeks feedback on the dumpsters
- Pilot Project: Pollinator Habitat
- Replacing Signage
 - Will add “No Camping” signs
- Rock Placement: Remove Creosote Logs, replace with boulders
 - NE 65th St., Sports Field Dr., Lake Shore Dr., Boat Ramp Exit
- Rugby Field Replacement- Field #5
- JLS Parking Lot: Curb Stops
- Volunteer Support
- Event Support: REI next week, Gay Bowl October 2023

Unfortunately, some issues in the park require our attention urgently. These issues can keep us from focusing on some of our ongoing projects or even our daily maintenance tasks in the way that we might like. These issues include:

- Sani-Can Fires
 - There have been 15 of these fires in 2023 alone
- Off Leash Dogs
 - Dogs dig holes and cause other damage/wear & tear to both grass and synthetic fields
- Cars in the park/unauthorized access
- Turf and tree Damage
- Illegal activities: Camping, RVs, parties, car prowling, bonfires

Rasmussen walks the group through several before-and-after images of work performed in the park, including turf maintenance, vegetation management near Building 12, flower bed planting, trail edge trimming, sign cleaning, and clearing of destroyed bicycles, signs, and Sani-Cans. Rasmussen specifically mentions that SPR gardener Christopher Canty has brought renewed focus to flower bed planting, which has enhanced the beauty of the developed park space. Rasmussen says that crew members will try using street cleaners instead of leaf-blowers.

Bicknell raises concerns about a patch of knotweed near the boat launch ramp. Rasmussen agrees to investigate and provides a brief description of knotweed-specific elimination procedures.

Ferguson expresses concern about the frequency of recent fires in the park and asks how Rasmussen’s team communicates/coordinates with SFD and begins planning remediation. Rasmussen explains that his team often does not know about fires until evidence is discovered

by the crew during their work. Even when SFD does respond to incidents, the communication of information is generally very sparse.

De Abreu mentions the difficulty of maintaining situational awareness, both as a park user and as a direct neighbor of the park, when SFD and SPD are opaque in their communications; De Abreu shares that after a recent shooting incident, Mercy Magnuson residents were not even informed if there was still an ongoing danger. Judd and Rasmussen emphasize MPAC's ability to advocate to various City departments and department heads.

Ferguson mentions the efficacy of SPD mobile units that were stationed in or near Magnuson Park in previous years and asks if a return to this model is possible. Judd notes that SPD is currently confronting significant staffing shortages, and this program is unlikely to return until and unless SPD returns to pre-COVID levels of staffing.

Bragg provides Rasmussen a brief overview of MPAC's advocacy and proposal to Superintendent Diaz that the NE 65th St. gate be moved to Lake Shore Dr. NE. Rasmussen appreciates being kept in the loop on the proposal. Judd notes that Assistant Superintendent Williams has convened a discussion meeting on this topic for next week.

Bragg notes that SPR gardener Anna Rylko has been excellent in responding when exotic invasive plant species are identified in the park.

Bragg asks about a specific instance of the field crew mowing blackberry bushes while leaving other invasive species (Canada thistle and Scotch broom). Rasmussen clarifies that the other invasives are slated to be removed by hand, while blackberry bushes are nearly impossible to do so.

The group thanks Rasmussen for the report.

Magnuson Park Manager's Report

Brian Judd, SPR Manager, delivers the report.

[See "Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) – Brian M. Judd, July 13, 2023", attached]

Ferguson asks why the Mayor's Office has the authority to extend Hangar2's conditional letter of award. Judd clarifies that SPR derives its contracting authority from the Mayor's executive authority, so the decision to extend was within the proper command structure.

Magnuson Community Center Update

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator, provides the update.

The Magnuson Community Center held its grand reopening celebration last Thursday. Mayor Harrell, Superintendent Diaz, and Councilmember Pedersen were all present, along with other SPR staff and Magnuson Park neighbors.

Summer camps are under way, and enrollment and programming are going well so far. Over 50% of enrolled participants are on scholarship. In addition to on-site programs, Rock the Park has begun; this recreation program is designed for youth and teens living near the park.

Finally, the department's Big Day of Play will be held on Saturday, August 19 from 12 to 6 p.m. at Rainier Playfield, Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center, and online. Stop by and say hi!

De Abreu shares that the grand opening was a great event, and that the block party felt very inclusive this year. LeMay notes that the planning committee for the event was very intentional about inclusivity this year.

MPAC Priorities Update

De Abreu provides a recap of the advocacy letter to Superintendent Diaz regarding the NE 65th St. park gate. This letter was sent earlier this week, with changes to phrasing as discussed at last month's MPAC meeting.

Old & New Business

As is usual, MPAC will not meet in August. The next meeting will be on September 13, 2023.

De Abreu suggests dedication of part of the September meeting to address deficiencies in interdepartmental communications.

Bragg addresses the preferred procedure for members phoning in to hybrid meetings. MPAC wants meetings to be accessible, but it will make the process easier if Burtzos knows ahead of time if any members will need to call in via phone line. Additionally, Bragg notes that only current MPAC members are permitted on-screen during meetings.


De Abreu mentions a lack of garbage cans near Building 138 and the adjacent green space. Rasmussen agrees to investigate and replace garbage can in this space. De Abreu also notes a possible wasp nest under the picnic table west of Building 18. Rasmussen agrees to investigate.

Bragg asks Rasmussen about garbage and recycling bins in the park more generally. Rasmussen and crew just purchased 50 new bins; these assets are for the NE district as a whole, but many will be designated for Magnuson Park.

Bragg commends the newly repainted USGS building near Promontory Point. Ferguson mentions that Building 312, near the OLA beach, is an exact replica of this building.

There being no further business, De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)
Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) – Brian M. Judd
July 13, 2023

Topic	Updates/Notes
<p>MPAC Priority #1: Healthy People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and Lighting. • Improve safety and reduce crime. 	<p>Building 2 Security Concerns</p> <p>SPR has been mitigating security concerns at Building 2 this month. There appears to be a small group arriving to the park with tools to cut locks and break through wood paneling. Thank you for the SPR Carpentry Shop and the Seattle Conservation Corps team for assisting with resecuring the building.</p> 



Magnuson Summer of Safety Meeting

SPR staff at Magnuson hosted a Summer and Safety meeting this week for tenants and park partners. Approximately 16 tenants attended and Sarah Lawson, SPD Crime Prevention Coordinator was the guest speaker. Sarah gave some great tips to the tenants about reporting and using the 911 and online reporting systems. SPR staff updated tenants on future CPI improvements in the park and summer activities that begin in earnest today.

MPAC Priority #2: Healthy Environment

- Address event-related traffic.
- Addressing garbage/litter + animal waste in the park.

Post-July 4th clean-up efforts by the NE Crew

Andy Rasmussen will attend the meeting to discuss the good work of the NE Crew. I simply want to highlight here the good work the crew does every year on July 5th to clean-up Magnuson (and other parks) after July 4th celebrations. It's a heavy lift each year and they get it done very quickly.

MPAC Priority #3: Strong Communities

- Improve Communication within Magnuson Park + surrounding community.
- Inclusive and communicative planning.

Building 30 Open Studios Event

Building 30 West at Magnuson Park is a former airplane hangar that has been renovated to offer thirty-two artist studios for local artists, in addition to other non-profit organizations. On Saturday, June 17th, the artist community opened their studios for the public to enjoy an assembly of small galleries showcasing each artist's work. Over 500 patrons enjoyed the free event, with a special free workshop offered by resident artist, Fong Baatz, in the community space formerly used as the Officer's Club at the Naval Base. This event is offered twice a year as an invitation by the Magnuson Park artists to enjoy free community access to the arts.



Sail Sand Point Concession Agreement

SPR and Sail Sand Point (SSP) attended the Public Assets & Homelessness City Council Committee to present a new Concession Agreement submitted to the legislative process. This Agreement was the only item on the agenda; after a robust conversation about public benefits and needing some addition time with the contract, the Councilmembers asked SPR and SSP to return to the July 19th meeting prepared to present on topics related to their questions.

Magnuson Café and Brewery contract extension

SPR and Magnuson Café and Brewery (MCB) recently signed and executed a 2-year extension of its current Concession Agreement. This 2-year period will allow SPR and MCB to resolve an ongoing ADA-access issue within the premises before bringing a longer-term Agreement through the legislative process.

Building 2 Update

Since 2019, SPR has been working with Hangar2 – a group interested in developing Building 2 into a multi-sports athletics complex. Hangar2 had a conditional letter of award from a published RFP process that was set to expire on June 30th. Mayor Harrell has provided them a 6-month

	extension to the end of this calendar year to provide them additional time to meet their fundraising goals.
MPAC Roster and Recruiting	Brian will be checking in with MPAC members about any updates related to MPAC recruitment for the seats set to open at the end of this year.
Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Intern	The Magnuson Admin. team will be welcoming an intern named Becky Bolekino from the SYEP program on Wednesday, July 12 th . Thank you to Ben Burtzos for serving as the lead supervisor with this team member.

September MPAC Planning

The September MPAC meeting will be filled from reports from SPR, including:

- Superintendent AP Diaz plans to attend the meeting and meet MPAC for the first time.
- Presentations from Klaus Goodrum and Joanne Orsucci on summer highlights from business tenants.
- Ben presenting on a web site update to the group.

Thank you to Samantha and Jan for allowing SPR to center itself on the agenda that month. More to come.