

# Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

## Meeting Notes

May 8, 2024

### Attendance

MPAC Members: Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), Jan Bragg (co-chair), Jonathan King, Ruth Fruland, John Bower, Nancy Wilder, Aaron Hoard, Dave Hudacek

Absent: Virginia Humes, Bladimir Recinos

SPR Staff and Presenters: Joanne Orsucci, Ben Burtzos

### Welcome and Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves around the table.

SPR staff introduces David Hudacek, who has agreed to represent the artist tenants in Building 30 on MPAC. Membership will be confirmed by SPR Superintendent.

Bragg introduces tonight's consent agenda, reminding the group that the March 13 meeting minutes were not approved at the last meeting. De Abreu calls for a vote on the prior two meetings' minutes and tonight's agenda. Each vote is 7-0 in favor of adoption, with none abstaining.

*Adopted: May 8, 2024, MPAC Meeting Agenda*

*Adopted: April 10, 2024, MPAC Meeting Minutes*

*Adopted: March 13, 2024, MPAC Meeting Minutes*

### Announcements and Information Sharing

Bragg gives an update on Magnuson Park's osprey pair. The female has been sitting low in the nest, possibly incubating eggs.

Bragg updates the group on new signage regarding RC aircraft. SPR has placed two new informational signs near entrances to the baseball/cricket fields from Sportsfield Dr. NE to emphasize that flying these devices is not permitted anywhere in Magnuson Park. Burtzos has requested that label of "RC Aircraft Field" removed from Google Maps view of Field 12.

De Abreu gives an update regarding MPAC communication with park neighbor Rudi Schmidt. Following conversation with SPR staff, Bragg and De Abreu have agreed that the best role for MPAC is not to directly communicate with members of public regarding SPR operations (i.e., maintenance, groundskeeping), instead having SPR send out an auto-reply email encouraging commenters use to use the Find It/Fix It smartphone application to report their concerns and to attend MPAC meetings. Burtzos and Orsucci will direct concerns to the appropriate SPR staff and handle immediate outreach on behalf of the department.

MPAC members discuss the proper utilization of Find It/Fix It, particularly regarding encampment reporting. Find It/Fix It can be used to report active encampments, trash/dumping, and dangerous items found in parks, such as needles. Active crimes or dangerous situation should be reported to SPD using 9-1-1. Historic behavior (such as having seen a person behave in a particular way in the past) is not something that can be reported unless the behavior is ongoing at the time of reporting.

### **Magnuson Park Manager's Report**

[See attached – “Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)” May 8, 2024]

De Abreu asks about the scope of the ADA improvements at the Magnuson Off-Leash Area. Burtzos clarifies that the most recent information from SPR Planning & Development suggests that the work will focus on the main parking lot, the west gate, and the “plaza” area (where water pumps and benches are sited).

Bragg asks about chipped plastic on ADA parking stalls near the swim beach. Orsucci notes that plans are in the works for improvements and touch-up work to this site; the original marking was performed by the Seattle Conservation Corps. Bragg has entered three separate Find It/Fix It requests for clean-up of the plastic fragments.

### **Old Business**

Parking along Sportsfield Dr. NE

- Bragg provides updates. Recent weeks have seen significant parking violations on both sides of Sportsfield Dr., especially in evenings and on weekends. De Abreu and Bragg, as well as former MPAC member Gerhard, have been active in reporting violations on Find It/Fix It
- Orsucci notes that SPD spring parking enforcement schedule began on 4/27; Magnuson is on the enforcement rounds
- De Abreu shares that her conversations with representatives at the Customer Service Bureau on this topic and others have been universally helpful and positive.

Crosswalk Painting

- De Abreu relates that ambient air temperatures need to be above a certain point before SPR will paint and/or stripe roads and parking lots.
- Bragg asks if Orsucci can request repainting of crosswalks at the 4-way stop by Building 30; these were painted in Sept 2023 in response to MPAC request and have already faded. Magnuson Park Manager Brian Judd formerly submitted annual request for all parking lots to be re-striped. Orsucci states that FI/FI is the appropriate avenue to submit requests for repainting crosswalks on SPR property.

De Abreu shares an update from Recinos; communication is growing among the staff of Mercy, Solid Ground, and LIHI. Recinos will be able to speak more to that in coming meetings.

### **New Business**

Bragg introduces the primary point of business: gathering inquiries for Lisa Nielsen, Events and Athletic Scheduling Manager. The remainder of the meeting consists of brainstorming discussions pertaining to this general topic.

## Event Classification & Traffic Control

- De Abreu explains that, for the most part, large events at Magnuson Park do not qualify as Citywide Special Events
- Hoard wonders if there could be greater nuance in how events could be described (i.e., small/medium/large), even if they do not rise to the standard of Citywide Special Events
- Bragg asks how these event types could be determined; Hoard proposes comparison to a few sample events

## Discussion of NE NOAA Dr.

- General agreement that a second egress route during and after large events would be beneficial, particularly for North Shore tenants and visitors
- Hoard points out that few events have ever been allowed to access NE NOAA Dr. post-9/11. This gate will be used for the 9/28 Friends of Magnuson Park event
- SPR has occasionally requested that NOAA open the gates so that park users can use this road but has been denied access on most occasions

Members discuss whether event organizers are permitted to direct traffic on SPR-owned roads, such as NE 65<sup>th</sup> St east of the E5 parking lot. There is some confusion about what the question is at first; the example event is a race with parking in the E5 and E1/E2 lots. Orsucci clarifies the parameters of SPR event permits with regards to traffic control:

- SPR event permits do not address traffic control. If an event is so large that traffic control is needed, those events are required to obtain a citywide Special Events permit.
- Event organizers may post signage in advance to close parking lots for the purpose of event infrastructure (*not* for private parking), but may not limit or restrict vehicle traffic on SPR roads
- Traffic rules and regulations on SPR-owned roads mirror those on all City roads.

## Cyclocross

- 2023 race took competitors into environmentally critical natural area; other riders consistently ride through wetlands and off-trail to reach event
- MPAC hopes that SPR will meet with event organizers in advance to approve the 2024 route
- Hoard adds that issues with this event have been ongoing for many years

## Gas Generators for Events

- Bragg states that Nielsen was to revisit approval conditions for generators and get back to MPAC

## Additional New Business

Bower asks if there will be any future follow-up with the Broadview Planning team regarding their work studying Magnuson management models. Burtzos shares Andrea Petzel's email with MPAC members.

De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:31 pm.