

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

July 12, 2024

Attendance

MPAC Members: John Bower, Jonathan King, Aaron Hoard, Ruth Fruland, Bladimir Recinos, Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), David Hudacek, Jan Bragg (co-chair), Virginia Humes

Absent: Nancy Wilder

SPR Staff and Presenters: Joanne Orsucci, Kim LeMay, Sara Belz, Benjamin Burtzos

Attendees: Ed, Robin Melvin, Gabrielle Gerhard

Welcome and Introductions

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

Members introduce themselves and share one recent moment of gratitude.

Approval of Consent Items

Tonight's agenda is approved unanimously.

Adopted: 7/10/24 MPAC Meeting Agenda

De Abreu calls for a vote to approve the meeting minutes from the 6/13/24 meeting. Bragg moves to amend the minutes to reflect changes suggested. There is no objection. De Abreu calls for a vote on the amended minutes; the amended minutes are approved unanimously.

Adopted: Amended 6/13/24 MPAC Meeting Minutes

Announcements & Information Sharing

Gerhard spoke to share concerns about Park safety, particularly in context of late-night parties, fireworks, street racing, etc.

Members briefly discuss safety coordination among Magnuson Park tenants and fears of tenants and neighbors.

Magnuson Park Manager's Report

Joanne Orsucci, Interim Magnuson Park Manager, delivered the report [attached].

De Abreu notes that she, King, and Humes will meet as a subcommittee on 7/10/24 to discuss traffic in the Park.

Bragg thanks Orsucci for displaying Manager's report on-screen during meeting.

Members discuss concerns about gas generator use for special events and staffing levels for swim beaches, noting that the Magnuson Park beach has not been lifeguarded since at least 2022.

Hoard asks about the timing of the City's budget report; Orsucci clarifies. Hoard notes that budgeting is a potential area of advocacy for MPAC and asks if the committee could receive a more specific report than what is put out in the media.

Sara Belz, Policy & Planning Director with Broadview Planning, provides updates on BVP's ongoing governance model study on Magnuson Park. Current work is focused on outreach and engagement with a wide range of Magnuson Park stakeholders, including tenants, City partners, neighbors, and park users. BVP is also conducting research on comparable properties (historic districts, former military base properties, and large park entities). Next steps include an online survey, onsite tabling outreach, and further information gathering.

Magnuson Community Center Report

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator, Delivered the report.

Summer programming and camps continue with a variety of options available. MCC is offering a lunch program; Mercy Magnuson is not a lunch site this year, so there is coordination happening between MCC and Mercy.

Planning is ongoing for Fall programming, including all drop-in programs.

The tree in front of MCC dropped some large branches during yesterday's weather; SPR arborists assessed and pruned the tree and affirmed that it is still healthy.

One of our recreation attendants recently graduated from the University of Washington! She has been with us since she was a participant in our programs.

Old Business

Bragg introduces advocacy letter regarding repainting crosswalks at NE 74th St and Sportsfield Dr NE. De Abreu calls for a vote regarding whether to submit the advocacy letter to SPR Superintendent AP Diaz. The vote is unanimous in favor.

Adopted: MPAC will submit letter of advocacy regarding crosswalk repainting at NE 74th St and Sportsfield Dr NE to SPR Superintendent AP Diaz.

Members discuss parking and traffic enforcement issues.

Recinos provides update on communications between neighboring housing organizations.

De Abreu demonstrates updates to Magnuson Park events calendar. The group agrees that this is good progress.

New Business

De Abreu notes traffic monitoring subcommittee will begin meeting 7/13/24; De Abreu will send further information out after this meeting.

Fruland shares update on parking and traffic plans for 9/28/24 Friends of Magnuson Park First World Flight event.

Bower provides update on status of EV chargers in lot and possibility of future repairs and upgrades at Magnuson Park. De Abreu suggests creation of a subcommittee on this issue.

Members discuss questions to suggest for Broadview Planning.

The next meeting will take place on September 11, 2024.

De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) – Joanne Orsucci
July 10, 2024

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>Ongoing Building Security Concerns</p> <p>Phoenix Security continues to patrol Magnuson nightly. They are driving through the park performing visual observations and checking restrooms for negative activity.</p> <p>SPR has a team of 28 new park rangers trained and deployed now. Rangers are not first responders and don't address criminal activity. They typically address situations that involve Parks Code violations and try and prevent some situations from escalating. For anything that needs an immediate response, please continue to call 9-11.</p>
<p>MPAC Priority #2: Healthy Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address event-related traffic. • Addressing garbage/litter + animal waste in the park. 	<p>Continue to recommend that MPAC members collect some data (informally) that describes the impacts of events on park traffic circulation. Dates, delay times, traffic observations are important data points to describe a potential problem and demonstrate frequency and impact.</p> <p>Joanne connected with Lisa Nielsen, Parks Event and Athletic Scheduling Manager regarding follow-up from 2023 MPAC presentation.</p> <p>1. Traffic improvements. Event Scheduling has made plans to require traffic control plans from all events over 500 people that have high volume exits (mass exodus) planned. They will begin to implement in 2025.</p> <p>2. Gas generators. No solution has yet been found to support event operations and infrastructure that don't have access to electricity.</p>
<p>MPAC Priority #3: Strong Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Communication within Magnuson Park + surrounding community. • Inclusive and communicative planning. 	<p>Joanne will be sending out some information resources to the co-chairs to help guide MPAC members to general park operations questions and other resources.</p>
<p>MPAC Roster and Recruiting</p>	<p>No further interest in joining MPAC from business tenants.</p>

<p>Seattle Parks Updates</p>	<p>The City's hiring freeze continues and the normal team of 4 at Magnuson Admin Office is currently a team of 2.5 staff. We appreciate your understanding if response times are longer than usual and if our team has limited capacity as we experience summer park issues and competing priorities.</p>
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	License agreement renewed with Meridian Geographics, new agreements with SPACE and Cascade Bicycle Club coming soon.
MPAC Updates	What are the current issues that the MPAC group is working on?

Dear Superintendent Díaz,

On behalf of the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC), we are writing today to advocate for continued maintenance and improvements to crosswalks in the park in support of pedestrian safety.

You may recall that we sent a recommendation in March of 2023 regarding the repainting of three crosswalks at the 4-way stop at NE 74th St and Sports Field Drive. This intersection is a main thoroughfare to Hangar 30 during large events and vital for pedestrian safety.

We were initially told that these crosswalks could not be repainted since they lacked curb cuts, but with your support, SPR was able to re-paint them.

This year, we put in a Find It Fix it report for maintenance, as the paint has faded and needs a new coat. We are now hearing that because they are not ADA-compliant and lack curb cuts, they may not be repainted.

Our committee would be delighted if curb cuts could be installed along NE 74th St in the future; until then, we request that priority be given immediately to these crosswalks, and other existing but faded crosswalks in the park.

We are aware that the normal consideration at the city level is to first ensure curb cuts are present, however, given the heavy volume of traffic and lack of safe and accessible paths for pedestrians in the park, we believe that an exception should be made until curb cuts can be installed.

We are aware of one crosswalk on SDOT property in Magnuson Park across NE 65th Street that receives regular paint and maintenance despite the absence of curb cuts. Another crosswalk was also painted across 62nd Ave NE by SDOT during the Community Center renovation in an area without curb cuts. Curb cuts were added later when SDOT was able to schedule the work. We hope that this is something that SPR could also do in the interim to ensure safety in the park.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Janice Bragg

Co-chair, MPAC

Samantha De Abreu

Co-chair, MPAC