

**Minutes of Magnuson Park Advisory Committee**  
**January 14, 2015**  
**Lower Conference Room, Building 30**

**Members Present:** Loren Hill (Chair), Ed Bronsdon (Vice Chair), Julianna Ross (Secretary), Pete Zimmerman, Lynn Ferguson, Tracy Bennett, Gabrielle Gerhard, Aaron Hoard, Tom Kelly, Nancy Bolin, Arden Forrey

**Absent:** Julie Nielson, Nino Johnson, Ken Sparks, Herb Curl, Parks Commission rep

**Magnuson Park Staff:** Cheryl Fraser, Brian Judd

**Guests:** Tahoma Khalsa, Don Crowe, Karla Withrow, Carol Valdright, Joanna Tarr, Delosha from Solid Ground with her family

**Call to Order:** The meeting was convened at 6:03 pm by MPAC Chair Loren Hill. As MPAC's new chair, Loren would like to see the committee review the 2012 Magnuson Park Strategic Plan throughout the year as it provides a good framework for evaluating progress, especially in light of new parks district funding over the next six years. He would also like to see the committee get more involved in increasing usability of the community center, making it the living room of Magnuson Park.

**December minutes:** Approved without further changes.

**Public Comment:** Ed Bronsdon promotes attendance at the Sunrise Rotary Club's March 21<sup>st</sup> fundraiser *Debuts and Discoveries*. They hope to raise \$20K which benefits the University Food Bank and provides lunches for out of school time during the summer months. It will take place in the Building 30 hangar and feature food, wine and spirits. [www.usrotary.org](http://www.usrotary.org)

Tracy Bennett promotes the Waldorf High School's park partner fair on Thursday, February 5, where tenant groups in the park can share opportunities for Waldorf students to get involved as volunteers and learning opportunities. One example of a partnering is the school using the Seattle Musical Theatre's facilities to produce and perform their *As You Like It* musical in late January.

Tahoma Khalsa wonders whether the hangar doors of B30 need weather stripping.

**Building 12:** a letter from the committee has been postponed.

**Rock the Park presentation** by Karla Withrow (Parks staff), Carol Valdright (ARC member) and Delosha (Solid Ground youth): They show a terrific video by Suzie, showcasing the many activities the Solid Ground youth are able to participate in thanks to partnerships within and outside of the park. Karla informs us though the community center has teen programming year-round, there is a special focus on the summer during a three-part program called Rock the Park. Teens (ages 11-18 and also known as seniors) can complete a "counselor in training" program.

There are 11 teens who have done this and they serve as counselors for the younger kids. They train and receive a \$599 stipend at completion of serving as counselors.

Last summer there were 80 youth involved in Rock the Park. 35 younger kids (known as juniors) and 50 teens.

Joanna Tarr, Children's Advocate from Solid Ground, informs committee that there are 200 children living in 99 units. This housing includes both permanent and transitional housing. 81 are 11 years and older. 85 are ages 5-10. Many of the older kids are always asking, "Is the community center open?" Solid Ground expresses thanks to the park partners. "These are families who can't buy memberships, etc. to places like the tennis center, Arena Sports, etc. but they deserve the same opportunities, mentorship and safety."

Delosha reads a letter expressing gratitude. She has served as one of the teen counselors for two years. She says the community center has turned a community into family.

Carol Valdright is a Community Center Advisory Center member. The Magnuson community center is currently open only 25 hours a week and with 200 more kids possibly living in the park when Building 9 opens, we have a huge funding/staffing need. Rock the Park needs funding way beyond the summer and needs \$32K not including the contributions from existing partners.

Lynn Ferguson suggests bringing the ask earlier and offering guidelines on how to give.

Don Crowe (Arena Sports) says how great the kids are to have in his facility – very respectful of the property, no spitting seeds, etc.

Delosha's mom offers thanks to the committee. "We don't think behind the scenes that there are people like you who help make things happen. This is great. Rock the Park teaches the kids to be problem solvers. Thank you."

**Director's Report:** Brian Judd reports re: the toxic algae bloom at dog park, there are weekly water samples taking place. We need a deep freeze.

There will be wetland repairs to the paths because of beavers building dams, so expect detours for a short time.

The Building 11 RFP for restaurant was not viable. Parks Dept. will revamp and reissue. The restaurant area is about 1500 – 1800 square feet. Farestart is interested but the timing always seems to be wrong.

Mayor approved some funding to test for radium to answer the communities concerns. Don't have major details. Lynn Ferguson says there should be other testing too, at the shoreline and for lead.

Parks Dept. is working with Mercy Housing re: Building 9. Pete Zimmerman reminds them to keep community apprised of plans.

The Hangar 27 shed will be demolished by the end of February.

Parks Dept. is working on an emergency management plan for Magnuson.

Cheryl Fraser says there are not yet updates on the new Super – two candidates are under consideration and she’s met them. They seem high quality but there may be more. Aaron Hoard asks if they will meet the public? Not sure, there is a selection committee in place.

**Building 2:** Julianna Ross says in an effort to keep interest in the building alive, she has taken several arts groups through the building with Parks Dept. assistance throughout the entire year of 2014, including Seattle Opera, Seattle Theatre Group, Office of Arts and Culture, Office of Film and Music and several individual artists. The ultimate arts-related vision is to keep the south hangar available somehow for temporary uses of all kinds and adapt the south workshop spaces into more studios for 3-D work like hot-shop, carpentry, iron work, kiln, etc.

This vision is now in conflict with that of the archery group because they intend to take these exact two same spaces for archery/lacrosse and shooting ranges.

Cheryl Fraser reminds the group this is at least a \$25 million project on top of all other costs associated with redevelopment. Several others entities have been shown the building through 2014 including the Burke Museum and a youth baseball organization headed by developer Chris Hansen.

Lynn Ferguson says the history group is supporting the archery club and that they would develop the north hangar as a museum and interpretive center, possibly housing an airplane.

Questioned about an MOU, Cheryl says they will try to bring together groups for support and that if/when there is an RFP, they will need to know about interested group’s financing plans.

Loren would like to see Parks step in as a strong partner as B2 could be a great public asset and guide the ways of looking at the project. Thinks Parks should be involved earlier instead of later. Don Crowe says he thinks the \$25 mill. estimate is low. Aaron Hoard notes the economy has improved and that means costs have increased.

**Building 41 status:** Having given the building to the Tennis Center, Parks is now renting it back until the new crew headquarters is built. It seems there may be a way to get it back for the public but not until that HQ is built. Parks will try to get a win-win on this with Tennis Center.

Cheryl also says that they need to finish Building 11 and hit their financial targets on both B11 and B30 to gain credibility. “Let’s keep both these items on the agenda.”

**Final Notes:** Loren would like the committee to look back at our 2012 Strategic Plan before the next meeting and start tracking how we are doing and in relation to available funding. During the Parks Legacy process leading up to the MPD, we were not asked about the timeline. Funding happens in six year cycles. There are huge community benefits depending on what is moved up, pushed down, etc.

Lynn asks can we have help understanding where money for the community center

improvements may come from? Brian says the operating hours are on a Parks Dept. level, not at the Magnuson level. Cheryl reminds committee that the money from the MPD will not start to flow until 2016. The Parks Dept. has borrowed money from the city to get some balls rolling so the tax payers start to see some results but the actual money does not come on line until 2016. Says our timing is good to begin these discussions and we should give Loren our input. Budget process starts again late Feb/early Mar.

Tom Kelly thinks that pedestrian/bike access gates at 63<sup>rd</sup>/NOAA road would be good. Parks can still open the gate for cards on weekends and evenings. Loren thinks the traffic studies are now old and we need new ones. Perhaps the Waldorf students can help with this somehow, measuring type and volume of traffic flow. Many committee members think a traffic light at the NOAA road is the right incentive to offer NOAA to get the road open on a permanent basis. Requires coordination with SDOT.

Julianna notes MPAC still has a vacant seat waiting for a member of the Parks Commission and offers to speak to them about it at one of their upcoming meetings, as the committee's work will suffer without that connection.

All business concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 7:35pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julianna Ross