

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Place: Webex Call

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

6 – 7:30 PM

Participants: Karey Kessler, Janice Bragg, Brian Judd, Ruth Fruland, Klaus Goodman, Kate Parker, Samantha Jolie De Abreu, Aaron Hoard, Robin Melvin, Mary Ellen Bicknell, Evan Briggs, Lynn Ferguson, Gabrielle Gerhard

6:05pm

Call to order by Jan Bragg

Request for minute-taker – Karey Kessler

Introductions “around the table”

6:15pm

Announcements by members

Jan asked Karey for update on mural project made by Sandy Bricel Miller and funded by Friends of Magnuson Park. Lynn Ferguson said the opening went well and Rep. Alex Pedersen was there, and that the murals got some press. Someone also saw Sandy Bricel Miller’s ceramic mural project at the Magnuson Children’s Garden. Both projects were designed and created with children who live in and near Magnuson Park.

Karey announced that there is a show, RE-AWAKENING- Featuring the artists of Building 30W; Gallery hours are Thursdays & Fridays 11-3; the show is up January 13 - February 25, 2022

Janice Bragg showed pictures of four snow geese in the park. They aren’t usually in the park. The field they were on is slated to be turf at some point in the future.

Samantha Jolie De Abreu said people are slowing down in their cars in the park. The new signs seem to be working. She was also curious about snow removal in the park. She’s noticed difficulties with ADA access due to ice in/on the parking lot and sidewalks.

There were No Public Comments.

6:21pm

Approval of tonight’s agenda

Discussion about December minutes — Elisa sent Brian Judd the November and December minutes. He will send them to the group. We can approve those minutes at the next meeting.

6:30pm

Parks Report by Brian Judd

First piece, for new members, Brian was invited to speak in front of Park Board members on Dec 9 to give updates. Park Board works with superintendent. Brian gave a 10-minute talk about the park's history, updates on building development projects, and fundraising. Nothing with specifics. It was very well received. Not too many questions.

Jan - Did Brian talk about future governance?

Brian - very high level. Needing to explore ways to work with consultants. As a department we're looking at if we have reached our limit of where we can bring Magnuson. Looking towards other inputs in the future.

Jan asked has there ever been talk about dividing the Park part from the Business part of running Magnuson?

Brian — No. It's all Park — but Brian is open to variety of ideas.

Brian spoke about getting started on his archive project. Archival drawings were sent to City Archives. So, the project is complete. They have a set of scanned drawings and Brian has a set in his office. He will give thumb drive to Friends of Magnuson Park. It's a great preservation project. Brian hopes to have them available on a website — would be nice visibility of the history of Sand Point.

List of questions for Brian:

1. Samantha's question about snow and ice. There are property issues — Magnuson Park is only one part of the peninsula. Park signs along Sand Pont Way make it seem like it's all Park. But, it is shared by Parks Department, Solid Ground, NOAA, USGS, etc. So, it depends on whose property it is on when it comes to snow and ice. Parks prioritizes pathways to buildings that are operating: like the warming center, or anywhere there are programs, etc. so that people can get in and out of buildings. Many roads are SDOT. They have 3 types of roads A, B, and C. Magnuson roads are C — so they get low priority. The parking lot behind building 9 — question for Katie Parker.

Samantha: Would love co-ordination in the park. Maybe there's a way to get shared resources. Maybe there can be a sub-committee or place that the Park can provide to store supplies.

2. Jan's question about off leash dogs and signage. Before Covid, she brought in signs that are in other parks in Seattle that list who to call if you see dogs off leash. Could put them near the exit of the off-leash section. Then Covid hit and we haven't had an update on signs.

Gabrielle Gerhard showed group a sample sign.

Brian said that we do have some signs. But not with actual phone number on it. Can look into the signs. Our shops are understaffed. Can't give a timeline but can inquire.

Robin Melvin — it's an out-of-control situation. He was attacked last year by a loose dog and again recently. Did informal survey: only 40% of dogs on leash in park. Seems dog owners are aggressive. Seems to have become de-facto the norm.

Brian said his best advice is to call animal control. Jan said animal control might be closed on weekends. Klaus — looked up animal control and it is open 9 am-6 pm 7 days a week.

Jan said that historically at Magnuson Park, there used to be no off leashed dogs before there was an off-leash area. The people who created the off-leash area promised that there would not be increase of off leashed dogs but there are more than ever.

3. Jan asked, what is happening with encampments? Specifically, the large encampment in wetlands.

Brian said that Parks reports them when they see them and provide supportive outreach — give supportive information. He suggested that we can use Find-it Fix it APP. We can send a photo in about any issues in Park including encampments. Or customer service line for the City of Seattle. Can find it online.

In notes:

For Customer Service Bureau Call: 206-684-CITY (2489)

Ruth wanted to know if there was any new news about encampments. Brian doesn't know yet. New Mayor, etc.

4. Jan asked about drainage in wetlands. Drain gets clogged up from debris. Jan reported clogged drain. The pathways get flooded. She used the customer service number — it goes to Seattle Public Utilities. Can somebody check that drain occasionally?

5. Jan asked about recycle bins. Were they ordered?

Brian asked where she was looking for them to be.

Jan answered by the parking lot by swim beach. The E1 parking lot near boat launch. Only one by the boat launch. It would be nice to have one wherever there's a garbage can.

Brian suggested that he and Jan can talk offline and look at a map to decide where the bins are needed.

Jan asked if the recycling actually gets recycled. A lot of garbage goes into the recycle bins. Brian will look into it.

6. Samantha asked question, maybe for Mary: She was in email chain with Lynn and Tom from MESA and they've seen pictures showing that people were driving around the Magnuson Park sign and driving right into the back of the resident building. Can we get more blockades? There's damage on the turf.

Jan said that Tom is working on it.

Brian received feedback and connected people with Bladimir. He's a member of MPAC. But not at current meeting.

6:51pm — end of report. Thank you.

7:00pm

How we would like MPAC to function this year; Review of responsibilities of chair, vice chair, secretary; Reminder of procedure for sending in agenda items)

Jan – in the past someone would say that they'd be Chair for at least 1 one year. Also, someone would be Vice Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair meet with Brian the week before MPAC meeting to go over the agenda. The Chairperson chairs the meeting and is responsible to write letters if letters need to be written.

Secretary – takes notes and distributes them so they can go on website.

Brian said that in 2009 the intent was that MPAC would be a member driven group that would serve as advisory role to bring ideas and thoughts to the Superintendent. It needs to be volunteer run. MPAC tells Brian what's coming up in the community so that Brian can include things in his report. We don't have anyone who stepped up into those roles at this point.

Could rotate the responsibilities.

Samantha said that she would help fulfill one of those roles if it was in rotation. Could have a sign-up sheet for those roles. Sign up for the year? Would make the most sense.

Jan asked Samantha which role and Samantha said she would chair the committee for the next meeting if there was back-up for her.

Ruth would like to learn before jumping in. Willing to step up as her time and experience progresses.

Jan said, yes, it is rough to ask new people to take on a big role.

Brian suggested that we could meet every other month. This would make the agenda fuller. Handful of meetings throughout the year.

Ruth asked is there is an ebb and flow to the year. Are some months a higher time of activity? Or is it even all through the year?

Jan said that during Covid it's been a lighter load. Before Covid we often had presentations. Very few presentations while remote. We did have inclusivity presentations this past year.

Ruth said she would be interested in hearing everyone on the advisory committee give 5-10 minute talks. Like an orientation.

Samantha said we could ponder this. Have an email thread. Could have a list. Could vote on every month or every other month meetings. Could devote next month to what everyone wants for the park, etc.

Ruth said next year is 100th anniversary of first round the world flight. Hoping that will bring interest and activities to the Park.

Jan asked Aaron — what are your thoughts? He thinks going to every other month makes sense. City has needed this group for planning, etc. If there isn't a current need for feedback — every other month would lighten the load.

Brian MPAC was about bringing together folks who have different roles in the park so they can cross pollinate and focus on things we can do in the park. It's not just for feedback.

Ruth said the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

Katie heard the desire to get more participants who are residents or staff in the park on MPAC. How can she be responsive while not at the Park?

Mary suggested it would be wonderful to meet in person. She would feel more comfortable taking notes in person. Would like to talk to individuals on the committee. She's involved with Habitat. More could happen in person. Hopes we continue monthly or bi-monthly.

Jan asked Evan — do you have any thoughts? Has to figure out how Sand Point Elementary fits into this situation. She's in favor of every other month.

Jan wanted to share her perspective that there were a lot of community activists on the committee. They have stepped down. Maybe someone new will become an activist.

Samantha suggested we can talk about this next time, but Jan thinks we should get some closure tonight.

Aaron suggested we should go to every other month.

Samantha said online works better for her. She worked on things with Diana behind the scenes. Could have sub-committees between the meetings.

Jan said that we're meeting remotely because of Covid. Until that changes, we will not be meeting in person.

Aaron moves that the committee goes to an a bi-monthly meeting schedule.

Katie seconded it.

Jan said raise your hand: 8 voted for going to bi-monthly schedule; one voted against going to bi-monthly schedule

We'll be meeting every other month.

Will we share Chairing?

Samantha said it makes more sense to share.

For March: Samantha will be Chair and Ruth will be Vice Chair. Karey will take notes.

Jan reminded others that they should get agenda items to Samantha before the Thursday before the March meeting.

Samantha said that a request will be sent out for agenda items the Thursday before the next meeting.

Next meeting is March 9th 6-7:30pm

We will meet second Wednesday of every other month.

Webex is on MPAC website: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/magnuson-park/magnuson-park-advisory-committee>

Or you can connect with this link:

<https://seattle.webex.com/seattle/j.php?MTID=ma74ed52f016576eccd0e93d03ec5c546>

Mary said, on a completely different topic: would be nice if we had a visitor center. Could talk about it next time. Ruth is interested and Samantha is interested too. A visitor center could help co-ordinate events in park.

Jan asked Brian to give the status of using the gas station (Building 41) as visitor center. It currently has murals on it. Friends would like it to be a visitor center. RFP was put on pause by Superintendent. Soon, we will be getting a new Superintendent. Not sure who interim is. Brian has that file/idea and will see if we can move forward with it with new Superintendent.

Jan reminded everyone to send agenda items to Samantha.

Thank you everybody.

Samantha makes motion to adjourn. Ruth seconded it.

All in favor - everyone

7:28pm

Adjourn

