

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

January 10, 2023

Attendance

MPAC Members: Jan Bragg (co-chair), Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), Gabrielle Gerhard, Bladimir Recinos, Mary Bicknell, (Jonathan King), (Virginia Humes), (Nancy Wilder)

Absent: Aaron Hoard, Lara Watson, Ruth Fruland

SPR Staff and Presenters: Joanne Orsucci, Benjamin Burtzos

Welcome and Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

MPAC members, provisional members [listed in parentheses above], and SPR staff introduce themselves around the table.

De Abreu calls for a vote of approval on the consent items: meeting minutes from the 11/8/23 and 12/13/23 MPAC meetings, and tonight's meeting agenda. There is no debate. The vote passes with 5 in favor and none opposed.

Adopted: 11/8/23 MPAC Meeting Minutes

Adopted: 12/13/23 MPAC Meeting Minutes

Adopted: 1/10/24 MPAC Meeting Agenda

Announcements and Information Sharing

De Abreu reports on her advocacy to Deputy Superintendent regarding park lighting. Seattle City Light has repaired and replaced most of the lights along 62nd Ave NE, and are continuing to work to repair one light on NE 74th St. Orsucci asks if the brief power outage on 1/8/24 had any impact on this project. De Abreu does not believe so. Recinos reports that Solid Ground did lose power in two buildings; Burtzos and Orsucci note that Building 11 was the only other known affected location within the park. Bragg thanks De Abreu and suggests that MPAC review the map of land ownership at a future meeting.

Bragg reports that SPR crews have placed logs to restrict access to environmentally critical areas damaged during the cyclocross race in October. MPAC extends thanks to Bragg for her advocacy and to Josh Bishop and team for his action.

Bragg will lead a birding walk for Birds Connect Seattle on Monday, January 15, at 10:00 am, meeting at the E5 parking lot.

Burtzos shares two announcements for Fruland and Friends of Magnuson Park:

1. The 100th Anniversary of the First Around the World Flight is September 28, 2024.
 - a. Friends of Magnuson Park, Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Museum of Flight, and others will be co-sponsoring the celebration. We plan to include Sister Cities

and make the celebration as multicultural as the original flight. Currently, the following activities are planned:

- i. April 6 Celebration (Building 30?) of the departure of the planes
 - ii. Guided Outdoor Tours from April through September - Magnuson Park
 - iii. September 28 Celebration - NOAA campus
 - iv. Outreach to all the businesses, non-profits, residents, and park employees to ensure their appreciation of this shared history, and for them to share in it.
- b. Friends would appreciate the help of everyone at Magnuson Park in spreading news about the celebration among their colleagues, residents, and workers after we have shared the amazing story with you.
2. The monument for the World Flight will be moved from its current location outside of the entrance to the park and historic district. Its exact location is still to be determined, but it will be somewhere between Building 406 and Building 30, where people can actually walk around it and read its inscription. Note: It has been placed at several different locations from its original location, so this is not a significant move from a historic point of view.

Bragg and De Abreu will be interviewed for an upcoming episode of “Exploring Magnuson Park” on SPACE 101.1 FM. The interview will be conducted by the show’s host, Benjamin Warren.

Bicknell shares that she is pleased with how Magnuson Park has been maintained, especially as she has come to understand the park’s operations during her time on MPAC. Bicknell thanks everyone who has been involved in keeping up Magnuson Park. Orsucci promises to relay Bicknell’s message to Andy Rasmussen and the NE Crew.

Magnuson Park Manager’s Report

Joanne Orsucci, OOC Magnuson Park Manager, delivers the report.

Joanne reports that the NE Crew met with “All City Fencing” to look for a location for a permanent gate based in concrete along Lake Shore Dr.

[See attached Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation]

Magnuson Community Center Report

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator, is not able to attend today’s meeting. The MCC report will be deferred to the 2/14/24 meeting.

2024 MPAC Priorities Brainstorming

De Abreu walks through accomplishments from the past year and specific goals still unmet from the previous year.

[See attached chart of 2023 MPAC priorities]

Safe & Healthy People - Discussion

Bicknell proposes that MPAC advocate for one controlled, publicly available blackberry patch within the park, and aggressive control of other wild blackberry patches.

- De Abreu notes that there may be a distinction between invasive and non-invasive species
- De Abreu defers this discussion until “Healthy Environment” priority area

Gerhard commends the group for significant accomplishments this year, and notes that the remaining action items still seem relevant. There may be a need to add one or two new priorities, but no need to change course entirely.

Bragg points out that SDOT has made a commitment to paint crosswalk across NE 74th St at 62nd Ave NE that has yet to be followed through on. Bragg will follow up with SDOT.

Gerhard commends SPR's social media team and notes a positive trend in communications recently from the department. Perhaps this is a model that Magnuson Park could adopt and/or incorporate into local communications?

Healthy Environment – Discussion

Bragg notes that traffic control and general traffic issues related to park egress continue to cause problems. De Abreu adds that on occasion, residents of Mercy Magnuson Place are unable to leave their home by car due to traffic backup on NE 74th St. Bragg asserts that direct communication with Events Scheduling team would be next logical step for traffic control advocacy, including making sure organizers advertise what public transit is available to the park.

King shares that Kite Hill and the surrounding area frequently have garbage and recycling left outside of bins. King and others often collect multiple bags of refuse from the blackberry bushes, wooded area, and other nearby spaces to dispose of. The committee briefly discusses the historical placement of garbage and recycling bins near the beach and Kite Hill.

Gerhard suggests the formation and coordination of volunteer crews to assist with the NE District crew. While some volunteer groups do engage in park cleaning efforts, greater coordination between these groups could be beneficial.

Bragg shares three proposals for 2024 additional priorities:

1. Making Magnuson Park a “No Idling Zone” for all vehicles, particularly City of Seattle vehicles
2. Installation of signs on the exits of the Off-Leash Area letting visitors know when they are leaving the OLA and to re-leash their dogs
3. Installation of sign(s) announcing “No Remote Controlled Aircraft” along Sportsfield Dr NE

King volunteers to head up a future subcommittee on garbage.

Strong Communities – Discussion

De Abreu urges MPAC members to take back announcements re upcoming events to their constituents.

De Abreu wants to pursue the current priorities under “Strong Communities” since there still is no cohesive events calendar and since there is currently no way to ensure that institutional knowledge gets passed on.

De Abreu asks about potential coordination between the three housing agencies. Recinos affirms his commitment to acting as liaison between Solid Ground, Mercy, and LIHI.

Bicknell asks for suggestions as to where she might be able to find opportunities to tutor or read to children. De Abreu suggests that Mercy and the Community Center might have good opportunities for this kind of service.

Exiting Member Check-In/Exit Interview

De Abreu poses the following questions to departing members for rumination and suggestion:

1. What is MPAC doing well?
2. What should change?

Gerhard shares that Bragg and De Abreu are performing well as co-chairs, and that the group is moving in a positive direction. However, it seems as though there are fewer Magnuson Park business tenants on the committee at present.

Bicknell notes specifically that the processes resulting in the temporary gate across Lakeshore Dr NE and the repaired lights on 62nd Ave NE represent MPAC working well; the process took time, but progress was achieved. Bicknell feels that being a part of MPAC has made her a better citizen.

De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)
Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) – Joanne Orsucci
December 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>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 Grounds Crews are locking the gates to Lake Shore Drive nightly at approximately 7:30PM during the winter months. They are aware that the signs are inconsistent and are working on new signs. We are hopeful that the new gate will have new signs.</p> <p>Grounds has contracted for a new gate to replace the temporary eco clocks and chain. It should be installed by the end of the month. Barrier gates will be steel posts mounted in concrete, with galvanized steel gates. The contractor and NE crew evaluated location options this week onsite.</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>MPAC Priority #3: Strong Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Communication within Magnuson Park + surrounding community. • Inclusive and communicative planning. 	
<p>MPAC Roster and Recruiting</p>	<p>Magnuson staff and MPAC members are working hard on recruiting new and replacement members to join MPAC for 2024.</p>
<p>Magnuson Park RFP Process Update</p>	<p>SPR and Broadview Planning have signed and executed an agreement for the work outlined in the RFP. Work will commence in early 2024. Public engagement steps (which will include MPAC) will be announced soon after the work begins.</p>