

# Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

## Meeting Notes

April 10, 2024

### Attendance

MPAC Members: Jan Bragg (co-chair), Bladimir Recinos, Jonathan King, Ruth Fruland

Absent: Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), Nancy Wilder, Aaron Hoard, Virginia Humes, John Bower

SPR Staff and Presenters: Joanne Orsucci, Kim LeMay, Ben Burtzos

### Welcome and Introductions

Bragg calls the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves around the table and share what they are most passionate about regarding Magnuson Park.

Bragg notes that it would be helpful for MPAC members to have all meeting documents prior to the meetings, specifically noting the Magnuson Park projects outline would have been helpful before the March meeting.

A quorum of MPAC members not being present, Bragg defers approval of the March 13 MPAC meeting minutes until the May meeting. There is no objection to continuing with the posted agenda for tonight's meeting. Gerhard requests time under New Business to bring up an issue.

### Announcements and Information Sharing

Fruland announces that the 4/6/24 First Around the World Flight Takeoff Event hosted by Friends of Magnuson Park at the Magnuson Café & Brewery was a success. Friends of Magnuson Park will also be hosting events from Thursday, 9/26, through Sunday, 9/29, to commemorate the return of the planes to Sand Point in 1924. Events on 9/28 will take place at Magnuson; the other days will take place at the Museum of Flight.

Bragg notes that the park's resident nesting osprey pair returned on April 6; this is the same date the pair arrived in 2022, and very similar to 2023.

Bragg and Burtzos share message to MPAC members and SPR staff from park neighbor Rudi Schmidt:

"I want to ask the Board about mtz of the small park at the entrance to Mag on 74th next to the Mercy Housing.....

specifically, if and when there is a plan to clean the sidewalks of debris. Also, is there a plan to either board up the alcove next to the gate at the entrance or clean it up? Both are a mess, and have been for many many many many.....months/years.

Thanks.

Rudi Schmidt"

Fruland asks if MPAC should respond to Schmidt. Burtzos advises that individual members of MPAC probably should not reply, but the group can decide its own course. Bragg asks to postpone this conversation until the “New Business” portion of the meeting.

### **Magnuson Park Manager’s Report**

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

[See “Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)” from April 10, 2024 – Attached]

King asks for clarification regarding Park Ranger allocation. Orsucci notes that onboarding of new Rangers is ongoing and training is a long process; the department has not yet determined how Rangers will be distributed throughout the system.

Bragg asks how Café Calaveras will power their concessions operation. Orsucci notes that she is not completely sure but clarifies that the café will not be using a gas generator. Orsucci also notes that Dog Hair, Don’t Care will be using a gas generator in 2024 but will need to find other sources in subsequent years.

Bragg asks Orsucci to share any information from Andrew Rasmussen (Northeast District Crew Chief) regarding litter management. Orsucci notes that there is not much information to share, but that volunteers are always needed and appreciated. [SPR’s volunteer services](#) is the preferred method, as formal volunteer registration allows for better organization, work tracking, training, and funding.

King asks for clarification regarding volunteer logistics. Orsucci responds that the Volunteer Programs unit is not under our purview at Magnuson, but if the group enrolls, Volunteer Programs can answer their questions.

### **Magnuson Community Center Report**

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

The Egg Hunt events were a big success! Approximately 500-600 children came to the morning egg hunt, which was held inside due to field use conflicts and weather concerns. An additional 75 teens attended the evening Glow Hunt the night before. We hid 6300 eggs filled with candy and other treats; guests also enjoyed raffles, prizes, and we even had the Easter Bunny make an appearance this year.

The track and field season is under way. Our team has its first meet this Saturday at West Seattle Stadium.

Summer camp registration opens on April 16 at 12:00 pm. Registration and scholarship forms are available online (preferred method) and in-person. We are offering half-day morning and afternoon camps, as well as a lunch club, so kids can have programs all day.

MCC is in the process of applying to be a summer lunch site, possibly partnering with Mercy Magnuson Place for this service.

On April 19, from 5:30-7:30, MCC is hosting a community open forum with Seattle Councilmember Maritza Rivera, King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, and SPR Superintendent AP Diaz. There will also be fun and games for families.

We've started a creative story time class on Saturdays for tots. These classes include a story and art project on a fun topic or theme; our last topic was dinosaurs! We are also in the process of getting a kendo class up and running.

The next Family Game Night is scheduled for Friday, May 3, at 6:00 pm.

Recinos asks LeMay to forward MCC promotional materials to Solid Ground. LeMay agrees.

Fruland asks for LeMay's contact information and connections to student/children's advocate representative at Solid Ground and Mercy, if available, for purpose of connecting about scholarship opportunities. LeMay agrees. LeMay asks if Friends of Magnuson Park will share First Around the World Flight event information with MCC so that front desk staff will be aware of events when members of the public ask for info. Fruland agrees and asks to meet off-line with LeMay to plan messaging.

Bragg asks how LeMay has been communicating with Solid Ground and Mercy, and if Recinos can handle coordination between Solid Ground, Mercy, and the Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI). LeMay clarifies that she and MCC staff distribute hard copies of promotional materials but also have some staff emails for housing agencies, although not for anyone at LIHI. Bragg offers to share her LIHI contacts with LeMay. Recinos also offers to find a good staff contact at LIHI through his staff at Solid Ground; he has thus far not had communication with LIHI or Mercy management although he has sent info to De Abreu re Mobile Services for residents. Bragg thanks LeMay and Recinos for their efforts since improving communication is one of MPAC's priorities.

### **Old Business**

Bragg informs group of report submitted to Superintendent Diaz on Feb 29, 2024. The report included an updated PowerPoint showing the accomplishments and remaining priorities of MPAC from 2023. Diaz has acknowledged receipt of this report.

Bragg shows the group a map of Magnuson Park, paying particular attention to property parcel ownership and road maintenance responsibility. Fruland asks how many buildings are at Mercy and who owns which housing buildings. King asks how the Community Garden is run; Orsucci explains that it is volunteer-run through the Dept of Neighborhoods.

The group looks at the 2024 MPAC membership slate (also sent to members prior to tonight's meeting). Fruland asks if the slate can be updated to include email addresses of staff representatives from all three housing agencies. Bragg notes that there is no staff representation from the other 2 agencies, that Recinos graciously volunteered to represent all 3, and that the slate only reflects the official MPAC member list. Orsucci clarifies that members can use this list as the basis for constructing a larger contacts list.

Update on litter: King will continue with periodic volunteer litter collection and is fine coordinating litter pick-up groups. Orsucci states there is not any conclusive data from SPR on litter collection; practices might vary based on need, season, staff availability, etc. Fruland volunteers to help on a work crew if needed.

Fruland asks whether SPR tracks volume of park usage, and how or whether services (such as trash and recycling receptacles) have scaled as park traffic has increased in recent years. Burtzos and Orsucci note that no such data is available and would be anecdotal, at best. Fruland states

that these things need to keep up with population increases. Orsucci states that the 6-year funding cycle started in 2022. Further discussion is cut off by the chair.

### **New Business**

Gabrielle Gerhard (former MPAC member) requests the issue of illegal parking on Sportfield Drive be on a future agenda because it is a consistent problem and has been increasing. The lack of pedestrian access along this right-of-way contributes to the risk illegal parking poses along this road. Bragg reminds the members that there is a solution to this problem in the Circulation Plan but that it is years away from being implemented. Orsucci urges everyone to report illegal parking on Find It Fix It app so that data are collected in one place.

As there is no time to discuss the planned New Business, Bragg asks MPAC members to generate questions before May meeting regarding event traffic and any other event concerns to discuss with Lisa Nielsen and SPR Events Scheduling team. She reminds members that MPAC always meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month which will be May 8.

### **Gratitude & Adjourn**

Bragg adjourns the meeting at 7:35 pm.