

Meeting Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC)

February 13, 2019

Lower Conference Room, Bldg. 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Lhorna Murray (Vice-Chair), Mitch Cameron (Secretary), Jan Bragg, Megan Castellano, Dianne Hofbek, Sandy Bricel-Miller, Ashley Berglund, Tom Kelly.

Guests: Kris Snyder & Bill Chao (Center for Excellence), Seth Muir (Sail Sand Point), Ed Bronsdon (Outdoors for All), Tom Ansart (Seattle Music Theater)

Magnuson Park Staff: Cole Dietrich (SPR Tenant Development Coordinator at Magnuson Park), Cheryl Fraser (SPR Director of Assets at Magnuson Park)

Called to order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of January minutes: No minutes approved. Additional notes were submitted for the January Meeting. Deferred to the March MPAC meeting for approval.

Public Comment: **Ed Bronsdon, executive director with Outdoors for All** and a former MPAC Member, presented two topics:

1. Debuts & Discoveries tasting event -- for those 21 and older -- in Hangar 30 on Saturday, March 16, 5 – 8 pm. Perhaps 650 guests will attend. Tickets in advance are just \$35. Presented by University Sunrise Rotary (the club also hosts the annual Block Party in the park for residents) and Seattle Uncorked. Benefits Outdoors for All this year. More details: www.USRotary.org
2. Outdoors for All is working with the City of Seattle and the Department of Transportation to make “bike-share” bikes more accessible for people with disabilities. Outdoors for All and SDOT still have details to work out, but the goal is to enhance access to ADA relevant adaptive cycles, which Outdoors for All has more than 100 already here at Magnuson Park, through the existing Adaptive Cycling Center (open by appointment all year round; open six days a week through a season pass program May through September) in The Brig. Another goal would be to have SDOT help Outdoors for All bring these adaptive cycles to other locations and communities in the city on selected demonstration days.

Announcements: **Sandy Bricel-Miller, on behalf of Juliana Ross**, announced that there was another group interested in Bldg. 2, still, as this group has an on-going discussion with SPR for the lease of Bldg. 2.

Director’s Report: **Cole Dietrich** sitting in for Brian Judd

1. Bldg. 2 has some recently discovered roof problems (leaking along southern portion).
2. There was a multi City Department, Tenants and stakeholders walking meeting along 62nd Ave NE. Led by CM Johnson, who will look for funding for illuminating the Sand

Point Housing neighborhood and streets. Constructive and Productive, but no promises made by any. Multi-jurisdictional issues to be resolved.

3. Cole said this last snow storm(s) really taught them (park staff) lessons on communicating with Park Tenants.

Discussion of Bldg. 2 Draft Letter Prepared by Gabrielle from Committee Input, providing feedback to the Superintendent of Parks:

Gabrielle opened the floor to discussion. Everyone had the opportunity to comment on the proposed letter. Some comments are listed below.

- More art is needed in all aspects of the Park design and wayfinding.
- Park Outreach, Communications and Coordination especially with the residents and or their representatives within the Park can be improved.
- The Residents are by and large permanent renters and beyond the Rental Agreements and House Rules, are beholden to no one.
- It would be helpful to develop relationships with the communities within the Park and collaborate on strategies to help each other.
- In response to a question re the fate of Conservation Corps, Kris clarified that MPCE would like to use all 120,000 square feet but will try to include Conservation Corps (who reportedly does not yet know exactly how much space they need)
- Cheryl clarified that Building 2 is not currently mothballed, a process which is very costly.
- Tom asked how much it would cost to demolish the building.
- Cheryl said this would also be costly and that there are laws protecting it from demolition because of its historical status.
- Jan stated that Gabrielle's draft letter incorporated principles (of all of our concerns) which would apply to the use of the building by any group.
- Lhorna made a Motion to accept the letter as edited and send to Superintendent Williams. Mitch Seconded the Motion. The Motion was carried by unanimous "aye" vote of those members in attendance.

Magnuson Community Center Advisory Committee (MCCAC) Update: **Mitch Cameron** (a recent addition to the MCCAC) gave a brief update.

- **Mitch stated that Oliver Bazinet** the Lead Project Engineer for the Magnuson Park Construction and Improvements gave a brief summary on the Community Center Remodel. Oliver also fielded questions about the planning and budget for the CC project. It is to be finished by the end of 2021, per Oliver.
- **Mitch** reviewed the Sand Point Housing streets walkabout with CM Johnson and several key stakeholders from the City, For example, Seattle City Light & SDOT.

Tom Kelly reported on the 2018 Cyclocross Events' damages and repairs.

- Dry soil in 2018 allowed for minimum short-term and long-term visual impacts on the Parks Grounds.
- The Cyclocross pre-event signage setup was inadequate and did not meet the specifications DPR set in the event contract.

- In response to a complaint about this year, Joanne Orsucci promised that future cyclocross event contracts would require signage be posted at least 8 days before the event to give regular weekend park users enough warning to make alternate plans for race day.
- On the day of the event there needs to be signage at walking trail entrances to warn of race impacts along potential pedestrian routes and, better oversight by Magnuson Park Staff.
- Gabrielle recommended it would be good to have someone from Parks staff on site the day of the event.

Jan Bragg- Proposal for an Interpretive and Informational Sign of the Native people who once lived in the area.

As a follow-up to the presentation by Valerie Segrest, in Dec 2018, Jan proposed an interpretive sign for Magnuson Park stating that natives were in this area 8000 years ago, to acknowledge the history predating the military history (which is well documented on interpretive signs in the wetlands). Valerie had stated that she and her husband could help with verbiage if a sign were created. Jan asked what plans SPR had for interpretive signage in Seattle City Parks re native heritage.

- **Cheryl** stated that this is an area which is lacking in Seattle City Parks and that there is no current plan for interpretive signage relating to native history.
- **Ed Bronsdon** stated that this is a regional issue. He noted that if MPAC would wish him to, that he would be happy to reach out to Seattle City Councilmember Debora Juarez to see if she had any recommendations -- for how to proceed with recognizing Native American history not only at Magnuson Park, but in relevant Seattle Parks overall. Councilmember Juarez is the Chair of Civic Development, Public Assets & Native Communities. She is also of Native American heritage.
- **MPAC Chair Gabrielle** asked Ed to follow up on this; those present agreed; Ed pledged to reach out and report back. Thank you, Ed, for your ongoing community service.
- **Tom** also mentioned that academic experts could be a good resource about past uses.
- **Mitch** expressed concern about overuse of signage in Magnuson Park.

Discussion of the pros and cons continued until someone suggested it be an artistic display. Many spoke up in support of such an undertaking with suggestions like:

- Sculpture
- Graphic display of the “before” image.
- The story behind the local American Natives should be included
- Combination of Sand Point Housing Youth and the Park Artists to develop the concept.
- Use QR Codes to enable scanning and smartphone access to more information. Or the option to bookmark the web address.
- **Tom** suggested it would probably take a committee to determine the location or locations, content, format, style etc.

- **Cheryl** suggesting the idea of having someone from the University work the historic background research.
- **Sandy** volunteered to start putting together some ideas for us to discuss in a future meeting.
- **Dianne** wants a sign above the main entrance (gated), depicting a timeline of the NAS.
- **Tom** suggested signage re how Natives used the native plants.
- A suggestion was made to add-on to existing signs thereby reducing the need for additional signage.

Dog Off Leash Signs-- Jan Bragg

- Jan distributed photo copies of a sign at Discovery Park which states:
 - “KEEP PETS ON LEASH. OBEY SCOOP LAW. FINES UP TO \$500. Please report violations to Seattle Animal Shelter, 206-386-7387, ext. 2”
- There are no signs at Magnuson that encourage patrons to report violations. This would empower people who are disturbed by off-leash dogs and would also educate dog-owners.
- Cheryl clarified that there is no sign department any longer.
- Cole said he would see if the phone number can be added to existing signs.

Rent for artists in Building 30 west—Sandy Brice Miller:

- **Sandy** volunteered to the committee that she and other artists have seen 12% increase in rent this year and 25% increases over the last 5 years.
- **Cheryl** clarified that Parks has a Charter with the City of Seattle to include the Arts.
- **Cheryl** indicated that she would be happy to sit down with Sandy and the other Artists and go through the numbers with them and answer any questions they may have.
- **Cole** stated that the lease/ rental rates are established by City/ Parks Council and Seattle Parks and Recreation, not the Magnuson Park Staff.
- **Ed Bronsdon** spoke up in support of the Arts and Artists in the Park.

Jan moved to adjourn the February 2019 MPAC meeting, with Mitch seconding the motion. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 7:36 p.m.

The March 13, 2019 Magnuson Park Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Building 30 Lower Conference Room: