

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

October 11, 2017

Lower Conference Room, Bldg. 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Tom Kelly (Vice-Chair), Mary Anne Ward (Secretary), Mitch Cameron, Aaron Hoard, Jon Carver, Jan Bragg, Sandy Bricel-Miller, Lynn Ferguson.

Guests: Dawn Yantrauskas (WSDOT), Gwyn Howard (WSDOT), David Graves (Parks Dept.), Kevin Volkmann (R.O.M.P.)

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd

Called to order: Meeting came to order at 6:00 pm

Approval of September minutes: Jon made a motion to approve, Mitch seconded, minutes approved.

Public comment: Lynn reminded everyone about the upcoming Fly with Us event. It was a celebration of Sand Point Aviation History. There will be free admission and it will be open from 10:00 am- 4:00pm October 15 in Hanger 30.

SR520 Program/520 Environmental Mitigation Update:

Dawn presented an overview and presentation about the west approach bridge north, environmental mitigation, wetlands mitigation. She reviewed the timetable for their work:

- Eastside Transit and HOV lanes opened in 2014
- Pontoon construction project completed in 2016 (Aberdeen)
- West Approach Bridge North opened August 2017
- Rest of the west corridor is fully funded
- July WABN westbound SR 520 off ramp lanes open
- August structure open to traffic

Rest of the West:

- Phase 1 Montlake starting in 2018 – will take 4 or 5 years
- Phase 2 Portage Bay Phase – will take 6 years – could begin in 2020-22
- Phase 3 Montlake Cut Crossing – will take 3 years- could begin in 2024

Funding will come in phases with the project being finished 2027.

SR 520 Program Mitigation Overview and background:

1. SDOT tried to avoid environmentally adverse effects
2. Unavoidable then SDOT must mitigate
3. SDOT participated in a collaborative process

SR 520 Program mitigation sites – is on their website.

Dawn reviewed the list of mitigation activities for Magnuson Park and identified rehabilitation.

Recent milestones:

The mitigation was fully funded in 2015

In the investigation in 2016 they found that there was less damage to the bridge construction area than they thought initially. They need less mitigation than originally planned. In Magnuson upland they found fewer areas which would have fit the type of mitigation needed which combined with possible hazardous materials made it less attractive as a site for bridge mitigation than initially thought.

Legislation was not cleared for any additional mitigation. Other options – mitigation banks then In-lieu programs but then the permittee is responsible for mitigation. This put Magnuson low on the list. They have switched to the in-lieu programs and working on permits. Switching from SR 520 Mitigation plan to the In-lieu program.

Lynn has been looking for \$ for 15 years. She is very disappointed that we aren't getting more. This is a perfect park for urban environmental education. We had hoped for a sizeable amount of money. Instead of giving money to more rural places.

David – when trails were created there were not any issues with where. If an area were used for mitigation other use, such as having trails run through it, would be prevented.

Who will come up \$ for the work needed here in Magnuson? David said it is still on the department's radar and the department tries to find grants which could be used for future phases of the park wetland creation.

Dawn restated that there is to be no upland mitigation for the SR 520 project in Magnuson.

Tom asked about the Magnuson shoreline and aquatic area portion of the proposed bridge mitigations. David said they would not have the use conflicts and thus are still in play depending on how much mitigation is needed.

Tom asked about a mitigation bank and in-lieu of programs. Dawn said developers can buy credits from the bank to offset their damage and that an in-lieu program would allow them to pay a third party instead of managing a project or buying credits.

Jan stated "To summarize there is no money for the mitigation of the wetlands but the waterfront is still in play."

Sandy asked if all the funding is in place for the 2nd draw bridge. Dawn said yes but the money will come later so will the project.

Jon ask if they expect the rest of the projects to come under cost because of the design build. There is a risk factor to do it this way.

The shoreline is still in play as it is tied to the Portage Bay piece which is still a few years away. This may impact the ball fields here in Magnuson if the shoreline work is done.

Here are additional comments from Jon:

A few edits to the minutes for consideration. Just wanted to clarify that one of the reasons that Magnuson Park will not see any mitigation resources from the 520 program is that the anticipated environmental impacts have proven less than expected. This, combined with changing federal and state regulations surrounding mitigation (i.e. pooling resources for in-lieu and mitigation banks) means that WSDOT determined the funds are better spent elsewhere. Plus, as David G. noted, mitigation to the wetlands would mean making them totally inaccessible to the public.

Community Center Update:

David Graves did the update. David is in charge of the project. Lynn would like us to write a letter of support. There are a million dollars from King County for a match. It is about two million dollars to build out. The feasibility study was paid for out of the Major Challenge Fund. Next round of fund opens Jan 1. It will be on the website then – open until the end of March. Review of the applications will go April-May then recommendation to Jesus then Mayor. Three point two million dollars are available for this round. Magnuson Community Center got one point one five million (\$1.150,00 for the center from the mayor- it is in the budget. Budget money will match the King County money.

Lynn asked if there would be more ARC funding for staff once the money runs out for the staff at the end of this year. David said he hoped so.

Lynn would like us to write a letter supporting the money in the budget and to extend the funding for the extra people.

David said the fields here at Magnuson also got funding from the Major Challenge fund.

Lynn moved and Tom seconded that we send a letter in support of the money for the community center.

Passed with one abstention (Jan Bragg).

Sandy – BLDG 30 Announcement

She is helping to organize the annual open house with a small works art show. It will be held Nov 5 from 2-6pm. There is a lot of diversity in the building and they are eager to show it off. Gabrielle spoke to how great the building is. Sandy wants to ask City Council members to come and she would like to include Deborah Juarez and Rob Johnson.

Director's Report:

There is a new food truck rodeo Saturday the 14th. It will be held in the Junior League Parking lot.

He reported that the Bus Route 62 is going the right place at night and on the weekends.

All the residents are continuing to park on 62nd – Kevin said residents need to be told that they cannot park there. There are people parking right in front of the spaces.

Tom asked if that isn't also a construction route.

Brian reviewed again the Security Document he gave us at the last meeting. Security guard – funded by Rob Johnson_ starts tonight. Lynn wanted to know if they are patrolling everywhere- including Kite Hill. This funding is only until Dec. Security is 7-11 seven days a week. This time can be tweaked as needed.

This person will be in vehicle and foot but a bicycle might be a good idea. MaryAnn reliably sends Brian information about the NW park security info.

Lynn appreciated the trimming of the hedges. She hopes they will trim around the lights when trimming trees.

This weekend is the Cyclocross event. We know it is controversial but attracts 2,000 people.

Tom asked what they pay for use of the Park. Brian said they pay the standard park use fee and a percentage of their entry fees.

Tom's additional comments:

Tom Kelly mentioned that the organizers should advise participants that if practicing for the event within Magnuson they should stay on appropriate routes and avoid speeds high enough to make park walkers fearful or startled. He also suggests that signage warning of limited parking and use of trails for the event be placed at least eight days prior to the event. Those should be at trail entry points from the NE 65th St. and NE 74th St. areas and along Lakeshore Drive NE near the swim beach. He also mentioned seeds used for post race remediation in areas designated as natural meadow on the Magnuson Vegetation Management Plan should be appropriate native seeds and not less expensive ordinary lawn grasses.

Lynn noted that the Bldg. 12 has been vandalized again. Art work would be a great way to cover it up once it is boarded up. Bldg. 2 will have news soon. Bldg. 18 RFP document in hand – waiting for the new mayor before moving forward.

Lynn thanked Parks for saving the church windows. They will store them in Bldg. 18 until they find a use for them. Lynn and Brian are coordinating packing.

Tom mentioned that just for awareness of the security patrol that there is a camper along the woodland trail which leads from NE 65th St down to the baseball field area.

Vera was going to attend in Nov. Brian will send our questions to her in advance. Mary Anne asked about the sustainability plan for the Park. Jan asked what is in the plan for composting in the Park.

Jan added a public comment that there is a kiosk put up by Audubon near the boat launch. One side is year round birds and other side by seasonal birds. It has just been updated.

Send pictures of graffiti to Flossie.pennington@seattle.gov

Sandy asked about signage. She would like to be involved in creating signage. Brian has not forgotten, he will reconvene the group, get a plan then share it with the group.

Jan motioned to adjourn and Tom seconded. Adjourned at 7:25