

**Minutes for Magnuson Park Advisory Committee**  
**Sept 11, 2019**  
**Lower Conference Room, Building 30**

**Members Present:** Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Tom Kelly, Dianne Hofbeck, Jan Bragg, Juli Horan, Megan Castellano, Lhorna Murray (Vice Chair)

**Members Absent:**, Aaron Hoard, Sandy Miller, Atsuko Tamura, Chauncy Gibbs, Diana Kincaid, Humberto Alvarez

**SPR/Magnuson Park Staff:** Robert Stowers, Brian Judd, Oliver Bazinet

**Guests:** Will Gibbs, Glen Stellmacher (from Miller Hull), Seth Muir (Sail Sandpoint)

Call to Order: Gabrielle Gerhard called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm, followed by introductions.

Approval of minutes: Lacking a quorum, the decision was made to postpone adoption of minutes in hopes that a 7<sup>th</sup> member would arrive.

Public Comment/Member Announcements:

- Dianne announced that Friends of Sand Point Magnuson Park (Historic District) have added 2 more display cases at the Brig re patrol bombers which flew from Sand Point to the Aleutians in WWII.
- Jan announced that the Osprey nesting at NOAA have had another successful nesting season, their 9<sup>th</sup> year on that nest platform. They raised 3 young this summer; the adults have often been seen flying over the park. They will leave soon for Mexico/points to the south. An Osprey pair has been building a new nest on the tower of lamps over Sports Field 7 in the past weeks. Brian recently noticed the nest after finding sticks below it which had fallen off.
- Jan also announced that the City of Seattle has reclassified glyphosate as now highly restricted, to be used on city property only as a last resort. Glyphosate was first listed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2015 as a potential carcinogen. This is the herbicide which was being sprayed in the park by contractors of Green Seattle Partnerships and the use of which had been brought to MPAC as a concern by Jan earlier this year. Despite this small victory, Jan pointed out that just today, Earth Corps sprayed Himalayan blackberry in the park with other herbicides.
- Robert added to Jan's comments by stating that as Director of Parks and Environment Division, he had been the one to recommend glyphosate be banned. The mayor's office had then reviewed it and put out the executive order to reclassify it. He said that there can be exceptions, but every attempt will be made to follow Integrated Pesticide Management. He further stated that City Light is unhappy with the reclassification but that the Mayor insisted that alternative methods be used to control weeds.

Report of Robert Stowers, new Director of Enterprise and Partnerships in Community (EPIC):

- Race and Social Justice. SPR staff will be in the park for a full day of workshops and speakers on Sept 19. This is the 2nd year which SPR has been working on bringing staff on board with issues re equity and inclusion.

- Park District Initiatives. SPR is developing a strategic plan, has been doing outreach to find out what people want in parks, and will continue to do outreach for the next 3-4 mos.
- Changes in SPR: Patrick Marion and Andy Shepler have new assignments. SPR is interviewing now for a city-wide HR director. Tom requested an on-line organizational chart be updated.
- Building 2 update: SPR is working with Center for Excellence re possible acceptance of its proposal.
- Governance Study has been postponed because of budget issues. As there are more residences and concessions at Magnuson, there are also more safety issues. The need for a governance study is recognized and it is hoped that it will be initiated in January 2020, maybe with a product in mid-2020.
- Homelessness: King Co and the City are going to unite to work on homeless issues as a regional problem.

#### Approval of minutes:

With Lhorna present, a quorum was available.

- Jan moved and Lhorna seconded that the June meeting minutes be accepted; passed unanimously.
- Tom moved and Dianne seconded that the July meeting minutes be accepted; passed with one abstention (Jan who was absent for July meeting).

#### Report of Brian Judd, Park Manager:

- General security update: Summer was “suspiciously quiet”, i.e., reported incidents were lower compared to past 2 summers. Brian credited increased Seattle Police Department patrols in the park as well as milder temperatures. Compared to 2018 statistics: 50% drop in violent crime and 10% drop in property crime in this entire district, although Magnuson itself saw more property damage. All other areas of stats remained the same.
- Building 47 Update: The RFP review panel submitted a recommendation re the theater to the SPR Superintendent on Friday, 8/30/19.
- Eagle Scout Project: A local Eagle Scout candidate named Dylan Baker created an historical interpretation map for Magnuson Park as his final project. Lynn Ferguson provided guidance and feedback on the final product. The map is on the park website:  
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/magnuson-park/history>
- Change in scheduling Magnuson fields: Fields 10, 11 and 12 (the Navy baseball fields) were previously scheduled out of the Magnuson Park Admin office, for historical reasons that no longer align with current operations. The scheduling of these fields will now be overseen by Citywide Athletics, who schedule all the other fields. In response to questions, Brian stated that drop-in play is still fine if the fields are not scheduled; a private group has donated to improvements; irrigation will be added as well as more parking; new turf will be cork which is now the standard new turf in other SPR fields; the 2 baseball fields will remain baseball fields; another place for a cricket pitch will need to be found since the cricket pitch was not around when the Master Plan was made in 2008.
- EV Charging Stations: Earlier this year, Joelle Hammerstad present a plan to MPAC about installing 2 EV Charging Stations in the Jr League Parking Lot. This project will commence in late October and will take 2-3 weeks.

- Building 406 (The Brig) Project: Late October/Early November will be the official start of this long-awaited project. The project will install a new roof, new HVAC system, skylights and ADA upgrades to the restrooms. The building will be closed in stages as renovation occurs. Magnuson Park Admin staff are working with building tenants and customers on finding alternative spaces in the park for their operations.
- 2020 MPAC Slate News-- 3 seats are expiring at the end of this year: Aaron who represents UW, Sandy who represents Building 30 artists, and Jon who represents Sports Fields. Brian stated that Aaron has said he will continue in his seat. Brian announced that a replacement has been found to chair the committee in Gabrielle's place: Diana Kincaid is stepping up. Brian stated that someone is needed to step up as secretary for the remainder of 2019 and 2020.
- Questions: Tom restated what he had asked in an email prior to the meeting re Building 138. Brian replied that 138 was part of the parcel of Building 9, but did not have any further details.
  - Jan asked if the outside walls of the Brig would be included in the remodel; Brian replied no, that he has holes patched every October so that birds will not use them for nest cavities.

#### Sail Sand Point Update:

- Oliver reviewed that Sail Sand Point had submitted an application to SPR and been awarded a grant, 2018 Major Projects Challenge Fund, for Building 31 (boathouse). Gabrielle reminded us that MPAC had written a letter of support for this grant. Oliver is helping with the project.
- Glen Stellmacher, architect from Miller Hull, did a power-point presentation. The 3 tasks to complete by end of December 2019 are to:
  1. Analyze the existing conditions
  2. Do a program analysis
  3. Do a design analysis

The existing conditions/site constraints include, but are not limited to:

1. Creosote-treated Piles dating back to 1938. Boathouse ?piles to be removed? (Pier Piles will remain)
  2. Being in a historic landmark district means project will need approval from the Landmarks Preservation Board
  3. No current storm-water management for rain off the boathouse roof, i.e, it flows directly into the lake
  4. Boathouse is set in liquefiable substrate/meets no to very little current seismic requirements.
- Seth Muir from Sail Sandpoint stated that the boathouse houses a safety boat fleet which has been used for rescues on the lake, including of non-Sail Sand Point boaters.
  - In response to Glen's statement that they want to embrace feedback from the community:

1. Tom questioned the safety of having members of the public jump off the pier to swim. Seth clarified that the pier is public and that Sail Sandpoint does not lease the pier, it only leases the building/the boathouse.
2. Jan asked why Seattle Audubon was not on the list of project stakeholders and if the Barn Swallows, which reportedly nest under the boathouse, would be considered. Glen gave assurance that they would still be able to nest under it.
3. Dianne asked how much change was needed. Seth explained that more indoor classroom space is needed for programs.
4. Tom asked re cost.

In conclusion, Oliver stated that Miller Hull is identifying different possibilities and Brain stated that SPR is committed to renovating the boathouse.

#### MPAC Letter of Support Proposed Guidelines:

Gabrielle opened the discussion by restating what she had sent all of us before tonight's meeting: that MPAC has ~always supported work of organizations already in the park, and that there seems to be a desire for guidelines, not necessarily rules, for requests for letters of support.

Megan asked what the impact of our letters is and if Gabrielle has spoken to the Superintendent re letters of support. Gabrielle replied that we do write letters to the Superintendent if we have recommendations/advice. She has not asked the Superintendent if we should or could hear the other side when there is a conflict between SPR and a group requesting our support, and she is not sure if it is appropriate for us to hear SPR's side in such a conflict.

Before being excused from the meeting, Brian stated that this committee carries a lot of weight with the Superintendent's Office and with city hall; it is his take that we are taken seriously and that we should define our priorities first, we should not water down our letters of support by giving them to everyone.

Dianne asked if MPAC is on the park's website. Gabrielle stated that our minutes are posted on the website but that our agenda is not, but perhaps it should be. Dianne suggested that guidelines (if formulated) could be posted on the website as well.

Juli felt it important to hear from both parties so that we can make informed decisions.

Tom said we should stay in our lane, which is to give the Superintendent recommendations.

Gabrielle distinguished between requests for letters of support for outside grants from organizations working inside the park and letters of support for outside groups wanting, for example, to lease a building in the park.

Dianne felt that we need to have an over-riding vision first in order to determine if the group we're backing fits our vision.

Lhorna and Gabrielle felt it important not to say "no" automatically to a group who lacks support of SPR.

Jan suggested we have a motion to cover at least guidelines for the time period for consideration of a proposal, to avoid making a decision at the same meeting as a presentation occurs.

Motion re Letters of Support:

Lhorna moved that it be the policy of MPAC that we have 4-6 weeks notice when asked for a letter of support, ie., the group would contact MPAC 4-6 weeks before a letter of support was needed; if it can be fit in, the group would be placed on the agenda to present at the upcoming meeting and a vote on a letter would be taken at the following meeting. Gabrielle seconded the motion. Since no quorum was present, the motion will be sent around by Gabrielle to all committee members to consider for a vote at our October meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm (Jan moved, Gabrielle seconded the motion, passed unanimously).

The next MPAC meeting will be Wednesday October 9 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Bragg