

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

February 14, 2018

Lower Conference Room, Bldg. 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Chandra Hampson (Vice-Chair), Jon Carver (Secretary), Jan Bragg, Lynn Ferguson, Sandy Miller, Tom Kelly, Lhorna Murray, Mitch Cameron, Loren Hill

Members Absent: Carol Valdrighi, Aaron Hoard, Scott Marshall, Chauncy Gibbs, Porsche Dagget, Humberto Alvarez

Guests: Ed Bronsdon, Juliana Ross, Peggy Prince, Connor Inslee

Seattle Parks Staff: Brian Judd

Called to order: Meeting came to order at 6:04pm

Approval of January minutes: Jan Bragg moved to accept the January minutes; Lynn Ferguson seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Public Comment:

Letter of support for Outdoors for All: Ed Bronsdon, Executive Director, Outdoors for All, asked MPAC to consider writing a general letter of support to the Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Rec for the "Recreation For All Initiative." He asked for the letter to be submitted on or before March 10, 2018. He read the following statement to MPAC:

Outdoors for All Foundation was founded as a nonprofit in 1979 here in Seattle. We are resolutely dedicated to our mission: To enrich the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through outdoor recreation.

We have launched multi-million dollar initiative which we expect to largely fund through private donations. We will of course welcome City, State or other Public support, but we're not counting on it. We expect most of this funding to come from private philanthropy and make a lasting difference for decades to come in the lives of tens of thousands of children and adults with disabilities.

As we embark on this vitally important work, we need your help. So, we have five questions for you:

*1) Don't **People** with disabilities deserve equal opportunities to recreate and enjoy the outdoors? Children born with disabilities like Patricia; Wounded Warriors like Rick who have put their lives on the line for us, and now have returned from their service to our country with lasting disabilities – they may have lost some of their abilities, but we haven't lost our dedication to them; and so many others who want to recreate outdoors as much as anyone...*

*2) Shouldn't exceptionally well-rated **Programs**, with a trusted community-based nonprofit be brought to scale and accessible for more individuals of all abilities in our region?*

*3) Doesn't it make sense that **Partnerships** should be used as a strategy to do more with limited resources -- and do so efficiently and effectively through an organization, Outdoors for All, that has collaboration as integral in its DNA?*

*4) Can you imagine the possibilities if the **Places** where Outdoors for All currently delivers its life enriching mission could be dramatically improved – turning aging facilities into first-class facilities? Or creating a new facility that from the ground up will meet or exceed ADA standards?*

5) Finally, would MPAC consider supporting us in our initiative to enrich the lives of tens of thousands more children and adults with disabilities in our community? If so, a general letter of support to the Mayor, City Council and Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams would be incredibly helpful to our work. Would one of you consider a motion to send a general letter of support to support our mission and initiative? Thank you.

Space 101.1, Magnuson LPFM station: Juliana Ross provided an update on Space 101.1, Magnuson Park's new low-power FM (LPFM), non-commercial radio station. The website is <https://www.space101fm.org/>. LPFM radio stations operate on the energy of a 100-watt light bulb or less, yet due to the placement of the antenna the station signal can be found as far away as Phinney Ridge, Ballard and Kirkland. Unfortunately, the signal is not accessible in the park, although Brian Judd said that he got the signal in his car while in the park. Juliana announced that Emily Bishton has a 30-minute Magnuson Nature News show that plays T, Th, and Saturday at 10am. MP3s of the show are on the website, although streaming is currently not available yet. Juliana mentioned that the radio station will be great for residents of the park. Currently most of the programming is curated music (90 percent automated; 10 percent original), but more original programming is planned for the future. MPAC members can provide updates about community events in the park at this email address: hello@space101.1fm.org

Pacific Chorus Frogs on the Move: Lynn Ferguson reported that the annual Pacific Chorus Frog migration is on. The male frogs are on the march to the water to find mates. Since frogs are cold blooded, temperatures need to be at least 37 degrees or warmer at night for the frogs to be active. The Pacific Chorus Frog population has rebounded at Magnuson Park since the wetlands were established.

Song Sparrow Research: Jan Bragg announced that Dr. Doug Wacker is doing a pilot study now in the park, with an undergraduate student, and the research could extend into 2019. They'll be studying stress responses in Song Sparrows, a native bird in the park. The study will entail mist-netting one bird at a time and then releasing it after taking a tiny blood sample. Their intent was to set up their mist-net in areas with little human foot-traffic where they detect Song Sparrows. The Habitat Committee wanted MPAC members to be aware of their occasional presence in the park.

Building 18 Tour Observations

Sandy reported some observations from the recent tour of Building 18. She is interested in forming a committee to work with Brian and Parks to focus efforts around future use of the building. The building is huge with a tremendous amount of potential. While the exterior looks fairly good, the interior is decrepit. The amount of work needed to renovate the building is substantial. She noted that while the roof of the building had been replaced recently, there is likely lead paint and asbestos to deal with. There is a substantial leak on the east side wall, which is likely to be expensive to repair. Discussion:

- Lynn reported that her board (<http://sandptnavsta.org>) has written a letter to Seattle Parks to redevelop Building 18 as an interpretive center with public access on the first floor.

- With all the new residents expected in the park, Sandy wondered about other uses of the building, including whether the building could be divided.
- Brian said that Seattle Parks and Rec is looking for an entity to lease the entire building, but there is no reason why a group of organizations could not form an LLC to lease the building.
- Mitch asked if any soil contamination tests have been conducted on the property, and fears the worst from a long history of oil changes at the building.
- Tom thought that the building could potentially serve as a job skills training center.

Community Center Update

Lynn reported that a construction project manager has been appointed and construction is set to begin in January 2019. Design work is underway to best maximize the use of the space. Ryan Spencer is the new Community Center director, having previously worked at the Meadowbrook Community Center. Lhorna reported that graduate students from the UW school of public health will be evaluating community center programming.

Gatehouse Historic Sign Request

Lynn reported that there has always been signage over the entrance gate to the park. The signage was taken down for repairs and reinstalled a couple of times, but Seattle Parks unfortunately lost the signage. Lynn asked MPAC to consider supporting a resolution to Seattle Parks to look for the sign. Lynn made a motion to ask Parks to look for the lost signage; Mitch seconded the motion and the resolution passed unanimously. Brian committed his office to look for the signage and report back to MPAC within 3 months.

Update on Meeting with Superintendent

Lhorna and Chandra reported that they had a really productive meeting with Christopher Williams, interim Superintendent. Meeting discussion topics included Magnuson Park programming at the community center, accessibility for low-income residents, and the need for existing programs in the park to demonstrate public benefits. Lhorna and Chandra reported that they received a commitment from the Superintendent to address other concerns, including 1) Parks management structure at Magnuson, 2) meeting space, 3) and the onerous process for obtaining scholarships. Discussion:

- Park residents are not getting access to programs at the park leading to an overall lack of integration among park users and residents. For example, the Magnuson Athletic Club does not offer a reduced cost membership for residents.
- Gerry Pollet (46th Leg. District) wants to engage on the issue of programming. There is a sense in Olympia that the commitment to affordable housing needs to be matched by the availability of accessible family programming.
- Residents and community members have raised concerns about Solid Ground's capacity to provide sufficient case management and services. They are asking for greater transparency between the Seattle Housing Authority and Solid Ground, as well as engagement with an independent ombudsman to talk with residents.

- Loren Hill thought that the park could use a “Magnuson Activity Coordinator.” He noted that Parks typically hires a consultant to go off and look at issues, but the consultant report gets filed and nothing happens. A more effective strategy would be to hire a part time person as opposed to a consultant to help facilitate the various programming in the park and do the type of coordination that seems to be needed.
- Tom thought that a community organizer – sort of like the role that Chandra and Lhorna are undertaking – would be beneficial.

YMCA – Activities in the Park

Mitch participates in a LiveStrong program for cancer survivors at the University YMCA. He said that the YMCA provides summer day camp and after-school programming that benefit park users and residents. He noted that the YMCA provided \$100,000 in scholarships for 960 youth for summer camps, including free lunches for qualifying kids. In addition, the Y provides \$130,000 in scholarships for elementary school children, including 115 kids in after-school programs at Sand Point Elementary. He asked MPAC members to consider supporting YMCA programming in their individual giving plans.

Director’s Report

Landowners:

- Brian described the various landowners in the park, including NOAA, University of Washington, Mercy Magnuson Place, Seattle Office of Housing, and the U.S. Geologic Service. Roads in the park are owned by Seattle DOT, Parks, and the University of Washington. The P-Patch is part of the Department of Neighborhoods. The fence along the southern boundary of the park is owned by Seattle Parks.

MPAC Member Survey Results:

- Results will be communicated via email.

Magnuson Campus Team:

- The Magnuson Campus Team is a subcommittee of MPAC. The team meets on a quarterly basis. At the most recent meeting, team members adopted a mission statement and started planning for a joint event with park tenants. The team chose to leverage this event with existing plans for the National Night Out, scheduled for August 7th.

Challenge Fund:

- The Seattle Parks Challenge Fund is open to the community, although the deadline for submitting proposals is end of March. This is an opportunity for community members to seek funding for a project that they care about. Additional info about the challenge fund is available here:

http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParkDistrict/Projects/MPCF_2018CriteriaAndTimeline.pdf

Field Improvements:

- Oliver Bazinet would like to sit down with field users and others to obtain feedback on upcoming funding for field improvements. Gabrielle, Lynn, Loren and Jon expressed interest in participating in a future meeting with Oliver and Brian agreed to send out a Doodle poll to find a convenient meeting time.

Frank West:

- Frank has been working on the maintenance staff at Magnuson since 1999, but will be retiring on March 6. Brian agreed to provide a link to Seattle job openings:
<http://www.seattle.gov/jobs/>

Circling back to the “Outdoors for All Initiative, Tom made a motion to support a letter in support of the initiative and Lhorna seconded the motion. There was no time for discussion of the motion. The motion was supported unanimously with two abstentions (Chandra and Jan). Gabrielle committed to drafting the letter on behalf of MPAC.

Jan moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm