

Minutes of Magnuson Park Advisory Committee
June 10, 2015
Lower Conference Room, Building 30

Members Present: Loren Hill (Chair), Ed Bronsdon (Vice Chair), Julianna Ross (Secretary), Pete Zimmerman, Gabrielle Gerhard, Tom Kelly, Arden Forrey, Mary Anne Ward, Herb Curl, Julie Neilson, Tracy Bennett

Absent: Nancy Bolin, Parks Commission rep., Aaron Hoard, Ken Sparks, Lynn Ferguson, Peggy Printz

Magnuson Park Staff: Brian Judd, Cheryl Fraser

Guests: Dawn Robinson, Monique Hrouda, Robert Hrouda, Adrienne Karls, Kevin Volkmann, John Wick, Chandra Hampson

Call to Order: Loren calls meeting to order at 6pm.

Notes from the chair and committee comments: Pete Zimmerman is stepping down from MPAC as the Solid Ground resident position. Adrienne Karls will take his place. Welcome Adrienne! She lives in Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney Place .

Pete will stay on MPAC as a NEDC alternate rep. This seat now has 1 permanent and 2 alternates, given the travel and work schedules of the members. Brian will update the MPAC roster to reflect this change.

The May minutes went out too late to approve so will be approved at the July meeting.

Ed Bronsdon announces the 10th annual Magnuson Block Party on June 25th. Hosted by University Sunrise Rotary, it takes place outside Solid Ground and all are welcome.

Dance Sport International, New Tenants: Robert and Monique Hrouda run Dance Sport International, which is moving from their long-time location on Lake City Way to the Brig in Magnuson Park, taking the space formerly used by Gymboree. They are very happy to be in the park and have long wanted to be here. They teach ballroom dancing to all ages and are growing their youth programs, which makes the park a great, safe place to be. The main thing about ballroom dance it that “it’s fun.” They teach from early morning until 10 PM most days and host open houses for people to watch. They have senior dances in the afternoon so older people don’t have to drive at night, and also have dances for veterans along with partnership dancing and Friday/Saturday dance parties.

Sand Point Elementary Funding Crisis: PTA President Chandra Hampson reports that funding from the voter passed education levy has been withdrawn due to a technicality. The multi-year funding is attached to individual principals and theirs is leaving to take an opportunity elsewhere. This leaves them short \$318K the first year and denies them their Tier II intervention program for math and reading and the assistance of a counselor, very important in a school like SPE with

such a diverse and economically challenged population. Secretary Julianna Ross moves that MPAC write a letter in favor of re-establishing the funding. All approve. Note: since this meeting, the funding has been reestablished and crisis averted.

Informational/Directional Kiosks for Park: In a topic moved from last month's meeting due to time constraints, Tom Kelly brings up the need and priorities of signage and wayfinding in the park. Signage is needed for events and regular circulation issues. 74th and 62nd are good places for pedestrian only signage but we need to reach people in cars. Everyone who works in the park is regularly asked for directions. Tom suggests we concentrate first on better signage for major areas like parking, swim beach, Jr. League playground, etc. Julie Neilson suggests we keep signage consistent and nail down the actual addresses of places in the park. They are not consistent now and hinder emergency response. Suggests a grid system like on a typical map (area A-1, for example).

This issue is in the strategic plan but unfunded. Now is the budget season. Is this our top priority? If so, now is the time to address.

Gabrielle Gerhard says she's heard from neighbors that having laminated maps that can be picked up at the beginning of a trail (like the wetlands) and returned at the end may be a good option for interpretive signage until we can fund permanently. Pete says people are hesitant to get out of their cars when looking for places. How do the kiosks address this? What is the solution? Ed confirms there are always questions from people in the park about how to get where they're going. Might be a good idea to move current kiosk on 74th to Building 18 where it would have more visibility. We need to have better branding and visibility of the signage so people know what to look for. Mary Anne Ward of Sail Sand Point says she proposed that all Northshore tenants invest in one sandwich board together to replace the multiple ones there are now. Great idea!

In closing, Tom asks, what are the top 5 spots we need to identify? Do we address this now or wait for a long term solution? Doing it on the cheap allows us to get it done. Gabrielle suggests writing a letter. Can we get funding for a consultant? Herb Curl reminds us we have to address peds and drivers. He likes the signs like in Fremont (blade signs on signposts). Many murmurs of agreement. Ed suggests we do a sign audit so we know what we have now.

Director's Report: Magnuson Park has a new bi-annual newsletter which has been getting good feedback. If you'd like to submit a news item for the next one, please email to him. Julie asks how it is distributed. Answer: website and pdf for posting on blogs, etc. He also prints a few copies to have around the office lobby.

STG is postponing their summer concert until 2016. How many events take place at Kite Hill usually? Pete says is always being used by more than 5-10 groups at a time, especially during weekends and other out-of-work times and nice weather.

Brian reminds us parking and congestion will be an issue with over 25 camps per week taking place in addition to the regular activities of tenants and events.

There will be a community center summit at Fisher Pavilion June 20 for giving input on the community center strategic plan.

Mischief increases during the summer months and Brian is in regular contact with the N. precinct of SPD.

Friendly reminder that seats are coming up on the MPAC and the 2016 slate is to be approved by Superintendent Aguirre in October. We need representatives from Solid Ground housing, Friends of Magnuson Park and arts/culture.

There is a question about the jazz concerts that used to take place in the amphitheater. Were they priced out? Brian will investigate.

Herb wonders if animal control in the park has ever been instituted.

Brain says that while not official, the Navy testing in B2 and 27 has been done and they have a verbal that all is clean. Navy is now off the site and the Dept of Ecology will confirm the reports and then the Parks Dept. will sign off.

Cheryl Fraser says the terms for Boyer and Oiselle in Building 11 have been reached and they will go through city council in the fall. They are making progress on the debt service. They are not actively marketing the remaining space in B11 as some existing tenants may want to use for expansion.

Cheryl recognizes she and Brian have been at the helm for 2 ½ years now at the park and feel positive about the teamwork with MPAC and built trust. Part of Brian and Cheryl's job is to find resources to serve the communities identified needs, etc., they want to help. Loren asks good questions about long-term funding and MPAC's advocacy is helpful in this regard.

Building 2 Community Visioning Charrette: Julianna explains the basic run-down of the day for committee members not in attendance. Thanks Ed, Loren and Pete for their help in various capacities. Ed thinks the archery group had a very good presentation at the event, was disappointed in the protest signs put up in favor of arts uses. He was glad to see so many people interested in doing something with the building. Thanks Parks staff for their professionalism and behind the scenes work. Thought it was great the Superintendent was present.

Pete says he heard a lot of cooperation throughout the day. He heard agreement that any tenant be willing to accommodate a variety of uses in the south hangar. Gabrielle says she's like to hear more specifics about public benefits and hoping other groups can present their plans at MPAC, too.

Loren spoke to Andy Sheffer during the tour and he thought that since building 12 is of similar age and building type, there would be significant savings in abatement, seismic, roofing and façade restoration if both buildings were done with the same contractors during the same construction period. Loren also suggested that the parking area between building 12 and 2 be looked at as part of the project and also have a dual purpose as a parking lot and outdoor event space or other park feature. He also noted from discussions that Skate like a Girl is primarily a winter user so maybe their space could be shared in the other seasons with arts such as a performance space or gallery.

Good to have momentum. Arden wants the action plan. Southcenter iFly facility is mentioned as another possible use – people like that action stuff. Tom adds that just doing nothing with the building costs money. MPAC will be staying in the loop.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julianna Ross