

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

February 8, 2023

Attendance

MPAC Members: Recinos, Watson, Bragg, De Abreu, Fruland, Murray, Hoard, Bicknell, Gerhard

SPR Staff: LeMay, Orsucci

Welcome & Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

MPAC members and Seattle Parks and Recreation staff introduce themselves to the group, and briefly introduce the organizations and interests which they represent.

De Abreu introduces the consent items, beginning with the minutes from the December 14, 2022, meeting. Bragg clarifies that Watson and Gerhard are not yet confirmed to MPAC by SPR Interim Superintendent Diaz and therefore cannot cast a vote in this meeting.

Hoard moves to approve the December 14, 2022, meeting minutes. Bragg seconds.

Hoard moves to approve the January 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Murray seconds.

Magnuson Park Project Report

Joanne Orsucci, Magnuson Park Manager (OOC), delivers the report.

The Magnuson Park Advisory Committee currently has 10 active members. We nominated two additional new members, but unfortunately, both had capacity problems or time conflicts and declined. We'll go back to recruitment for those two spots.

Building 11 (at the North Shore) is having some masonry problems repaired. Parks maintenance teams recently tested some bricks and braced the building; we hope the issues will be resolved soon.

Building 18 (the fire station) had some burgeoning encampment issues inside the building. Parks security and Seattle Police Department officers were able to clear the building, and a Parks maintenance team was on hand to re-secure it. We are working on getting electricity restored to the building so that some items can be cleared out safely.

Broadway Bound Children's Theatre, the newest Magnuson Park tenant, just completed two winter musicals, *Elf: The Musical* and *Disney's Frozen Jr.* Both were a big success, and they are anxious to start on theater renovations soon.

This year several Magnuson buildings will be getting their wood floors refinished. Building 30 is already complete; Building 47 will have its work done before the Community Center re-opens and Building 406 is scheduled for work in June.

We were happy to renew two licenses of long-time non-profit park tenants that have space in Building 30, Bats Northwest and Plant Amnesty. Both just signed a new 5-year agreement.

Fruland asks if the Building 11 masonry issue is particularly serious. Orsucci responds that the hope is to address the problem with targeted repair.

Hoard asks for a reminder of the tenants in Building 11. Orsucci clarifies:

- Seattle Waldorf HS; [Cascade Bicycle Club]; Magnuson Café and Brewery, Boyer Children's Clinic; Oiselle; and Sail Sand Point

De Abreu inquires about the new crosswalks across 62nd Ave by the community center, as she hadn't heard anything about those. Orsucci speculates that these may have been part of the SDOT long-term plan, or that the SPR project manager coordinated with SDOT. LeMay adds that she also didn't know about the crosswalks prior to their installation, but is pleased to see them.

Magnuson Community Center Programming Report

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator, delivers the report.

Community Center operations are still temporarily located in Building 406. Most of the work is done at Building 47, but the contractors are still wrapping up, and supply chain issues delayed completion of a few things. The next step will be for the contractor to sign the building back over to the city and then we can start our process. As far as our timeline goes, we are probably going to be in Building 406 until late March or early April.

There will be some transition involved because there are some beautiful and brand-new spaces in the community center that didn't exist before this renovation. I want to thank everyone who may have been any part of making this project happen.

As Joanne mentioned, the gym floor in Building 47 will be finished from February 27th through the beginning of March; that will not affect us as we plan to move in April and start programs in there at that point.

Right now in Building 406 we have piano lessons, we have Aikido in Building 30, we've got Rock the Park, we have our teen drop-in program that we've expanded to be after-school, and we're planning for summer right now as well.

We also have a partner agency, Kids and Paper, that is here in Building 406 that is moving up to the community center as well. They serve elementary-age youth from the community on a drop-in basis.

De Abreu asks about the relationship of contracted agencies (such as Kids and Paper) with SPR, how those contracts are determined, and how the residents of the park could be best involved in the decision-making process. LeMay states that the relationship between SPR and Kids and Paper predates her time in the department, so she is not the best source for this question.

Murray adds that since childcare options at Magnuson Park are limited, it would be nice to know what exactly groups like Kids and Paper are doing, and that additional choices of programs would be helpful. Murray offers two questions: will there be additional enrichment programs for children in the future? And, what oversight does SPR provide to ensure that Kids and Paper is providing time well-spent?

LeMay clarifies that Kids and Paper, like all organizations that receive City funding, have reporting requirements that include what their programs are and whom they serve. Community center staff are co-

located with this program, but do not oversee the program directly. LeMay acknowledges the concern that Murray and other parents may share, and promises to find out a bit more to report back.

LeMay and the community center staff are very interested in hearing from neighbors and residents regarding programming ideas as community center operations move back into Building 47. LeMay also shares that the community center staff has been working with the SPR scholarship office to create pathways that will make classes and programs more accessible.

De Abreu emphasizes the need for increased communication and outreach for SPR programming with Magnuson Park neighbors. Mercy Magnuson has seen little if any advertising for community center programming.

De Abreu raises her concerns about Kids and Paper specifically. When Kids and Paper first began operations, De Abreu recalls them saying that they were "...working with immigrant children to assimilate them into the American way of life" and that some aspects of the program seemed "therapeutic." De Abreu has concerns that if therapeutic methods are being practiced, that a licensed professional is on hand.

LeMay acknowledges De Abreu's concern, and notes that it fits well with Murray's comment.

Murray notes that the communication from Kids and Paper has not been great. Murray shares that one parent at a recent meeting shared that they had gone to visit the program in person and were unable to learn much about the program. Murray also shares that it pained her during the past summer to see the seeming disparity in quality between the YMCA programs and Kids and Paper.

LeMay thanks Murray and De Abreu for the information and input.

De Abreu thanks LeMay for her report and willingness to have all this information thrown at her all at once. De Abreu summarizes the discussion into two main takeaways:

- MPAC is concerned about the level of oversight that SPR does or does not exercise over the program quality delivered by partner organizations
- MPAC requests to be kept abreast of decisions to partner with organizations, and to offer feedback

Fruland mentions that the upcoming anniversary of the first Around the World Flight could offer some good programming tie-ins.

LeMay inquires about opportunities at Mercy Magnuson and Solid Ground to have information sessions and/or sign-up nights before the mad rush that accompanies summer. Murray suggests that Oliver Alexander-Adams would be the best contact for coordination with Brettler Place, and the other buildings have their own coordinators. De Abreu shares that Mercy Magnuson may not have a primary resident services coordinator right now but offers to coordinate basic information with LeMay for now and to have LeMay invited to Mercy resident meetings. Recinos and Murray offer to connect with LeMay, as well.

Bragg thanks LeMay for the report and emphasizes that a benefit of having community center staff in MPAC meetings is this kind of coordination.

Overview of Priorities

De Abreu provides brief overview of MPAC's 2023 priorities.

MPAC has begun to address some of the “Safe & Healthy People” priorities, including a meeting between De Abreu, Bragg, and Christa Dumpys (SDOT).

Bragg updates the group regarding this meeting.

- Lighting along 62nd Ave, south of NE 74th St: 62nd Ave is owned by SDOT. This road has been an area of concern for some time, particularly regarding the streetlights. These lights are owned and operated by Seattle City Light. De Abreu has reached out to SCL regarding these lights and so far has not received a response. Requests to the Find It/Fix It app have not been helpful.
 - De Abreu expresses skepticism that SCL actually owns all of the lights on this property, since not all of the light poles have SCL tags.
 - Mike Fulghum from Mercy Magnuson is also looking into this issue and will elevate concerns with SCL if necessary.
 - Hoard notes that Seattle has a number of strange jurisdictional disputes regarding lights, and notes that since these lights are within the historic district, SPR may yet have an operations responsibility for them despite not owning them.
 - Hoard suggests that Kevin Bergsrud (SPR) may have the best knowledge of how these responsibilities are currently distributed.
- Parking striping along 63rd Ave, north of NE 74th St: Tenants tend to park along this street using a “back-in, angled parking” arrangement. However, there is no striping along this road and during events this arrangement breaks down.
 - Watson agrees that sometimes the parking on this road breaks down into chaos.
 - Dumpys has not yet been able to report back on this topic.
- Parking garage/parking area along 62nd Ave (former bachelor officer’s carport): This asset has split ownership between SDOT and Solid Ground, and has been poorly maintained.
 - Request for Dumpys to find appropriate contact information regarding this project to coordinate with MPAC.
- Crosswalks and pedestrian safety
 - Two crosswalks have miraculously appeared spanning 62nd Ave by the community center.
 - A grant proposal is probably the best path forward for flashing “beacons”/crosswalk signs.
 - Bragg emphasizes that the primary request of SDOT now re: crosswalks is for a pedestrian crossing of NE 74th St at 62nd Ave.
 - De Abreu and Hoard voice enthusiastic support for this proposal. Hoard expresses that he has been asking for a crosswalk in this location for years.
 - Gerhard recalls that crosswalks in this area of the park were discussed during an infrastructure meeting some time ago.

Murray gives brief report on letter she has drafted on behalf of MPAC to SDOT requesting improvements to pedestrian infrastructure. Bragg shares that two letters will likely be needed; one for SDOT and another for SPR, concerning repainting the following locations

- The intersection of NE 74th St and Sportsfield Drive
- The crosswalk between the Community Garden and the playground
- The crosswalk between the W6 lot and Building 406

Bragg asks for suggestions of other crosswalks to include in either the letter to SDOT or the letter to SPR.

Hoard and De Abreu suggest a crosswalk spanning Sportsfield Drive, just next to Building 47. De Abreu also expresses concern regarding the lack of sidewalks along Sportsfield Drive. Murray notes that proximity to the community center ought to make this a Tier 2 priority location for striping.

Old & New Business

De Abreu calls for a vote on the consent items introduced at the top of the meeting. Due to technical difficulties in the meeting room, the group votes by voice vote. The motions pass without objection or abstention.

Adopted: 1/11/23 Meeting Minutes; 12/14/22 Meeting Minutes

De Abreu asks for suggestions of new projects and next steps for MPAC to work towards.

Bragg notes that coordination with LeMay is a step forward in the “Strong Communities” goal. De Abreu adds that the MPAC website is updating to provide greater transparency and information regarding MPAC’s operations.

Hoard shares that in his time on MPAC there have been multiple park signage plans but seemingly little progress towards implementation. Hoard wonders if a good first step would be for MPAC to request a presentation of the current signage plan, and then to identify key signs for yearly implementation.

De Abreu asks for volunteers to lead the beginning of action regarding the signage plan. Hoard volunteers to connect with Brian Judd and begin the conversation. De Abreu offers assistance with communication if needed.

Bragg gives an update on the LIHI cottages that are nearing completion along NE 65th St. The initial completion date was February 1; that has come and gone, and now LIHI is aiming for a move-in date of mid-March. Bragg and Bicknell took a tour of the cottages on January 13, and Bragg shares that the units look very nice. These cottages are mostly 1-bedroom homes, and will be great places for Seattle Conservation Corps or Fair Share staff. The site will have its own property manager and case manager. LIHI is going to hold an open house prior to opening. Evan Briggs, another MPAC member, is trying to coordinate a welcome program and gifts, but is waiting to hear back from LIHI.

Gerhard announces the current artwork on display in the SPACE gallery in Building 30. The gallery is open from 11:00-3:00 on Thursday and Friday, and from 12:00-3:00 on Saturday. SPACE also operates 101.1 FM; the station has a new show starting 2/9 called “Exploring Magnuson Park.” Gerhard invites MPAC members to reach out to her for inclusion on that program.

Recinos offers to help the group where needed, especially regarding Solid Ground. De Abreu expresses gratitude to Recinos and asks if he could ask the new property management team about any safety and security plan they might have.

There being no other business, De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:14 pm.