

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

June 14, 2023

MPAC Members Present: Samantha De Abreu, Jan Bragg, Lara Watson, Aaron Hoard, Mary Bicknell, Gabrielle Gerhard, Bladimir Recinos

SPR Staff: Kim LeMay, Brian Judd, Ben Burtzos

Public Attendees: Robin Melvin

Welcome and Introductions

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

MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves and share one thing that went well this week because they were involved.

De Abreu asks for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10 MPAC meeting. There are no corrections to the minutes. The vote is 6-0 in favor of approving the minutes.

Adopted: May 10, 2023, MPAC Meeting Minutes

De Abreu asks for a motion to approve tonight's meeting agenda. The vote is unanimous in favor of approving the agenda.

Adopted: June 14, 2023, MPAC Meeting Agenda

Announcements and Public Comment

Gerhard announces that Sand Point Arts & Cultural Exchange (SPACE) will host the biannual Building 30 open studio on Saturday, June 17, from 12:00-4:00 pm. More than 20 artists will be participating in this event; there will also be live model drawing and refreshments. June 17 will also be the last day of the *plein air* gallery exhibit. Judd asks if Gerhard would give a slideshow of the event at the next MPAC meeting; Gerhard agrees.

Bragg shares an update on nesting birds in Magnuson Park, including several photographs of nesting and adolescent birds.

Magnuson Park Manager's Report

Brian Judd, Magnuson Park Manager, delivers the report [see attached].

Bragg gives update on MPAC recruiting. Bragg has spoken with Briggs about attendance conflicts; Briggs will look for potential alternate or replacement in case conflicting events continue to arise. In addition, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) building manager has a potential recommendation for a cottage resident representative for 2024.

De Abreu has not heard from Murray. De Abreu will keep trying to contact Murray, but replacement for the Solid Ground resident seat may need to be found at expiration of term.

Bicknell will likely step down from her seat at the conclusion of her term.

Gerhard asks Judd if the onus of event details for the online calendar could be put on event planners rather than SPR administrative staff. Judd will pose this question to the Events Scheduling team.

Bragg asks if Burtzos can send a full list of summer Magnuson Park events to MPAC. Burtzos affirms that this list is already generated but needs some polish before it is sent to MPAC members.

De Abreu asks if multiple small park events can be considered one large event for the sake of event planning (i.e., for traffic planning). Judd is not 100% sure how the process works when events elevate above a single small event but not to the level of a citywide "special event" (such as the Pride Parade). Judd will check on this with the Events Scheduling team.

Bragg asks Judd about feasibility of painting remaining crosswalk at intersection of NE 74th St and Sportsfield Dr NE. Currently, only one of that intersection's crosswalks has been painted. Judd clarifies that one of the nearby crosswalks that was restriped despite lack of curb cut-outs was painted in error; any new crosswalks require curb cuts before painting to remain ADA compliant, and the remaining road crossings will require new curb cuts. Judd will be working on this with colleagues consistent with recommendations for that intersection from the circulation plan. There is some discussion regarding feasibility and funding of crosswalks, and planning for future advocacy.

There is general approval of Judd's new report format.

Magnuson Community Center Report

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

The Community Center continues to ramp up programs towards the summer. Some summer camps are full or close to full, particularly sports and art programs. Teen program enrollment is lagging a bit; this isn't unusual at this time of year. About 50% of registrants so far are scholarship participants. The Community Center hosted a registration barbecue event with Solid Ground but has had challenges trying to coordinate a second registration event with Mercy Housing.

The MCC Grand Reopening will be on Thursday, July 6, beginning with a ribbon cutting at 4:30 and a block party at 5:00. Spring operating hours will extend through June.

Coming this summer, there will be a free online personal safety class with SPD. This class is at 11:00 am on Mondays or 12:00 noon on Saturday. MCC will have some youth interns helping through the summer months. Finally, MCC may be receiving a Teqball table this summer; this will be a new sport for Magnuson!

Bicknell asks about a potential tutor program through the Community Center. LeMay would love to chat with anyone interested in tutoring.

De Abreu asks about summer hours. LeMay explains that since summer programming requires more weekday daytime hours, the Community Center is not able to operate as many weekend hours during these months.

Hoard asks if the fire at Lake City Community Center has had any impact on Magnuson Community Center. LeMay clarifies that yes, a couple of LCCC classes have been relocated to MCC.

LeMay will send the informational flyer with information about the MCC grand reopening to Burtzos for distribution to MPAC.

Park Gate & Park Hours Recommendation

Bragg provides update regarding the park gate near the Boat Launch (E1) parking lot (at east end of NE 65th St). Currently, this gate is not locked at night, in part to provide access to the lakeshore for SFD, SPD, and the Muckleshoot Tribe. Bragg reviews the proposed location of a relocated gate north of the E2 parking lot and Boat Launch. Bragg also proposes an idea for locking gate at 9 pm (SPR NE district third shift).

SPR believes that moving current gate to new location would be less expensive than sourcing new gate. In either case, there are some difficulties to contend with, including environmental permits. SPR and MPAC both seem to be in alignment that the proposed new location of the gate would be preferred.

De Abreu shares a draft letter advocating that SPR relocate the park gate and begin locking the gate nightly at 9:00 pm or at a convenient time prior to the park's closing. Watson, Bicknell, and Hoard express strong support for sending this letter to SPR Superintendent Diaz.

Gerhard notes that 9:00 pm is before sundown during the summer, and this policy would detrimentally impact rule-abiding park users. Gerhard advocates for pairing any change in park hours or usage with an emphasis on signage and public outreach and communication. Judd offers some additional perspective regarding park closure; there are several downsides to closing the gate, including trapping cars in the park. Hoard notes that any solution will likely be imperfect, but incremental progress is a good thing. Burtzos reads from website that park hours are 4 am – 11:30 pm, subject to the Seattle Parks Board. After discussion, De Abreu decides to remove specific time recommendation in advocacy letter and leave it up to SPR to decide what is feasible and consistent with other Seattle parks.

De Abreu asks for a vote authorizing herself and Bragg to workshop and send advocacy letter to Superintendent Diaz. The vote is 6-1 in favor of authorizing De Abreu and Bragg to finalize and send letter.

Approved: De Abreu and Bragg shall be authorized to finalize and send advocacy letter regarding the relocation and securing of the southeast Magnuson Park gate to SPR Superintendent Diaz.

Review of 2023 Priorities

De Abreu brings up lack of clarity/communication issues with SPD

- De Abreu notes that MPAC could use a volunteer or two to build a relationship with SPD, or find some alternative communication path to dialogue.
- De Abreu is in communication with Sarah Lawson, SPD Crime Prevention Coordinator.
- Gerhard mentions North Precinct committee meetings on 1st Mondays; she volunteers to attend and be a presence there.
- Hoard offers to begin outreach with SPD and community safety groups but mentions that outreach with specific officers who patrol park and neighborhood probably will make the greatest impact.
- LeMay mentions that SPD Community Service Officers have been present at MCC events. LeMay will share CSO contact information with MPAC.
- De Abreu asks about the business tenants' meeting with SPD; since it is only for business tenants, and not residents, she wonders if Hoard or Gerhard could attend and report back to MPAC.

Next Steps

- Bragg will continue to advocate for increased recycling and litter receptacles
- De Abreu will serve on the Magnuson Park Management RFP panel
- Gerhard and De Abreu are working on digital storage solutions for MPAC documents
- Bragg will follow up with SPR regarding crosswalks and curb cuts along NE 74th St.

There being no further business, De Abreu adjourns the meeting at 7:32 pm.