

Minutes for the Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

January 10, 2018

Lower Conference Room, Bldg. 30

Members Present: Gabrielle Gerhard (Chair), Chandra Hampson (Vice-Chair), Jon Carver (Secretary), Jan Bragg, Lynn Ferguson, Sandy-Bricel-Miller, Tom Kelly, Aaron Hoard, Carol Valdrighi, Lhorna Murray, Humberto Alvarez, Mitch Cameron, Chauncy Gibbs, Porsche Dagget

Members Absent: Lhorna Murray, Scott Marshall

Guests: Mary Ann Ward, Tom Ansart, Rebecca Bolin, Will Gibbs, Kristin Kaempfer, Diana Kincaid

Seattle Parks Staff: Brian Judd, Cheryl Fraser, Director - Enterprise, Partnerships in Community Division; Katie Gray - Deputy Director, Recreation Division; Karl Fields – NE Seattle Rec Manager

Called to order: Meeting came to order at 6:02pm

Approval of December minutes: Lynn asked to correct the historic district names as follows:

- National Register of Historic Places: **Naval Air Station Seattle**
- Seattle Landmark name: **Sand Point Naval Air Station Historic District**

There were no further comments on the minutes. Jan Bragg moved to accept the December minutes, and Mitch Cameron seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Introduction of New Members: Gabrielle welcomed three new members to MPAC:

- Porsche Daggett represents the YMCA in a tenant position;
- Chauncy Gibbs represents Arena Sports in a tenant position; and
- Lhorna Murray represents Sand Point Housing residents.

Sail Sand Point Annual Report: Key Highlights from Mary Ann Ward's annual report presentation include:

- The total number of users increased from 9,000 in 2016 to nearly 11,600 in 2017. Sail Sand Point (SSP) expanded adaptive sailing opportunities, including the first veteran's regatta, which allowed those with physical disabilities to spend time on the water, as well as adult and youth programs.
- SSP needs the support of MPAC to meet its goal for 2018, which is to expand youth outreach. SSP is looking to establish a pathway for at-risk or disadvantaged backgrounds to become instructors. Mary Ann needs help identifying groups or specific kids to promote this opportunity. Chandra offered to assist with this effort given her connections at neighborhood schools (Roosevelt & Nathan Hale).

- SSP's 2017 annual report documents accomplishments, including nearly \$138,000 in public benefits, over \$12,000 scholarships that enabled groups to get on the water, and 4,200 hours of volunteer time supporting the SSP mission. In addition, over 1,300 youth participated in programming through outreach efforts. Additional information is needed to determine the percentage of kids on scholarships, however.
- SSP is concerned about the swimming ability of youth that come to the north shore. Mary Ann explained that a Boat-US program has provided lifejackets and SSP will be more vigilant in having kids wear the jackets when they swim. Carol is also working to identify swim lesson opportunities for the kids through the community center.
- Registration for summer programs typically opens February 1. SSP holds several slots in each class for scholarship and outreach purposes.
- Abatement work to clean lead paint from the boathouse is beginning this month and should be completed in early March. Stress load testing is needed to determine which piles are failing. Unfortunately, there is no funding available to address this infrastructure need. Netting is up to keep birds out of the boat house.

Community Center Programs

Carol discussed a new roller derby program at the Magnuson Park Community Center. The program uses the community center gym for roller derby classes. The class is organized by Potential Fresh Meat (PFM) Roller Derby (<https://pfmrollerderby.org/>). At issue is accessibility of the program to all community center users, as well as the availability of the gym during prime time for park residents. PFM is scheduled to provide its class on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30pm and on Thursday from 6:00-7:30pm. On Saturday, the program is also scheduled from 5:00-7:00pm. These hours effectively remove the gym for other uses. Carol stated that the Magnuson Community Center Advisory Council was never told about the program and she was concerned when program instructors asked people to leave the gym and lock the doors. Other MPAC members described their concerns with the program, including the pay-to-play program model and how low-income users are affected. Several MPAC members were asked to leave the bleachers and expressed concern because the gym was closed for the public, even though this was a public class. The community at Magnuson is especially hard-hit when the gym is not available during peak time as there is virtually no other indoor community space in the park for them.

Katie Grey, who oversees community center programming, stated that the intent was to provide an opportunity for the public to participate in a new program, i.e., roller derby. She mentioned that Seattle Parks is partnering with PFM Roller Derby and the group is providing a public benefit in terms of scholarships, equipment and access to the program. She acknowledged that the program could have been better explained, and she recognized the need to balance competing demands for the space, park residents, and the broader community. Brian Judd mentioned that Parks is looking at other indoor space(i.e. brig) and will be purchasing basketball hoops to augment community center hours.

The pay-to-play program model helps to subsidize free programs, according to Katie. Nevertheless, she acknowledged that Magnuson needs a new model. The city is experimenting with waiving fees and in certain fitness class where fees have been waived, Parks has seen a big increase (+10 percent) in participating. Carol stated that there is very little “free” programming for park resident. Katie will be attending a community center advisory council meeting for an in-depth conversation about the roller derby program, communication issues, and priorities.

Walking Trails

There were no questions on the info shared by Tom over email regarding trails through the park.

Director's Report

- Reminder: Brian asked MPAC members to complete the survey for 2018, as only 3 people had responded. Brian had planned to discuss survey results at this meeting, but will postpone until February to allow others to respond.
- Council Member Johnson provided funding to the Park for a security guard for the last quarter of 2017. The funding ended December 31, 2017. The security company hired for this contract was Jaguar Security and they covered the 7-11pm shift, 7 days a week. The vast majority of reports included incidents of loitering, sleeping in cars, and drinking alcohol. Security guards did call the police a few times and those incidents were logged. Brian noted that the presence of a security guard made a difference. MPAC members discussed opportunities to continue this program, especially for the summer months, as well as how security guards could be available to walk kids home. The security contract amount was \$12,000.
- Parks has released the Challenge Fund announcement for 2018. See: <http://parkways.seattle.gov/2018/01/08/seattle-parks-recreation-launches-2018-major-project-challenge-fund-applications-due-march-2018/>
- Brian presented information on the Seattle Parks and Rec organizational charts and provided handouts.

Looking forward

Gabrielle mentioned several items that may warrant further MPAC attention in 2018, including security, and she stated that MPAC may want to revisit and reestablish its priorities. She discussed that face to face advocacy for issues may be more effective than other means. In particular, \$8 million is slated to be spent in Magnuson Park, so there could be opportunities to influence how that money is spent.

Jon moved to adjourn the meeting and Tom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm