

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

March 12, 2025

Attendance

MPAC Members: King (chair), Mejia-Giudici, Hudacek, Furry, Windhover

Absent: Recinos, Hoard, Humes, De Abreu

SPR Staff and Presenters: Orsucci, Behrooz, Burtzos

Welcome and Introductions

King calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

King introduces tonight's consent agenda: meeting minutes from the March 12 MPAC meeting, and tonight's meeting agenda. There are no objections; King calls for a vote to approve. The vote is unanimous in favor of adoption.

Adopted: 3/12/25 MPAC Meeting Minutes

Adopted: 4/9/25 MPAC Meeting Agenda

King welcomes Ruth Windhover as a new member to MPAC. Windhover introduces herself as a representative of the Magnuson Community Garden. MPAC members and SPR staff briefly introduce themselves.

Announcements and Information Sharing

Public comments are heard on the following topics:

- Concerns and suggestions regarding the location and environmental impacts of the proposed pickleball facility at Magnuson Park

Due to technical difficulties with the remote meeting setup and staffing issues, Burtzos suggests skipping to the Manager's Report. King agrees.

Magnuson Park Manager's Report

Joanne Orsucci, Interim Magnuson Park Manager, delivers the report [see attached].

Magnuson Park Pickleball Facility – Project Update and Q&A

Morteza Behrooz, SPR Capital Project Coordinator, delivers the presentation.

Seattle Parks and Recreation has engaged with a primary consultant and, through them, multiple subcontractors to study the environmental and other impacts posed by the proposed multi-court pickleball facility at the E5 parking lot at Magnuson Park. The project is operating within the framework of the Magnuson Park Master Plan, which will need to be amended to allow court sports in an area of the park that is currently designated for an unbuilt baseball field, and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Pursuant to SEPA, SPR and consultants are developing a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to review the plan with the maximum impact to the site (25 total courts). This DEIS will include details such as modeling and testing methods. The draft is due in early July and a 30-day comment period is required after its release.

Behrooz notes that crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and other design standards are being considered as part of the project. Behrooz notes that SPR is required to provide active recreation opportunities, which the planning for this project is taking into consideration as well.

Behrooz addresses community suggestions for alternate locations of project sites within Magnuson Park. For various reasons, none of these locations are feasible.

- Outdoor tennis courts near sports meadow – this location is dedicated to natural area development in the Magnuson Park Master Plan. Rather than modify the plan to convert natural area to active recreation, SPR finds it preferable to modify one area already slated for active recreation to another form of active recreation.
- Building 2 – This building lacks a certificate of occupancy and the costs involved with rehabilitating the building would make the project infeasible.
- North Shore Recreation Area parking lot/west side of Arena Sports – this site is subject to a contract conflict and also provides overflow parking for Magnuson Café & Brewing, as well as the boat launch. The lot itself would also need significant and costly improvements, as the substructure at the site is less stable than at the proposed (E5) site; this would cause the court surface to degrade more rapidly and cause potential environmental risks.

Behrooz pauses to take questions from MPAC members.

- Mejia-Giudici asks for clarification regarding the condition and reuse of Building 2. Behrooz clarifies.
- Furry expresses desire for MPAC to work with consultant group during the development of SEIS. Furry and Ruth Fruland, former representative from Friends of Magnuson Park, suggest that MPAC should be given privileged review opportunity of report, prior to publication. Behrooz reiterates publication timeline.
- Fruland notes that Magnuson Park has several vacant buildings, including Building 2, that are preserved within the Sand Point Naval Air Station Historic District, and that Friends of Magnuson Park would support the siting of the pickleball facility within one of these buildings. Behrooz notes that rehabilitation of the historic buildings is actually quite challenging and that the historic buildings have many issues that need to be resolved prior to reuse, including hazardous materials abatement, seismic upgrades, a roof replacement project (in the case of Building 2), electrical and fire systems code compliance, ADA compliance, and other concerns. However, Behrooz adds that he will take Fruland's comments into consideration.
- Other comments and questions concern desire for increased proactive communication from SPR to MPAC and Sand Point community members regarding this project, and general frustration with the perception that the project is moving forward without sufficient opportunity to solicit feedback from the community. Behrooz agrees to continue updating the community and MPAC, and notes that two community meetings were held in September and November of 2024 and comments are continually being received and incorporated by SPR's planning team. In addition, both the SEIS and the proposed

changes to the Magnuson Master Plan will require significant public outreach periods and votes by the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and/or Seattle City Council, so there will be significant opportunity for public engagement throughout the year.

- Behrooz agrees to investigate and if necessary amend a sign posted near the E5 lot currently displaying inaccurate project information.

Magnuson Community Center Report

Kim LeMay, Magnuson Community Center Coordinator, is not present. The report will be postponed until next month's meeting.

New & Old Business

King reintroduces a proposal by Elisa Law from Friends of Magnuson Park regarding proposed signage for the 74th Street entrance to Magnuson Park (to be affixed on the exterior of Building 138). Burtzos clarifies that if a vote were to be taken today on this proposal, it would be to recommend a specific design to FOMP to move forward with their advocacy to SPR and Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods, not for MPAC to advocate directly to SPR.

Members review the two designs proposed.

Hudacek notes that neither design matches the Art Deco design principles that other lettering in the historic district does exemplify. He offers to help redesign the proposals to better align if FOMP is willing to postpone the vote until the May meeting. King, Fruland, and Mejia-Giudici assent.

Windhover suggests also seeing draft design options in varied lighting and weather conditions, given Seattle weather. There is general agreement on this.

King adjourns the meeting at 7:29 PM.