

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee
Draft - Minutes
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 - 6 – 7:30 PM
Hosted on WebX.

Attending members: Diana Kincaid, Juli Horan, Jan Bragg, Mary Bicknell, Lhorna Murray, Karey Kessler, Kate Parker, Robin Melvin, Mike Stewart

SPR representative: Brian Judd, Magnuson Park Manager

Guests: Nancy Bolin (NE District Council), Neil Simpson (Solid-Ground)

6:00	Call to order	Chair
	Request for Secretary – Jan volunteered	

6:05 **Announcements/Public Comment**

Lhorna said there's been [some positive tests for] COVID-19 in the park.
Kate announced there will be a COVID vaccine clinic tomorrow (June 10) at Mercy Magnuson for 1st or 2nd dose, will recur every 3 weeks. Also announced that there is a Wednesday Food Pantry every Wed at Mercy Magnuson.

Jan wanted to comment re Fin Art in response to Brian's email to MPAC; she stated that this was an example of pitfalls of public art in habitat areas. The area where Fin Art was sited was wild, now no longer habitat but grass which has to be mowed, using resources (gasoline, man power). Fin Art gets tagged by graffiti artists, again costing resources. Finally, it seemed a bizarre location since neither orcas nor submarines use Lake WA.

Diana announced the Magnuson Park Circulation Plan public meeting will be June 22, 2021 5:30-7:30 pm, Brian will send us an electronic postcard tomorrow which will be distributed to all residents.

Diana announced that Juneteenth will be an official state holiday starting next year, to celebrate the end of slavery in the U.S.

Diana wanted to get into the minutes that Brian had forwarded an email to MPAC after the May MPAC meeting that Friends of Magnuson Park had decided not to have any portraits, will just paint panels of planes on Building 41.

6:10	Approval of Agenda and Minutes	Mtg Committee
	All voted in favor of approving the Agenda.	

April minutes—hadn't been distributed to all members yet, so approval postponed again.

All voted in favor of approval of May minutes.

6:15 **Park Manager's Report/ Anti-racism (cont'd.)** Brian Judd

Brian did not have a formal report this meeting, but wanted to lead a discussion of what everyone thought of the document he had sent out. He said a colleague of his will be joining him for the July MPAC meeting re "white supremacy culture" and wanted to know what topics we wanted to explore. One member had already written him re the "worship of the written word."

Topics discussed included:

Asking people who live in the park what they would like to see.

Community Center is middle ground between 2 different worlds; the park feels segregated, although less so the past 2 years.

How will we affect those living 7 generations from now?

Best way forward is to have more diverse representation on MPAC.

Brian wondered here if one should rethink the structure of MPAC.

Hear what the experiences of those who lived in the park were, good and bad.

Nancy from NE District Council explained that the council is a group representing neighborhoods and that they have been discussing the BLM movement. They have broadened their by-laws so there are not just representatives of neighborhoods; they're missing representation from Magnuson Park. They would like reps from both Solid Ground and Mercy, to give residents [a voice].

Diana stated that "Next Door" ("a hyperlocal social networking service for neighborhoods") is an issue, has done damage.

Lhorna stated that it was all well & good to hear residents but said we had to be careful and create a space which is welcoming to all. She liked the idea of inviting kids who grew up in the park but also kids who grew up in neighborhoods around the park, to find out what would have brought them in, to contribute to the park. Maybe start with past residents who were recipients of FOMP scholarships.

Brian asked for volunteers who wanted to be involved in his planning of the July meeting with Selena: Lhorna, Diana and Mike were interested.

6:35 **Future use of Gas Generators**

Jan: We discussed in a past meeting that Seattle Barkery, a tenant of the park located at the OLA, runs a gas generator to sustain its business. At past meeting, Jan had recommended that the park not take on additional tenants who need gas generators to power themselves. Discussion: There is currently no power source at the OLA; there is a place where coffee trucks can plug-in near the electric car power stations.

Jan moved and Lhorna, then Karey seconded, that MPAC recommend that SPR not add to Magnuson Park any permanent businesses or vendors which depend on gas generators.

Diana postponed voting on this motion until next month, to give everyone a chance to think about it. Lhorna was concerned that it could affect revenue for SPR. Others wanted to discuss other uses of gas generators in the park, should SPR continue to allow their use for recreation, etc. It was agreed that that would be a separate discussion from this motion.

6:45 **Engaging MPAC and Community Center Diana and Juli** **Fostering Interaction** **Creating a kid- and family-friendly environment for residents** **Developing a Creative Environment at Magnuson Park** **Connecting Magnuson Kids to Sports they don't have access to** **Community Center Celebration**

Discussion included:

The opportunity to use the Community Center (CC) in different ways when it reopens and to work on integration in the park.

“MPAC should be part of CC reopening celebration in 2022.”

“Accessing basketball program is daunting for students.”

“Doing art actually helps inspire kids; art programs are lagging behind at Magnuson.”

[Resident] “Kids are watching sports daily that they don't have access to.”

“Are the sports fields available to public if not reserved?”

- Brian stated that they are available, and that times are blocked out when the fields cannot be reserved, but didn’t know if those times are publicized.
- Suggestion that open times be publicized; Kate said times could be posted on the monitor at Mercy.

Downside to program called “Rock the Park”: no other kids from surrounding areas participate in it. “Benefits no one if kids grow up without the opportunity to interact with kids of different backgrounds.”

“Celtic does provide scholarships; could they do intros so [resident] kids could try out?”

“It would make sense to have [resident] kids join the camps which already exist in the park.”

Diana recognized those organizations in the park which are already providing opportunities for resident kids to participate in their programs:

- Mountaineers
- Outdoors-for-All
- Sail Sandpoint

7:10 Future of MPAC—What should that look like? Diana and Juli
Selecting Future Leadership Serving the community

Juli: Diana, Brian and Juli have discussed future of MPAC:

- Is it Brian’s job to find the chair?
- Residents-- great that they are now participating, but they should have position at the head of the table
- Chairmanship could rotate each month

Lhorna brought up again the possibility of offering stipend to residents to enable them to be able to participate, for example, childcare may be an issue hindering participation.

Lhorna also brought up the possibility of scholarships, this is something she’d spent time on in the past, but it was not a thing anymore, making it hard to invest her time in again. The problem with scholarships for resident kids is how difficult the process is/how hard it is to apply.

Brian asked if this was with the CC advisory c'tee? He said if MPAC came up with a recommendation, he would take it to the SPR superintendent.

Brian agreed to meet with Lhorna one-on-one to clarify what the commitment could be.

“Availability of scholarships needs to be made known.”

“Websites need to be easier for non-English speaking residents to navigate.”

Lhorna feels that the City needs to set the bar [on ease of application for scholarships], if the City is not doing it, how can private organizations be expected to do it.

Next Meetings – August off? (as was the tradition until 2020)

MPAC voted in agreement to take August off.

Adjourn

Diana thanked all for the thoughtful conversation and adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.