

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

September 11, 2024

(Meeting was held 100% virtually because of staff illness)

Attendance

MPAC Members: Samantha De Abreu (co-chair), Jan Bragg (co-chair), Ruth Fruland, Nancy Wilder, Aaron Hoard, Dave Hudacek, Virginia Humes

Substitute: Tom Kelly, representing MESA, attended for Jonathan King

Absent: Bladimir Recinos

SPR Staff and Presenters: Joanne Orsucci, Ben Burtzos, Kim LeMay, Kevin Bergsrud,

Welcome and Introductions

De Abreu calls the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

MPAC members and SPR staff introduce themselves around the table.

Consent items

Samantha calls for a vote on the prior meeting's minutes and tonight's agenda. Votes are unanimous in agreement. No questions or comments.

Adopted: Sept 11, 2024, MPAC Meeting Agenda

Adopted: July 10, 2024, MPAC Meeting Minutes

Announcements by members—Information sharing

Ruth announced before the meeting was called to order that 2 pilots had dropped out of the "fly-over" in vintage planes planned for the Sept 28 Centennial Celebration of Round the World Flight.

Jan acknowledges that today is the 23rd anniversary of 9/11/01.

Samantha announces that John Bower has given up his seat on MPAC because he is moving out of the area/his children will no longer be attending Sand Point Elementary School. The seat for Sand Point Elementary PTA is again vacant.

Public Comment

(Diana Kincaid signed up to comment but could not be heard when called upon)

Virginia Bound states her concerns re the planned Pickleball Courts for E-5: She states that she walks nearly daily in the wetlands and asks "what about the rights of everyone other than pickleball players who use the park?" Her concern is that the pickleball courts will make an impact on the birds and the invertebrates and the residents, secondary to the lights and the noise, both of the people and of the balls. She does not understand why pickleball courts would be created for the sake of such a small percentage of people. Samantha thanks Virginia.

Magnuson Park Manager's Report -- Joanne Orsucci, Interim park manager

[See attached – “Report from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)” Sept, 2024]

1. Phoenix Security is locking the gate across NE 65th St as well as across Lake Shore Dr, usually after 10 pm. One sign with the hours has been erected, more signs are needed. SPD brought a mobile unit to E-1 for 3-4 days. No further parties have been reported for the past 6-8 weeks. Joanne commends the neighbors who complained about the parties and got this response from SPD and SPR.
2. Rangers are available only during the day, not at night. Call 911 for concerns at night.
3. Deadline has been extended till Sept 13 for feedback re the Pickleball Court project; email Kevin Bergsrud: Kevin.Bergsrud@seattle.gov
4. No further interest in serving on MPAC from business tenants.
5. Mayor will announce his budget Sept 24, it will be accessible on city website, doesn't know what the impacts will be on SPR budget.
6. SPR has renewed contracts with Outdoors for All, etc.

Q&A:

Samantha asks for an update re tribal fishing rights now that the gate is being closed across NE 65th St (For history: MPAC was told in 2022-2023 that the gate could not be closed across NE 65th St because the tribes needed 24 hr access to the boat ramp.) Joanne replies that she thinks that the gate closure has been communicated but doesn't know. Samantha asks that confirmation be obtained.

Jan asks what time the gate is being closed across Lake Shore Dr (History: the signage for that gate reads 9:30 pm). Joanne replies that she assumes it is closed ~10 pm, does not know if gate across 65th St will continue to be closed.

Tom asks about Broadview Planning, stating that there is supposed to be another public meeting. Joanne states that they will have a table at Haunted House for one night. Tom states that there was supposed to be a public meeting in addition to tabling.

Jan states surprise over the public survey questionnaire from Broadview Planning (BP) which did not ask any questions re park management. Aaron added that it was hard to tell what information would be gleaned from that survey. He clarified that stating his disappointment with how Broadview Planning was gathering information was feedback to Joanne as Park Manager, responsible for RFP management. In addition, as the representative for UW, he has not yet been contacted by BP for an interview. Joanne states that BP received over 1100 responses to the survey.

MPAC Procedures Update -- Joanne filing in for Ben

Joanne states that this item is just about the minutes: Ben took a class on parliamentary procedures and we will now see changes: there will be no discussion, just who is attending and what motions were made.

Tom protests, says that the minutes are for the public to be able to see what's happening at the meetings.

Joanne offers the option of going back to having an MPAC member act as secretary and take minutes, that Ben's time allotted to MPAC was decreased.

Jan states the importance of including discussion in the minutes for the sake of knowing the history, what has been said before, and read from information on "Action Minutes" sent by Ben to Jan & Samantha before tonight's meeting: "Minutes may also include a note that discussion was held and a brief description of that discussion (if the body wants to make clear that they did due diligence)."

Magnuson Park Capital Project Update

Kevin Bergsrud

Kevin reports the following to MPAC as follow-up to last Thursday's public open house:

Pickleballers started contacting SPR 2016-2017 re need for pickleball courts. Seattle Metro Pickleball Association (SMPA) came into being. Because of a shift in the Superintendent's Office, this was put on hold. Recently there has been another shift with the result that \$2.1 million has been put aside from the Municipal Park District for 8-10 courts at Magnuson Park.

Intent was to have 1-2 open houses. First public open house could have been earlier.

\$2.1 million includes #300k to look at a design at Georgetown playfield.

Next step is permitting.

Construction to begin 2025.

SMPA may later build out to 24 courts.

Putting courts in E-5 will require change to 2006 Master Plan which called for baseball field in E-5; will need to go to City Council to remove that ballfield from Master Plan

Still need to do analysis for traffic, noise impacts...Plan to analyze noise of 24 courts in Jan. 2025.

Pickleball courts will be placed in "what was the Children's Hospital lot."

Tournament Court so 150 spectators can watch, if SMPA wants tournament playing.

Have hired a transportation group as consultants.

Design includes: 2 of 8-10 courts covered, but less than brick and mortar

6 gender-neutral restrooms

Space for concessions, amenities, picnic tables while players waiting to play

1 design preserves 70-74 parking places which he doesn't think is enough

1 design includes 9 covered courts

Construction to begin late 2025

Sports fields and wetlands had an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 2003.

SEIS will be written 10/2024-3/2025.

Q&A with Kevin:

Q. Aaron: 1. What's the noise mitigation? How can one measure and mitigate for the noise?

2. You showed lots of configurations; which design gets chosen?

A: SMPA has said what they'd like, still a question of who is going to fundraise, 24 courts would cost \$10-15 million. Goal of 24 will be in EIS, plan to build 8-10, then increase to 16, then increase to 24.

Back to question 1 re noise: There are acoustic blankets which can be hung on fences, but they can act like a sail in a strong wind and break the fence. Better if court is covered. There are also quieter pickleballs and paddles, but hard to legislate what equipment people have to use.

Probably not possible here to move earth/create a berm.

Q. Samantha: when measuring noise impact, do they consider acoustic effect on birds in migration?

A. Everyone just does ground measurements on noise, they don't measure upward.

Q. How do we chat with EIS folks?

A. Not part of contract to do public engagement for EIS.

Ruth: I like pickleball but there's a huge difference between 8 or 10 vs, 24 courts!

Q. Jan—3 questions: It's not a "former" P&R, it is currently leased to Seattle Children's Hospital, creating revenue of \$250 k/year. How will that revenue be recouped?

Why not use the old tennis courts instead of E-5?

Why was there no public participation at the Open House, no way to give feedback?

A. Kevin: Apologizes. Assumed people would email feedback

Planning one more open house before end of year.

Tom: Need quiet of wetlands for mental health.

Also concerned with thermal increase of exposed courts which will give off a lot of heat vs cars sitting in lot.

A. Kevin: back to \$250,000 revenue, can't answer how it will be replaced, not sure where parking lot revenue goes.

Joanne: all the money ends up in the general fund.... it will partially be recouped by revenue from pickleball.

Kevin: Could have an RFP instead

Q. Samantha: Does the \$2.1 million have to be applied to pickleball?

A. It's from the Park District 2023-2028, and "includes my salary"

Q: Who's going to operate these courts?

A. TBD

Q: David states from experience, plan on 4 parking spaces/court.

Ruth: Seems we need more time to continue this discussion.
Having already run 10 min over time, and there being no time for Old or New Business,
Samantha abruptly adjourns the meeting at ~7:40 pm.