



Magnolia Community Council

Magnolia Community Council Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 17, 2015 6:30pm

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Magnolia
Community
Council

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In attendance:

Carol Burton, Bill Stafford, Mary Hoverson, Bruce Carter, Janis Traven, Steve DeForest, Margaret Cerrato-Blue, Michele Marchi and Mary Montgomery.

Guest attendees:

Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods

Joe Villarino, Webmaster

Ed Potthurst, Community Crosswalks Program

Crown Castle, Small Cell Antenna installation

Magnolia neighborhood residents

Minutes from the October 20, 2015 Board of Trustee approved.

Brief discussion about approval to renew domain names associated with the Magnolia Community Council. Joe Villarino will complete the renewal process.

Mary Hoverson gave a brief Treasurer Report. Liability insurance has been purchased.

Ed Pottharst reported to the Board of Trustees on the efforts for Community Crosswalks within the Magnolia neighborhood. There are specific guidelines from SDOT that must be followed, the design approved, success with obtaining Matching Funds and a fiscal sponsor secured. It was noted that the "matching" can consist of a dollar to dollar match along with community volunteer participation (labor) to dollar. The primary goal of the program is for neighborhood/community building along with visual improvements following an agreed-upon theme or look for the neighborhood.

Carol Burton will approach the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce to explore the idea of an ad hoc committee with member from the Council and the Chamber to move this effort forward.

The discussion shifted to the ongoing efforts to secure a four-way stop (aka totally controlled intersection) at 32nd Avenue West and West Ray Street. Again, there are very specific SDOT guidelines with respect to controlling any

intersection and pedestrian crosswalks. Minimum traffic (vehicle and pedestrian) must be met before any controls considered. It was noted the effort to create a raised-style crosswalk at that intersection has been abandoned as far too expensive.

Representatives of Crown Castle then gave their presentation. Crown Castle is the largest cell tower installation company in the US and is responsible for the design and the construction of the Small Cell Antenna (Node) to be placed along the south and western bluff portion of Magnolia.

Crown Castle has been working with the city for approximately a year on this upgrade to the cell network. Crown Castle explained this project is moving forward and its primary goal is to have input from the community in which the nodes are to be installed to seek design input and to respond to any concerns.

Currently, city zoning requires cell tower sites to be placed within commercial zones. However, Magnolia has very limited commercial areas so alternatives had to be located and those alternative locations also needed to be functional. Magnolia had been recognized for its inconsistent cell service and improvements were badly needed and overdue. Several trustees commented on challenges with their own cell service when in the neighborhood. Crown Castle explained that nearly 40% of households are wireless and those numbers are consistently on the increase.

Crown Castle advised this upgrade provides a "boost" to the cell signals and also provides for greater capacity and is currently being driven by their clients, Verizon and Sprint. The new nodes as proposed also have the capacity to host other cell service providers without modifications. It is anticipated that other providers will be using these nodes at some time in the future.

Crown Castle provided computer modified photographs to demonstrate the 1: existing light poles (before) and 2: the redesigned light poles with the cell service canister affixed (after). At this time, Crown Castle stated they had not received any specific instructions or guidelines from the Seattle City Light, who owns the light poles, with respect to the design so they based the look of the nodes based on the light poles currently in use in that area.

There was no Transportation Committee member present to advise on the Mercer Stakeholders recent efforts.

Bruce Carter brought up several ongoing issues concerning public transit that has or will have an impact on Magnolia that remain under discussion and consideration by various authorities or public vote, such as light rail proposals, modified bus transit and any ridership issues, the Ballard Bridge and/or its replacement or companion bridge dedicated to light rail, the 15th Avenue West corridor and others that the Council needs to continue to monitor.

Joe Villarino reported on some interest in forming a Safety Committee (modeled after one forms in the Queen Anne neighborhood) that combines the focus and goals of emergency preparedness, collecting and sharing information, formulation of and support for additional Block Watch groups and any other activity that could fall under the umbrella of neighborhood and individual safety.

Carol Burton brought up some suggestions for presentations to the Magnolia Community Council, and possibly in conjunction with the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce based on communications directed to her by members of the community. Friends of Art on Pier 86, improving various viewpoints in Magnolia Park, an update on the developments at Smith Cove Park and Magnolia Manor Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.