



Magnolia Community Council

Magnolia Community Council Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 15, 2016 7:00pm

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Bruce Carter
Tom Tanner

Vice President

Janis Traven

Treasurer

Mary Hoverson

Recording Secretary

Richard Piacentini

Communications Officer

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Carol Burton

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Michele Marchi
Paul Fogarty
Lynn Hogan
Mary Montgomery
Michael Plunkett
Bill Stafford
Janis Traven
Heather Ussery
Rex Wardlaw
Thomas Ysasi

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Trustees in attendance: Bruce Carter (Presiding as Co-President), Mary Montgomery (Substituting as Recording Secretary), Rex Wardlaw, Carol Burton, Steve DeForest, Mary Hoverson, Bill Stafford, Michael Plunkett, and Janis Traven.

Guests also in attendance: Numerous residents of Magnolia and other parts of the city, Laurie Ames of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Steve Walker and Maureen Caruso of the City of Seattle Office of Housing.

Steve Walker and Maureen Caruso, of the City of Seattle Office of Housing made a presentation of the current status and proposal for the 2016 Seattle Housing Levy and how it falls under the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) umbrella. HALA currently consists of approximately sixty five distinct programs, the 2016 Housing Levy being one of them.

A multi-slide power point presentation was followed by a lengthy question and answer period between Mr. Walker, Ms. Caruso, MCC Trustees and the guests who were in attendance.

Briefly, the 2016 Seattle Housing Levy will request \$290 million over 7 years. It was noted that Seattle homeowners have agreed to tax themselves and have passed a housing levy several times over the past 35 years, beginning in 1981. It was discussed that the levy cannot solve the current housing crisis, and its many related issues. The recent declaration of a "housing emergency" in Seattle and King County is a different issue as its focus is on an immediate and short term remedy.

Rather, the 2016 levy is something that can expand and improve on a 35 year legacy of successful programs to assist with housing for low income workers, senior citizens and the disabled and the formerly homeless. The levy is designed to be a permanent long term program working towards solutions. The current proposal is before the Seattle City Council, who have formed various subcommittees that are studying the proposed levy. The goal is to have the levy on an August 2, 2016 ballot.

Mr. Walker and Ms. Caruso encouraged all in attendance to visit the website for more detailed information at www.seattle.gov/housing/levy.

Carol Burton advised on the upcoming Open House that will be a presentation of the Expedia plans for the Amgen site. The Expedia presentation is to be held on Tuesday evening, March 22, 2016 at the Magnolia United Church of Christ, 3555 West McGraw Street, Seattle, WA 98199. The open house begins at 6:15 with a brief presentation by Expedia to begin at 7:00 pm. The anticipated build out, the 15th/Elliott corridor traffic impacts, and the importance of public access in the vicinity – especially as related to waterfront Centennial and Myrtle Edwards Parks.

Janis Traven reported on the latest developments with Project Welcome and its primary goal of community wide outreach. Some Board members made a recent tour of the Interbay Tent City site (behind QFC). The recent windstorms had done some significant damage that had to be repaired. A resolution was made and passed by the MCC Trustees in support of Project Welcome.

Bruce Carter reported on the ongoing efforts by Sergeant Paul Gracy, Seattle Police Department, Community Policing to work with the Magnolia, Queen Anne and Ballard communities and the many recent issues that have been raised by the sudden increase in homeless residents and concerns raised by long term residents. The MCC voted to send a letter of commendation of Sergeant Paul Gracy to the Seattle Police Department.

Michael Plunkett reported on certain land use issues of concern in Magnolia. The city remains in negotiations with the U.S. Army over the Fort Lawton property. This has been a discussion that has started and stopped many times over the last several years as the Army disposes of properties no longer needed. Mr. Plunkett also advised that as mentioned earlier in the evening, HALA is an umbrella for many other issues that need to be monitored – such as up zoning (allowing for greater building heights) and the construction of backyard cottages (championed by City Council member, Mike O'Brien). Mr. Plunkett urged attendees and the MCC Trustees to learn more about the 65 components of HALA and how they may impact Magnolia and all neighborhoods in the city. It was moved, seconded and passed to send a letter to the City recommending revisions of zoning regulations to allow for greater height for developments in the Magnolia Village and additional multi-family development in the vicinity of Gilman in northeast Magnolia.

Janis Traven advised that the Sound Transit 3 alignment along 20th Avenue West would be good for Magnolia, especially given the rapid growth through the Interbay neighborhood from downtown all the way through Ballard. The additional growth due to the arrival of Expedia will also be a significant impact. Sound Transit will be making presentation on Thursday, March 31 at the Magnolia Church of Christ. Prior to this presentation, Sally Bagshaw (Seattle Council Member District 7) and Jeanne Kohl-Welles (King County Council District 4) will hold a "Coffee with a Council Member" event to discuss ST3. Both Ms. Bagshaw and Ms. Kohl-Welles will also attend the Sound Transit Open House at the Magnolia United Church of Christ.

Bruce Carter reported the agreement with the Magnolia Historical Society has been reached with respect to the sale of the MCC's' remaining inventory of "Magnolia Memories" volumes 1 books.

A special election under Section 4, Article VI, of the Magnolia Community Council was held to fill certain Board vacancies. A motion was made, seconded, voted upon and passed to elect the following individuals to the Magnolia Community Council: Ben Broesamle, Lynn Hogan, Michael Plunkett and Michele Marchi and for these individuals to serve until the next annual meeting of members or until a successor is elected and qualified.

Members of "SeattleforEveryone.org" provided the MCC Trustees and the guests with literature about their efforts in support of HALA.

Lastly, Bruce Carter provided the MCC Trustees with a reminder and the literature on the SDOT Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) Program "Call for Projects" and the deadline for submission of April 17, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.