



Magnolia Community Council

Magnolia Community Council Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Members present: Carol Burton, Bruce Carter, Steve DeForest, Jessica Gallegos, Lynn Hogan, Chris Kirk, Michele Marchi, Mary Montgomery, Cindy Pierce, Janis Traven
Guests: Deborah Alt, Judi Gibbs, Lew Latimer, Polly Latimer, Brigitte Moehring, David Moehring

Mary Montgomery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members and guests were introduced. The minutes from the April 18 meeting of the Council were approved, as was the report from the treasurer.

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Mary Montgomery

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Jessica Gallegos
Christopher Kirk
Michele Marchi
Richard Piacentini
Cindy Pierce
Michael Plunkett
Bill Stafford
Libby Stevenson
Tom Tanner
Janis Traven
Rex Wardlaw
Thomas Ysasi

Land Use Committee

Chris Kirk introduced our guests who spoke against new construction in their East Magnolia neighborhoods that was outsized for the scale of the neighborhood and encroached on critical slopes and green canopies. Parking spaces, if provided at all, often proved too narrow for all but the smallest “mini” cars. The cited examples had skirted the existing codes or had been granted various exceptions by the city in contradiction of its zoning laws. The examples included new multi-family residences at 3228-3230 West Government Way; 4350 32nd Avenue West; 3317 39th Avenue West, and 22nd Avenue West and West Ruffner. Neighbors complained of no notice before construction began. Our guests, many of them long-time residents, spoke of the city’s disregard for the character of the community in its efforts to increase density.

Action: Ms. Montgomery asked Mr. Kirk and the Land Use Committee to return to the June 21 meeting with recommended steps for the Council to take in support of the concerns expressed.

New Business: Board Protocol

In the interest of efficiency, Ms. Montgomery asked that all agenda items be sent to her at least 5-7 days before the scheduled board meetings. She also asked that committee chairs submit brief written reports to allow for more discussion time for emergent issues or other pressing topics during the meetings. Members asked that the draft minutes be sent out as quickly as possible after the board meetings so that action items can result in timely action.

Action: Committee chairs should send brief written reports to Ms. Montgomery by June 15, 2017.

Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

Bruce Carter reported that Nancy Bainbridge Rogers is leaving the neighborhood and has resigned from the Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Bruce will seek possible replacement candidates from those living above the port facilities. Janis Traven volunteered as a stand-by attendee.

Queen Anne/Magnolia Coalition

Steve DeForest reported that the Coalition feted outgoing city representative Laurie Ames and heard from three speakers:

Fred Felleman, Commissioner, Port of Seattle, spoke on several topics:

- The Magnolia Trail Project, connecting the Magnolia community directly to Smith Cove Park and downtown Seattle.

- The Magnolia Bridge replacement - a 6-foot section recently fell off of the bridge
- Terminal 91 and the Uplands planning—the Port sees this area as a revenue-producer to maintain the industrial base of the area
- Expedia - the Port continues to pressure Expedia to contribute to the Magnolia and Pier 91 trail projects. The Key Arena and Sodo Arena sites and the Port's concerns about traffic flow in the Sodo area.

Charlene Strong, City Council candidate and Magnolia resident

Lyle, Resident of Tent City 5

- The permit for Tent City 5 expires on November 18. The Coalition has joined with area churches in writing in support of amending the ordinance to allow the group to stay.

Safety Committee

Cindy Pierce attended the West Precinct Advisory Council and reported that crime in the city is down over all, with residential break-ins particularly prevalent from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Magnolia and Queen Anne have been particularly hard-hit. The police have recommended residential cameras as one way to help identify thieves.

Transportation Committee

Bruce Carter reported on the Transportation Stakeholders' meeting. The City is committed to constructing gates at the entrances to Magnolia Bridge to keep vehicles and pedestrians off the bridge after a seismic event. The City also is committed to emergency planning, including short-term response planning, which was not in place for the last earthquake. They will restudy the location of a bridge alternative. Another meeting is scheduled for the end of June.

Parks

Janis Traven reported that a Friends of Discovery Park meeting will be held this Saturday, May 20. The Discover Music project received a Neighborhood Grant to host a free concert on August 27 at the Daybreak Center site. Members spoke about the EIS for the Army Reserve site. Among the uses for consideration : leave the site as is; affordable housing; mixed housing; park. Carol Burton agreed to keep on top of this for the Council.

Old Business

September Candidate Forum - Cindy Pierce and Janis Traven agreed to co-chair this program, assisted by Carol Burton and Bruce Carter

Action: The co-chairs will report back on their plan at the June 21 meeting.

Steve DeForest reported that Thomas Ysasi's status as a trustee is still pending.

Speakers for June and September Meetings

Cindy Pierce will approach David Larabee to speak about the Micro Policing plan at the June meeting. Jeannie Kohl-Welles was identified as a possible speaker for the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.