



# Magnolia Community Council

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## Magnolia Community Council Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

*Tuesday June 21, 2016 7:00pm*

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Magnolia  
Community  
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Introductions, Roll Call.

In attendance: Bruce Carter (presiding), Richard Piacentini, Carol Burton, Mary Montgomery, Lynn Hogan, Stephen DeForest, Michael Plunkett, Bill Stafford, Mary Hoverson and Ben Broesamle.

Guests:

Laurie Ames, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Greg Carnese

Scott Kubly, Director, SDOT

Elliot Helmbrecht, Levy Outreach Manager, SDOT

Dongho Chang, SDOT, Magnolia Resident

Pat Craft, SafeinMagnolia.org

Jim Alan

Cindy Pierce

The May Meeting Minutes were approved

The May Treasurer's Report was approved. Mary reported that expenses were lower in May due to the cancellation of the storage space.

Pat Craft spoke about the need for a four way stop at the intersection of 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave W. and W. Raye Street. He is launching an online petition on the website [safeinmagnolia.org](http://safeinmagnolia.org) under the heading "Stop at Pop". He feels that the response from the City to their requests for the stop sign has been underwhelming and the City is not listening. Later in the meeting, Pat asked Scott Kubly about the installation of the stop sign. Dongho Chang, the City's traffic engineer, responded that the intersection didn't warrant a stop sign, but the City could install a Rapid Flash Beacon. The consensus response from the Board to Scott Kubly was that we can't even get SDOT to do the small projects in Magnolia and it feels like we are forgotten. He responded that he will look into the stop sign in person and will ask staff what can be done.

Scott Kubly spoke about Seattle's transportation system and the upcoming Move Levy. He said that Seattle's rapid, consistent growth inside of its boundaries is putting stress on its transportation system. Reliability is a primary concern for SDOT. There are many modes of transportation cars,

freight, mass transit, bikes and pedestrians, and integrating all of these modes is a high priority at SDOT. He described three categories of projects under the \$930 million levy. They are Safe Routes - \$207 million, Congestion Relief - \$303 million and Maintenance and Preservation - \$420 million. He listed the Magnolia projects included in the levy as follows.

Safe Routes –

Lawton Elementary School

Blaine School

Bike and Pedestrian education at Lawton and Blaine

Maintenance and Repair –

Magnolia Bridge Repair

Study Magnolia Bridge

Seismic Retrofit W. Howe Bridge

Congestion Relief –

Rapid Ride D Line to Pioneer Square

3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Transit Improvements

Director Kubly responded to the following questions from the Board:

Magnolia Bridge Replacement – It will cost around \$400 million to replace the Magnolia Bridge and it carries 18,000 to 20,000 cars per day. On a per car basis, it is massively expensive to replace the Magnolia Bridge, and if SDOT had \$400 million to spend, they have higher priorities than replacing the Magnolia Bridge. He said that currently the bridge is safe, but acknowledged that it would fall down in an earthquake. SDOT is looking at alternative routes to get people in and out of Magnolia in that event, including improvements to Dravus or an agreement with the Port. He would not commit to when money would be available for a planning study for bridge replacement, but said he would get back to the Board on when that would occur. He reiterated the expense to replace the bridge and said he's not sure it's the best choice. Board members pointed out that the bridge is the life line to Magnolia Village, and without the bridge, the Village businesses would die. He expressed the difficulty in funding a big capital project for one neighborhood and said he didn't have a good answer as to how SDOT would do it.

Reader Board on Magnolia Bridge – The Board requested the installation of a reader board on the Magnolia Bridge indicating the drive times for routes and destinations, particularly for Downtown. He said he would look into it and seemed optimistic that it could be done.

Level of Service – He said that historically traffic engineers use “Level of Service” in measuring traffic efficiency. However, the more forward thinking cities are getting away from using Level of Service because it requires

increasingly larger streets. SDOT is looking at “Mode Share” as an alternative way to measure traffic efficiency because it considers all modes of transportation instead of just looking at cars. SDOT believes that Mode Share works better in urban environments.

Marina Trail – He said that it is not in the five year Implementation Plan and it’s hard to get the trail done if it’s not in that plan. He said Sally Bagshaw has mentioned the trail to him and Sally supports it. He encouraged the Board to keep pushing to get the trail into the Implementation Plan. He said that it is in the Bike Master Plan, which is good.

ST3, Expedia and Mercer – He said that the City needs to set up how it’s going to integrate with ST3 and he discussed ways to improve the Expedia and Mercer situations, such as reducing drive alone vehicle trips, signal improvements and Rapid Ride bus enhancements.

He is going to send the MCC the updated Move Levy map.

#### Committee Reports:

ST3 – Ben reported that Sound Transit will be voting soon on placing ST3 on the ballot. It will include a corridor from Downtown to Ballard, but it will not provide a specific route. The MCC wants the alignment that provides the most reliability, which would be west of 15<sup>th</sup> instead of in 15<sup>th</sup> Ave Right of Way, and it would include a tunnel, not a bridge, over the ship canal. It would also include a subterranean alignment from 20<sup>th</sup> & Dravus to Ballard. Ben believes there will be adequate funding in ST3 to build that alignment.

Land Use –Michael Plunkett reported on Councilmember O’Brien’s proposal for back yard cottages, including that the QACC is suing the City on the SEPA review for this proposal, claiming that it was inadequate when it determined the proposal was nonsignificant. The Board voted to send the draft letter to the City in opposition to proposed revisions of Seattle backyard cottage and attached dwelling unit regulations.

Comp Plan – Michael reported on updates to the city’s Comprehensive Plan and said that the MCC Land Use Committee will be looking at the draft comp plan this week. His concern is that the draft plan does not allow neighborhoods, such as QA, Ballard and Fremont, to have influence on planning in their neighborhoods. Since Magnolia is not an Urban Village, it does not have a neighborhood plan. Therefore, his concerns about the comp plan affect those neighborhoods more than Magnolia.

Nominating Committee – As the MCC trustee on the nominating committee, Stephen reported that Greg Carnese agreed to be a non MCC trustee on the committee. They are looking for another non trustee to be on the committee.

After that, they will pursue nominations. Stephen requested that Board Members forward him names of those who may be interested in joining the board.

Election Forum – Bruce reported that the Board needs to find some races that our community would be interested in. The Church of Christ will allow the MCC to reserve it for either Sept 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. The Board consensus was to reserve the Church for Tuesday 9/27 until it determines whether there will be a forum.

Project Welcome – Lynn reported on an open house and a wish list that is posted online.

NAC – Bruce reported that the Port has another consultant evaluating Terminal 91.

Smith Cove Park – Bruce reported that a new landscape architect was selected.

Meeting adjourned 9:07pm.