

Magnolia Community Council  
Board of Trustee Meeting  
Open meeting on Zoom

November 17, 2020 | minutes draft

Present: Trustees Stephanie Ballard, David Kaplan, Leslie Helm, Carol Burton, Lynn Hogan, Alison Grevstad, Steve DeForest, Janis Traven, Lisa Barnes, Pat Craft, David Moehring, Stephen Faciszewski, Bruce Carter, Don Schlosser, Cheryl Jacobs, Jayson Morris, Valerie Cooper, Matthew Koenig.

Guests: Diana Wiatr (BIRT), Sam Zimbabwe (SDOT), Matt Donahue (BIRT), Andrew Lewis, Fred Rappaport, Jessica Keller/QA News, Ben Broesalme, Nicole Shiosaki.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Stephanie Ballard, President

Housekeeping request to please mute microphones unless you are speaking.

For attendees by phone: \*6 to mute/unmute and \*9 to raise your hand to the moderator w/questions.

General Meeting:

Motion to elect new trustee Nicole Shiosaki and returning trustees; Stephanie Ballard, Carol Burton, Mary Hoverson, David Moehring, David Kaplan, Alison Grevstad. Approved.

Regular Trustee Meeting:

Sam Zimbabwe (SDOT), guest speaker – highlighting ways to invest in infrastructure and develop a better understanding of what our bridge maintenance needs are. Matt Donahue structures director has taken on this role at SDOT. Levy 'Move Seattle' funded planning for the Magnolia and Ballard bridge. What they don't have is a real funding plan of what needs to be done and how to pay for it. Don't have a lot of specificity and still have to work to do to select options for this infrastructure. They recognize this is a part of the city that will need substantial investment in the future.

Janis T. thanks Sam for coming and recognizing the pain West Seattle is experiencing right now. SDOT talks about a rehab or mid-level alternative for the Ballard Bridge. Was this a change from a low-level recommendation? Sam answers that rehab/low-level is the same alternative. Implores him to address the need for the Magnolia bridge.

Leslie H. asks that monies be set aside each year to help fund the 1:1 replacement. Sam speaks to the need for state and federal financial support for both maintenance and capital replacement needs.

Stephen F. what is it going to take to get an in-kind replacement (an effort going on for two decades) to have the Magnolia Bridge designated as a capital funded project.

Sam– recognizes there are strong community preferences, they can't enter into an environmental study without studying impacts of the other alternatives. Next step would be a full environmental review of what a replacement would be. This is currently not funded at a city or state level.

Janis – there was work signed off on in 2015 that included a study that had been done for six years. We're now being told the results of this study is now too old.

Sam – before we do the next round of studies, we need to be cognizant of the end game – where the investments/resources will come from. They don't have the answers for this now for the range of needs they currently have.

Stephen F. – if an environmental study is the next step, let's get on it. Let's move the needle toward a bridge replacement.

Sam—recognizes the frustration. He doesn't have an answer for it tonight. Challenges they face right now as a City is a Federal problem. We haven't invested in our infrastructure nationwide. There are not enough resources that they have available to them at a city or state level.

Janis – as long as we don't have the money – why don't we think big. Let's designate the entire corridor as a package. Get some money from the Feds. Let's be first in line when the Biden administration comes in.

Ben B. – Dravus St. over the railroad is not included in the audit and wonders why. It has 39.5 sufficiency rating. Notes that Magnolia may be stuck without 2 bridges if both fail. We don't have multi-modal transportation to Interbay when the ST3 comes in.

Sam – Two bridges, one over 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and one crossing BNSF railroad. The one over the railroad is a BNSF owned structure. The one crossing over 15<sup>th</sup> is supported by SDOT. BNSF bridge was not included in the audit.

Ben – Is there any plan to work with BNSF to give us access to a Sound Transit station?

Sam, there is a need for discussion with BNSF for station access. There will be collaboration and funding for multi-modal transportation/improvements under 'station access.'

Valerie C. – recognize the bridge affects not just our neighborhood, it affects all of NW of Seattle.

Cheryl J. – speaking about the Emerson bridge, recognizing that all 3 bridges are tied to the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. She has noticed a lot of traffic at 5:30pm heading north even during Covid. If the Ballard bridge is up at 6pm the circular loop access is clogged.

Sam – there is a closed period, though sometimes the coast guard requests an opening during that period. They are looking at the access loop on Emerson.

Pat C. – invite you to the partnership. Invites him to drive around and visit with us. Embrace the holistic idea that all of Seattle has bridges. He compares Seattle to the seven hills of Rome. Be the visionary to create support for all bridges.

Sam – has been to all of the structures. He embraces this vision.

Bruce – 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge (over 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue) designated as 'poor.' What does this mean?

Sam – defines the difference between functionally obsolete (a structure they would no longer replicate) or structurally deficient (needs more immediate attention).

Matt Donahue – pg. 29 on the audit report, W. Dravus bridge is in fair condition. Will get back to Bruce about the map designation of this bridge as 'poor.'

Guest speaker– Andrew Lewis City Council member

He will be working on finding resources for funding the in-kind replacement of the Magnolia bridge.

Revamped Navigation Team. The existing team has not made great strides. Most of homeless outreach was done by contracted providers, primarily REACH, also Chief Seattle Club, etc. The Navigation Team was a small component and had a monopoly on the resources. Hole left between August and October when outreach was not defined and the Navigation Team was defunded. Mid-October they created a new group, Unsheltered Coordination; coordinates city resources, garbage collection, sharps removal, utilities, police assistance, etc. This team is not completely operational, the ball is in the Mayor's court. At some point it will be out there.

Eviction prevention – when the moratorium is lifted concern that market rate renters are in trouble.

Andrew – there might be a possibility of an 80% repayment plan for landlords. City doesn't have

resources to provide the necessary funds for rent insecurity. The only thing will resolve this is a federal relief package. Until then the city is putting resources toward the United Way of King county rent relief program.

Lisa B. – market rate housing renters are being directed to small non-profits. The renters are 3 to 6 months behind in rent. United Way funds are targeted toward the lower end of rent assistance.

Andrew – depth of economic fallout of Covid is hitting people we would not consider being economically insecure. Federal change in administration will hopefully add stimulus. He would prefer to make people whole rather than absolve them of paying rent. Creative ways to square the circle. Mortgage forgiveness would be at a federal level, rent would be handled by the state legislature.

Andrew – spoke to auditor Jones about auditing the entire Parks district. They don't have the capacity to do this right now. City deferred on examining the parks department for a year, while working on the bridges. Look for the audit to begin next year. Magnolia community center, east QA greenbelt, Smith Cove. Hoping to look at early next quarter to take a look at the metropolitan Park district capital program.

Bruce C. – 6 million line item designated for Smith Cove Park. Where did the money go?

Andrew – Smith Cove is in a stack of projects that have been stalled. He will run that down with Parker.

Carol B. – there is also state and King county money for Smith Cove. The city can't spend that money. No one in the public saw the entire draft budget. Parks says the six year plan is not being looked at until 2022. There was never an external audit. Urges to make it more transparent.

Andrew – Parks next budget is planned for fall of 2020.

Janis – what are the next steps for the Magnolia bridge.

Andrew – first step Pederson, Herbold and himself propose to assess a \$20.00 vehicle license fee, which will reflect as a decrease decrease (\$40.00 going forward vs. \$60.00 presently) since there is an existing fee that expires this year. This would raise 3.6 million dollars next year, match with 4 million from the general fund, and mayor funds for 18 million bridge maintenance support. 34 million is recommended by the auditor. Reflects 3x the funds normally budgeted. This alone will not get us to the billions we need for all of the bridges. Study money for Seattle Transportation benefit development impact fees. Growth management assessed for added capacity. Transportation benefit impact fees that can be spent on replacement. Environmental impact fees are generally not favored by the legislature. Legislative delegation (Carlyle) – statewide omnibus bill funded through an increased gas tax. Coalition of construction trades and labor unions support the proposal of the bridge funding. Citywide bridge funding plan. Move Seattle comes up for renewal in the next couple of years could be the last top off for the infrastructure costs. Every council member now knows that every bridge in their district is messed up, thanks to the audit of the bridges.

Pat C. – addressing empathy and issues about the homeless. Rarely a mention of the crime, damage, degradation to property and loss of parks. No overt statement from leadership that this will be restored. We plan to recover your street and park. He asks that Andrew and others speak up about this.

Andrew – public safety advocates get bogged down. Valid lack of follow-up from the city is an issue.

It's profoundly difficult to report crimes right now. You can't use the online reporting for crimes. Need to develop a way for folks to upload evidence for crimes and streamline this process. Police department reacts to the density of completed reports, not calls. How do we resolve the low level crime incidents. Criminal legal system froze during Covid. No trials for months. There's a backlog in the municipal and federal courts. Reduction from 1,800 to 1,200 spots in the county jail. Drug motivated low-level property crime can drop off if their needs are met. Burglaries need addressing – high incidents of low level retail theft, mental health violence of folks that circulate through the system.

Andrew thinks there will be dramatic movement at the end of the year addressing the homeless

encampments once the resources are implemented by the mayor.

Stephen F. – understanding that funding is driving the outcome for the in-kind replacement.

Andrew – Sam needs to be able to see how the funding is going to come together before they commit to going down the path of completing the final pieces of design work. They need to secure more money for bridges.

Janis – will draft a letter of support for the bridge funds to the City Council from MCC.

David K. – motion and second meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss bridge actions.

Technology Committee, Leslie Helm – website is static and it's okay to be static, may be a way to build more of an audience, repository for documents. Quarterly newsletter restarted to connect with our community. Maintain the calendar. Update meeting minutes from 2017. Decentralize and encourage committee chairs to post their own updates on the website and Facebook. Use of the email list is on MailChimp. Goal of broader engagement with the community. Mid-January the committee will present recommendations to the board. Next two meetings will be on December 8<sup>th</sup> and Jan 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

David M. – council needs to create a feeling that the community is able to reach out to us.

Cheryl and Nicole – will join the technology subcommittee meeting in December.

October meeting minutes approved.

Bruce C. – recommends forming a public safety committee. We lost our west precinct reporter.

If someone is interested in heading or forming this committee please let Stephanie know.

Lisa Barnes expressed interest in joining this committee.

Tabled due to time constraints:

Transportation Committee update, Stephen F.

Parks Committee update, Carol Burton

Land Use Committee update, David Moehring

Chamber of Commerce update, Pat Craft

December meeting to be held on Dec. 15th at 7pm in conjunction with a holiday gathering featuring take out meals from our local restaurants and a beverage of your choice.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Grevstad, Recording Secretary