

Magnolia Community Council
Board of Trustee Meeting
Open meeting on Zoom

September 15, 2020 | minutes FINAL

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, Mary Hoverson, Bruce Carter, Don Schlosser, Cheryl Jacobs, Ben Broesamle, Matthew Koenig

Guests: Andrew Lewis, Parker Dawson, Fred Rappaport, Jessica Keller/QA News

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.

July meeting minutes approved.

Guest speaker– City Council member Andrew Lewis:

Reported on the state of the city audit of bridges results. There is an estimate of \$34 million dollars for city bridge maintenance and the city has a budget of \$6million. He, Pederson and Herbold are invested in a bridge funding endeavor and also looking into the possibility of using Impact Fees as an untapped funding source for capitol costs. He recommends the MCC's next step to try and schedule a delegation to meet with Mosqueda and Gonzalez to garner financial support for the 1:1 replacement of the Magnolia bridge. The more funds the city can gather for the city bridges overall the more funds might be made available from the State through Reuven Carlyle's efforts.

The council is working with the mayor on homeless and collaborative police/mental health provider interventions. They are working on getting money out the door for community based approaches to address public safety. He also flagged the request from the Buffalo Soldier Museum in Tacoma asking for a feasibility study to move the museum from Tacoma to the old Bandstand building in Discovery Park. Parker D. mentioned the soldiers had occupied the buildings when it was an active site. Cheryl Jacobs mentioned that in the course of another non-profit's inquiry she was advised there wasn't any existing statute to block use of the buildings for either arts or cultural organizations.

Addendum–Don Schlosser 9/16: With regard to the Buffalo Soldiers use of buildings in Discovery Park and there (not) being “... *any existing statute to block use of the buildings for either arts or cultural organizations...*” , but City Ordinance #114013, which was passed by City Council in June 1988 and has not been amended or replaced pretty clearly sets a roadblock to any use of those buildings.

Bruce Carter inquired about the unspent \$6 million allocated for Smith Cove Park and Lewis asked Parker to look into this. Parker Dawson spoke about the improvements to the Magnolia Community Center scheduled to commence March/April 2021. Including a roof replacement, gym structural work, window and screen replacements, a restroom remodel, exterior entrance accessibility, new lighting and air systems, a remodeled kitchen and main entrance. David Kaplan asked if we could ask for an audit of the Parks Dept. Andrew thought this was a good suggestion and will follow up.

Ben Broesamle asked about a clarification on which Dravus Street is being mentioned in the recent [xxx] transportation report.

Pat Craft asked about the concern of large businesses leaving Seattle due to the climate being fostered by some city council members. Andrew said he isn't seeing impact yet from the larger companies like

Facebook and Amazon. He is more worried about small businesses, especially in the area of Pioneer Square, which is suffering from the double impact of Covid and homelessness. He is also in conversation about developing a business improvement area along Commodore Way. Expedia has expressed interest in partnering with this effort.

Stephen Faciszewski asked about timing for the effort to reach out to Mosqueda and Gonzalez regarding the Magnolia bridge and Andrew suggested doing it now. The MCC discussed scheduling a small delegation to meet with them rather than having them come to one of our monthly meetings.

Magnolia Bridge 1:1 replacement–Janis Traven:

Will organize a delegation to schedule meetings with Mosqueda and Gonzalez. Will wait to see results from the BIRT study. So far the most 'liked' options from the study were the 1:1 replacement and the Magnolia Trail project connecting Smith Cove to 32nd Ave W. There is BIRT meeting scheduled on October 1st from 11:30 to 1:30pm. Brought up Alison G's suggestion for an experiential Walk the Bridge event(s) to kick off a funding package for Seattle's citywide bridges. The events could allow participants to walk each of the city bridges starting with Magnolia's, without any traffic. This will have to wait to happen once regulations allow this form of gathering; other council members expressed interest in helping shape this endeavor. Janis suggested it could be funded by a Neighborhood grant. Stephen F. will take a video/photos along the Magnolia bridge to post digitally.

Nominating Committee Update– Stephen Faciszewski:

There are five current MCC members who will be returning for re-election. There are two open positions to fill, one for the treasurer position and one additional open seat. Current council members who may have an interest in the treasurer position are encouraged to contact Stephanie Ballard. Stephen F. is seeking one additional diverse non-board member to serve on his nominating committee for a one month commitment. He asks for all board members to contact him with referrals for either the nominating committee position or future board positions. Cheryl Jacobs will look into reaching out to previous applicants from last year's search and will also post in a parenting Facebook group. **Carol and [?]** have helped with posting information about the open positions on the website and Facebook group. The council gives thanks to Mary Hoverson for her wonderful stewardship as Treasurer and for upholding the financial stability of the MCC.

Addendum 10/20 – Mary Hoverson has reconsidered and now plans to serve on the board as Treasurer for another term.

Transportation committee update – Janis T. and Stephen F.:

BIRT draft report to the interagency team meeting on October 1st and there will be public meetings in mid-October. Janis has received the second document from the city and has not reviewed it yet. Stephen has a question about the Mercer | Republic Ave. tunnel/ramp and what the elevation will be there.

Parks Committee Update–Carol Burton:

Nothing to report on Smith Cove other than she suspects they will land-bank the park. There are two legal cases working their way through the courts on FLAC. One with King county in relation to the heron nesting sites and one questioning the BRAC process. It is unknown if these legal cases will delay the project long enough that the city lease will expire and the military could turn around and sell the land to a developer. It was noted that Talaris, a privately held large property was recently sold to develop 65 high end properties and they will be removing 200 trees.

Addendum from Carol 10/2: It was a 5 year lease signed late December 2016 to take effect 1st January 2017, so it's up at end of December 2021. I'm not sure how the pending lawsuits affect that date, the heron one is scheduled for January 2021. I don't know a date for the federal appeal of BRAC process.

The Army has said they don't want to delay BRAC any more, they plan to sell the property to a developer if it's not resolved.

Land Use Committee presentation – David Moehring:

Reported on a recent presentation from the Albertson's developer and drafted a letter for approval by the council to submit to the city council and land use officers in MCC's public support of 4 items, which the council reviewed and approved for release. Tbd and discussion on whether the fourth item will be a line item or included in the next paragraph.

- 1) Allow both resident and retail **parking access from 32nd Avenue West** near the south end of the property (rather than access from the narrow alley);
- 2) Allow **fully-enclosed 90-degree service vehicle delivery** and trash access from the alley near the north end of the property (rather than parallel access from the alley);
- 3) Promote the adequately sized public plaza at the southwest corner of the property.
- 4) The Magnolia Community Council supports this **Living Building Pilot Project** within the heart of our community assuming the design will achieve the necessary requirements.

Pat Craft – Magnolia Chamber update:

They are in the continued process of applying for a 501c3 status to help with fundraising, especially in support of phase 2 and 3 of the beautification project for the village. MCC board members commented congratulates the Chamber on the success of the first phase. The Chamber is cancelling live events six weeks out as they come up, so there will be no Halloween this year due to gathering restrictions. They will be improvising and looking at virtual events going into the holidays. There is a new on-line community calendar for online events which will replace the physical overhead banners. The Chamber supports the Buffalo Museum's request for a feasibility study. There is concern about protecting small businesses in the streets. The Chamber is recruiting for new board members.

Candidates Forum–David Kaplan:

Council indicates support to hold an MCC sponsored candidate forum for the 36th district legislative candidates. Ballard City Council declined to partner with MCC for their upcoming candidate forum. David K. will reach out to the candidates and propose some dates. MCC will look into how to host this via a livestream event on Facebook or Youtube through Zoom.

Topics tabled for next month's meeting due to time constraints:

Discovery Park – parking lot closures, MCC Website utilization, Holiday Gathering

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Grevstad, Recording Secretary