

Magnolia Community Council
Board of Trustee Meeting
Open meeting on Zoom, recorded

March 15, 2022 | minutes final

Present: Trustees Stephanie Ballard, David Kaplan, Bruce Carter, Carol Burton, Alison Grevstad, Janis Traven, Cheryl Jacobs, Bill Stafford, Jayson Morris, Stephanie Ballard, Matthew Koenig, Steve DeForest, Mary Hoverson, Lisa Barnes, Amy Platenberg.

Guests: Parker Dawson (Councilmember Lewis representative), Fred Rappaport, Jessica Keller (Mag/QA News), Ben Broesamle, Erle Cohen.

General Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Stephanie Ballard, President

Erle Cohen – candidate for new MCC trustee presents his credentials. David K. motions to vote to accept Erle as a new trustee for the board of MCC. Motion carries unanimously.

Minutes for February 22 meeting are approved.

Julia Reed (she/her), candidate for WA State House of Representatives 36th district for Noel Frame's open seat – will focus on climate emergency, worker protections and education investments, housing availability, community infrastructure resilient to climate change, justice and racial equity. She has worked in the Obama administration. She would be the first person of color to represent this district if elected. Has deep roots in Seattle, both parents were educators in Seattle Public Schools. Erle asks which are her top 3 issues she'd focus on. Julia would focus on affordable housing, investments in community infrastructure in response to climate change, and workforce development for young people and adults (implementing job security, opportunities and benefits). Janis asks about her support for in-kind replacement for the Magnolia Bridge. Julia is supportive but needs to look into it more. Janis asks what does she think are Magnolia's needs? Julia lists Housing affordability – how we smartly address growth in Magnolia, the wastewater treatment plant, and the bridge. She expresses interest in reaching out to Janis to learn more about Magnolia's issues. Julia@votejuliareed.com

ST3 response from MCC, Ben Broesamle and Janis T – Ballard is pushing for a station further west of 15th. For now, we're highlighting items on the list for prepared stations.

South Interbay/Galer St. Flyover (halfway between Expedia and the Cruise ships): This location is the cheapest and closest to the folks using this location. The Seattle Center station location is tied to this station location decision. This is the preferred station location for the Port.

Interbay: retained cut, an open station to the elements below grade, travel under the Dravus St. Bridge and just NW of QFC in Interbay. This is the only station set up for a tunnel to Ballard. Railroad trackside of Whole Foods, next to the Interbay athletic fields, with a tunnel portal pointed toward SPU on QA. This is the station location that would make it impossible for the Seattle Storm's proposed new facility. Could it be aligned further west of the Storm's location? Right now the car drop off would be by the athletic field near Dravus.

Ballard: a tunnel station at 15th Ave NW gives better access to what we consider the heart of Ballard. This option is slightly more expensive than the 14th Avenue option. This is the preferred option of Ballard, other than the proposal they're making to move it further west.

Chart covers why we recommend this station, helpful links, map of closures, costs. Getting to the station – what will be easy for residents to use this – recommendations. Improvements/talking points and road closure time. They could potentially close either 14th for three years, or intermittent closures would happen on 15th

Ben – An important question would be how would you cross Dravus St. from a bus? Some buses might not run anymore once this is up and running. It's possible that the bus route might take a similar amount of time as light rail for this section. Buses servicing Magnolia might be more frequent but may not go all the way to downtown.

MCC can come up with a position, though it would only count as one comment. Best practice would be to get our community informed and encourage them to recommend comments individually.

Bruce asks what steps could minimize construction. Janis answers that the line crosses Elliot twice, if they could just cross Elliot once that would be helpful. Most closures would be night and weekend.

Deadline for commenting on the ST3 DEIS is April 28th. Janis would like to send out a link for comments in a blast with talking points and an option to add comments and sign their name. Janis would like to have feedback from the MCC board in the next week and will be combining with the QACC. Then she will develop the template to send out a mass blast.

Andrew Lewis Office, Parker Dawson: questions regarding safety in the downtown corridor. Operation New Day, a blending of social service and police intervention currently put in place indefinitely for the Downtown corridor in collaboration with the Harrell administration. They're trying to understand the high frequency offenders to others who would be receptive to stable living arrangements. Stable funding source for helping to understand this (JustCARE). City Attorney's office announced a program that will focus on high utilizers – 118 individuals need diversion programs. More office workers are returning to work into the downtown core, which will help activate this area.

Erle Cohen, our new trustee is on the West Precinct Advisory Committee that meets monthly. He is happy to convey concerns and

Transportation/Mobility, Janis T: Regarding funds earmarked for 2023 for the BIRT project. SDOT must confirm with an outside engineer report to check their estimates. The state has shown an interest in this corridor. More legislation has to happen to have the funds released. More advocacy will be needed for the next session to allocate funds. She recommends sending a thank you letter to the legislators who did the legwork to get this put in place. Six to seven years of design work, then three to five years of work on the Magnolia and Ballard bridges before ST3 gets put in place.

Technology Committee website proposal, Amy Plantenberg and Alison Grevstad – propose moving our website host from the 3rd party host on Wordpress to SquareSpace. Alison motions to make this move and have Amy manage the site and keep it current. Matthew K. suggests a possibility to collaborate with the Chamber or piggyback with their efforts. Janis mentions that the Chamber is a 501c3 and cannot lobby for issues like we do. Motion carries unanimously.

MCC goals and objectives, Stephanie Ballard – presented subjects, goals and trustees on point for 2022. Reviews subjects with the Board. Janis suggests a new topic 'Civics 101' to educate and train trustees on effective advocacy. Parker Dawson - August 15th will be the release of a finalized Parks budget.

Meetings in the future, Stephanie – in-person at the Church, the bell tower (smaller space) is available for future meetings at our regular meeting time. The larger space might be booked. Cheryl J. questions if we can offer a hybrid option.

Janis T - Scanning documents of archived files from MCC and upload to Dropbox, along with financial documents with Mary H. Paper documents can go to the UW archive.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Grevstad, Recording Secretary