

Friends of Magnolia Manor Park Steering Committee

Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7–9 p.m.

Q Café, 3223 15th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119

Meeting Notes

Attending: Susan Casey (Chair), Inger Beecher, Peter Lawrence, Carla Kotila (Magnolia Queen Anne District Council), Marilynn Sheldon, Alex Reynolds, Laura Osterbrock (P-Patch Liaison), Toni Imfeld (OLA Steward), Carol Burton (Treasurer)

7:00 p.m. **Introductions: Laura Osterbrock new from Manor P-Patch, Alex Reynolds from OLA trying us out**
Minutes of February 11 meeting were accepted
Additions/changes to agenda

General orientation from Susan Casey:

In 2010–2011, a Magnolia location was sought for both an Off-Leash Area (OLA) and a P-Patch at Magnolia Manor Park. Site Workshop was hired to develop a plan for the park. Site Workshop designers consulted with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to find out how much land could be opened to the public. The OLA and P-Patch were built; now funding from the Parks Levy Opportunity Project will allow opening up the area between the two, with a path between them to be constructed. Installing the path, filling in the northern slope, planting buffer vegetation, and (possibly) reshaping the OLA have been approved by Seattle Parks and Recreation (“Parks”).

7:10 p.m. **Treasurer’s report**– Carol Burton

There have been no changes to the accounts since February, 2015. Funds for both the P-Patch and the OLA are held in the P-Patch Trust (GROW) as fiscal agent. The OLA currently has about \$1130 and the P-Patch about \$2909. There is about \$93 left over from the art project.

7:15 p.m. **Opportunity Fund project (new path)**

Update since Feb 11 Steering Committee meeting
Tentative schedule for work, construction on project

Garrett Farrell (garrett.farrell@seattle.gov) is the Parks Department project manager for the Opportunity Fund Project, and Jim Keller (jimk@siteworkshop.net) is the point person at Site Workshop. Neither could attend tonight’s meeting, so Susan Casey provided information from a conversation with Garrett.

The overall plan is to remove the fences from the southwest part of the property and create a below-grade path from the OLA to the P-Patch. The earth removed from this area will be used to fill in the sloped land in the northern part of the park, and a retaining wall will be built to hold the fill. Buffer plants for mitigating noise from the OLA for the apartments will be planted south of this retaining wall in the fall. The OLA *may* shrink from 19,400 square feet to 16,400 square feet,

but Garrett will discuss this with the OLA stewards. (See below for more on this topic.)

There is not enough money to do everything that the committee had hoped. The fence in the Northeast corner will *not* be moved to provide a viewpoint, for example.

It is important for a complete survey to be used in planning the work, to avoid damaging utility lines during construction. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) was slow to provide the survey, so progress has not been as swift as could be hoped. Site Workshop is now refining their proposal based on the survey. (For example, there are buried electric lines on the northern border of the park, and fiber optic lines on the southern border of the SPU property. These are the two areas where major earth-moving is planned.)

Garrett is doing his best to conserve money spent on overhead. The permitting process has begun with the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD). The deadline for all earthmoving is 10/31/2015.

Susan Casey suggests that the Steering Committee draft a letter to DPD to ask for speed in completing the project. Garrett hopes to ask for bids for the project in July.

Two questions were raised and answers were not placed in the minutes:

Question: Will the park be shut down during construction?

Question: Why was this particular part of the MMP Master Plan chosen as the next step?

7:45 p.m.

Website and Facebook pages

Who can do what

Info to be added: schedule for Opportunity Fund work, Steering Committee members, other?

Susan Casey is about to send an update for the MMP webpage to Mauricio Del Carpio, who has the keys to the website. The site has not been updated since last November. She is seeking volunteers to write general information for the website.

Carla Kotila notes that Joe Villarino has volunteered his web development work for local community groups. He starts by asking what the purpose of the group's website is. Should it provide timely news, be a repository for project history, draw in new members? Carla will talk with Joe about overhauling the Friends of MMP page. The general consensus is that the committee would like the site to capture data on users. (Side note: Joe is also working on the Magnolia Patrol Association, which plans to hire private patrollers for the neighborhood. Do the Friends of MMP wish to be a partner/member of the patrol association? It is unclear what this entails and no decision was taken.)

Carla updates the Friends of the Magnolia Manor Park Facebook page, Toni is in charge of the Magnolia Manor Park OLA Facebook page, and Samantha Kollmeyer updates the Magnolia Manor P-Patch Facebook page.

8:00 p.m.

Off Leash Area

OLA volunteers held a work party in March. Work parties are also planned for 4/26, 5/16, and 6/20. Laura will post these dates on Basecamp, the online forum for the MMP P-Patch, so P-Patch plot holders can volunteer at them.

Opportunity Fund Project: Toni Imfeld feels strongly that the OLA should not be reduced in size, and that it is unconscionable in light of the funds that were raised to build the OLA. She will meet with Garrett to discuss alternatives to undoing completed work on the OLA, particularly in light of the increased space available created by other facets of the project. Carla Kotila suggests that whether it is reduced in size or not, the OLA should be completely covered with bark, not gravel, for the comfort of the dogs.

The possibility of a new OLA at Smith Cove Park was mentioned.

The new Co-Steward of the OLA is Diane Kennedy.

The next OLA meeting is scheduled for April 20.

8:10 p.m.

P-Patch Garden

The annual All-Gardeners Meeting was held in March. The new leadership team met on April 16. Everything seems to be working fine. During the spring and summer, the P-Patch holds monthly (roughly) fund-raisers, which are potluck suppers in the garden. All interested community members are welcome, and the first one of the season is a salmon supper on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day). Laura Osterbrock suggests that the three Facebook page updaters all publicize these fundraisers.

8:20 p.m.

Other

Organizational chart of FMMP

New members for Steering Committee

Carla Kotila will post her organizational chart for Magnolia Manor Park on Basecamp. It includes the many stakeholders in the park and the history of the park's development.

Alex Reynolds and Peter Laurence will plan to attend Steering Committee meetings.

8:50 p.m.

Adjourn

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 10.