

Friends of Magnolia Manor Park
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
10th February 2016, 7- pm, at Marilyn Sheldon's House

Present: Laura Osterbrock, Carol Burton, Inger Beecher, Susan Casey, Carla Kotila, Larry Bosi, Marilyn Sheldon, Alexa Ellis, Toni Imfeld.

Mission statement

Friends of Magnolia Manor Park was formed in 2011 to help implement the community-developed plan for Magnolia Manor Park, including an Off Leash Area (OLA) and P-Patch. Through their stewardship, Friends of Magnolia Manor Park build community by connecting people, plants and animals in recreational activities thereby creating a treasured and sustainable neighborhood gathering place for all.

Introductions were made. Alexa Ellis is the new OLA steward.

Motion to approve agenda with addition of GROW workshops MSP

Motion to approve minutes of 11th November 2015 MSP with 1 nay.

Treasurer's report

Account balances are OLA \$1100.81; Art project \$43.42; P-Patch \$3883.31 after paying BizWeb Industries for web page maintenance (\$149.70). GROW is presenting 2 workshops on the fiscal sponsor process, we should have somebody from the Steering Committee attend one of these Carol has been twice. Inger and Alexa may be interested, Carol will send them the email with information.

Opportunity Fund Project

Parks Superintendent Jesus Aguirre sent a letter to neighbors and Steering Committee members with his decision on the opportunity Fund project. The letter is posted on the web site, sent out in an email to the Manor Park list, and posted on Next-door. The project will proceed as planned with the addition of lighting on the path. Lighting will be focused down on the path and the cost will be paid from other sources, not the Opportunity Fund project.

Request for bids is expected to go out in March. Garret is out for a week, when he comes back he will meet with the OLA people about that part of the project.

Superintendent Aguirre indicated that Parks is amenable to completing the trail around the reservoir once money for construction is found. We will research possible funding sources, Carla, Inger and Carol will work on possible grants and other fundraising resources. One possibility is the Challenge Fund, part of the Park District legislation. It is intended for large projects (\$1 - 2 million), and there is a 50% match requirement. This means that if the trail and slope development costs \$1 million FMMP would need to come up with \$500k to match with \$500K from challenge grant. David Graves, senior planner with Parks, says that Manor Park is eligible for the Challenge Fund, and he is willing to work with applicants on possible match funding. It is a competitive process. We decided to pursue the Challenge Fund \$, and do a letter of intent.

Other source is Neighborhood Matching Funds (NMF). Small & Simple grants are for up to \$25K - we could apply for a grant to do a feasibility study and construction docs for the path

around the reservoir. That would require a 0.5:1 match which can be filled with money, volunteer time, and in kind donations.

Neighbor Appreciation Day

The Magnolia event is Saturday 13th February 9.30 - 12.30 at Magnolia Community Center. Mayor Murray is scheduled to be there from 11.45 - 12.15pm. We will have an information table with the park plan, timeline for the process, and a request for new members of the Steering Committee. Susan, Carla and Carol will be there and would welcome help from others.

Web site and Facebook

Joe needs the new GROW logo, they changed their name from P-Patch Trust. Committee members should invite people to Like the Facebook page, it is getting an increasing number of views. We talked about ways to raise money to cover web services - an event at the park; Springiest; table at the Farmers Market are all possibilities.

We are looking for new members for the Steering Committee - we will run an ad on the web page and Facebook. Also put something in Magnolia Voice, Magnolia/Queen Anne News and Nextdoor. Dan Penhollow is interested in joining, he lives in the apartments north of the park. We decided to invite possible new members to come to 3 meetings before deciding to stay on the committee.

OLA

A work party is planned for 21st February, mostly spreading chips. Usually 12-15 people attend. Susan will bring soup. Carla asked about adding the OLA names to the Manor Park list so they receive emails related to the park. Joe keeps the master list. A notice on the sign in sheet could ask if they minded their emails being on the master list. The sign in sheet for work parties is the standard Parks sign sheet required for insurance purposes so is hard to change - the names and contact info are public information though. Maybe there can be a sign asking people to go to the web site and subscribe.

Donor recognition

Looking at pavers in the shelter - at the last meeting Jim said they would be 8 inch square pavers. Need to decide the cut off point for engraving on the pavers - \$500 and up? or a lesser amount? Toni estimates \$20-25 for engraving, we would need to cover that cost and make some money so \$100 and up might be reasonable. A subcommittee will work with Jim on the number of pavers, and to organize design and implantation.

P-Patch

All gardeners meeting is 19th March. Gardeners need 8 hours of volunteer time outside their own patch, 50% can be other work in the park such as OLA work party. Laura will post the OLA work party on Basecamp.

People, Parks and Dogs

Parks has been developing a policy on dogs in parks over the last year, the Board of Parks Commissioners held a meeting on this 28th January. No recommendations on the policy were made, this meeting was to discuss issues and ideas that had come up during the process. A recommended policy is due in March, with time for public comment before the policy is approved. The Park District funds a dedicated Animal Control officer and ranger just for parks, in addition to the existing Animal Control officers (3 for the whole city).

The process looked at how other cities managed dogs in parks e.g. New York and Portland have hours (before 9 am and after 9 pm) when dogs could be off leash in certain parks. Laura suggested we should say that no parks with OLAs should have these kind of hours. The impression at the Parks Board meeting was that Parks was not going to propose this kind of off leash hours because of the difficulty of enforcement.

Other ideas discussed include looking at non-parks sites, working with other city agencies to find potential OLA sites. Carla has been working on a temporary OLA at the former Fort Lawton Army Reserve site. Ericka Nash who lives near Fort Lawton is going to make a Facebook page advocating a temporary OLA at Fort Lawton

Meeting adjourned at 8.35 pm