

Friends of Magnolia Manor Park
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
11th November 2015, 3 - 5 pm, at Marilyn Sheldon's House

Present: Laura Osterbrock, Carol Burton, Inger Beecher, Susan Casey, Carla Kotila, Larry Bosi, Marilyn Sheldon,

Guests: Lucy Garnett, Jim Keller,

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.

Motion to approve agenda with no changes MSP

Motion to approve minutes of April 16th and June 10th MSP

Opportunity Fund Project

Jim outlined the history of the Manor Park approved plan - developed after a community process. Sustainable Magnolia started looking for a P-Patch site in 2009 and identified Manor Park as a potential site. The Off Leash Area (OLA) at Manor Park was approved through a community process in 2006. The approved conceptual plan included the OLA, P-Patch, opening up the entire area around the reservoir with a path all around the reservoir. It also included connections with Lawton Park and Ravine via an entrance on 26th Ave W. Friends of Magnolia Manor Park (FMMP) was formed in June 2011 to implement the plan, including raising money for that purpose.

There was money in the Parks 2008 levy for the OLA and P-Patch so those were built first. FMMP also raised money for both elements plus a lot of sweat equity especially for the P-Patch. Limited funds meant that FMMP had to work with existing features in the park, and some elements such as planting buffers on the north side were omitted in the initial construction. FMMP made the Opportunity Fund application to complete some of the preferred plan and improvements that were not done earlier because of lack of money. The Opportunity Fund process was long, nearly two years.

The Opportunity Fund proposal was to open up more of the park; to partially complete the path around the reservoir (making it about 3/4 of the way around); to improve the area on the north side and provide promised buffers for the north and southwest neighbors; and to make improvements to the OLA and P-Patch. There was also a desire to open up the view area on the northeast side. Adjustments to the OLA will provide space for the rest of the park, and make a true 50 ft buffer on the south side of the OLA. There will also be a planting buffer on the southwest section, the existing 6-8 ft fence will remain. The path will be fairly close to the reservoir, will follow the fence line of the reservoir, and provide a line of sight and access for police vehicles.

Construction is planned between April and October, will take 90-120 days depending on the weather. SPU has only one approved contractor to move their fence. There were two public meetings about the project in 2014. Since the last one Parks and Site Workshop have been working with SPU, and DPD on permits etc., and fine tuning estimates. The economy and the

size of the project may mean variability in the bids, we don't know yet if there is enough money to complete the projects as requested. Project is 95% designed, almost through all the permits. The OLA won't close during construction. The trees around the plaza "Front Porch" will stay as the new trees on the north boundary will be small at first. The crabapples may be pruned to improve them.

Question - details on the plants to go in the southwest buffer. Not totally decided, Parks will work with neighbors, emphasis on habitat that will discourage people from climbing the fence e.g. Mahonia, Berberis, roses.

Question - connections with Lawton Park shown on preferred plan graphic. FMMP tried to open an entrance from 26th Ave W to allow access for people living in the multifamily area north and east of the park, through an application to the Neighborhood Park and Street Fund. The application was not supported by Parks so did not go through that process. The area north and east of the park is the most densely populated part of Magnolia with very little open space - during the planning process there was great interest in opening up the park to the entire community.

Laura requested that the Steering Committee change or cancel the Opportunity Fund project, though no specific motion was made. The project is now part of city legislation and includes specific items that can't be changed without further legislation - can't trade a path for trees, for example. Opportunity Fund \$ are part of Parks budget, they control how they are spent as long as the legislation is followed - FMMP's role is strictly advisory. Outreach by Parks for the first public meeting was poor, FMMP was specifically told not to do outreach because this was a Parks project.

Laura represents several nearby neighbors who have safety concerns regarding the SW corner and the proposed path and fence removal. These people feel unheard and dissatisfied with the whole process and the agencies/groups involved. Seattle Police Department has been consulted about these concerns. SPD states that most burglaries occur when criminals enter a property through the front, ring the door bell, and if nobody is home go around the back to enter the house. SPD says that most (55% over last 5 years) of the burglaries in Magnolia come in through an unlocked/open door or window.

Neighbors are also concerned about activity in the park at night - we discussed raising funds for lighting but that may not be feasible.

The discussion ended at an impasse with no satisfactory compromise for the concerned neighbors. FMMP supports and has actively promoted this new stage toward the completion of the Preferred Site Plan. More open space is definitely needed not just in Magnolia but city wide. To repeal the legislation that authorized this project would be difficult; the project is underway with money spent.

OLA donor recognition

The plans call for a shelter in the OLA with 8 inch square pavers - donor names could be on those pavers, or a plaque on the posts of the shelter. There's not a lot of room in the shelter and pavers may be obscured with gravel. This is for the OLA people to decide. A decision is not urgent but need to be made soon so pavers can be ordered. Or donor names could be affixed to the structure in another manner (plaques or list of names engraved on appropriate material).

OLA co-stewards - Susan is following up on this.

Web site and Facebook

FMMP has a new web site. It is now mobile compliant so will be picked up by search engines. Also interactive. Joe Villarino is donating his time to setting up and maintaining the site, FMMP's cost will be for hosting and domain name registration. Joe will send out emails, he has the FMMP list, and Paramita will send him the P-Patch list. He also needs the OLA list. He can send emails to separate lists (P-Patch, OLA, Steering Committee, all supporters, etc.) if needed. There is a box on the site for subscriptions; viewers of the site subscribe and receive email updates. Joe needs to know what is our goal for the site? Carla will work with him on this. We also need to provide Joe with content, he doesn't write entries. The site can include links with other parks and park groups. Joe can take an aerial video of the park and post on web site. That could be done during construction to show progress. Carla is doing the Facebook page posting parks and community items.

Motion to continue with Joe's company, BizWeb Industries, as web master MSP.

P-Patch

Inger has been placing a milk crate on top of the rat traps to keep out cats and wildlife but let rats in. They have caught 27 rats. Did catch some sparrows which are ground feeders - this was in the south buffer plantings. They won't put traps in the buffer again. The P-Patch may have a mountain beaver, there is a large hole.

Meeting adjourned