

**Madison Park Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting on April 19, 2010
Madison Park Bath House**

Community Members present: Kathleen Stearns, Jim Hagan, Lola McKee, Jan Maloney, Rita Holloman, Charles Ng, Terry Short, Thomas Whittmore, Ed Washington, Lindy Wishard, and Maurice Cooper.

Board Members present: Gail Irving, Jim Quigg, Ken Myrabo, Kathleen O'Connor, Don Sorensen, and Alice Lanczos.

Meeting Agenda:

- Vendor in the Park
- LOLA Committee
- 520 Bridge Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Used Book Sale
- Neighborhood Waste Reduction
- Bank of America benches
- Beaver lodge sanctuary

Vendor in the park: City Parks Department representatives Charles Ng and Rita Holloman attended the meeting to address concerns from community members about the vendor in the park. Linda Cody described a petition that had been circulated to “Request for Removal of Tent Concession Stand in Madison Park Beach Area.” The petition listed six reasons that the city should city revoke the vendor’s permit.

1. Dangerous electrical connection in bathroom
2. Extension cord creates safety issues on pedestrian pathways
3. Illegal parking and traffic hazards
4. Inappropriate use of green space
5. View obstruction
6. Draining customers from neighborhood businesses

Mr. Ng apologized for the problems created by the vendor and said that the city should have done a better job of communicating. Ed Washington explained to Mr. Ng how the vendor hurt his business. Mr. Washington has owned and operated Scoop Du Jour for 26 years. Mr. Ng responded by pointing out that some small companies that have “satellite businesses” also need customers. Madison Park Business Association President Terry Short noted that Madison Park’s businesses are also small companies who need customers. Mr. Short said that he did not know of anyone who supported the vendor. Mr. Ng requested comments from people who supported the vendor, but no one in attendance supported the vendor. Alice Lanczos did thank Mr. Ng for his willingness to listen to the neighborhood’s concerns.

Isolation of visitors to Madison Park was another negative effect that was pointed out by Kathleen Stearns and Gail Irving. They noted that the vendor trapped customers at the park who otherwise might have gone to Scoop Du Jour to buy ice cream. Moreover, ice cream wrappers from the vendor were littered all over. Linda Cody said that there should have been a stronger police presence and more deterrence against graffiti. Lindy Wishard said that the city should encourage vendors to provide healthier food options. Lola McKee said that the vendor did not have a cash register or receipts. Rita Holloman said that the city uses the honor system with its vendors, and takes a percentage of their sales. Ms. Holloman said that the

city probably would not issue a permit for a vendor to operate in Madison Park, stating, “We are willing to take the financial hit.”

LOLA Committee: The committee is continuing to pursue public funding, and also hosting public meetings for the community. Murase developed three designs that were shown to meeting attendees. The design team is trying to incorporate a storm water filtering system into its designs. The community liked the storm water idea but their feedback was that there needs to be more water flow in the water feature. The designs are generally graceful, subtle, and followed the slope of the land. The public said that they wanted more of a “wow factor” in the designs. The people also said that they wanted to see more seating and that the area should be a good place for gathering. Cherry trees are being donated to this project, but the meeting attendees seemed to prefer more of a variety of trees that spanned all four seasons.

The feedback also included some comments that the designs included too much concrete; they wanted the designs to have a “prettier” look. The committee is working with Fire Department Captain Smalls on the Department’s request that the design allow for access by emergency vehicles. The goal of the LOLA project is not to replace one hard-surface space with another hard-surface space. Alice Lanczos suggested that paving stones might be used to create a green space that is still accessible to vehicles.

Parking is the primary concern that the committee hears from people who learn that the project would replace the street end past 43rd Avenue with green space. The committee is proposing several solutions to address this concern. One solution is a pilot project that would have employees of Madison Park businesses use residential driveway spaces donated by residents who live close to Madison Street. Kathleen Stearns is coordinating with Terry Short so that an employee of Bert’s can park in her driveway. Also, Maurice Cooper is again working with the Seattle Department of Transportation on reconfiguring parking (as Maurice has done on behalf of the neighborhood since the 1970’s). City Department of Neighborhoods District Coordinator Thomas Whitemore attended the meeting, and he offered to be a resource on this effort.

The city says that it is easier for their parking enforcement officers to patrol 2-hour zones than 1-hour zones or 4 hour zones. So it may be beneficial to request that the city use more 2-hour zones near Madison Street. Jim Hagan warned against pushing the parking issue with the city, because the city may install meters in an effort to collect more revenue. Gail Irving asked a survey should be used to ask community members whether they support or oppose the use of zone parking permits. Terry Short did not favor the use of parking permits. Ken Myrabo noted that this parking question is such a hot topic that he has seen graffiti on the posted LOLA signs that says that the LOLA project will take away parking.

The LOLA committee is pursuing two funding grants: (1) a large grant for \$100,000 could be used to cover project design costs, and (2) an opportunity fund grant could give the project \$200,000 - \$750,000 in funding from city tax levy dollars.

520 Bridge Committee: The City Council has been supportive of the efforts of the Sustainable 520 Coalition according to committee co-chair, Kathleen O’Connor. Kathleen reported that she has received a positive response from several council members who agree with her reasons for opposing WSDOT’s current proposal. An open letter to the governor was published by the Sustainable 520 Coalition. Despite the opposition from the public, Kathleen says that the governor wants to move “full steam ahead” with WSDOT’s construction plans. Kathleen applauded co-chair Maurice Cooper on his work with the Sustainable 520 Coalition and local political leaders such as Frank Chopp, Ed Murray, and Jamie Peterson. Maurice said that city council has been supportive of efforts to change WSDOT’s design. He also noted that the Seattle Times poll showed that an average 70% of residents on both sides of Lake Washington think that WSDOT’s design should be changed and utilize high capacity transit alternatives to single-occupancy cars.

Nominations Committee: MPCC needs new board members. Ken Myrabo, Don Sorensen, and Linda Cody are the members of the Nominations Committee that can suggest people who might serve on the board. New board members can volunteer and be elected at the next annual meeting will take place on May 17th. The annual meeting will include a special program on crime and the benefits of block watch.

Used Book Sale: The donated books and toys are piling up at Ken Myrabo's house. He asked for people to help him store the donations. A date will soon be chosen for the sale.

Neighborhood Waste Reduction Program: Jan Maloney and Ken Myrabo will attend an awards ceremony at which the city will recognize the neighborhoods that do the best job of recycling.

Bank of America benches: An employee at Bert's called 911 after a drunk driver ran over the benches next to the Bank of America parking across from Bert's. Jim Quigg contacted the city attorney's office and requested that MPCC receive the insurance proceeds so that area can be restored in accordance with the wishes of the neighborhood. Linda Cody wanted to note that the Triangle Park in front of Bing's looks great because the generous residents of Park Shore donate money each year to maintain its beauty.

Beaver Lodge Sanctuary: The dredging cranes have started their work next to the beaver lodge near Broadmoor. Gene Brandzel worked with the city to make sure that the work causes only minimal disruption to the wildlife.