

Minutes of the Madison Park Community Council General Meeting

Madison Park Bathhouse
Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

Attendees:

Gail Irving, Janis Maloney, Emily Scott, Elinor Kriegsmann, Pat Ellingham, Charlie Pelly, Douglas Berry, Bob Edmiston, Linda Cody, Sam Smith, Gene Brandzel, Liz Brandzel, Lola McKee, Loreta S., Eleanor Kriegsmann, Ron Irving, Ruby Smith, Mary Anne Howard, Solveig Thomson, Shan Mullin, Sally Haggard, Harriet Pattison, Bill Kreager, Terry Wean, Catherine Heffernan, Don Sorensen, Alice Lanczos, Bruce Brown, Roberta Cole, Betty Bottler, Maurice Cooper, Keenan Block, Bill Mundy, Mary Ann Mundy

Points of business:

1. The meeting was called to order by President Gail Irving at 7:06 p.m.
2. The minutes for the November meeting were approved previously by email.
3. A treasurer's report was distributed that showed net funds available in the amount of \$4,841.14. \$3,950 in community donations were received from the newsletter and personal letters in the past month. We are a 501(c)3 and appreciate all who have given. Thanks to the support of the community, we will be able to cover our insurance expenses and have a little bit of breathing room remaining.
4. Bob Edmiston was elected to the position of Secretary.

Discussion items:

1)North Beach Fence:

1. Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent from the Dept. of Parks and Recreation substituted for Christopher Williams, the Acting Superintendent for tonight's meeting. Eric answered that the superintendent was not there because of health issues. Eric attempted to assure the large audience of residents that the city was following a long and thorough process that took into consideration a lengthy public comment process and several hundred petitions from residents, and that the outcome would be in the best interests of all residents and the city as a whole.
2. Eric informed the group that the upcoming Parks Board

meeting will be a place where all of the information that impacts the decision will be discussed in order to arrive at a recommendation. He also said that the city may or may not act in accordance with this recommendation.

3. Eric also said that arriving at this recommendation is but one step in the process. He said that the next step will be to come back to the community to discuss how to implement the recommendation. Lastly, Eric assured the group that fence will not come down before this latter process is complete.

(2) Q&A session quotes:

- b) Q: Bill Mundy: What kind of resources are available to improve the park?
A: Small parts of the implementation can be part of a maintenance effort. For example, taking out a small section of fence or removing invasive species can be done under the existing maintenance budget. Other work could be part of a volunteer effort. A costly project such a new fence might not be in the budget.
- c) Terry Wean: Q: If we wanted to stop the process, do we have any legal way to do that? A: I don't know. We are going down a not terribly unique process.
- d) Charlie Pelly: Statement: We invited someone to come down to see the rough water when the weather is up. I want the number of someone who can come see the rough water when there is a storm. They are not taking care of the weeds now, so how are you going to take care of the park?
Response: Eric offered a number to call: 206-684-8369.
- e) Maurice Cooper: The parks dept is not aware that the new bridge is considerably deeper and higher out of the water. This will increase the wave action.
- f) Don Sorensen: Q: Is there going to be a requirement for an environmental impact study? A: It would depend on the extent of the changes.
- g) Catherine Heppernan: Q: Why did this become a beach project because the name has never been a beach until now? We think this was a ruse to try to get people to think this should be a beach and not a children's park. The fence was really put in to protect us from the sewer and underwater cables. A: I don't know. Q: Does the park have a DPD zoning? A: Yes. Zoning usually depends on adjacent property zoning. Taxes are not paid on this property because it is public.
- h) Elinor Kriegsmann: Q: Is the parks dept going to take responsibility for safety and cleanliness and upkeep (garbage, bathroom)? A: It is unlikely that this would become a formal swimming beach. The vast majority of our parks don't have bathroom facilities. Passive uses like play structures would not call for a restroom facility.
- i) Sam Smith: Q: We've enjoyed a park for 60 years, about two years ago the parks dept started neglecting the fence. What prompted the

- recommendation to take it down? A: There have been proposals to take down the fence. A citizen sent a letter and asked us to take it down. This was an anomaly. We opened it up to see if it was a good idea and we are in the middle of this process now. R: Check the original covenants for this land when it was given to the city.
- j) Keenan Block: Q: What will be the process? A: I'm not sure which will follow:
 - i) A planner can come out and sketch out three options and the community and choose one they want. We develop scenarios and then get input.
 - ii) Another option is we come out with a blank slate and then get needs and come up with a proposal based on that.
 - iii) We could get 6-8 people to have working sessions to come up with a design.
 - k) Jan Maloney: If you are going to take the fence down, you are going to clutter it. Q: What is your definition of a park? Mine is a place to be in a green area and relax and play. If you are going to make it a beach, you are going to have to put in bathrooms and life guards. That's enough, leave us alone. The person who complained is from Queen Anne. You didn't come down and ask if we would like this. A: There are many types and styles of parks around here and the world.
 - l) Solveig Thompson: Q: This park is different from the comparables. The erosion is not holding up now. I don't know how he sees this as a comparable.
 - m) Alice Lanczos: Q: How much have the parks spent so far just planning to remove the fence? A: I don't know how to come up with an estimate.
 - n) Gail Irving: Comment: I'm pretty sure the goal was not to change who would enjoy it. I'm not sure the kind of access will be the same for those who access it now. A: If we do something to make them feel unwelcome, I'm not sure we will have done the right thing. We hope to have a user group so we can tell if we have an adverse impact. If there is one, we can decide what to do.
 - o) Gene Brandzel: R: The way this has been handled by the parks department staff has reduced the trust of the neighborhood. We feel like we've been steamrolled into this process by an individual. If the superintendent makes a commitment to come talk to the community, we expect him to be here, but he's not. If he makes the commitment, we expect him to live up to it. We are now in a position where we don't trust what has been done. A: He has some personal issues that prevent him from being here, there is no disrespect.
 - p) Ruby Smith: This park is different, we're asking you to not make this park like every other park, it has special purposes.

2. Madison Park residents Alice Lanczos and Bill Kreager shared their experience of being involved in the western segment of the SR 520 Community Design Committee. Alice and Bill noted that, when they entered the SR

520 community collaboration process, they found that not all decisions had been made as to the manner in which the new 520 will interface with the existing neighborhoods at Montlake and Roanoke, and that there were definite areas of discussion where neighborhood concerns would be heard and that the final design will reflect consideration of those concerns.

3. Q&A session:

1. Q: Have they had any accommodations for westbound traffic going north? A: Yes, both HOV and general service will merge together to go north. There is a full bicycle ramp.
2. In the arboretum, there will be a new multiple use trail for bikes to keep them off the roadway through Lake Washington Blvd.
3. Q: Do you think the intersection on Montlake can really take double the traffic plus 30%? I don't believe a word of it. A: I encourage you to come to the Dec 7th meeting and say that.
4. Gail encouraged everybody to show up on Wednesday night.
5. Terry: Comment: it's difficult to find the right person at the meeting for the right purpose. Labels were recommended. Also, be persistent about finding the right person. Alice said she would email the collaborative and express the recommendations.

Closing

- On Dec 17th, Christmas ships will be here from 4:55 to 5:15. Coffee, cocoa and cookies will be both Bings and here at the Bath House, come on down.
- Fran O'Connor is starting a book sale. Representing the Last Word, wants to put a bookstore in Madison Park. Looking for a space 800 sf or more in the retail core. If you know of any, please contact Fran at (206) 953-2198 or drop her an email at fran@franoconnor.com
- Next meeting announcement: Irving invited the community to the next meeting on January 9th to start up the year with a presentation on [Seattle Neighborhood Greenways](#).
- Note for next time, bring two clipboards so two sign up sheets can circulate around the room.
- The meeting adjourned around 8:35 p.m.

Note Taker:

Bob Edmiston