



Magnolia Community Council

June 20, 2017

Magnolia Community Council Board of Trustees Meeting
United Church of Christ

Trustees present: Mary Montgomery, Steve DeForest, Carol Burton, Mary Hoverson, Cindy Pierce, Richard Piacentini, Tom Tanner, Bill Stafford, Lynn Hogan, Bruce Carter, Aubrey Mandus, Jessica Gallegos

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Bill Stafford
Libby Stevenson
Tom Tanner
Janis Traven
Rex Wardlaw
Thomas Ysasi

Guests: Gretchen Taylor, James Norton, Paula Harris, Seattle Police Officers David Larrabee and Sam Cook, and member of the community

Meeting called to order by Mary Montgomery at 7:01 p.m. The revised minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting were approved with changes, as was the Treasurer's Report.

Public Office Candidate Introductions and Presentations

James Norton gave a brief presentation about his campaign for Mayor. Darla Harris gave a brief presentation on behalf of her sister, Pat Murakami, about her campaign for Seattle City Council Position 9.

Visitor Presentation - Neighborhood Safety Alliance (NSA)

Gretchen Taylor from the Neighborhood Safety Alliance (NSA) presented data and photos from their current project, the removal of donation and recycle bins from the neighborhood that have promoted irresponsible dumping. Ms. Taylor asked the MCC to support the NSA's request to the City to remove the [TexGreen](#) recycle bins in Magnolia. Or, if the City allows for the continued placement of the donation bins, the NSA will be asking the MCC to support their proposal of imposing consequences for illegal dumping at the bin locations. Tom Tanner offered to provide contact information for a City representative who may be able to help with this issue.

Guest Speaker - SPD Officers Larrabee and Cook

Introduced by Cindy Pierce. The officers are making efforts to be more approachable and available to the community. They are concerned about the homeless problem. The City's Navigation Team is working with homeless encampments citywide; specifically mentioned the long-term Emerson street clean up project. The City is working diligently to get homeless into housing and substance abuse programs.

QFC and Tent City 5 (TC5) update: some thefts reported by QFC management, it is likely not all thefts are being reported. Very few 911 calls related to TC5.

Overall, Magnolia violent crime stats are low and issues like discarded needles and human waste have been minimized through the SPD's efforts. Property crime stats are increasing, auto theft crime is down. The parking lots within Discovery Park continue to experience significant car prowl thefts and this issue remains a concern and the city is working very hard on these issues.

There was some discussion about arson concerns. Officer Larrabee confirmed it is a concern particularly on the northern end of the neighborhood, likely due to kids playing around. Officers are keeping an eye on the situation.

Officer Larrabee shared information about the theft crimes from the past year associated with the “Rock Smash” burglar group. This group was responsible for many robberies in Magnolia. The SPD caught four of these high profile burglars and the group has been disbanded.

Concerns were raised about package theft issues. Officer Larrabee said his team caught a vehicle the other day after a call from the neighborhood. The driver turned out to be an Amazon contract delivery person (2 hour delivery) without credentials, just a delivery manifest. The contract delivery personnel are not technically Amazon employees and therefore drive unmarked cars and don't wear uniforms. Officer Larrabee encouraged everyone to continue reporting all concerns and issues related to any suspicious activities to the non-emergency operators.

A neighbor/guest shared concerns that the 911 operators are gruff to her when she calls to report concerns (on rare occasion). Officer Larrabee explained that operators are trained to ask specific questions and in a very specific order to get the most important information first for dispatch purposes due to high call volumes and prioritization efforts. He encouraged everyone to keep calling and reporting issues to help build records for our neighborhood. He also said if a caller feels the operator is beyond curt on a call, it should be reported. This feedback is valuable to their training efforts.

A question was raised about how police coverage for Magnolia works now. Officer Larrabee explained they are able to focus more on the Magnolia neighborhood now. There are different numbers of cars and officers assigned based on the needs at the time. There are also additional resources available including traffic officers, hotlines, coverage from the Queen Anne and Downtown precincts to fill-in as well. He emphasized the importance of reporting all Magnolia crimes, large or small, to provide accurate stats and garner more coverage for the neighborhood.

A neighbor/guest shared information and concerns about multiple car prowls and break-ins in his part of the neighborhood. He wants to setup a block watch and has been reporting all incidents to the police. He says there's great need to share information and encourage more calls from the neighborhood to the non-emergency police phone number. Officer Larrabee will work with him and the other residents to provide more support, monitor the situation closely, and help follow-up with the detectives involved.

Bruce Carter offered kudos to the officers for their efforts and improvements to the neighborhood over the past year. Cindy Pierce encouraged everyone to attend the Community Police Academy, as it is a very informative experience. The MCC thanked the officers for their time and the valuable information they shared.

New Business - Positions To Be Filled

Neighbor Advisory Committee (NAC): Tom Tanner shared basic information about the role of the committee; it needs a replacement for Nancy Rogers, who has moved. Mary Montgomery, as President of MCC, is automatically a member. Lynn Hogan is serving in her place. The other members are Fred Rappaport, Bruce Carter and Stephanie Mackeen. The alternates are Tom Tanner and Janis Traven.

King County International Airport Roundtable: Mary Montgomery shared basic information about the position from the King County website and explained Thomas Ysasi's position is open. Aubrey Mandus reported that her husband is interested but he is concerned about possible conflicts of interest. Mary Montgomery encouraged Aubrey Mandus to have her husband look into it further, and asked others to think about who else may be able to fill this role.

Reforming the MCC Nominating Committee: The committee needs two non-trustees and one trustee to participate in planning for the annual trustee election meeting this fall. Janis Traven was suggested by Steve DeForest as the MCC trustee to chair the committee.

Fort Lawton Community Stakeholders: Carol Burton attended the [Fort Lawton Redevelopment](#) Open House on June 19 and submitted her written summary the next morning to all Trustees. All were reminded a second Open House will be held on June 21 (tomorrow night). The neighborhood attendees advised the MCC they felt the meeting was misrepresented to the public, the format of the meeting was not as advertised and public comment was discouraged during the event, upsetting most attendees. Questions were not permitted during the Open House and the discussion focused mainly on the [Alternative 1](#) option that would include Mixed Income Affordable Housing and Public Park Uses. Carol Burton pointed out the published intent of the meeting was to discuss the scope of the upcoming draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fort Lawton Redevelopment. The scope is to specify exactly what will be studied under the draft EIS. Public comments are due by 6/26. Some members of the Magnolia neighborhood discussed forming a committee to monitor the Redevelopment project closely. Other members of the neighborhood advised the trustees that they hope to organize and present the City with an option for a public high school to be placed at the site. Members of the community requested the MCC's support in crafting a response to the city regarding the Redevelopment project - but without a specific goal stated. The MCC board of trustees recommended members of the community write letters to the City outlining their concerns, and take action by commenting on the Redevelopment plan throughout the process. In addition, if members of the neighborhood wish to have the MCC take action, they were encouraged to submit a draft letter to the Board for consideration specifying exactly what they are asking of the MCC. Aubrey Mandus summarized the issues verbally outlined by the attendees from the Magnolia community: "The Magnolia community is dissatisfied with the Fort Lawton Redevelopment EIS meetings, the feedback process, expedited timelines, the alternatives represented in the Redevelopment plan, and the lack of transparency." All attendees were again encouraged to attend the June 21 Open House and submit their comments to the City about the Redevelopment plan.

Land Use Committee: David Moehring presented information about affordable housing and zoning within Magnolia, with hardcopy handouts. The handouts include a map of Mandatory Affordable Housing areas. Proposed considerations to help with affordable housing: buffer upzones adjacent to SF zones, add "in-lieu" payment option. Bruce Carter thanked David for his work and encouraged him to work closely with the rest of the Land Use Committee.

The Coalition: Patricia Akiyama has been appointed as District 7 Representative to the Community Involvement Commission.

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Transportation Committee Report: Magnolia Bridge Stakeholder meeting set for June 22, 2017.

Website Update: Aubrey Mandus reported updates to the website in the Events and About sections. Email went out to all subscribers about the Fort Lawton meeting. Posts added to NextDoor Magnolia and Facebook pages for several upcoming meetings and events. Working to set up a meeting with Communication Oversight Committee (Lynn Hogan, Carol Burton, Aubrey Mandus) to draft communication guidelines for the website and social media channels.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Aubrey Mandus

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Recording Secretary