

Upper Maple Leaf Park Planning Committee Meeting
Northgate Library
Thursday, March 6, 2008

Minutes

Attendees: Gwen Wilson, Irene Schleicher, Laurel Kiichli, Marjorie Rhodes, Peter Wagster, Susan Harney, Tom Boothby, Mark Rieder, Christy Beback, Megan Boettcher, Donna Hartmann-Miller

Meeting began at 6:09pm

New Business

Introductions: Committee members introduced ourselves, telling where we live in the neighborhood, a bit about ourselves, why we are interested in the park. Donna began talking of her interest to create a park that is a real positive place in the neighborhood. She worked at Reckless Video for 5 years and is now working at Ace and going to school. Susan is interested in green issues, is recently retired, and is computer savvy. Irene's interest concerns green issues like Susan. Chris is a retired registered nurse who is interested in an off-leash area, parking issues, and would like an outdoor theater. She would like to combine education with the native plantings (biology) and is thinking of grants connected to biology and education. Mark likes the idea of a dog area, green space, and thinks the views are important because they are so great. He works at the UW in Genetics research and writes grants for a living (Donna cheers). Gwen loves walking in the neighborhood and would like to see interesting gardens and landscaping in the park. Her skills include knocking on doors, raising money, and suggests a brick selling campaign to raise funds. She has just started her own housecleaning business. Peter works at Office Max and is a Maple Leaf Lifer. Tom is to be married in August and proposed to Megan at the Maple Leaf Park. He has always wanted to be active in the community and is especially interested in Parkor. This introduces Parkor to just about everyone at the meeting, it is an activity that involves a small obstacle course. Really good Parkor can be seen in the most recent Bond movie, Casino Royale. Laurel like the idea of an dog area, and the idea of an outdoor theater. She is a Tech consultant and can help with data entry and emailing. Megan is Tom's fiancée and is interested in building the community. She is also interested in Parkor and the amphitheater idea. She also has some experience in Grant Writing for educational and community grants. She worked for the Arboretum and now works for UW hospital. Marjorie has lived in Maple Leaf since the 1950's and is currently writing a history of Maple Leaf. She would like to see a labyrinth and flower windmills to produce some power.

Introduction of the Upper Maple Leaf Park: Donna talks about the covering of the reservoir, passing out maps of the reservoir and the lower park. She goes over the reasons for the covering (part of a Seattle Public Utilities program to replace open reservoirs with underground structures to improve the quality and security of the city's water supply and provide open space), the fact there is no money for the park from the SPU, the Pro Parks Levy, or in the Seattle Parks & Recreation department (Parks) budget to do any more than cover the reservoirs with grass and low-maintenance plants and how Parks does not have anyone nor do they have plans to assign a project manager to this project.

Discussion ensues regarding all the options for the park. Everyone has input and ideas, but Donna reminds everyone we will be needing to get community input and raise funds for all these varied ideas. There is discussion about the limitations of what can go on the lid, having some sensitivity to the property owners to the north of the site and working hard to create a buffer zone that offers quiet activity and doesn't block their views, and wanting to take advantage of the gorgeous views.

Discussion about Parks and how to work with them. Donna tells of how other neighborhood groups have given

dire warnings about working with parks, but it is brought up that there is a new superintendent and everyone is very hopeful things will be better. There is discussion about trying to work with the Parks process and make our efforts compliment their processes. Donna plans to contact a Project Manager to find out what their process they go through is and what our committee can do to help rather than hinder.

Donna brings up the issue with SPU wanting to accelerate the burying of the reservoir. This causes issues for the eventual planning of the reservoir because there are weight issues associated with the reservoir (dealing with the amount of weight that can go on it). These weight issues have the potential of limiting the items that can go on the reservoir area. She has done some research already regarding the weight of what she considers the heaviest, reasonable feature that community outreach has shown the neighborhood is interested in — a zero depth/splash pad/water feature. She has already testified before the City Council to ask for their help and the council has directed SPU to work with the neighborhood to come up with a solution. She is scheduled to meet with SPU the following morning to find out what the restrictions will actually be and what options SPU could offer. There is discussion about what the committee thinks may be a good plan of where we should ask SPU to increase the capacity of the columns. A 50'x50' location in the center, towards the southern portion is decided upon.

Committee needs: Donna asks people to look over the list of needs from the agenda so we can start in on what we need to get moving on. We will discuss timelines at the next meeting. Laurel volunteers to be secretary and take notes.

Setting next meeting: There are some limitations to meeting space availability, the Northgate Library allows one free meeting a month and the Community Center doesn't offer free space to groups like ours. Donna will research other locations so we can meet more often when necessary. Gwen asks if we can meet on a Thursday other than the First Thursday. That seems to be fine with everyone, so Donna will do that.

Meeting breaks at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted
Donna Hartmann-Miller, Chair

Action Items::

Donna:

- Meet with SPU
- Set up meeting with a Parks Project Manager
- Find alternative meeting locations