

**UPPER MAPLE LEAF PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**The Stratford in Maple Leaf - May 19, 2008**

Minutes of May 19, 2008 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Donna Hartmann-Miller, Marjorie Rhodes, Peter Wagster, Ginger Van Ry, Gwen Wilson, Jeremy Johnson, Mark Reider, Arden Hellmann

Meeting called to order by Donna Hartman-Miller at 7:10 PM

Minutes of previous meeting from 4-21-08 were approved with the following spelling corrections; *Jeremy* Johnson from Jeremy Johnson, Arden *Hellmann* from Arden Hellman and *Wim* (Van Ry) from Win.

**Old Business:**

1. Report on "Strategic Action Plan" comments sent to Seattle Parks Department. The plan should be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup> and Donna will alert the UMLP committee when it is released and available on-line.
2. Report on the most recent Maple Leaf Community meeting re: requesting funds to help support the UMLP efforts. Donna reported that 3 people responded after the meeting with pledges for donating money. The total donations so far are \$2,050.00. Additional funding sources are Matching Funds from Small and Simple Grants, which are available up to \$15,000. Further research is needed on whether this will work with our timeline. A discussion ensued re: how to use the money gathered for donations. It was discussed whether this should go to offset the Master Use Plan costs (estimated by the Parks Department at \$100,000) or if there is a possibility a landscape architect could be used to help conceptualize ideas after community input is complete. It was discussed that the goal of the UMLP group should be to pay for the Master Use Plan costs because that is what the Parks Dept would accept. Clarification is needed about whether the UMLP group would have any influence over any plan if funds were provided by the community for this, yet the design is ultimately in the hands of the Parks Department. Donna reported the overall size of the Maple Leaf Park will be 39 acres, similar in size to Jefferson Park on Beacon Hill which cost about \$25 million to complete compared to the Cal Anderson Park on Capital Hill which is 7 acres and cost about \$5 million for design and construction.
3. Report on Myrtle Reservoir community meeting attended by Donna. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> public meeting and the community members in attendance were quite vocal, as it appeared that the Parks Dept. had changed some of the features that the community had originally agreed to and requested. There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> community meeting according to their Project Manager.
4. Report on Seattle Parks Foundation information provided by Jeremy Johnson. He and Susan Harney met with members of the Foundation. Jeremy reported that he and Susan felt that they had a successful meeting with the Neighborhood Projects Manager Michael Kelly and Program Director Woody Wheeler. Jeremy and Susan focused their discussion primarily around fundraising and accounting practices of the Foundation. Susan is in the process of checking on references for their work. The Foundation has been around for about 7 years and has dealt with approximately 25-40 parks. They could be helpful to the Maple Leaf effort and guided Jeremy and Susan to pursue matching neighborhood grants. At this time the Foundation is just completing other fund raising activities and will have a "window of time" opening up in the near future. They appeared to be willing to help the Maple Leaf community and noted there seems to be a lot of community support and potential funds available to assist Maple Leaf in their efforts. The Foundation charges 5 to 25% of the total amount they raise, while they charge only 10% to assist with fundraising. The Foundation

assists with small projects or features (e.g. something as small as a bench) to much larger projects. The Maple Leaf group is considered far ahead in the process of starting to consider funding for the park redevelopment. The Foundation did recommend the following:

- To have a clear vision and goal
  - To try to access matching grants
  - To change the name of the committee to reflect a more unified community aspect (the current name could be misconstrued as just focused on one portion of the park or representing one area of the community)
- Develop a time line of events.
5. Report on View Protection through the City Council. Donna reported the Maple Leaf Community Council has submitted (or soon plans to submit) a request to the City Council to include Maple Leaf Park under this designation.
  6. Fundraising (e.g. raffle and wine tasting). No report (Laurel and Dale not in attendance).
  7. Report on park “Features” assignments. Playground equipment: Arden reported that she had spoken briefly with someone who has done work on the Olympic View Playground and they will be providing her with information including costs. She will be having a focus group on June 1<sup>st</sup> of community members. A Mark Reider mentioned the boulder feature at Dahl Park as something of interest for playground ideas and will be researching it for details.

#### **New Business:**

1. Report on Pro Parks meeting. Donna summarized that meetings were held at 3 locations including Northgate, Rainier Beach and downtown. Northgate appeared to be the most well attended. The reservoir covering was mentioned frequently at all of the meetings and while there is not an official nominating process for individual parks or consideration of projects, we submitted our project for consideration using the draft criteria established by the Citizen’s Committee. It is the committee’s intent to keep up awareness of the Maple Leaf Park situation so that the redevelopment will be highly recommended by the Pro Parks committee. The Opportunity Fund was discussed which is a special fund to identify special or unique conditions. Communities such as Maple Leaf might be able to access funding through this option.
2. Blue Saucer Coffee Shop Opportunity. Donna reported that the owners of this recently opened business would like to have a one time community event on a Sunday (e.g. arts and crafts fair) to advertise their business, to draw attention to the community, and to give the UMLP committee a chance to have an information table and fundraiser activity at the same time. The planned date is the end of June, which may be too short of notice for the committee to organize an effective promotion by that time. Donna asked for a volunteer to work with the Blue Saucer on this.
3. Focus Groups: Arden is hosting a trial focus group. Donna will give a brief presentation at the meeting and the two of them will facilitate a brainstorming session. When focus groups are held it will be important to keep a record or attendance log to document who attends and the number of attendees. This will be helpful when dealing with parks and with grants. There is a group of neighbors who have expressed an interest in sustainability in the park and Gwen expressed interest in assisting with this potential focus group.
4. Table sign ups for community outreach activities (e.g. information tables at events such as the summer community social or information tables at local businesses). Donna will set up a signup system for people to volunteer to help at the tables.
5. 1% For the Arts volunteer needed. It was discussed that 1% of the capital building project fund is

slated to go to public art for the city. Criteria for eligibility under this category needs to be further researched to see if anything is possible for us. Peter Wagster volunteered to check and see if the reservoir project falls under this category and if this might be a viable option for additional funding.

6. Mission Statement. It was agreed that a mission statement (which has been on previous agendas for discussion) needed to be developed. A draft statement was provided by Donna and reviewed by the committee\*. It was suggested and agreed that members review the mission statement and be prepared to meet again at a separate meeting with the specific purpose of developing the mission statement. Others can edit or write their own Statement for consideration at the Mission Statement meeting.

Please send any suggested edits and/or your Mission Statement for consideration to Donna by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will consolidate them and send them out to everyone to look over before the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot attend the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and still want to comment/vote on the choices, send your comments to Donna by 5pm on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

7. Review of current committee name, which is Upper Maple Leaf Park (UMLP) Committee. The committee agreed to consider changing our name for when we apply for grants, deal with other groups, and to reflect a more comprehensive/community focused effort. This was also recommended by the Seattle Parks Foundation. It was suggested the group brainstorm ideas and combine this with our Mission Statement Meeting. The following names were brainstormed, and others are welcome for inclusion.

- Friends of Maple Leaf Park
- Friends of Maple Leaf Committee
- Steering Committee for Maple Leaf Park
- Reservoir Reconstruction Committee
- Maple Leaf View Committee
- Maple Leaf Green Group or Committee
- Friends of Maple Leaf Green Spaces
- Mt. Rainier Vista Committee
- Maple Leaf Reservoir Park Committee
- Maple Leaf Commons Group
- Reservoir Park at Maple Leaf
- Friends of Reservoir Green Space
- Spirit of Maple Leaf
- Maple Leaf Green Space Park
- Maple Leaf Green Toppers
- Reservoir Grass Roots
- Friends of the Reservoir
- **Friends Of the Reservoir aka FOR Maple Leaf Park**
- Groundswell Maple Leaf

Members should indicate their top 3 choices or create one of your own and send them to Donna by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will consolidate them and send them out to everyone to look over before the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot attend the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and still want to comment/vote on the choices, send your comments to Donna by 5pm on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

8. There was agreement that a story/ presentation board or flier is needed to portray an overview of the committee's mission statement and goals. This should include but not be limited to the following:
  - Funding (include grants, donations, community contributions/fundraisers)
  - Community Outreach/ Volunteer opportunities/ Publicity
  - Communication (SPU, Parks Dept., Community Liaison)

- Park Features
- Construction

Jeremy Johnson volunteered to develop a storyboard and Gwen Wilson will share copies of project sheets to assist with organization and project management strategies for the committee.

9. It was discussed that there was a need to schedule a meeting very soon for the specific purpose of developing and adopting a mission statement and to finalize the name of the committee. This will be a separate meeting from the regularly scheduled monthly committee meeting. It was agreed that a short meeting would be held on **Thurs. June 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00 at the Stratford**. No other items will be on the agenda other than to complete the mission statement and select the name. Donna will confirm with The Stratford we can meet there again and will send out the initiation via e-mail to all committee members.

Next comprehensive meeting (this does not include the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting) date TBD and Donna will notify committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Ginger Van Ry

\*Mission Statement draft discussed by committee (includes all three)

To facilitate the planning of and fundraising for a green, natural park that respects and maintains the uniqueness its location. This uniqueness includes its central location within Maple Leaf, the natural surroundings, and, especially, the territorial views that exist from this location.

To provide the community with a park in the traditional sense of the word, an open space where people can choose to be active or a place of respite. To develop the park in the non-traditional sense, making the park a part of the community and the community a part of the park.

To take advantage of opportunities to make the park an educational experience.