

FRIENDS FOR A GREATER MAPLE LEAF PARK — Planning Committee Meeting
The Stratford in Maple Leaf — Monday, June 16th — 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Attendees: Donna Hartmann-Miller, Peter Wagster, Irene Schleicher, Gwen Wilson, Arden Hellmann

5/19/08 minutes approved

Old Business

- 1 Donna explained that the mission statement was adjusted to reflect the name of the park to read “Maple Leaf Playground” since that is what it is referred to on maps, The City, etc.
- 2 Susan sent Donna references The Seattle Parks Foundation provided. Donna called them, and they were “glowing” reports. People felt very positive about working with the Foundation. Donna suggested pursuing a partnership with them — will follow up with Jeremy.
- 3 Update on Parks & Green Spaces Levy
Donna will be testifying at the public testimony on Tuesday 6/17 She is hoping to have a strong turnout (both from the committee and from the email update list) to show support. The Cedar River Group arbitrarily assigned Maple Leaf Reservoir project to only receive \$3 million vs. \$5 million, to “make it match” the \$3 million West Seattle was listed for. She shared that one of the smallest projects, 5.67-acre Myrtle, received \$1.5 million and that one of the largest, Jefferson @ 44 acres, received approximately \$7.8 million. Of the proposed \$3 million, approximately \$1.2 million would go towards planning and the rest to the 1st phase of park construction development, mostly towards infrastructure items. We need to send in letters to have this raised to a more equitable level.
Petitions will be distributed throughout the community for people to sign and send into the City.
- 4 Wine Tasting – no report
- 5 Committee Goals: A long conversation followed about the structure of the steering committee. Since the group felt like there were not enough people at the meeting to agree on the goals, we tabled the decision about a subcommittee on fundraising and the general structure on working groups for the steering committee until the goals were established. We discussed having subcommittees to tackle tasks such as fundraising or if it should stay at the steering committee level. Donna will present her notes on organizational structure, including a funding plan of attack.
- 6 Parks’ Strategic Action Plan - Unfortunately, the plan was not distributed well by the Parks Dept to all interested community members. However, the Parks Dept. is talking about adding a goal that would include working collaboratively with the community, which sounds very promising.
- 7 1% for the Arts – Peter checked the City’s website that states that City Capital improvement projects dedicate 1% of the budget to public Art. Peter will look more into how this works, and report back.
- 8 Focus Groups – Arden hosted a focus group of about 20 neighbors who are all very interested in the project, and many are interested in helping. Gwen hosted a focus group with people who are interested in how to promote sustainability in the park. They too are very interested in the project, had many ideas for the park, and want to help. Gwen researched some water play features that are people powered from one of the suggestions from the sustainability group.

- 9 Community Tables – Donna is working on pulling together the materials and will email people to help man the tables once everything is ready to go.

New Business

- 1 Timeline & process – the timing depends on which funding sources become available to the project. The City budget has shortfalls, so the likelihood of funding this fiscal cycle is low. But if something horrible happens and the levy fails, we would need to lobby to have \$2 million would be allocated to the project. In September the budget goes from the Mayor’s office to the Council. The Council must pass it by the beginning of December.
- 2 Gatehouse – The building is not projected to be torn down. The fence is being put up due to failing masonry and increased homeland security. It is possible that in the future, if the Gatehouse is no longer needed, they might have plans to “deconstruct” it. However, Donna has asked they call her first, for possible other community uses.
- 3 Summer Social – Donna talked about the information table, a place for people to rank park features, an opinion board, and activities for kids.
- 4 Olympic View’s New Playground – Arden met with the chair of the O.V. playground committee who was extremely helpful, sharing resource information.