



Friends of Magnuson Park

P.O. Box 51223 • Seattle, WA 98115 • (206) 526-0506

April 2007

NEWSLETTER

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD !

Thanks to your generous contributions that funded our efforts, construction on the sports fields has been delayed. The delays arise from permit applications submitted by the Parks Department, required to fill wetlands and create new drainage systems. The state Department of Ecology and Army Corps of Engineers both must rule on the detailed plans. We retained two top-level scientists to review the permit applications. One is a noted hydrologist; the other is a highly respected wetlands biologist. Both of our experts found the Parks plans were seriously inadequate.

Based on the testimony of the hydrologist alone, the state Department of Ecology is requiring Parks to provide substantially more information. The City was forced to reapply for its water quality permit and is processing the new designs. This could take months.

We were able to hire these experts thanks to your donations. Your money has been well spent.

Furthermore, our attorney has raised the question of a needs analysis. A search for alternative sites has not been conducted. This has become a concern of the permitting agencies. Now they are questioning the choice of Magnuson Park, a sensitive shoreline area, for a major outdoor sports complex.

While the long term future remains unknown, FOMP is encouraged by these recent developments. Our dream of a balanced-use park with protected habitat areas may be closer to reality. We will continue to monitor the Parks Department's efforts closely and critically.

Thank you for your support and patience!

Do you believe parks are public resources? If so, please write City Council and the Mayor immediately. Tell them you want community groups to continue using Hangar 27 - that's where you've attended events like the Bike Expo, Best of the NW crafts show, Lakeside Rummage Sale or Rat City Rollergirls derby.

Because the building is unsafe and dilapidated, the City insists it must be closed. Using tax money, the City will repair and rebuild it, then lease it to a private company, Arena Sports, for indoor games and a gym. Arena's revenues will pay back the repair costs.

This means the non-profit groups now using the space will have to find other low-cost venues, which may not be possible.

Some of the groups are advocating an alternative approach. They want the City to make necessary repairs to the facility and keep it available for community use. Thanks to input from FOMP and others, the Seattle City Council is considering this option. Even if you've written before, please contact the Council again.

Letters are more effective than calls or e-mails and should be individually addressed and written, and from many different viewpoints.

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Do you Believe Parks are Public Resources? (Continued from front page)

Use the following ideas in your letters (but use your own words, to be most effective):

*Hangar 27 is a valuable publicly owned asset. Because of its size (80,000 square feet) it is irreplaceable.

*Hangar 27 was acquired by the City of Seattle after all the public hearings about potential building and park use had been held. There have been no open forum discussions about its future use.

*The "Arena Sports Proposal" hands over a valuable publicly-owned asset for the benefit of one private enterprise who has been unwilling to entertain the idea of sharing the facility with the community.

*Currently Hangar 27 is accessible to everyone for both neighborhood and regional use and serves a wide, culturally diverse population here in the City. In its current condition, it was booked 25 weekends in 2006, serving over 70,000 citizens.

*There is resounding public support for the continued use of Hangar 27 as a cultural and economic center for the City of Seattle - a destination point for Magnuson Park.

Send letters to City Council members Nick Licata, David Della, Richard Conlin, Sally J. Clark, Jean Godden, Tom Rasmussen, Jan Drago, Richard J. McIver, Peter Steinbrueck at P.O. Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025; and Mayor Greg Nickels, P.O. Box 94749, Seattle, WA 98124

In the recent article "Two of Three Wishes Granted," credit should have gone to the Project Advisory Team, which successfully advocated for upgrading the 65th Street entrance to Magnuson Park and the removal of interior asphalt near the tennis courts. There is no plan to grant the third request for public restrooms at the Park; instead portable facilities will continue to be used.

Many Thanks to those of you who sent a donation to FOMP. The FOMP team continues to work on your behalf. Together, we can protect Magnuson Park's environment, minimize the impacts of the sports fields and ensure a balanced plan.

Send your donations to: Friends of Magnuson Park,
PO Box 51223, Seattle WA, 98115

Donations are



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