

Westgrove PACK Board Meeting 4/22/2021

In attendance: Jeff Pandin, Anne Street, Liz Yap, Megan Kesling, Hanna Beard and Emma McAlary. Later joined by Melissa Pandin.

Meeting started at: 7:05pm

Agenda

I. Treasurer's Report

We have \$4,277.23 cents in the B&H account. We have \$7,322.57 in PayPal. We have \$55 in Venmo. Our total is \$11,654.80 which means we have enough money for maintenance and operations.

II. Old Business

a. Turf Update -

Everything is looking very green in the south end (closed). Our opening depends on the weather. We think we are on track to open by Memorial Day. It would be nice if the weather was a tiny bit warmer than it is now, but it seems ok. The ideal temp is high 50s, low 60s and an occasional rain. We have been getting enough occasional rain. We do have a bunch of weird broad leaf weeds in the North end which we haven't seen before. There isn't a whole lot we can do about it besides using herbicides and we don't use herbicides. Once we start mowing that shouldn't be an issue. We think they are coming from the wild area. We've been cleaning up that area so it probably stirred up some seeds.

b. Invasive Species Clean-up Update -

We have done three full days of clean up with the OSS group. We use a team from the Kennedy Homeless Shelter. If someone is in the shelter and they are able bodied and wish to earn money, the county hires them to work on a crew. They started by being assigned to pick up trash in county parks, but it turned out they were able to do more than that. The county now uses them to clean out invasive species because they can't get enough volunteers to do that. They have been diligent in their clean up at Westgrove. So far they've done two clean up days and they've cleaned up both ends of the wild area. They haven't done the middle, but have cleaned up all of the ivy on the trees. There was also one planting day. The crew was given seedlings from the county and they planted 20 bushes and 20 trees. Not all of them will survive, but a lot of them will come up. It rained the next day so that was good! On the 29th, Anne will get a delivery of wild flower seeds and sand. The first place those will go is in all of the little garden beds that we made on Boy Scout Clean-up Day. Those will bloom in the near future and bloom for most of the summer. The OSS crew won't do that planting so Anne, Melissa, Megan and Hanna will do that on Saturday May 1st. There will be seeds left over so Anne will have the OSS plant the rest of the seeds in the wild area.

To sum it up—the project is a great success.

We are a little concerned about the flower beds near the gates, because dogs pee there. It will be interesting to see how those turn out.

c. Federation of Friends Meeting Recap -

Anne was supposed to attend, but she could never find a link so she couldn't attend.

d. Caretaker Saturday -

We will be at the park from 8am-4pm. Melissa and Emma will be there at 8am. Jeff said he would help set up and take down. Liz said she'd come for the last two hours. Megan and Hanna will come midday. Anne will come around 10ish. All the material is in the shed and with Melissa.

e. Memorial Bricks -

At Caretaker Saturday we will be advertising the memorial bricks. We've decided that we will set up a table in the park on more than Caretaker Saturdays because face-to-face selling is the most effective way to sell the bricks. In terms of social media we haven't sent out anything yet, but Emma and Megan will get together to come up with language for those.

We also think that it will be helpful to sell them at Hot Dog Friday Night. People are more likely to buy when they see the tangible brick and talk to one of us. Emma will find the sample brick in the shed and display it on the table at Caretaker Saturday and on HDFN. Emma will make a small sign for the table too. The big sign and the thermometer are up in the North End.

Emma will get back in touch with BrickMarkers and find everything we need before for the bricks on Caretaker Saturday and beyond.

We talk a little bit about social media campaigns. We will come up with a plan and posts for social media. We will send some emails for the audience that haven't come to the park because of the weather and south end being closed. Megan and Emma will come up with a few emails to send out and a few Facebook posts.

We have decided to explain that they aren't just memorial bricks, but are more personalized bricks. They can celebrate people and pets that are alive or dead. It memorializes your feelings about the person or animal. In person it will be easier to pitch this idea. The emails will also help.

We decide it wouldn't hurt to do this more than once a month. The more that we can be in the park the better. The personal touch is really what makes things go. Emma will come up with a sign-up sheet for us to sit in the park.

We talk more about timelines and emails.

III. New Business

a. Fill Chair Position -

We go over the bylaws and we confirm that we have the power to elect an interim chair that will have to be ratified at the next general meeting. Anne nominates Melissa Pandin. We discuss this a little bit. Emma seconds the nomination. Everyone else votes yes.

Melissa joins the meeting as our interim Chair. Her interim position needs to be ratified at the next general meeting. If she is ratified then her term would continue until Oct 2022.

Melissa takes over the meeting. She will write a chair letter. We talk a little bit about what will go in the chair letter.

b. Kristen's Help -

Emma explains that Kristen (a park user) would like to help volunteer in anyway. She is a dog behavioral/safety specialist so she suggested that maybe she can help in that way. She has already pointed out some things that need changing on the website. Emma will follow up with her and give the board an update.

c. Lucky Dog Events -

Lucky Dog reached out to us about events they want to hold at the park. Melissa will follow-up with them to set some dates up. The park will available to them in June.

d. Watering Schedule for the grass -

We decided that we get enough rain and morning dew so that we don't need a watering schedule. The weather this spring has been wet enough. We also don't really have the capacity to effectively water the south end.. We have the sprinklers, but you have to have someone keeping an eye on them. If we don't then they create a huge puddle. Without a proper irrigation system, we don't have an effective way to do it. It can do damage if you try to water it and it doesn't go well. The recommendation from the landscapers is that the weather will do its job.

We talk about moving the irrigation system further up on our list of projects to-do, if we think the watering is a problem. We discuss this a little further. If you don't do it right, you do more harm than good. It is a lot of money and we have to convince the county to put power in the park. Jeff mentions solar power

e. Approve Minutes -

We approve the minutes from last month unanimously.

IV. Other Business

Liz has the plaque for Barry to put on the agility equipment. We decide that as a board we will gather to do a small tribute at the park and put it on the equipment. We decide to do it right before the first HDFN at 4pmish.

We discuss the first day of HDFN. We put Friday, June 4th on the calendar.

We need to get serious about the drainage issue. We still have issues and there is a new park authority contact. Jeff, Anne and Melissa will talk about it and get in touch with the new person. Budget doesn't need to be a barrier. The main barrier is getting permission to do things.

Our next board meeting is May 20th, 2021 at 7pm. It is TBD whether or not it is in person or on zoom pending vaccines.

Meeting ended at 7:55pm