

Westgrove Dog Park Board Meeting February 15, 2023 via Zoom

Attendees: Michelle Primack, Liz Yap, Jeff Pandin, LeeAnn Williams, Yvonne Kinkaid, Andrew Wagner, Sam Longstreet

Treasurer Report

Current \$14,048.90 Burke & Herbert

PayPal \$2,475

Venmo \$345

2022 books are closed and posted on the website

Old Business/

Meeting with county, recap - Jeff, Liz and LeeAnn Introductions on both sides. One hour meeting. County agenda was to talk about turf maintenance, keeping up communication for fertilizer given we are close to watershed, and an understanding of things that we might need. Talked about next big project, the water feature and more hardscaping on the north end. Need to fix the drainage issues and make it less muddy and these improvements would help. Impressions are that it was a positive meeting. The county understands that there will be other agencies that have to weigh in and lots of coordination for the big project. Adam Wynn is the landscape architect rep for the county-seems very competent. Only thing that was slightly negative: County asked if we would “stone dust” the north end, but this isn’t the best idea for the dogs (it’s cheaper to maintain). County is still worried about runoff and erosion. County also seems to think there might be money for benches and/or tables to replace or add to what we currently have. Also had a discussion about lights to keep open past sundown (Oct-March). County seemed receptive, but there is a lot of bureaucracy associated with it (no discussion on who would pay for it). We should pursue this.

Liz proposes that we start a committee to evaluate the possibility of lighting. Board voted to form that committee. People who might be interested/recruited will be identified at the next board meeting and then they can get started on what might be a lengthy process.

County has recognized that the PACK is doing a great job and they are excited to work together with us.

Turf update? – Jeff County had a suggestion that we should aerate the turf. Would involve closing the south end for a couple of weekdays during the summer. Jeff thinks we can do it within our budget. Otherwise, the county is fine with us repeating last year’s turf plan. We will have a better understanding by next board meeting.

Amazon Smile (ends Feb 20) – Jeff Amazon is going to give a little extra before ending Smile – possibly 20% of what we’ve earned this past year.

CFC decision & other GRANTS stuff – Mike (out) Not a strong response that people would donate through CFC. We will not invest the \$300 given the low interest. Looking at other options for donations. Park foundation (county) has a program that they will match donations up to \$1000 (for a total of \$2000 for donations plus match). Could get us a nice bench! Mike will

update at next board meeting about this and we will discuss Mastenbrook Grants application and how to get that started.

Pampered Pet poop bags – Liz Bags are here and are in the shed. Liz to follow up with Karen to find a way to let everyone know that Pampered Pet is providing the poop bags this year through social media. Very generous donation!

Fixed fence/latch - Jeff & Yvonne Latch was broken this week and it has been fixed. Not sure how it got fixed. Also addressed the mulberry tree which was trimmed back.

Poop bag refilling/Sign up – Liz Liz sent out another sign-up genius to refill the poop bags. Board should check the bag dispensers when we visit the park.

Bird houses – Andrew Andrew to discuss with Fairfax county conservation experts to make sure project is acceptable from an environmental perspective.

New Business

Push/Pull signs - Liz & Jeff Gates are meant to go in one direction, but they seem to move in both directions and can break. Push/pull signs would help keep our gates in working order. Jeff says there might be a way to address the actual mechanism to make the gates only move one way (Jeff to pursue). Can decide at next board meeting with more info.

Wine bottles at the dog park (Yvonne) Mischief makers at the dog park at night? Maybe ask the police to make run-throughs at specific times?

Security Cameras Need to revisit this again. Maybe just capture license plates? Cost? Operations? Privacy? Do other Fairfax County parks have cameras?

MOU Might need to be updated? It's from 2019 and the county brought it up. We need to review to see if anything needs to be changed. It's probably fine as-is.

Committees Liz brought up the idea of developing committees to address dog park issues.

Next meeting: March 15, 2023 In-person and/or Zoom TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 PM.