

## Westgrove Pack General Meeting Minutes Jan 9, 2018

We used Facebook Live to record our meeting. View those recordings here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestgrovePACK/videos/>)

Meeting started at 7:00pm  
All board members in attendance

### **Opening**

Mark welcomed everyone and outlined the evening's agenda.

New board members from Oct. elections were introduced:

Mark - Chair

Melissa - Vice Chair

Marissa - Fundraising and Marketing

Emma - Secretary

### **Special Elections**

Marissa kicked off the special elections -

Special election were held this evening to fill two vacant positions that were not filled in the Oct election: Director of Operations and Member at Large.

Megan Kesling ran for member-at-large. She had no oppositions and was declared board member by acclamation.

We had no nominations for Director of Operations prior the meeting . John Amberg, from the floor, volunteered to step in. He had no opposition and was also declared a board member by acclamation.

### **2019 Budget**

Jeff presented the [2019 budget](#) and explained we'll need to ratify it thru a vote this evening.

He highlights that we raised more money in 2018 than we spent in 2018. Projects are queued up and are waiting on the county. We have the resources and are simply waiting on the county.

Barry asks about 2019 funds for the zoysia (grass) pilot. Jeff states the zoysia was prepaid in 2018.

John asks about about why the port-o-potty budget is different. Jeff explains we only had the port-o-potty for 3 months last year. We're budgeting for a full year of use in 2019.

Scott asks why there's no budget line for the drainage project. Jeff explains it will be added after we obtain an estimate. Small discussion ensues.

Jan moves to ratify the budget and Ira seconds it. The membership agrees.

Nancy asks who will interface w/ the county. Mark as Chair will be the primary interface with support by the Vice Chair, Melissa.

## **Gates/South End**

Mark opens the discussion about the south end -

Jeff explains we've established a reliable turf thru the summer months and would like to extend the season further into the fall using 'cold weather grass'. To that end, this new type of grass was planted this fall, but because of the record-breaking rainfall and cold temperatures earlier than expected, the grass didn't fully mature in time.

If we start opening the gates on weekend, we'll ruin the immature grass. Dogs running and romping on the immature grass will likely destroy it. At which point, we'll have a muddy mess thru the entire park rather than where it's currently contained on the smaller side. Understandably, if we keep the gates closed, we'll need to continue bearing the muddy mess on the smaller side.

Liz states if we open the gates and beat-down the baby grass we'll have wasted the monies spent on fall seeding.

Jan agrees. People are attracted to Westgrove because of the grass and pay money to the PACK to maintain it.

Barry states that stone dusting alone will not solve the drainage issue in the the north (smaller). The water will still pool-up. More discussion of this ensues.

Ira comments about how the small side is miserable. He asks if we can open the gates and let the dogs play for an hour or two.

Jeff explains our original plan—we hoped the grass would have grown strong enough for limited playtime. Unfortunately, the cold weather and heavy rain prevented that. The grass will not grow when the temperature is below 50 degrees.

Ira also asks if park members can do anything to speed things up.

Jeff reinforces our dependence on the weather. Given the grass level now, we'll expect the bigger side to fill out quicker and sooner than prior years, assuming the weather cooperates.

Jan explains that we need to look beyond limited opening hours. The problem with opening for limited hours--only the people who follow our social media will know the hours and everyone else will feel left out. It has to be something that suits everybody.

Jeff responds - We haven't closed the gates after fall seeding in prior years. As a result, we believe, the cold-weather grass never took. This year's different - the grass started to grow because we closed the gates to prevent dogs romping and running on the grass seeds. If all goes well, we'll have grass earlier and for a longer period of time this year.

More discussion of what we've done in the past continues.

John asks about adding a second gate on the smaller side. Mark tables this for discussion during during the projects.

William points out some park patrons aren't here tonight, but those patrons should be informed of important decisions and their impact. He suggests we communicate in a way that all users will know of our decisions. A poster at the park may work because social media isn't used by everyone.

Mark explains we are tweaking our communication to the park and will look into creating posters.

Ira asks if he/we can do something to push the drainage project with the county.

Mark states he'll be meeting the county in the next two weeks about the drainage issue. Mark was told by the county that they're aware of the issue and even came to Westgrove after heavy rainfall to gain a better understanding. Drainage is a top priority for the PACK and believes the county understands this too.

Mark will notify the county of the dumping near pump house that John observed in the past two months.

Liz motions to table the discussion about turf/southend until March. Nancy seconds it. We all agree.

Jeff addressed the stripes in the grass—problem in seeding job. There is nothing to remedy that until it warms up. We can throw seed down , but it will just feed the birds. We are keeping an eye on it and we will remedy it with the company who seeded it.

## **Projects**

Mark kicks off the discussion -

Highlights we have a list of projects with an architectural drawing to compliment that list. The drawing has been created and maintained by Scott Erb. These artifacts are expect to help facilitate discussion with the county in the coming weeks and months.

Priority number on is drainage.

Mark hands out copies of the drawings to the audience.

Directs everyone's attention to a proposed new gate in the north-end. Other items on the drawing are pointed out.

Emphasizes these artifacts highlight the PACK's strategic vision for the park.

William comments about short term solutions (triage)— A new gate on the smaller side is a simple quick one- day project, and would alleviate patrons having to walk thru mud to enter the park. He would go back to the park if that was done as a quick solution. More discussion ensues. He is suggesting we do that now.

Barry states placing a gate there may cause people to park their cars in the RPA, which the county will object to. Mark states he'll discuss this with the county prior to installing the gate.

## **Closing**

Mark states a desire to hold these general meetings more frequently, possibly quarterly, and maybe at the park. Next one may be in April.

Mark motions to adjourn. Everyone seconds it.

Meeting ends at 8:03pm

### **Referenced Artifacts:**

[2019 Budget \(Approved\)](#)

[Actuals for 2018](#)

[Actuals for 2017](#)

[Sign-in sheet](#)