

Westgrove Pack General Meeting Minutes 5/8/2019

Facebook Live reference Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/melissa.pandin/videos/10218420669851355/>

Meeting started at 6:35pm

Opening Remarks

Agenda

Why gates open early ?

It usually remains closed until April/May. This year Fairfax County forced us to open in March. The Board explained that if the county would like a grass dog park (as they have indicated) opening the gates early would hurt the grass. They wanted it opened anyway. We aren't quite clear what was happening on their side.

COUNTY IS SUPPORTIVE and they acknowledge that it had an undesirable effect. They are supportive of our goals.

We discuss the condition of the grass in the park as of now.

Update on MOU

Mark goes over history. We were formed to operate on behalf of the county. We are now working with county to formalize our position.

Days away from signing formal document.

Highlights in MOU-

- Highlights authority to manage park on their behalf
- Lists park/gate closure criteria—Why is board closing gates? We can now reference the MOU
- Fertilizer is now allowed—the type has to be pre-approved by the county.
- Grass—It is a joint, multi year experiment. If grass doesn't work out we are still recognized as authority to figure out a new solution.

Drainage

Smaller side is mud pit. We do need to acknowledge that this was an EXTREMELY wet winter. However, we are working with county on drainage solutions. The county's proposal on the table — come this fall they are going to re-level the north end (smaller side) and we will ASSUME they will apply stone dust on north end at least for next year or two. For those passionate about an all grass park we can reexamine whether we put grass back on north end. This work is planned for the Fall. They might have to shutdown and week/weekend. We will send out announcements. This is all in discussion and we do not have a concrete plan from the county yet. We might have room for negotiation.

They will supplement MOU with written appendix for the drainage and surface plan.

Survey

We sent a survey to caretakers about surface plan.

71 out of 114 people responded.

What was the ideal turf outcome? 52.17% percent wanted all grass. 43.48% wanted mix terrain (half stone dust/half grass.) 4% were indifferent few didn't have a preference. No one wanted all stone-dust.

What are the priorities of the park? 1. Fix the drainage. 2. Keeping the dog park all grass. 3. Add watering the south end. 4. Add amenities like water, trees and agility equipment.

Insert Survey Results

We will follow up with a second survey to clarify the results of the first one.

ADA changes and Budget amendment for stone pavers

Addition of two handicap parking spaces - one added to south end, one added to north end to make a total of three spots with asphalt surface walkway to the gate.

Path from south end vestibule to shade structure.

Single bench just inside south end vestibule will be moved a little father to east end for more shade. Path to that will be added.

Vote-\$26,485.92 in the bank ATM. We want brick pavers instead of stone dust and the county wants us to pay the difference. Melissa moves to approve \$6900 expenditure to change stone dust to stone pavers. Scott seconds it. All in favor.

Other Budget Amendments

Another budget amendment for water fixture in south end. Cost is approx. \$13,000 leaves us approx. \$6,000. Mark moves to send the money and Melissa seconds. We are all in favor.

Project to install round plastic recycled benches around the trees in the park. These would cost approx. \$2600. No maintenance because of compost material. Melissa moves to allocate the money and Emma seconds it. All in favor.

To be clear this does not mean we are spending the money. We are only voting to allocate the money.

\$3000 would be left in the bank.

Dog Bite Incidents

Mark explains the board's role at the park. We are not enforcers. We are educators. We are coming up with a form for reporting dog bite and other incidents. This form will be accessible on the website. We do not plan to share the information with the park users. However, it will help facilitate a conversation with the county in case someone or a dog needs to be banned from the park. Only the county has the authority to ban someone or a dog from the park. We need to have documentation/reports to use as evidence if we want the county to ultimately ban someone.

Elections

In Oct we are holding elections for the board. Seats that are open are Vice Chair and three at-large seats. Melissa explains the process of how to run for election. Please reference the Facebook link above. You can find this information on the website too.

Other Business

Hot Dog Friday Nights return on May 31st!

Lucky Dog Rescue will have an event on June 8th!

We are still in discussion if we will have a Fall Festival or not.

West Potomac students have volunteered their time to help us do things at the park.

At the end of the meeting we discuss ways that we might enforce the park rules.

We also discuss that it would be nice for the county to receive positive comments.

Meeting Ended at 7:50pm