

Westgrove Pack General Meeting Minutes

Oct 22 2018

Meeting started at 7:02pm

12 people in attendance and people watching on Facebook live.

Watch meeting on Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/melissa.pandin/videos/10216956439486511/>

Agenda

Poop Problem — Barry discussed that we've planned a poop pick-up day led by Chrissy (board member at large.) We don't know if it will be an ongoing event. Any commercial pick-up will wait when we figure out users aren't able to follow the rules. Concern: that if we pay for it then park users will stop doing it.

-Yvonne suggests a large sign.

-Liz proposes an idea about poop campaign to educate park users. (flyers, signs, talking about it) Liz also says she will continue to volunteer with our marketing needs.

As a board we will be thinking about how to solve this issue.

Grass/Turf Update

Jeff discusses our challenging year weather wise. We decided to do the cool weather grass which let us keep grass for much of the winter and extend use of that part of the park. If it doesn't get beaten up too bad we shouldn't have to see in the spring and it will reduce the time we have to close in the spring. We have to remember it is agriculture and everything is dependent on weather. We've done well with hot weather grass.

-Goal is to have it open more in the winter and close a very short time in the spring.

-We have pushed off our zoysia experiment to next year because the weather hasn't been good enough this year. We are ultimately looking for an all weather grass.

-Chickweed is incredibly drought resistant, but it disappears in the fall/weather.

-More discussion about grass ensues.

Projected opening of south end is late November. All depends on weather. We might have to close a little bit depending on snow, ice, wet. Target is to get the weekends open as much as possible.

LDS is looking to see what dog parks are eroding. The park behind giant is a culprit. Scott remarks that planting grass helps decrease erosion.

Fall Festival

It happened on Sept 22 and it was an amazing turn out. Liz estimates that 300+ people turned out. Biggest turn out yet. Vendors had a great response to the people who interacted with them.

Canine demo was a very popular.

You can check out photos and links to vendors on the website.

We raised : \$2903.00

This money helps for the projects that are lined up for next year.

Jeff Pandin is a second time winner of the chili cook-off!

Liz thanks everyone for their participation.

Barry remarks that the county people were impressed.

Yvonne suggests that Noah and Ben need a portable charge machine because millennial have no hard cash.

Board Financials

Jeff shows the financials for this year so far. Attached to the end of these notes.

Everyone has been generous. We are on track to hit all of our targets for the year. Sustaining caretaker program is doing particularly well. It is covering are basic everyday expenses. WE ARE READY TO DO PROJECTS as soon as the county approves them. Water in south end, mud problem, planting more trees, hard surfaces at gates, continuing to improve the grass. We are very close. The county has to approve everything that happens and we are the only park of our kind and they don't

really have a procedure for how to approve our projects. Barry has helped them make the procedure and we are inches away from the approval.

Aspects of the procedure and approval process discussed.

Park users emphasized that they want apparatus in the park for dogs to play on as a future project.

Other questions asked about projects/budget (zoysia plot, trees).

The trees planted last year were discussed.

Mark asks to clarify between general donations and dues on the financial sheets. Jeff explains that the general donations is money that ends up in the buckets at events. Dues specifically mean the \$20 caretakers pay annually.

Questions and New Business

Liz asks about financials and the projects that we've already paid for this year.

Order of projects is discussed, but it depends on what can get scheduled when. We cannot give a definite answer yet until the MOU is done. Also, weather contingent.

We are eligible for a (??) grant this year.

Liz said that users have expressed interests in a small dog dog park. Barry said we have kicked it around at some meeting, but there are obstacles. Finding a place to put it is a big problem. We don't want to put it in as the park as configured now because we'd have to make a space between the two sides to avoid barking and fence aggression. Also, if we go outside the existing footprint it would go beyond the master plan and there is a long arduous process to change the master plan.

Marissa asks a questions about drainage from Facebook. User asks "would it be possible to encourage Fairfax County Parks and Rec to schedule regular/weekly maintenance visits to the park to monitor and manage recurring issues like drainage? Some dog parks in the region schedule recurring closures one day a week for a few hours to allow maintenance crews to do their work uninterrupted. It also encourages the County to take more ownership of the dog park as a feature they should care for and invest in."

Barry says he wasn't aware of and he can look into it.

He explains the board takes care of the week-to-week maintenance is done by the board (like mowing grass). We usually schedule early in the morning to not disturb users. We try to get as much done before 7am.

Again, weather and other things can screw that up.

Another issue has recently come up: a resident at the Towers Apartment has complained about barking dogs earlier than the hour they are supposed to be there.

Users who are using it before 7am (weekday) 8am (weekend) could get fined and charged with class two misdemeanor trespassing. Yvonne suggests putting that information on our website.

Jeff asks if those in attendance would like to approve keeping the port-o-potty through the winter. Our original plan was to have it picked it up at the beginning of Nov. We got a great price so our budget that was allotted would allow us to keep it through winter. Do we want to do that?

Mark wants to know if we can relocate it for winter to the smaller end and move it back in spring. Discussion about relocation. Jeff will look into moving fee.

Emma motions to keep the porto-o-potty through the winter and Yvonne seconds the motion. 11 in attendance say yay. One nay.

Fall Elections:

5 positions open.

We don't have any contested positions.. Barry is leaving as Chair and Mark (was vice-chair) is up for Chair. Melissa is up for Vice-Chair. Marissa (was at large) and is up for Membership and Fundraising.

Director of Operations is resigning (Scott) and the position is open. At-large is also open.

Emma is running for secretary again.

Jeff is running for Treasurer again.

We need to hold a special election for the positions that are opening after this election. We can defer the vote until the next general meeting or have an impromptu meeting next month. We have two people interested in being the new Director of Operations. We can't vote on them today because Bylines say you need to be present unless you proxy your vote.

More discussion of bylines and election procedure.

Marissa goes through names of candidates and their positions. Introductions.

Anne moves that we vote for all uncontested positions by acclamation. Yvonne seconds the motion. The new board passes.

The passing of the gavel happens.

Closing remarks from our new Chair Mark Thomsen.

Meeting ended at 7:55pm.