

Westgrove PACK Board Meeting Minutes

**Westgrove PACK Westgrove PACK (Pumphouse Association for Canine Kindness)
Board Meeting
April 21, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 5 PM by Chair Kathy Seikel

Members of the board present:

Kathy Seikel, Nancy Urban, Jeff Pandin, Megan Kesling, Melissa Pandin, and Barry Spangler

Welcome

Kathy Seikel, Chair, calls the meeting to order.

Water

Kathy updates the board on water, in Sean Fitzpatrick's absence. Kathy, Sean, and Jeff Pandin met with Phil Hager at the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) yesterday regarding water access at the park. Given the high cost of water in the park (quote of \$40,000 came from FCPA), Kathy/Sean/Jeff proposed we install a big a bigger water line with a smaller meter and at a later date upgrade the meter and create an irrigation system. This would substantially reduce the cost of getting water to the park in the short term. Phil is going to check with Todd Johnson at FCPA to see if this is possible. Jeff also suggests we look into whether or not we can use the meter already located at the pumphouse.

The FCPA will be digging a trench on the side of the perimeter road between the park and Fort Hunt Road to support drainage. The date is TBD.

Strategic Plan Development

Jeff updates the group on the Strategic Planning committee. The group met a few weeks ago and discussed the early stages of the strategic plan. Jeff stresses the importance of being in a partnership with the FCPA and proposing our own ideas and having a plan in place for a budget. The goal of the committee is to have a strategic plan ready for the FCPA to review at the end of the summer.

New posts and waste bags have been purchased and will arrive at the end of the week. The FCPA has provided posts for them to be installed soon.

Turf Management

The warm wet weather we have been experiencing is very good for the turf in the south end of the park. The county recently decided to let the PACK handle the mowing of the south side of the park. Jeff has researched the cost of mowing and spoke with Brian Stokes, of Stokes Lawn & Landscape regarding the price of mowing the south side of the park. Brian has history with the PACK, and has offered to charge the PACK \$90 a week to mow. He can also recommend when the south ends is opened and advise on other turf issues. Jeff proposes we hire Brian.

Motion: To hire Stokes Lawn & Landscape to mow the south end of the park.

Vote: Motion carried.

Resolved: The PACK will hire Stokes Lawn & Landscape to mow the south side of the park.

Park Dedication

The Park Dedication will celebrate the opening of the south end of the park as well as honoring those who are responsible for the existence of Westgrove Park. The Park Dedication will also be a fundraising event; the event is scheduled for Saturday, June 13. The fundraising committee, led by Melissa Pandin is planning a full day, which will consist of: food (hot dogs, baked goods, and lemonade), a silent auction, ribbon cutting, and a possible K-9 demonstration. The committee is planning to research buying a tree and plaque to honor the park founders. Gerry Hyland's schedule has been confirmed; he will be cutting the ribbon and thanking the park founders at the dedication.

So far, we have received a donated handmade quilt, Washington Redskins tickets and parking pass, a boat trip out on the Potomac, and several gift cards for the silent auction. The committee is working to secure advertisers for the dedication program. All of the proceeds from the dedication will go to funding water in the park.

Aggressive Dogs

Due to a few recent issues with aggressive dogs, the board has decided action must be taken. The board has decided for repeat offenders, a member of the board will meet privately with the dog owner to discuss the matter. Users can report repeat offenders in person at the park and soon via the PACK website.

In addition, new signs will be drafted to post in the north end of the park to remind users of the most important rules for safety: aggressive dogs must immediately be removed from the park and no children under the age of 8 are permitted.

The board is also considering future workshops on the weekend, run by animal control to provide support to users concerned about how to handle aggressive dog situations.

Canine Health

Multiple dogs in our community have been affected by illness recently, and canine health is something the board takes seriously. This issue will be covered at the June general meeting; Nancy Urban has volunteered to coordinate a speaker to address canine health. In the meantime, the PACK website will be updated with general canine health information – and in the future, blast emails will be sent out with health news or potentially a newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM