

Westgrove PACK Board Meeting Minutes

**Westgrove PACK Westgrove PACK (Pumphouse Association for Canine Kindness)
Board Meeting
March 17, 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, Sean Fitzpatrick, Melissa Pandin, Barry Spangler, and Jan Speakman

Welcome & Updates

Kathy Seikel, Chair, calls the meeting to order and updates the board on general administrative items -- business cards are handed out to each member present, notebooks are distributed (containing copies of meeting minutes, caretaker info, etc.), and the website is discussed. The new PACK website is up and running and looks great, improvements are continuing to be made and the link to the new Facebook group has been added.

100 regular users of the park have become caretakers, and several caretakers have become monthly contributors (easily set up via PayPal).

Turf Management

This week -- FCPA will be seeding the south end of the park Thursday starting at 8:00 AM (the process should last about 3 hours). Melissa Pandin will be sending out a mass email to alert users of the park to be careful because large equipment will be moving through the north and south end of the park. Megan Kesling will update the Facebook group.

In addition to digital communication, Megan Kesling is going to print signage for the bulletin boards with important information to keep the park community informed of upcoming events and news.

After research and discussion, it is decided the board will wait and see how the turf looks this spring before proceeding with applying pesticides. It is determined as a group, if in the spring there is a reason to use them, we will re-evaluate and possibly use minimal spot application if the board is in agreement it is necessary. Moving forward, using pesticides is a worst case scenario.

Water

Sean Fitzpatrick updates the board on water; Sean has 600 feet of hose and a meter if it is necessary to water the south end of the park once it is seeded. If it rains enough this spring, bringing water in shouldn't be necessary.

While the board moves toward a permanent solution to the water problem, bringing in hoses will work in the meantime to get the seed watered. The fire department may also be able to provide support for watering, research will be done to find out if they can help PACK.

Brad Gamble and Patrick Atagi have offered their own personal sprigs for the Bermuda grass test plot. All future plans involving the turf will be run by FCPA in advance.

Strategic Plan Development

In order to move forward with improvements to the park, a committee must first be established to create a strategic plan. Emails will be sent out shortly asking for volunteers; at least 3 people are needed to work on the plan. The strategic plan will be an outline for the future, initially a broad vision for the park (presented at the Park Dedication) and more specific plan in the future. Jeff Pandin has agreed to head the group

The Strategic plan will include an environmental impact report and future amenities for the park. This plan will be the park's 2020 vision, our goals for the park in the year 2020. The strategic plan is essential for moving ahead, and will be an essential tool for fundraising and grant proposals.

Ides of Bark

The Ides of Bark event last week at Grist Mill Park was a success. It was a blustery day, but excellent exposure for Westgrove Park. Some of the more popular exhibitors will be invited to the upcoming Park Dedication -- the K-9 demonstrations and mobile vet would be excellent additions to the upcoming event.

Waste Bags

Jeff Pandin, Treasurer, proposed to purchase six new waste bag dispensers and 6,000 waste bags. The dispensers are free, and the waste bags are half the cost of the prior bag vendor.

Motion: To purchase the new waste bags and dispensers

Vote: Motion carried.

Resolved: The bags and dispensers will be purchased

Park Dedication

Melissa Pandin is heading up the committee for the upcoming Park Dedication. The Park Dedication will be the new board's official re-launch of the park.

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 exact date is TBD, probably early June.

Melissa will be researching vendors for creating a program for the day as well as forming a committee to plan the event. Emails will be sent out shortly asking for volunteers to join the committee.

In addition to the Park Dedication, ideas for smaller fundraisers in the future, possibly a "dogs in the dog park" -- a picnic lunch fundraiser as well as exploring posting advertising in the park are in the works. Research regarding the PACK's ability to accept funds from advertisers is forthcoming.

In addition to short term fundraising, long term fundraising, such as a memorial garden and legacy donations have been proposed to support long term goals.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM