

3/27/ 2018 Westgrove Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance are Barry Spangler, Anne Street, Scott Erb, Marissa Hull, Mark Thomsen, Emma McAlary, Jeff Pandin and Melissa Pandin (stand-in for Liz Yap)

Meeting started at 6:36

Agenda Items talked about.

1. General comments from Chair

Our MOU Meeting has now been schedule second or third week of April. Barry is just waiting to hear back from the person from county to confirm the date.

Barry ran into Dan and Lynwood from the county at Ides of Bark and talked about runoff. The stream survey is schedule for April 7th and Glenda asked Barry to ask a few people to help. It would be 9am to noon. Scott says a tentative "yes." Melissa asks if we can tie it into a caretaker Saturday. Barry thinks that would be too much going on. Jeff says he will attend the survey.

2 and 3. Park drainage discussion starts. Artificial turf discussion follows.

After MOU signed we need sit down with county about the drainage issue. We can bring up article turf issue too. We are getting info on it, but is very expensive. Scott says it only lasts 5 years. Most people at the park will say no, but we are doing the research just to have all the facts when we need to make a decision. Zoysia is also expensive. Barry says were are going to have a hard time keeping the park closed after this cold spring. Jeff hopes seed is in the grown in the next two weeks. Assuming we do get spring soon it probably won't take eight weeks of closure. If it warms up the way it should warm up. Barry says to Jeff that when he talks to Gloria please ask her about Zoysia plugs. We might not have to put a fence around it. Jeff says we need to probably keep them off for a week. Scott asks if we'd do the whole park. Barry says we just want to do a test first.

Jeff had done more research on grass. In this part of the country spring is iffy. Most people say plant in fall if you want to establish grass. However, we use the park well into the fall. You would look at closing it Sept/Oct. Ideal time to close is as close to labor day as possible when it starts to rain. If you get into Oct it can be very dry. Tricky climate! Ultimately, the sprinkler system might need to move up on the wish list says Anne. Jeff says if the zoysia works then we might night not need a sprinkler system.

We might have issues with people asking to open the south end before the grass is ready. It gets too hot for some and they want the shade structure. We will start to get complaints if we

keep it close too long. Melissa says it harkens to shade structure in the northern end. Jeff says either way you need a structure in the north end. There is a discussion of temporary structure but the we'd have to take it up and down overnight or at least when storms come. We are gonna face complaints with whatever we do.

The patio looks good. Short discussion of how good it looks and how right it was done. Jeff says Melissa and Scott did a good marking job.

Barry will put out a chairs letter. Anything we want to put in? Closure and any info about the turf is good says Jeff. When it is likely to open up and why. We can mention zoysia.

Anne says mention that the ground needs to be 68 degrees so they know we aren't just keeping it closed for fun. Melissa says we can put a link to all the info.

Discussion of seeding follows. How deep? How to do it? Rake?

Get chairs letter done as soon as possible. We won't wait until MOU meeting happens.

When is general meeting asks Melissa? We should have one in April meeting if we are doing every 3 months. We need to give 30 days notice so late April or early May.

Meeting will be MAY 9th. Barry will try to get it at library.

Anything else in the chairs letter? Won't talk about artificial turf in it yet. We are thinking about a sample patch. What is the difference between stone dust and artificial grass? Melissa says muddy and dusty. Both get very hot in summer. Jeff says he would like to try to maintain grass in the area but we don't know if it is possible. Marissa says she would rather see mud that is natural. Artificial might be detrimental to environment. If we fix the drainage then mud wouldn't be a problem. Scott says we need a professional to tell us how much we need to slope it and where.

Fairfax county is still putting in artificial grasses. Jeff says drainage has to happen regardless. Mark says we want to keep the smaller side open maybe artificial turf would be better than stone dust. No official decision has been made. Anne says we just need to have all the facts when people start asking us about our final decision.

Jeff says if we can really do a proper reseeding in fall after the drainage is fix grass would have a really good chance of working. If we don't keep all foot traffic off of it then it is a waste of time. We were able to keep traffic off of the north end for six weeks and it worked last year. He thinks doing one end in the spring and one end in the fall would be a good plan.

Grass is smart idea because it is ecologically better was our thinking.

Are there any other grasses we've looked into? Bermuda? We are beyond the ideal range for for Bermuda. Too cold in the winter. To south for tall fescue grass. Crab grass does great, but dies in September. Less water and less mowing. Loves the heat, but bye in Oct. More grass discussion follows.

3. Treasurer's report

\$15,010.82 in the bank as of today.

\$1500-\$1600 in foundation

If we want to get matching funds we can think about putting in trees and using some of that money. Might be too late because Barry thinks the deadline is April 2nd. He will check.

Jeff suggest west side should get trees. Barry will look into that matching funds thing. Mark asks if we can use it for anything we want? Whatever we request has to be done by the county explains Barry so we have to think strategically.

Suggestions for money—Marissa brought up benches. Anne says it is tough to put them around little trees. We'd have to wait until they grew. Jeff and Scott talk about evergreens and Scott said they might be nice on the north end to block wind in winter. More tree discussion follows. Mark suggest pieces of agility equipment for the funds. Discussion follows. It would be a little more involved than getting trees. Marissa says it is not maintained well. It would have to be in-destructive. Wood? Jeff asks about concrete culverts. Dogs could run through and jump on top.. Maybe rock structure? Other ideas are discussed for use of foundation money.

Board decided on trees since deadline is Monday April 2nd (next Monday). Emma makes a motion to buy a tree. Marissa seconds it. Jeff says \$1000 for tree or trees—total of \$2000. Barry will talk to Bobby about extension since none of MOU's are in yet.

4. Other business

The next time we get together we need to talk about new projects says Barry. We need to have an order of new projects that we all agree on with details/costs. We have to be very specific when presenting to county with what we need and what we want. We can make sure things don't interfere with each other says Jeff. Must be strategic and put real thought into it. Barry says we need to put another survey out soon. Since we did winter survey last time we should do summer survey this time.

Another reason to have a well thought out plan is for the PetSafe Grant next year. We need to have specifics for them—what we want them to pay for says Anne

Next board meeting will be April 18th at Barry's house.

Melissa says she is here her as a rep for Liz to talk about caretaker Saturdays. One Saturday a month someone sits in the park and tells people about the park and collects money. Best to have two people. What Saturday of the month? Starting April 21st. From then on they will be the third Saturday of each month.

Can we combine with clean out/clean up park? Yes. We can fire up the grill to feed volunteers. Anyone can help.

Brief discussion of what should go on the info board at the south end of the park follows.

Mark asks about taking the no parking signs down near the defunct hydrant and covering it up. Decision is made that Mark will put contractor bag over it.

Mark also asks if we should move trash cans outside the fences at the park. He says we can do it right outside where people can still reach and there would be more room in off leash area. Barry says his greatest objection is that it might be more effort and anything that causes more effort to pick up poop is no good. We can at least test one. More picking up waste discussion follows.

Barry also says we need to put up election notice up for October board election.

Meeting ends at 7:56