

# Westgrove Board Meeting Minutes

## 4/18/2018

In attendance are Barry Spangler, Anne Street, Emma McAlary, Mark Thomsen, Marissa Hull, Christine Daily, Liz Yap and Jeff Pandin.

Meeting starts at 6:36pm, and ends at 7:45pm.

### **1. General Comments from Chair**

#### ***MOU Meeting, etc.***

Last message Barry received from county was that they were still waiting to set a date for the MOU meeting.

Stream survey delayed once again because the person from NOVA Soil and Water was sick. Glenda will let us know when another one is scheduled.

Barry put in an application for funds from the park Foundation. He put in matching funds. Project would cost \$1500 for trees and \$500 for labor.

#### **Note to Membership on Closure and unauthorized opening**

Barry worked on a note to membership addressing unauthorized opening of the park gates. Barry reads it aloud to board members. Discussion about changes to the letter ensues. Do we need to put out? Board does not think so.

Marissa suggests putting a sign at gate to explain the turf maintenance and why the south side is closed.

Anne says it is appropriate to put another letter about seeding and turf maintenance. Remind them about truth and keep them updated on a weekly basis.

Discussion about who the website and emails reach starts. Liz says over 100 users are reading weekly emails. More than a year ago says Liz. 253 on facebook members. Marissa says there are still users that don't care about the emails or facebook and just go to the park

Discussion about sign on double gates. Barry will get a sign to put up to explain why the south end is still closed.

Board discusses what kind of sign to make and what it should say.

Board agrees to say make three: Closed due to weather. Closed to due maintenance. Closed due to seeding.

## **2. Closure and Seeding**

Jeff says it is a weather thing. McGee (the lawn people) says if we want them to seed they will, but it is still not warm enough. Jeff experimented with his own yard before Easter. None of it sprouted. It is too cold at night. No one can say what the sweet spot to seed is.

Discussion about if we should scrap the seeding and instead aerate the field now. Board agrees weeds are looking lush. Discussing whether we should seed in Fall. However, Fall is busiest part of our year mostly due to the Fall Festival.

Barry asks if we can hold the Fall festival earlier in the year so the turf doesn't look like a big pile of dirt.

Chrissy asks would it matter if we skipped a year in seeding? Jeff isn't convinced we need to seed at all if the weeds continue to grow. If you can live with bare dirt in fall then it is not a big deal. Only thing to do to correct is close for seeding Sept and Oct.

Anne asks would it be an advantage to move the fence? Can they be more equal in size so people wouldn't think they were disadvantaged when it comes to space in the park?

Jeff doesn't think we can configure a fence that is completely removable. Plus and minuses to the whole thing.

Chrissy says the reason some people go is the size of the south end. More fence talk ensues. Is this something to consider?

Vote on not seeding? Should we wait another week and see what weather does? Our window for seeding might be up. Barry says fertilizer and aeration might be a good idea.

Marissa says we can reevaluate seeding in Fall. Push festival to Sept. Anne agrees and we might be able to investigate the possibility of winter rye grass. If rye dies in spring then weeds come up and the cycle continues. Start to look at wintertime options.

The festival could be "end of summer" or "before seeding hurrah" suggest Anne and Marissa.

Jeff says when the turf gets saturated in the winter we can't have people tromping on it anyway. We can still open and close when weather is and, but Anne asks if we can manage it better.

We all need to take turns to do it in the winter and not let it fall on just one board member. The more we have topped and close to protect the turf the more of us are need to take turns doing it.

Liz asks if fertilization will include aeration? Barry and Jeff say yes.

Marissa makes a motion to skip spring seeding and aerate and fertilize . We reevaluate in fall. Chrissy seconded the motion and the whole board votes yes.

We still have to wait to open the gates for a little while after fertilizing. Weeds also need to be high enough and full enough to mow.

Jeff is going to talk to McGee to see how soon they can do it. Barry asks if they can put some more sand in the patio cracks too. Jeff will ask.

Mark suggests to incorporate the new news about the south side opening into Barry's letter to the membership. Jeff agrees. More timeline/weather discussion continues.

### **3. Clean up in Park**

Glenda asks us if we can get rid of some invasive species from the area— mostly English ivy. Our plan will be to take two to three feet from bottom of tree. We have to be careful not to take off bark and kill tree. We should put something out in the next day or so about what to wear and what to be careful of (poison ivy, ticks). Barry asks Liz to handle this.

Liz suggests long pants, long sleeve shirts, tuck pants into socks and gloves. Barry will bring duck tape too.

Is there anything else we want to do besides ivy and trash pickup? Liz asks about if we are clearing out brush and if it will disturb small animals habitats. Barry think ivy will take us long enough so we probably won't get to the brush. The event starts at 11am until we decide we are done. More clean up discussion ensues.

Mark asks if we have more work to do inside the park Yes, poo pick up if necessary and broken chairs, etc. Marrison wants to clarify how to describe to park members why we are doing work outside of park. Barry and Marissa thinks it won't be a problem.

Chrissy would like to tackle the brush on the east side- the area between the fence and the road. Barry would like to concentrate on trees and trash. Liz says we can at least thin it.

Liz will send email to Barry and Mark to review about the clean-up

Discussion of what tools we need commences.

This is caretaker Saturday too. Anne will take care of the table.

### **4. Treasurer's report**

Jeff says cash on hand is \$15,414.99 . We are in excellent shape. We will have to get a new estimate from McGee for new plan of fertilization and aeration.

Mark says we need new poo bags.

Liz says we will have hats and magnets at caretakers table for fundraiser. More discussion begins about the fundraising items.

Discussion of selling balls at the park starting in May for more fundraising.

## **5. Other business**

Barry says the shed is a mess. Mark says he will take care of it.

We decide If a chair is broken throw it away.

Liz would like to revisit Fall festival discussion. Can we find a date earlier so we can have a bigger vendor turnout? They won't have committed to somebody else if we get them as soon as possible.

Possible date discussion. Board decides on September 22nd for Fall Festival.

General meeting is May 9th. We don't have a speaker for the meeting yet. Liz discusses asking Jenz about fostering and Lou's Labs women

Mark says we might ask a vet to come and talk about signs for heat stroke because it is starting to warm up —we need ideas for visit.

Mark will look for vet if necessary.

More discussion of possible speakers at general meeting. We need a clear theme.

If Jenz can't do it then Liz will let us know by Saturday if we need to help her find another speaker.

Barry says he would like to commend Liz for the great work on the banner on the sandwich board.

Liz talks about Instagram. Rachel Landrie will manage the account since she is always there taking photos.

We also have to start looking for board members says Liz. We need to reach out to people regularly at the park and get them excited about running for positions. Four positions open up in the fall.