

Westgrove P.A.C.K. Board meeting February 14, 2024 @ 7pm - ZOOM

Attendees: Liz Yap; Jeff Pandin; Sam Longstreet; Steve Zielenski; Shawn Bloom; Yvonne Kinkaid; LeeAnn Williams;

Regrets: Michelle Primack, Mike Bober

Financials (Jeff): We are in good shape as this is enough to fund the entire year with a substantial amount left over.

\$ 14,659.63 B&H
\$ 6,888.86 Paypal
\$ 0 Venmo
\$ 21,548.49 total

Old Business

Membership software update (Jeff):

- Every PACK donor should have gotten acknowledgement of their 2023 donations. These acknowledgements were sent through the new software.
- We need to talk about how we want to handle renewal notices - the software will let us select people that haven't renewed for a certain amount of time and send them a message.
- We have to migrate people from mailchimp to this software. New software will also allow us to send specific targeted messages to groups. PayPal donation notifications are automated through this software; checks and cash need to be updated manually.
- Maybe we need to come up with a quarterly newsletter (Shawn is happy to serve on a committee). Liz is also on board for the committee. We don't expect there to be any cost for this software. We still need a committee - should we wait until the general meeting? Anyone who needs to write emails should be a part of it. Also should include people interested in marketing.
- Next step is Shawn will meet with Liz to discuss who should be involved and how to kick it off. Jeff will be involved as well.

Adam Wynn drawing (Jeff, Shawn, Liz):

- Review schematic from Adam. Adam is a landscape architect, among other things.
- He sent a schematic drawing for our project (Liz went through the drawing with the board). Will add ADA drinking fountain (replace existing one), ADA picnic tables, shade structure, new shade trees. We would also add strategic stone dust to deal with flooding/water.
- Drawing shows a lot of stone dust, possibly not enough grass/turf. Liz revised the drawing to add more turf. Stone dust might be needed for ADA - maybe a path of stone dust through additional turf instead of all stone dust?
- Steve: Westgrove stands out because of turf; don't want to put down too much stone dust - it's a nonstarter. Maybe our starting position is no stone dust? (Although we told them we were interested in "strategic stone dust").
- Our goal should be to maximize grass. Whatever we decide we want to do with County, we need to discuss with the general meeting before we get ahead of

ourselves. Jeff suggested a near-term meeting with Adam to discuss, prior to the general meeting, and develop a new drawing to present at General Meeting. The sooner we have a plan, the sooner we can start raising money.

- Jeff, Shawn, Liz, Steve, LeeAnn, Sam are interested in being involved.

Turf Update (Jeff, Shawn, Steve):

- No water even though it rained! Let's hope it stays that way.

Gates/Springs update (Shawn):

- No real updates. Shawn talked to William but is still waiting on Long Fence. Shawn is ready to respond that he has a product in mind and why can't Long Fence find them? Might not be well-received.
- Jeff says not to be too aggressive but we should make a proposal if we have a good idea and can show what it is and how much it costs.

Follow-up on Chat about Aggressive Dogs:

- Maybe we can bring this up at general meeting to inquire about committee? Or should Liz send an email? We need to let people know what our new policy is (if it even changes at all).
- Steve is happy to chair this committee. Maybe come up with a guideline (could be existing policy) and open it up for input. It is important to remember that PACK cannot police the situation. We just need to communicate more about what to do in fight situations. LeeAnn is willing to pass out flyers with our policy.
- Liz will follow up with Steve and LeeAnn.

Small Dog Park updates (Mike):

- Mike reached out to Caroline via email about getting the pilot program launched. Hopefully we will be implementing the small dog park hours soon.

Poop Bags (Liz):

- Sign-up genius is still open.
- Karen is getting us new bags because she didn't know the ones we had weren't working. She didn't mention anything about cost.
- Liz and LeeAnn will stop by Pampered Pet to talk to Karen.

New Bench for River Birch? (Liz/Jeff):

- On hold until after turf renewal. Bench is \$2000 with an additional \$250 for shipping. Put into a proposal for membership approval at general meeting.

Social Media Post Suggestions (LeeAnn):

- It is a great idea to be more active in a "fun" way. LeeAnn has sketched some ideas and will send it to the board. We need to figure out if anyone else is interested in helping out. Anyone can take dog videos!

New Business

Friends of Dyke Marsh (training Save the Trees)

- They want to train us how to identify invasive species and remove them. Glenda said 5 people would be a great number.

- Good for late April/early May. Jeff, Liz, LeeAnn (maybe), and community members.
- First hot dog Friday night would be good to recruit (we can also tie other topics like safety to hot dog Friday).

Friends Groups - Capacity Building Fund Grants for FY2025 - \$1000 eligible.

- We need to send in an application to receive up to \$1000 matching. Application is pretty straightforward. Can we use the money for half of the bench?
- Mike will hopefully be the lead (*Steve backup.)

Set General Meeting for April

- At Sherwood Library/Martha Washington Library alternate - 3PM (Sunday 4/21 is booked for both libraries).
- Should we move it to Saturday 20th or another Sunday?
- Shawn has office space but it is near Trader Joes in Old Town but that is kind of far. Mason Hill Unitarian church might be an option. Sam is active there and will ask.
- Need guest speaker. Animal Control? Lost Dog volunteer opportunities? Animal Control ties into our aggressive dog issues. EmmaVet might be a good idea to talk about dog health and safety (Michelle can take the lead). Let's set the date and place and see what availability is.

Next meetings:

March 20 @7PM in person if possible/Liz to determine. (2 hours). We will identify board responsibilities so we can recruit new volunteers.

April 21st – General Meeting

Meeting is adjourned at 8:23.