

## Westgrove PACK board meeting — September 11, 2024

**Attendees:** Liz Yap; Jeff Pandin; Steve Zielenski; LeeAnn Williams; Michelle Primack; Shawn Bloom; Sam Longstreet; Mike Bober; Jennifer French (guest)

Regrets: Yvonne Kinkaid;

### **Financials (Jeff):**

\$24,734.47 B&H

\$ 966.95 Paypal

\$1,105 Venmo

\$26,806.42 Total

### **Old Business**

- **HDF: Sponsorships (Jeff)**
  - Final tally - Jeff wants to push this forward because there is one more hot dog Friday this season.
  - Jeff might be introducing new food items next year!
  - Liz will do a follow-up survey with Shawn's help to gather info from sponsors on how they think this summer's hot dog Fridays went.
  
- **Membership software update (Jeff).** Burt Wagner will meet with Nabil on 9/11 and will have more info soon on how to improve the system. System is coded in Python and MySequel. Will continue to use MyChimp for the time being, but it isn't being updated at this point. Liz will talk to Jeff because we want to get new people involved in the General Meeting etc.
  
- **Turf & Park update (Shawn/Steve/Jeff)**
  - Water spigot/hydrant status - It's a small leak, but it is definitely a leak. Shawn will continue to work with William, but it's not the highest priority. Shawn will mention that if we don't fix the leak, it could possibly ice up around the ground in the colder winter weather.
  - Grass mowing, new services? A new potential contractor came out on 9/10 with Shawn and he had some good ideas. South side is covered by a really hearty, non-toxic weed (oval leaf knotweed). It completely edges out the fescue. Raises a lot of questions about whether we should close the south side because the weed might be a good cover. Problem is that the knotweed turf won't come back if we don't close and aerate so we still need to close the south side in Spring to ensure green cover in the summer.
  - Fall aeration - do we want to do it? Shawn identified a mix of cover that might be good, but this would only work if we could close the south side of the park, which would be hard in the fall. We would have to figure out a schedule that would work. We could try planting rye grass in the fall without closing the park, but that would mean a lot of foot traffic.
  - **As for north side water mitigation, given the changes being proposed by the county, we would need to seek approval before moving forward. We will need to finalize mou before moving forward.**
    - Cost would probably be in the \$2K ballpark (Shawn will get an estimate). Can we get gravel from the county? We could also get mulch and volunteers could help spread it around the trees. We need to figure it out

any bigger abatement projects by February to not interfere with Spring seeding.

- Poop bags - Steve picked up 6,000 today.
- Status, MOU expired August 15th. We sent a letter and got feedback with help from Supervisor Storck. William is looking at it and hopefully we will have news about renewal by the end of the week.
- Update about feedback from County - the next phase of abatement and woof-fiber - Liz suggested we continue with an offline conversation.
- **EMAIL campaigns (Liz)** - more topics and dates to send. LeeAnn's email was well-received. Michelle sent an email idea about dog breed play styles.
  - Nothing on deck right now. If anyone can think of a topic, let Liz know.
- **Social media post suggestions (Liz)**
  - Elections and General Meeting
- **Status, Order Bench for tree (Jeff)**
  - We were awarded the \$1000 grant.
  - Do we purchase and then get reimbursed? - We send the order info to the park foundation and they do the ordering. We can pay our part and then coordinate when it gets delivered.
- **Status, FIELD TEST Small Dog Park (Mike)** - Carolyn Neulight might be moving, so the interest might be subsiding a little. Mike will continue to work regardless of his Board Seat ending. Still not getting a strong community engagement to push initiative forward.
- **Fall Festival (Liz)** - scheduled for Oct 26th
  - Still no chair. Jennifer French will talk to her neighbor Dawn about possibly doing it (she should reach out to [westgrovepack@gmail.com](mailto:westgrovepack@gmail.com)). Primary interest is in the chili cookoff. Steve and Liz could possibly search for sponsors.
- **Status, Tree donation and installing quotes (Jeff)**
  - Anne Benedict/Slippery Elms <[furfling86@gmail.com](mailto:furfling86@gmail.com)>
  - Mary Tracy may want to donate a tree <[tracy.m@att.net](mailto:tracy.m@att.net)>. She has seedlings in her yard.
  - We will need to get someone (Jeff to reach out to Hollywood and Vines?) to plant any trees because the dog park ground is impossible to dig.
  - Table this topic until spring?

### New Business

- **Dog blessings - Possibly exclusionary?** Maybe not if it's open to anyone who wants to do it. Which church or other faith group(s) would be involved? PACK will not sponsor or endorse but will not prevent the pastor who wants to do it from doing it on his own.
- **General Meeting October 6th**  
(Sherwood Hall Library @3PM)

○ **AGENDA**

- **Introductions (Liz)** – Announce we are one of the Best Dog Parks in NoVA again in Northern Virginia Living Magazine/October edition. We won last year.
- **Financials (Jeff)** – HDF success and \$\$
- **Small Dog Field Text update (Mike)**
- **Turf & Project update (Shawn, Steve & Jeff)**
  - Mention Fall aeration plans
  - Winter clean up & mulching should happen early of December
  - Mud Abatement Project: History and County's response
- **No Fall Festival** (No chair to run/organize chili cook-off)
- **Q & A**
- **Elections**

**Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> (ZOOM)**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM