

Westgrove PACK General Public Meeting

April 13, 2025 — Meeting Minutes

3PM – Sherwood Hall Library (14 in attendance)

Board members In attendance: Steve Zielenski, Liz Yap, Jeff Pandin, LeeAnn Williams, Ryan Anthony, Rich Ableson, Shawn Bloom,

Regrets: Jennifer French

Discussion Topics

Welcome and thank yous. (Steve Z./ Chair) Call to order and introductions of Board Members. Gave brief summary of how The P.A.C.K. runs meetings.

Financials (Jeff Pandin/Treasurer) Provided a summary of cash and banking positions.

- \$(see numbers at end of document) was reported as available cash across banking and payment services (venmo, paypal) accounts and “found money with Faurfa County.
- The 2025 Budget was reviewed and ratified by member vote..

Operations Update/ Water Abatement Project (Shawn Bloom/ Operations) A huge thank you to the community and those who have made a commitment to caring for Westgrove.

- County challenges were briefly discussed but we are happy to report that Fairfax County Park Authority shares our vision for a green turf dog park.
- The mud-abatement project in the North end is done in collaboration with the County, and consensus is that it is viewed as a 90% success so far. The county paid for labor and the P.A.C.K. paying for materials (\$4,500).
- Next steps to complete the water abatement project (and as part of the ADA project) would installation of engineered fiber in the North end, and the timeline for that installation is dependent on the South end opening and the County having approved our Mastenbrook Grant application. Announcements will be made as soon as we have a firm date.
- In regards to the current turf, the Spring rejuvenation is going well. The county is exploring different types of grasses in an attempt to have near year-round turf, and there will be mini-test sites at the park in the future to find the best combinations. The county has taken soil samples for review as part of this idea. The soil quality (e.g., clay and debris) is holding back keeping Westgrove green year round.
- QUESTION: what is engineered wood fiber? (Steve explained)
 - Started with a conversation with county about alternatives to stone dust. We did research to find something that is BOTH ADA compliant and dog paw friendly. It is like the mulch found at playgrounds. The county agreed to a pilot program with us for the next 2 years. However, It will require some maintenance (raking to keep smooth, not allowing dogs to dig, and keeping clean of dog waste).

Next set of projects (Steve Z./Chair) A schematic of the North end was presented and reviewed. The drawing that was provided by the County. (*see schematic attached at end of this document). We applied for a Mastenbrook grant (\$29.5K total budget), which is anticipated to the costs of these projects, half of which using available P.A.C.K funds in treasury.



- (check mark) indicates project completed
- (#2's) indicates projects underway and anticipated completion in 2025
 - Includes wood fiber, human & dog water fountain and ADA seating
- (#3s) indicates future projects for 2026 and beyond- pending funding, county approval and member approval
 - Memorial/Celebration bricks sold for hardscape walkway, garden, shade structure and trees
- QUESTION: How do we keep the spread of disease?
 - **No water bowl sharing** at Westgrove (County enforced). Occasionally, bowls that are brought and left are removed and cleaned and donated to the Alexandria AWL
 - Encouraged to stop dogs from splashing/ cleaning their paws in bowls
 - The P.A.C.K. is trying everything we can to encourage people to keep sick dogs home and bring your own water bowl. (See fundraiser below about water bowls)

Membership/Fundraising (Liz Yap):

- Hot Dog Fridays are coming soon! Sponsorships are available!! - Liz explained. Asked community to ask around at businesses or sign up now, before all spots are gone.
- We are encouraging crowd sourcing to help bring new members to The P.A.C.K., but also to help with messaging about rules, keeping a healthy dog park, and volunteering.
- One-of-a-kind P.A.C.K. Water bowls were shown, which are for sale for \$10. We discussed how they reinforce the mission for a healthy dog park and that all funds raised will continue to help with projects of improvements at Westgrove.
- Liz reiterated that there will be a campaign to sell bricks again and most likely a special fundraising campaign to help fund the canopy and trees in 2026
 - INPUT: Ira P. sang a Westgrove Dog Park theme song that he wrote (all enjoyed). He also suggested we sell a memorial-type card/donation for when a dog passes that can be purchased. This idea will be explored.

New Board Member Vote:

- Ryan Anthony was elected as At-Large Board member for Westgrove P.A.C.K. to fill Bill Mould's seat.

Small Dog Field Test (Steve). The P.A.C.K. is still interested in the pilot program

- Community volunteer/caretaker Mike W. offered to work with Steve Z. to get the pilot started for Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon-2PM).
- More information will be announced to the community through email and social media (and signs) as soon as the North End is open and available.

Fall Elections. Steve discussed the open seats starting in the Fall 2025 and asked the community to consider joining the board.

- **Vice Chair**
- **Operations Director**
- **Membership/Fundraising**
- **At Large** (2 seats)

Q & A. The board responded to questions about aggressive dogs and how to better communicate to new dog owners about the rules.

- Requests for messaging to the community about no treats. They start fights.
- Intact male dog concerns – suggested the concerned patron contact the County for clarity around rule set..
- The Board is asking everyone to come together as a community to help during dog scuffles or fights to gather information and help both parties involved.
- Calling the NON_EMERGENCY number is greatly encouraged for repeat offenders or call animal control.
- Again, The P.A.C.K. has no enforcement authority, but we do try and educate.
- Ira Peppercorn said he will investigate getting Old Town School for Dogs to offer a referral coupon from Westgrove for dog training.
- Ira P. offered to join Board as At-Large member until the Fall.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:24pm

Net Worth - As of 3/31/2025

Account	3/31/2025 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	21,517.98
PayPal Account westgrovepack@gmail...	4,600.25
Venmo XX8666	295.00
Venmo XX9530	48.95
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	26,462.18
Other Assets	
Held in Trust by FCPF	1,603.50
TOTAL Other Assets	1,603.50
TOTAL ASSETS	28,065.68
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
TOTAL Other Liabilities	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	28,065.68

Income/Expense by Category

4/1/2024 through 3/31/2025

4/23/2025

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Category	4/1/2024- 3/31/2025
INCOME	
Caretaker Weekend	
Donation Bucket	70.00
TOTAL Caretaker Weekend	70.00
Dog Bowl	10.00
Donations	905.00
Sustaining Caretaker	11,243.43
TOTAL Donations	12,148.43
Dues Received	
2024	680.00
2025	400.00
TOTAL Dues Received	1,080.00
Hot Dog Friday	2,705.00
Sponsorship	1,760.00
Food Cost	-1,689.36
TOTAL Sponsorship	70.64
TOTAL Hot Dog Friday	2,775.64
TOTAL INCOME	16,084.07
EXPENSES	
Administration	
Insurance	943.00
Online Payment Fees	505.60
PO Box Rental	236.00
Registration Fees	50.00
Webpage	189.34
TOTAL Administration	1,923.94
Fundraising	
Banners	275.44
Dog Bowls	374.40
TOTAL Fundraising	649.84
Operations	
Communications	136.01
Straw	320.97
Turf Management	3,660.00
Waste Bags	249.06
Water Fixtures Repairs	517.50
TOTAL Operations	4,883.54
Projects	
Birdhouse Installation	855.92
Tree Benches	1,494.33
TOTAL Projects	2,350.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,807.57
OVERALL TOTAL	6,276.50

Income/Expense by Category

4/1/2023 through 3/31/2024

4/23/2025

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Category	4/1/2023- 3/31/2024
INCOME	
Amazon Smile Commissions	62.85
Caretaker Weekend	390.00
Donation Bucket	538.41
TOTAL Caretaker Weekend	928.41
Donations	2,191.00
Sustaining Caretaker	11,221.64
TOTAL Donations	13,412.64
Dues Received	
2023	1,340.00
2024	380.00
TOTAL Dues Received	1,720.00
Fall Festival Fundraiser	850.00
Chili Cookoff	72.00
Donations	34.00
Sponsor Banner	1,150.00
TOTAL Fall Festival Fundraiser	2,106.00
Hat Sales	13.00
Hot Dog Friday	2,064.76
Sponsorship	425.00
Food Cost	-291.07
TOTAL Sponsorship	133.93
TOTAL Hot Dog Friday	2,198.69
Magnet Sales	5.00
South End Fountain Repair Donation	450.00
TOTAL INCOME	20,896.59
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Administration	
Insurance	968.00
Online Payment Fees	613.74
Registration Fees	75.00
Webpage	189.34
TOTAL Administration	1,846.08
Fundraising	
Banners	661.96
Fall Festival	198.10
Hats	227.20
TOTAL Fundraising	1,087.26
Operations	
Communications	337.10
Drainage Improvements	750.00
Turf Management	7,982.50
TOTAL Operations	9,069.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,002.94
OVERALL TOTAL	8,893.65

Westgrove P.A.C.K.

2024 Budget

Operations:		\$10,845.00
Ground preparation and seeding – south end	\$5,245.00	
Mowing and monthly turf maintenance	3,000.00	
Other Operations	<u>2,600.00</u>	
Administration:		2,100.00
Fundraising:		1,100.00
Projects: *		
Total:		\$14,045.00

* This budget may be amended as additional projects are approved.

Westgrove P.A.C.K.

2025 Budget

Operations:		\$10,845.00
Ground preparation and seeding – south end	\$5,245.00	
Mowing and monthly turf maintenance	3,000.00	
Other Operations	<u>2,600.00</u>	
Administration:		2,100.00
Fundraising:		1,100.00
Projects: *		
Engineered Wood Fiber for North End		29,000.00
(\$14,500 to be funded from FCPA Mastenbrook Grant, remainder from general funds)		
Total:		\$43,045.00

* This budget may be amended as additional projects are approved.