

PACK Board Meeting – March 20, 2017

Present at meeting: Barry Spangler, Melissa Pandin, Jeff Pandin, Scott Erb, Liz Yap, Anne Street, Michelle Randall and Kathy Seikel. Absent: Steve Zweifach

Drainage: The Board opened its meeting with a discussion of ongoing drainage problems, primarily concentrated at the area around the spigot and outside of the fence at the northwest end of the park. Barry had already spoken to Phil Hager about this and Phil has agreed to have the plumber that installed the system to come back to check the spigot to make sure it was not damaged by freezing temperatures this past winter (notwithstanding the fact that it is supposed to be a freeze-resistant spigot). Several Board members expressed concerns that the water problem at this end of the park may be caused by a leak either in the underground pipe or in the spigot itself. Barry will contact Phil back to arrange a time when FCPA, one or two Board members, and the plumber can meet at the park to assess the situation.

Rain Garden: We talked about moving forward with plans for a rain garden to mitigate standing water issues and decided that, before we approach FCPA with this idea, we need to flesh out a detailed plan (Scott has already begun work on this as part of the Master Plan), research the rain garden website and touch base with the county staff who manage this website and the county's rain garden initiative, and confer with Steve, the arborist at Holly, Wood and Vine to seek his input on the most appropriate planting for rain gardens. We are envisioning a rain garden approximately 30 feet long by 5 feet wide. We will explore the feasibility of submitting a grant application for this project so that PACK funds can be supplemented with Fairfax County grant funding.

Volunteer Training: Barry once again encouraged all Board members to complete their training and submit their training forms to the County Volunteer Coordinator. Most Board members have completed the training but not all have submitted the required paperwork. Barry told us that Phil Hager has agreed to provide additional training to the Board. He will work with Phil to arrange a time that works for Board members, possibly during evening hours or another time when the majority of Board members are available.

Ides of Bark: Barry asked for volunteers to help out at the County's Ides of Bark event, the held at Grist Mill Park on March 30. Several Board members offered to spend a couple of hours each at this event as a demonstration of our support for FCPA-sponsored activities.

Brochure: We discussed Liz' draft of a brochure that can be handed out to park goers to alert them to park rules and their responsibilities for managing their dogs. Several Board members provided editorial and substantive comments and we all agreed this is an excellent brochure that will be a welcome addition to PACK outreach materials. Liz will finalize the brochure based on our input and will then solicit printing bids.

Turf: We agreed to refer to our all turf park as a “natural turf” park to distinguish our ground cover from artificial turf, which the County often refers to simply as “turf.” We agreed to hold off on opening the south end for a later date than when it was opened last year so that the turf can become firmly established. We discussed Steve Zweifach’s offer to install a temporary water source in the south end but decided to hold off on this until we can contract with a plumber that will be in a better position to provide a more permanent solution. In the meantime, we will water the grass with the hoses we already have on hand. We will need to buy a couple of high quality sprinklers that can be fitted onto a bifurcated hose and used to water the turf (and trees) periodically during the summer months.

Spring Fundraiser: Liz discussed the planning efforts thus far for the Spring fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, May 20, from 10:00-3:00. The goal is for this to raise at least \$1000 in funding and also to encourage additional caretaker sign-ups. There will be three tables – for a raffle, caretaker sign-ups and the grill. Raffle prizes will include 6 baskets: a bike basket, cookie basket, doggie basket (focused on training and grooming aids), wine basket, beer basket, and summer/barbecue basket (which will actually be a cooler filled with goodies, not a basket). Liz and Melissa will send around a sign-up sheet so that Board members can pitch in when they are available.

Liz also discussed her plans for summer fund-raising including caretaker weekends and hot dog Fridays. This year we will do caretaker weekends one day each weekend rather than one day a month. However, rather than being at the park the entire day, we will stagger the hours so that to be sure Board members are available to process new caretakers at different times during the day when different sets of people and dogs show up. Liz will be looking for volunteers to serve for 2-3 hour increments. Hot dog Fridays have proven to be a very effective fund raiser and will be continued this summer.

Treasurer’s Report: Jeff reported that we have \$10,165 in the bank. PACK income includes approximately \$650/month in caretaker donations. We have paid for the turf management contract in its entirety (including summer mowing). Thus, funds on hand are unencumbered save for relatively minor regular expenses such as dog waste bags, mail box, rental, etc. We discussed the need to use the approximately \$1000 we have with the Park Authority Foundation sooner rather than later and decided that dog waste bag expenses might be one way to use a portion of these funds.

Sun Shade: Scott talked about the need to tighten the canopy on the sun shade soon so that the shade doesn’t suffer any damage due to rains. We decided to tackle this job on March 25 at 10:00AM. We will need four ladders, four workers, and a comealong and attaching line (which Barry offered to purchase at Harbor Freight). Jeff, Scott, Steve and Kevin Yap will work together to get this done. Scott also talked about the need to put new gravel under the sun shade and under the park benches. We agreed we do not want FCPA to put stone dust underneath the benches again since the dogs dig this up. We will ask FCPA to replace the stone dust beneath the benches with pea gravel at their expense. If they decline to do this, the PACK will purchase pea gravel for placement underneath the benches and the sun canopy.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 PM, at Kathy Seikel’s house

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 PM, Martha Washington Library. We will try to encourage greater attendance by inviting Mike Tomai as a guest speaker to talk about preventing dog

fights and other behavioral issues. We may also serve refreshments as a further inducement for increased attendance.