

## Westgrove Dog Park Board Meeting June 15, 2023 via Zoom and in-person

Attendees: Michelle Primack, Liz Yap, Jeff Pandin, LeeAnn Williams, Yvonne Kinkaid, Sam Longstreet, Mike Bober

### Treasurer Report

Current \$8,949.70 Burke & Herbert

PayPal \$4,309.56

Venmo \$1,052.53

Well within parameters re: budgetary requirements.

### **Old Business**

Turf Update (Jeff): Planning to do aeration in the next couple of weeks (might depend on weather). Will shut down everything for most of a day. Will try to do mid-week to minimize disruption. Haven't had much time to get to North End water fixture – Jeff will hopefully get to it next week after school is out of session. What about a watering schedule for the summer? Jeff doesn't think it's going to be necessary (can do more harm than good), but if it starts to get really dry, we will revisit (probably in July). Without a proper irrigation system, it's very complicated. We still have the old sprinklers (not sure what shape they're in) if we need them.

Small Dog Park Survey (Mike) 117 responses from Westgrove Pack (excellent response rate) out of over 600 recipients. Respondents in favor of a small dog park but separate from Westgrove. Respondents also in favor of an interim solution of small dog park hours at Westgrove. 14 respondents agreed to be on a committee to work on this. Mike is doing a great job as a liaison, but the people who want this need to step up and take charge of the effort. Mike is happy to keep the board involved as a liaison (as good neighbors and fellow dog lovers). We need to be sure that an interim solution doesn't become a permanent solution.

Poop Bags: Thank you to everyone who has been helping! Let's make sure we can keep the poop bags full all season. Make sure people can get the poop bags out of the dispenser.

Gate Latches (LeeAnn) No updates right now. LeeAnn is going to take photos of other dog park gates to see what they have and if there is anything out there that might be good for us. Other board members will do the same. Let Liz know if any dogs are squeezing through gaps in the gates so we can address that.

Walking Path (Kathryn Wiley email) (Liz) Path between dog park and elementary school (from condominiums) was on master plan (but isn't part of dog park specifically). Kathryn has reached out to the county and will be the committee chair for this. William Douglas replied that there is no funding for this at present; would need to be included in a park bond and the path hasn't been included as of yet. Is this even the Westgrove Pack's responsibility? It's not inside the fence. Liz will tell Kathryn that there isn't funding right now but Kathryn should pursue getting that funding if she wants.

Fundraising Campaign (Liz): Liz hasn't had the opportunity to get this started, but now has more available time to work on it. This is a reminder that she hasn't forgotten about it.

Trash Barrels (Liz): Yvonne and Liz met with Fairfax County Park Authority and they are willing to move trash barrels but not give us any more. FCPA has suggested that we put cement or gravel under them so that they won't tip over. Some of them have been moved as per our request – Yvonne thinks the distribution now is better. Need to make sure cans are in position so everyone can throw out the poop.

Caretaker (Liz): When would be a good day for caretaker day? Jeff doesn't think Hot Dog Friday should replace Caretaker Saturday/Sunday but should be in addition to HDF. Seems to be the consensus that this is a good idea. Suggestion is to do it 6/23 HDF and 6/25 3-8 PM and maybe a HDF and a weekday evening in July to meet with different people.

## **New Business**

North End Dogs Jumping Fence (Yvonne): Some dogs are climbing the fence and some are jumping over the fence. There is a mound of dirt that is helping some of them jump to chase foxes and other animals. Jeff agreed to try to address the mound of dirt next week. Liz might include a suggestion to not allow dogs to jump the fence in a letter.

HDF Sponsorship Updates: So far we have had 2 sponsors and it's gone pretty smoothly. James (with Gus the bloodhound) thinks he has donated to sponsor already but we haven't documented it yet. Jeff will check it out.

Aggressive Dogs (Michael Webb email): Michael Webb is concerned about increased aggressive dog behavior that he believes no one is addressing. Liz gave him the non-emergency number and told him to call it when there is an issue – the Pack has no enforcement authority. Liz has contacted the FCPA and hasn't heard back yet.

Fall Festival: A community event is a good thing to encourage a feeling of ownership. It doesn't have to be too elaborate. Event usually is three hours. Date will be 10/28 (will circle back in July). We will call for volunteers closer to the event – maybe a committee working with the board?

Social Media Guru: Thomas Radley has reached out and is interested in possibly learning more about the position.

Survey for New Water Feature?: Was the community engaged in the decision? Yes. Not everyone has to be interested in every project. Project is moving forward.

Birdhouses: We have the houses, we don't have poles. We would need to figure out how to mount them and where and keep in mind there are birding dogs. Bathhouses are a good idea too!

Next meeting:

July 12<sup>th</sup> (Liz's house) August 16<sup>th</sup> (Jeff's house) September 13<sup>th</sup> (Michelle's house)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21 PM.