

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

Attendees: Michelle Primack, Liz Yap, Jeff Pandin, LeeAnn Williams, Mike Bober, Andrew Wagner, Sam Longstreet, Scott Erb, Yvonne Kincaid

Treasurer Report

Current \$8,393.90 Burke & Herbert

PayPal \$2,726.44

Venmo \$345

Old Business/

Turf Maintenance Update (Jeff) Paid for the bulk of the turf renewal already so we are in good shape. Grass is growing! Everything should be good as we approach spring. Swale repair in small end took place before the turf maintenance began. We should have good drainage in small end now. Also filled in some holes in small end to avoid standing water. Ultimately, there is a better solution (rain garden?), but this is a bigger project for the future. Big end will reopen after two mows (last year was late in mid-May, hopefully earlier this year). Once the big end opens up, should we aerate the small end? It will probably need it after it serves as the main park while the big end is closed. Cost would be \$380. Mike moved to vote, motion seconded, ayes have it – we will aerate. Water is in fact turned off – will be turned on after last frost.

Grants/Masten Brook (Mike) Grant matches funds for groups on FCPA properties up to \$20K per year per organization. Will also match funds for volunteer hours. In order to apply, we need to have a fixed project with a finite budget where the grant would not comprise more than 50% of the TPC. Preference is to award grant as a reimbursement after the fact. This would be a good mechanism to use for the pool (TPC ~\$40K). Also for pool we could get bigger dollar sponsors (e.g., Burke and Herbert) and would need to do additional fundraising. Need to confirm with county that sponsors for permanent structures are okay.

myrainplan.com/dmv-stormwater-programs A place to find out eligibility for stormwater improvement incentives. We might qualify for 18 of these programs. Liz brought this up as something we should look at per Scott Erb's text. County mentioned maybe a rain garden/way to "purify" runoff water before it is put into the storm drains/environment. Maybe county could contribute? Maybe we could have an "adopt a rain garden" program to keep up the garden? Need to circle back.

News on possible committee people i.e., lights at park, small dog park area? (LeeAnn, Yvonne) Candace Berry has volunteered to help with the lighting project. Haven't as of yet been able to get additional volunteers. Should we do a social media push? LeeAnn will meet with Liz to further discuss how to create and manage committees.

Caretaker Saturdays (LeeAnn & Liz) Board member sits at dog park for a whole day and tells people about the park/gently solicits funds. One Saturday a month. Also a good idea for hot dog Fridays (summer celebration every Friday weather permitting with food!). Possible to split it over days/doesn't have to only be on Saturday. First will be on April 15th (needs to get on the schedule). Need to make sure we can staff these "visibility events". A little training would be necessary, but it's simple. Liz will try to

see if there are people who interact with the park on social media who might be willing to get involved. Will further discuss at April's meeting.

Park Gates Not really an easy solution to get the gates to only swing one way (but there are ways to do it).

Software solution to manage membership list Jeff will work with students at Edison to develop something. Maybe Burt Wagner (Andrew's dad) can help?

New Business

Sponsor for HDF Someone from Barkley Square bakery might want to sponsor and do a grooming thing or give out biscuits or something. We might want to look for additional sponsors too. Fetch was the sponsor last year – should we ask them again? Jeff will discuss with the Fetch folks.

Dog attacks/request for small dog park, how to respond One of LeeAnn's dogs and another small dog were attacked recently. We can't police this, but the county will. Need to be sure to exchange information if you or your dog is bitten. Maybe create a sign so that people know what to do if their dog is attacked. Sign should be ready and up by the time the big end is open.

We are due for a general meeting around the time that the park will reopen. Need to announce a date 30 days in advance. Date will be April 30th in the afternoon.

Next meeting: April 19, 2023 In-person or Zoom TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 PM.