

Westgrove General Meeting

May 9, 2018

15 people in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome and thanks from Barry (chair)

Special Guest Speaker - Jenz Smith speaks about fostering.

List of Animal Rescues in the area:

-Lucky Dog Animal Rescue

-Gray Faces Acres

Executive Summary:

- Spring seeding was skipped because of a long winter and unacceptable temperatures
- Therefore, the park will close for 4 to 6 weeks to allow seeding after fall festival in Sept.
- Four (4) board positions are up in October. 2 people are not seeking re-election. [Details here.](#)
- Added \$1,500 to budget to allow potential rental of porta potty during peak season in 2018
- Next caretaker Saturday is May 19th. Will reoccur every 3rd Saturday in the summer months
- We currently have \$17,753 in assets which balances with our projected expenses for 2018

Grass/Turf Update

Why we skipped Spring seeding

Barry explains the board's decision to skip seeding and open the gates. The original plan was to seed, fertilize and aerate by March. But, according to our seeder, the ground temperature must be above 65 degrees before they could seed; Otherwise, the seed will not sprout and monies spent to seed would be lost.

Given the historical expectations of gates opening in May, the board needed to decide when to reopen the gates. If the board waited for warmer weather then seeded in accordance with the seeder's recommendation, the south-end wouldn't have opened until June or July. This was unacceptable, so the board chose to skip spring seeding and try again in the fall. We couldn't predict the long winter.

With that decision made, the board asked the seeder to aerate and fertilize the existing grass that was already coming up. These actions didn't require a ground temperature of 65 degrees.

The current grass on the south-end is very tolerant of heat, drought and traffic. We're hopeful it will remain healthy until mid-September. As the days get shorter, and the ground cools, the grass will disappear.

Fall seeding

We're planning to seed with cool weather grass, a combination of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass. This will require closing the south end for 4-6 weeks depending on weather conditions. We hope that, once established, this grass will carry us through to February.

Zoysia Pilot

We also talked about an experiment with Zoysia, but we haven't decided when.

Nancy asks what the expense of zoysia is. Jeff says it is probably \$20,000 for the entire south end, but we won't drop all at once of that at once.

Who will pay? If the pilot works out, and the board decides to proceed with seeding the entire south-end, monies will be raised thru fundraising activities.

A test plot is 20x20 and it is roughly \$2000. The test plot will need to be fenced off for a period of time. Drought and traffic tolerate. With minimal maintenance. The plot will need to be in a high traffic area to ensure it can withstand use in a very active dog park.

Nancy says it takes a couple of years before zoysia takes. Jeff says it depends on the weather.

It takes a while to creep but not to establish a root base says Liz.

We don't know if we will put plugs or seeds down says Barry. He needs to talk to the county about fence if we seed so dogs won't trample on it.

Fall Election

The way the park bylaws are written requires us to replace half of the board every year. Each term is two years long.

The positions opening up are Chair, Membership and Fundraising, Secretary and Treasurer.

Barry says do need fresh blood all the time. It makes a healthy organization. We REALLY need people to come and step-up to these positions to make us stable.

Melissa asks if people who are currently in their positions are going to resign or want to stay?

Barry says he will not re-run.

Emma says she would like to stay and re-run.

Jeff says he would still be a candidate for reelection.

Liz says she can't re-run in the fall. Suggestion that her position might be a two person job.

Nancy says one of the nice things about being on the board is that you get to know so many people.

Barry says sometimes you even have to chase a pig out of the dog park!

If someone is interested in running for a position they should submit their info to Liz. If someone current on the board would like to move to another position they have to let the rest of the board know.

Mary suggests that we make a real effort to reach out to new people that come to the park. It would be important to tell them about the park and how the community fought for it to be founded. Tell them about hot dog nights, etc.

Jeff says we are bringing back caretaker Saturdays. The whole point is to outreach and explain how the park works. It has been very effective in getting people to participate and contribute.

2018 Projects

Barry said he is going to defer on the projects because that is a lengthy topic. We can discuss that at the next meeting.

A few notes: One project would be water on the south end. Scott is working on a new plan for the park.

Once we have an MOU, the Park Authority would like to see a list of all the projects that we would potentially like to do so that it aligns together in an organized way, says Jeff.

Jeff explains that MOU is our agreement with the Fairfax County Park Authority. How we work together. Our responsibilities and their responsibilities. It is all the paperwork we need, the rules, etc.

Barry has spent most of his time this year working on the standardized MOU for all friends of parks. (he was on task force).

Jeff says we are unique group in all of Fairfax county. There isn't any other group doing the things that we are doing. That means they don't always know what to do with us. We are pioneers!

Meeting redirects to grass seeding:

Liz proposed that the park close for fall reseeding after the fall festival (September 22) and remain closed for 4-6 weeks until the new grass is ready for traffic. Exact dates will depend on weather. Jeff seconds. Everyone agrees.

Liz says that the festival is Sept 22nd. She says we decided to push it earlier because October is so busy for vendors. We had a lower vendor attendance last year because everyone was already booked.

Liz needs help earlier than normal since the festival will be earlier. Because Liz is in school she needs more help. She needs volunteer to follow-up with vendors—emails, sending physical letters, etc. Physically walk in to talk to people.

She says we also need to find a rescue that can come with dogs because that is always a big draw.

Liz says she will send out an online sign-up sheet.

Discussion on volunteering continues.

Jenz says she will volunteer to contact businesses.

We need more volunteers! It has to be six or more people leading up to the date of the event. Maybe more! We also need volunteers for the day of.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff shows the financials on a hand out (attached) and explains that it is the first four months of 2018. He says the sustaining caretaker program is doing well. Amazon smile donations are slowly creeping up. Instructions on how to use Amazon Smile are on the website. It doesn't cost the user, but gives the park a little kick-back.

Jeff explains that we do have a slight negative cash flow for our first four months. He says it is typical because we've had spring expenses, but didn't have a whole lot of fundraising yet.

Assets: \$17,753

Jeff explains that we are in good shape in terms of the 2018 budget. We will have the money for projects once the MOU is done.

Barry has put in for a grant through the park foundation. It will be dedicated to trees. Still waiting for word to see if it accepted.

Questions and New Business

Melissa says she wants to make a motion to amend the budget to allow for a porta potty at the park during the summer and until the fall festival. We don't have to actually use it, but it will be nice to allow for it.

Barry explains that we would have to get the approval of the county. Liz says we would have to decide in the next week or two since summer is upon us.

Jeff says basic is \$1200. Super deluxe \$2400. That includes maintenance.

If county approves it then we can move forward. Put it in budget, but don't have to use it.

Liz will second the motion to put it in the budget.

The room agrees on allotting \$1500.

Meeting adjourns 8:12pm

Attachment 1:

Westgrove P.A.C.K
Statement of Income and Expenses
Jan-Apr 2018

Income:

Dues Received	\$	480.00
Sustaining Caretakers		3,350.00
Amazon Smile Commissions		31.62
General Donations		<u>701.10</u>

Total Income: \$4,562.72

Expenses:

Projects:		
Shade Canopy Patio	\$2,000.00	
Trees	<u>145.50</u>	
Total Projects:		\$2,145.50

Operations:		
Turf Management	\$1,800.00	
Waste Bags	117.99	
Straw	224.00	
General Operations	<u>72.11</u>	
Total Operations:		2,214.10

Fundraising: 456.90

Administration:		
PO Box Rental	\$136.00	
Webpage	99.00	
Paypal Fees	<u>99.70</u>	
Total Administration:		<u>334.70</u>

Total Expenses: \$5,151.20

Net Income (Loss): (\$588.48)

Breakdown of Expenses:

Projects:	42%
Operations:	43%
Fundraising:	9%
Administration:	6%

Balance Sheet
4/30/18

Assets:

Burke & Herbert Checking	\$8,351.39
Paypal	7,798.65
Held in trust by FCPF	<u>1,603.50</u>

Total Assets: \$17,753.54

Total Liabilities: 0.00

Net worth \$17,753.54

Budget Performance Report
Through 4/30/18

	Budget	Expended	Remaining
Operations	6,900.00	2,214.10	4,685.90
Administration	1,600.00	334.70	1,265.30
Fundraising	1,500.00	456.90	1,043.10
Projects	4,000.00	2,145.50	1,854.50
