

Westgrove PACK General Meeting

10/30/21

Minutes

Meeting came to order at 4pm in the park.

I. Chair's Greeting

Melissa welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Elections

Melissa noted the departure of the following Board members.

Vice Chair Anne Street's term has expired, and she is not seeking re-election.

Secretary Emma McAlary has resigned as she has moved to Richmond.

Operations Director Hanna Beard has resigned as she is moving to Catonsville.

At-Large Board members Megan Kesling, Liz Yap and Saba Sadouk's terms have expired and they are willing to step aside for others to have a turn.

Melissa reminded those assembled that the PACK cannot continue to maintain and improve the park without the participation of volunteers willing to step up. People have been very generous with their donations, but they also need to be generous with their time.

Cindy Peake, Julia Carney and Liz Yap offered to serve as At-Large Members (term ending October 2023) and were elected without opposition.

Yvonne Kincaid offered to serve as Operations Director (term ending October 2022) and was elected without opposition.

Jan Speakman offered to serve as Secretary (term ending October 2022) and was elected without opposition.

Megan Kesling offered to serve as Vice Chair (term ending October 2023) and was elected without opposition.

III. Celebration Brick Vestibules

Jeff reported that we sold 112 celebration bricks, which is sufficient to fully fund the paving of the two remaining unpaved entrances to the park. Unfortunately, supply chain disruptions have delayed delivery of the engraved and blank bricks for the project, which are now expected to arrive sometime in December. The vendor is prepared to install these bricks when they arrive, but work may be delayed by weather. We can't install over standing water. Park users should be prepared for some disruption for a day or two during installation. We may be down to only the south entrance and may need to close the small

end during installation. We will keep the large end open if possible, but park users are requested to keep their dogs away from the work area while work is ongoing to avoid disruptions.

IV. South End Water Fixture

Jeff reports that the new fixture seems to have been damaged last winter due to a combination of freezing when not fully drained and human error when someone overturned the handle, presumably when trying to get water while it was shut off. Repairs took a while due to supply disruptions, but the fixture has been repaired. It will be shut off for the winter season on or about November 1 to protect against freezing. Additional care will be taken to make sure it full drains and the handle isn't used while it is shut off. It will be turned on again in the spring.

V. Treasurer's Report

Jeff reports that we have sufficient funds on hand to fund the remaining budget for 2021 and core functions for 2022. Projects will require additional fundraising. (see appendix)

VI. Future Projects

Melissa led a discussion of future improvement projects. The next project will involve creating a brick walkway around the west side of the north end and the installation of a wet play area designed to give dogs a chance to cool off in the summer without creating a mud pit of unhealthy standing water. Parkitect Scott Erb and Operations Director Yvonne Kincaid are the managers of this project. It has been approved in principle by the Park Authority. The next step will be to flesh out specifications and a budget to be presented to a future general meeting and to the Park Authority. Once approved by both, we can start fundraising and move forward with the project.

Once that project is complete, we expect to continue that walkway around the north side of the park to the northeast corner where a shade structure will be constructed above a brick patio. Additional shade is needed in that end of the park, especially during April and May when the south end is closed for turf maintenance. There has to be a paved walkway to that shade structure from an entrance in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. That project has also been approved in principle by the Park Authority, but specifications and a budget will need to be prepared and approved by the Park Authority and a PACK general meeting.

Melissa opened the floor to additional suggestions. Jan observed that we are experiencing some gradual erosion on the hillside in the south end, and we should consider applying topsoil to restore those areas. This idea will be presented to the Park Authority for preliminary review and if they are open to it, we will prepare specifications and a budget.

VII. Security Camera

Melissa noted that there have been a number of incidents in the park involving dog tussles and theft from cars. People sometimes exit the park after these incidents without identifying themselves. The Board wants to get feedback from the park users about the possibility of installing a security camera system. The idea would be to have one camera pointed at the driveway to record the license plate numbers of vehicles as they come and go and another camera to cover the area inside the fence. Imagery would be spooled on a cloud-based server for seven days or so and made available when requested. We might also be able to create a "Park Cam" site so that people can log in and see park conditions before they come. That feature could be a premium for PACK member. Alternately, we might choose to donate the camera to the Park Authority and let them handle requests for video review. The Park Authority has tentatively approved this concept pending a review of specifications. A budget has not yet been developed.

There was discussion of the tradeoff between park safety and privacy. Liz moved that the PACK conduct an online survey to get a broader view of the wishes of PACK members. The Board will develop the specific questions for this survey and, if the feedback is positive, full specification and a budget will be developed for approval by the Park Authority and a future PACK general meeting.

VIII. Additional concerns from the floor

It was suggested that the Board prepare a vinyl banner to highlight what steps people should take to report incidents in the park. Melissa will assign a project manager.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53pm.