

Welles Park Advisory Council
November 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to Meeting at 7:00 pm by Aaron Durnbaugh

(Meeting conducted via Zoom due to COVID-19 concerns and restrictions)

Roll Call Aaron Durnbaugh (WPAC President), Bethany Simmons (WPAC Vice President), Adrienne Roe (WPAC Secretary), Sarah Dandalles (WPAC Treasurer), Becky Kliber (Welles Supervisor), Sherry Skalko, Coral Negrón, Sue Smock-Lawson, Scott Michaels

Review Minutes – Meeting notes from September will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting in January.

Treasurer Report - Sarah

Sarah reviewed the financial report. The current balance is \$56,401.58.

We have not split the account into earmarks yet, but Sarah would like to get that done in 2021.

We received the Holiday Lighting and Decorations quote for the Gazebo from Scott Michaels, for \$1845.00. This is higher than normal in case some lighting needs to be replaced. Sarah moves to approve the decorations to be installed in the next 2 weeks. Sherry seconds, approved.

Park Report – Becky

Becky had several updates about the park:

1. Fall II Programs
 - a. Park Kids: 2 groups of 15 (6-7 & 8-9 year old groups).
 - b. Kiddie College 2x/wk
 - c. Golf, added class W & F
 - d. Pool staff- dry land programs: low & high impact aerobics, Swim Team.
 - e. Bill added an online Chat and Craft class for 50+ age (we can promote this class if we receive the flyer)
2. Winter programming like Fall II
3. No other changes in facilities
4. 2021 Preliminary Budget is available online

Becky requested up to \$200 for new pre-lighted Christmas tree as the current tree is falling apart. This request was approved last year but never purchased. It is still approved.

Becky mentioned that her Rec staff requested some “I Love Welles Park” masks. Aaron will share some masks for those interested.

Aaron asked Becky if there was any update on the idea of Park Partnerships.

- Becky said there is nothing new to report. However, there is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee now. Becky suggested that she could check with Maria about the Park Partnership idea.
- Sue brought up reaching out to parks that have been interested in creating a Nature Play Area.
- Sarah brought up the Folded Map Project as a way to find a park

Committee Reports

Greening Committee- Sue

Sue thanked those who helped with the 2 “Pitch In..” events at the park.

Sue made note of several observations that she made during on these events.

- How bad the desire paths have gotten and asked about the fencing that had been discussed previously.
- We are lacking No Dogs signs in the NaturePlace.
- We may need to change the mud kitchen as the current one is being used as a bench

Sue asked Sigrid about bird walks in the spring. She is willing to do walks, but she won't be able to share binoculars anymore.

The next Greening Committee meeting is scheduled for November 30.

Swim Team - Sherry

The swim team has no updates.

Circus – Aaron

There were 3 shows at Welles in October.

We sold “I Love Welles Park” masks at the events and gave some to Jeff (Midnight Circus) and some local politicians.

Masks

- If we make a flyer, Becky can share it with groups at the park to sell the remaining masks.
- We can post the flyer on facebook as well
- Aaron offered to put together a flyer

Old Business

Scott reintroduced the handicap parking spots on Sunnyside by Queen of Angels (due to combing the Queens and St. Matthais parishes). They requested a letter of support from the Advisory Council to give to the Alderman. The spots would be designated on Saturdays from 4:30pm-7pm and Sunday from 7:30am-11am.

Aaron moves to approve the writing of the letter, Sherry seconds, approved.

New Business

Sherry has created a newsletter for Advisory Council emails. She combined the email lists to get a total of 158 subscribers. The first newsletters had a 41% open rate and the second had a 30% open rate, which are both around what you would expect. Interested subscribers can now sign up through facebook as well.

Sherry made some improvements to the website suggests that we revamp the theme to improve the look. She was curious if we would be able to use Chicago Park Foundation squarespace tools. Sherry also asked that if we see issues with these changes on the website, let her know.

2021 WPAC Meeting Schedule

Mondays at 7pm

January 11th

March 8th (Annual Meeting)

May 10th

July 12th

September 13th

November 8th

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.