

Welles Park Advisory Council  
September 14, 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 Negron, Sue Smock-Lawson, Bill Bergfalk,

**Review Minutes** - Minutes approved from July meeting. Sarah motions, Adrienne seconds.

**Treasurer Report** - Sarah

Sarah reviewed the financial report. The current balance is \$54,653.44. Reimbursements to Sarah and Bill were our only expenses in the last two months.

Sarah mentioned that we might want a PayPal account and then we could do automatic payments for website renewals, etc. We could also use the account if we choose to sell something. Another option would be to get a credit card.

Sherry pointed out that as long as we have two people checking the accounting, the she would be comfortable with us having a credit card.

The group discussed the need to create a policy for credit card use.

Aaron offered to look into other policies from non-profits. Sarah also could ask the Treasurer at Horner Park Advisory Council about credit card usage and policy.

**Park Report** – Becky

Becky had several updates about the park:

- New park hours M 7:30am-7pm, T-F 7:30am - 9pm, Sa 8:30am – 4:30pm, closed Sunday.
- Playground is closed again. As temperatures cool, the water feature is off again and therefore, the playground is once again closed.
  - Becky requested that this information be shared on Facebook. Bethany will post about the playground closure.
- Fitness Center, Pool & Gymnasium remain closed. No room rentals.
- Fall Programs
  - Park Kids: 27 campers, 3 groups (only have kids in 6-7 & 8-9 year old groups).
  - Kiddie College 2x/wk
  - Golf 2x/wk

- Pool staff- dry land programs: low & high impact aerobics, Swim Team, Advanced Water Safety

Becky had two requests for purchases:

- 2 Web cameras with microphone up to \$100
- Halloween Candy up to \$100

Sarah motioned to approve up to \$150 for web devices and up to \$100 for candy, Aarons. Motion is approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Greening Committee- Sue**

In August, Sue, Becky and Bill helped to utilize the fallen trees and branches to create more loose parts for the NaturePlace.

There is a new volunteer helping with park cleanup.

The NaturePlace natural areas are still being trampled. Some Greening Committee members have volunteered to encourage people back onto trails and play areas. Becky mentioned that Sean Schaffer made signs to encourage people to stay on paths. She mentioned that fencing would be most helpful, and she has previously talked to Jason at the Park District about fencing.

Sue mentioned that the Greening Committee wants to create a newsletter for sharing park information. She asked if the Advisory Council would want to combine efforts.

Sherry offered to help if others are willing to do content. Sherry suggested that Mail Chimp has a free version that would make creating and distributing the newsletter easier than us just using Gmail.

Aaron suggested that we send out monthly newsletters alternating between a newsletter that announces meetings and newsletter that shares information (most likely generated after a meeting)

Sherry mentioned that she usually used a google doc and has people add their sections on the shared document

#### **Swim Team - Sherry**

The swim team has no updates, except to confirm that members are excited for dry land training.

#### **Circus –Bill**

The circus will take place for two open air shows on one day, Oct 3.

Bill plans to attend a show at another park soon to see what they are doing and help us plan.

Becky said that she thinks we'll need volunteers (even though Jeff says they will have enough) because she expects more than 300 people will show up. The park staff will not be there. We may want volunteers to help around the perimeter, asking people that will most likely show up to sit outside the perimeter to social distance.

Becky explained that we can see face masks if we want to, however, free face masks will be available. The group discussed the pros and cons of ordering "We love Welles" face masks to sell at the circus. We would not expect to raise funds with this effort. Becky suggested we could sell masks at baseball games and football games. Bill suggested that Gideon Welles may also sell masks for us.

Sherry motioned to approve up to \$600 for 100 masks (youth and adult), Sarah seconded. Motion was approved.

Aaron offered to investigate prices and feasibility before the circus.

Other updates for 2020:

- The show layout will be a band shell format. Each section will hold up to 50 people and the circus staff will space people out.
- People can bring water, but no food. There will be no concessions.
- We can put out a donation jar. This could be done near the entrance.

### **Old Business**

Fundraising is on hold so the baseball lights and Pickleball project are on hold.

### **New Business**

Pitch in for the Parks

We discussed the Chicago Park Foundation program, Pitch in for the Parks. Becky explained that two groups have volunteered for Welles. The Cub Scouts at Queens and Gateway for Learning.

Aaron suggested that the WPAC schedule two dates for a cleanup. Aaron will reach out to Chicago Parks Foundation and work with Becky. Two dates were chosen:

- October 17, Saturday
- November 8, Sunday

Park Usage Requests

Sarah mentioned that a band reached out to WPAC to ask to do a gig at the park. Becky responded that permits are required, especially if the event will be marketed and

advertised. Permits have only been allowed to groups this year during field house hours. Permit applications are run through the downtown office.

### Fundraising for Trees

Aaron suggested that we do a fundraiser for trees, especially since so many trees were damaged during the August storm. We could use funds to help our Treekeepers with maintenance. We could also plan to split a share of the funds with another park.

Sherry asked if the CPF has a fund we could contribute to. She cautioned against us choosing a park to “be their savior.”

Aaron suggested that we could communicate with Openlands to help find a park that would need help.

Bill asked if CPD has a sister park program. Becky did not think so.

Becky offered to ask Maria Stone about this idea.

Sue suggested that we consider asking Sean if he knows of a park looking to fund a Nature Play Area.

### Early Voting at Welles

Bill passed on information he had received about early voting at Welles. It will be taking place between October 13-Nov2 from 7:30am-7pm Monday-Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Main in ballots will be allowed to be turned in to early voting sites as well.

Aaron asked Bill to send confirmation to Aaron and Bethany when this information is official, and we can share on Facebook and the website.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.