

Welles Park Advisory Council
March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to Meeting at 7:00 pm by Aaron Durnbaugh

Roll Call Aaron Durnbaugh (WPAC President), Bethany Simmons (WPAC Vice President), Adrienne Roe, Sherry Skalko, Coral Negron, Sue Smock-Lawson, Bill Bergfalk, Doug Mulderink, Scott Michaels, Steve Reaven (WPPA Fields Commissioner), David Saunders (WPPA Secretary)

Review Minutes - We acknowledged that we had already voted on the minutes from the last meeting via email.

Treasurer Report - Aaron

Aaron reviewed the treasurer's report, as Sarah (WPAC Treasurer) was unable to attend the meeting. The Midnight Circus funds as well as the Lyon Family Eye Care movie sponsorship funds came in. However, these numbers are not yet reflected in the financial report.

Aaron filled out the required annual fiscal report for the Chicago Park Foundation.

Park Report – Becky

There was no Park Report as Becky was out sick today.

Bill requested \$300 for Becky for the Bunny Bonanza

New Business

Welles Park Parents Association - Steve Reavan and David Saunders

Overview of WPPA use of Welles Park baseball fields

- 1,600 kids are registered for Spring (5-19 year olds)
- baseball and softball
- 1,800 games are played per season, which includes 700+ at Welles
- There are waitlists for teams (between 75-100 kids on the waitlist)

WPPA proposes to add lights to 4 out the 5 fields

- LED lights with shielding, not bucket lights like at Hamlin Park
- fields can be lit individually
- Welles Park would run the lights (proposed to use an App as well for WPPA to turn on/off)
- WPPA would use lights until 9:30pm
- WPPA would pay 100% (~\$600,000), but they may ask to send fundraising information to our list (Sue asked what the ongoing cost would be. \$40 per night. WPPA is not offering to pay as of yet, but they could consider it.)

- It would take 10-12 weeks to install and they would want to start in November

Proposed Light Benefits

- safety
- usable time for business would increase
- 280 field slots
- other park uses

WPPA previously met with Becky and her boss (Kuzmanic) and Alderman Martin

- Based on those meetings, they have two community meetings planned, April 2nd and May 14th
- Signs will be posted to promote the meetings

Our Questions and Concerns

- Coral asked if any neighborhood groups have said no --- No, but everyone want community buy-in
- Sherry discussed the additional of park as positive, but is concerned about the warranty and additional costs
- Aaron mentioned that it would be difficult to write a letter of support before the public meetings
- Doug and Adrienne discussed issues with previous additions to the fields and the contentious response from the community (for example, the scoreboards were put up without WPAC support)
- Bill suggested that Welles should hold the meetings instead of the library --David will look into it
- Doug mentioned the issue of parking for longer hours as the impact on residents ---David mentioned that this would be a give-and-take situation and the WPPA things the additional business to the area should be considered

WPPA is asking for a letter of support from WPAC for grant purposes and would need it with the next 2 weeks

- Aaron reinforced that we would need to hear from Becky and the community before approving the proposal.
- We agreed to write a vague letter for their grants

Pickleball

Aaron met with Becky and John Roe about the proposed Pickleball courts.

- John asked if their group would be fundraising for all of it since the horseshoe and bags in the Park District plan were not in their plan.

We discussed the need for a public meeting (as the WPAC did at the beginning of the NaturePlace planning). We would want John to put together a group and have meetings (as the Greening Committee does).

Doug offered to help John's group with fundraising. Doug offered to talk to John.

Scott Michaels

Scott is hired by WPAC each year to hang our holiday gazebo decorations.

- He mentioned that if they fall, we can call Scott to put them back up. He would like this to be communicated to Welles staff.
- He mentioned that we should trim the bushes in early Fall around the gazebo in order to access the litter better

Scott also represents Galter Life Center (Swedish Covenant) and gave us some updates

- Bystander CPR classes are offered if we need a group class
- The Swedish Summer Social is taking place on June 7

Scott also discussed the upcoming Queen of Angels and St. Matthais congregation merging.

- Scott asked for support for 4 handicap signs on Sunnyside for parking during Mass.

Committee Reports

Greening Committee- Sue

Sue discussed the 2020 tentative Greening schedule, which includes Spring and Fall birding dates. Sue requested funds for 5 pairs of binoculars for these events, as well as funds for plants, soil and markers. Up to \$1,500 was approved for the Greening Committee.

Sue requested that the Greening Committee have a separate line item within WPAC. Sue asked whether Sarah could calculate the Greening balance. Financial software was discussed as an option to creating line items.

Swim Team - Sherry

Sherry shared the Aquatics Committee 2019-2020 Budget. Details in the budget document.

One of the Welles swimmers qualified for the State Championships.

The Swim Team group hosted concessions during Regionals Relays.

They have chosen not to hold a banquet this year and will be having a bbq instead. Bill suggested that the park has two tents that they could use.

Circus –Aaron

Aaron discussed his talk with Maria Stone from the Park District. Going forward, the share of ticket sales won't go to the PAC's. PACs will only be able to get funds through Ad Sales, Concessions and other ideas.

- Doug mentioned that we might want to consider getting funds from a different fundraiser
- Scott suggested that Swedish, as NorthShore could potentially buy an ad this year
- Bill suggested that WPAC could ask for donations at concessions

- Bill mentioned that Becky supports us doing the circus this year, but we may not forever
Sherry motioned to approve Circus for 2020, Sue seconds -approved

Election of Officers

Officers for the next year were approved:

Aaron - President

Bethany - Vice President (and will now take meeting notes)

Sarah - Treasurer

Adrienne - Secretary

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.