

Welles Park Advisory Council
July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to Meeting at 5:00 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, Bill Bergfalk, Doug Mulderink, Scott Michaels

Review Minutes - Minutes approved from March meeting.

Treasurer Report - Sarah, Aaron

Sarah reviewed the financial report. The current balance is \$54,801.91. There has not been much money spent or received in the last few months.

Aaron reviewed items which were approved via email since our last meeting.

- \$75 approved for Chicago Park Foundation renewal
- A bulk popcorn purchase was approved for the movie night as well as Circus.
- A \$2,000 maintenance budget for the NaturePlace was approved for 2020 and 2021 (\$1,000 per year)
- \$18 was approved for the WPAC website on WordPress
- An Anti-Racist statement was created and approved

Park Report – Becky

The building hours at this time remain at the limited M-F 7:30am-6pm (closed weekends). The park was unable to hire seasonal staff and therefore the full time staff are focusing primarily on camp.

The pool will not be opening this summer. The earliest it may open will be fall. The main concern with pools are the locker rooms and the staff ability to clean frequently.

Face coverings are supposed to be worn when outside in the parks.

Graffiti has been worse than ever lately. Becky has taken out the wooden NaturePlace benches as many were getting destroyed.

The Chicago Park Foundation is asking for volunteer group to clean the parks

<https://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org/pitch-in> (as the Park District was not able to hire their seasonal staff for park maintenance). Becky would like to encourage the Advisory Council to create a system for helping to clean the park.

- Aaron offered to help put something together. He mentioned the need for promotion; flyers, Facebook, etc.

Aaron asked about baseball at the park. Becky explained that baseball can be played, but players are supposed to wear masks except when out in the field. Parents should be spread out and wearing masks.

Becky mentioned that more people are playing horseshoes in the pits more than every lately.

Committee Reports

Greening Committee- Sue

Sue thanked Bill and Sarah and others for the work they did planting in the park planters.

The NaturePlace natural plant areas are getting trampled by people created trails and playing in undesignated areas. Sue brought up that the Advisory Council and Greening Committee committed to taking care on the NaturePlace when it was created and it is our responsibility to take care of it. She mentioned that Becky would like to see us be Ambassadors for the NaturePlace and actively help inform others about the designated play areas and the concern with trampling the native plants.

Becky talked to Jason (Park District) about possible signs and more fencing.

Sue asked again about how much money the Greening Committee actually has. Aaron suggested that the history of figuring out the exact amount may be lost. Becky suggested that she may have the necessary information.

Swim Team - Sherry

The swim team has no updates. They are waiting on the Park District to communicate for going forward.

Circus –Aaron

Becky and Aaron each talked to Jeff from Midnight Circus recently. Jeff relayed that they are considering an open air show, which would be free. The number of shows would be reduced and Jeff would push for Welles to be one of the parks. No decisions have been made yet.

Old Business

We asked Scott Michaels about his project to get more handicap spots in front of Queen of Angels. Scott explained that he has not pursued the parking spots yet.

Sherry asked if the WPPA is still pursuing lights for the fields. Becky explained that they were not able to get community input this spring and therefore, the lights project is on hold for now.

New Business

Aaron showed the additions on the website, especially the new Statement on Inclusion. Aaron asked for ideas for creating more diversity and inclusion in our program and our members.

Sue suggested Children and Nature Network resources and articles on equity in green spaces. Sue also mentioned an idea she and Sarah have discussed in the past; finding a partner park to assist with our experience and resources, especially if they want to create a nature play space.

Sarah expressed interest in this idea and added that we can offer our help and being additional bodies to help with a partner park's programs or clean ups.

Sherry suggested that we consider and seek inclusion when we make every decision or create every program.

We will continue this discussion. Aaron suggested we create a document to save and add ideas on the topic.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:04pm.