

## Westgrove PACK board meeting July 17, 2024

Attendees: Liz Yap; Jeff Pandin; Steve Zielenski; LeeAnn Williams; Michelle Primack; Shawn Bloom; Sam Longstreet; Mike Bober; Rich Ableson (sitting in)

Regrets: Yvonne Kinkaid (couldn't get on to Zoom)

### Financials (Jeff):

\$21,490.52 B&H

\$419.53 Paypal

\$655 Venmo

\$22,565.05 total

- Liz asked about a breakdown of how much money is being donated each month. Just curious. Jeff said he can easily track HDF donations and if time allows will do a breakdown.
- Venmo makes it hard to get the contact info of donors. **Jeff will start asking for email with each donation through app if he has time.**

### Old Business

HDF: Sponsorships (**Jeff & Liz**)

- Everyone got calendar invites to Sponsor Nights: please come to at least one event to HELP
- Caretaker Table: This week 7/19 (sponsor is Unleashed Pet). **Liz will set it up and will present a quiz with prizes.**
- We have had 6 sponsored HDFs so far. No sponsors coming up, but there are potentially some in the works. **LeeAnn will talk to the new ER vet on Duke Street.**

Membership software update (**Jeff**) - Everyone is migrated into the system now and we can start using it to send emails.

- We have 600+ entries and we can only send 500 emails at a time. We will have to send emails in batches of 2 for now (might be corrected in a bit).
- Jeff has drafted a renewal email for inactives (will go out probably tomorrow) and will see how it goes. We should soon phase out MailChimp.
- There was discussion as to the best use of our integrated email listing, making sure we are sensitive to "donor fatigue".

Turf & Park update (**Shawn/Steve/Jeff**)

- Water spigot/hydrant status - Is it still spewing mud? Shawn checked last night and it was clear. Keep checking to make sure there are no issues. County is aware and will check again in future as needed.
- Turf project: Continued discussions with the County on various configurations of turf/stone dust and alternative surfaces. Want to maximize turf and remain ADA compliant. County seems firm on stone dust. In the meantime, we have suggested that we invest time and resources in artificial fiber (like wool fiber) and the P.A.C.K would fund the difference between fiber and stone dust (around \$4k).

- FCPA was not amenable to this suggestion and said if they did it for Westgrove they'd have to do it for other parks.
- that the PACK's position is that the County wouldn't be funding more than the cost of stone dust.
- The general thinking that we should insist that the county offer us an exception as this is a surface we can maintain and as we are a different park with private funding available, this doesn't set a precedent for other parks.
- Should we indicate that the P.A.C.K will pay for maintenance in the renegotiated MOU? Might make MOU negotiations more complicated.
  - Suggested we should meet with County Supervisor(s) to give them an update to make him aware of what's going on.
  - **Liz will work with team to create more formal response to county via email and how we will reach out to gov't officials.** Tabled for now.

Status, MOU will expire on August 15. **(Mike/Jeff/Rich)**.

- We can extend current MOU by three years by mutual agreement instead of creating a new MOU right now. Jeff (et al) thinks that this is the way to go. There are improvements worth making - clear out and clarify language re: capacity building grants; change length of MOU term (extend to maybe 10 years) to be addressed again.
  - MOU currently states we should mow at maximum every 14 days but that is not horticulturally desirable.
  - Next step is for us to proactively reach out to County with our proposal/asks. Jeff will reach out and keep Mike, Liz and Rich in the loop.
  - **Board approved the preference of a three-year extension (or more, if the County is agreeable).**

Bird & Bat House — **installed on June 29th - WOOT!**

EMAIL campaigns - Topics and dates to send **LeeAnn, Michelle, Mike** have volunteered to provide a rough draft by July BOD meeting. Board members will send ideas to Liz after this meeting.

Social media post suggestions **(Liz)**

- HDF trivia contest about the P.A.C.K. Approved and the quiz event will happen in conjunction with HDF.

Signs/update at Westgrove **(Liz)**

- Gate signs are generating donations!
- New Fundraiser thermometer again instead of Fall Festival was suggested? Maybe just a Fall Festival as just a chili cookoff? Should we acquire sponsors again? **Steve and Liz will see if they can solicit funds from previous sponsors.**
- Steve suggested it would be helpful to advertise a specific project for thermometer like fundraising banner (engineered fiber?) to raise funds.

Status, Order Bench for tree (**Jeff**)

- We were awarded the \$1000 grant.
- Money has not yet arrived. **Liz will follow up to see where the money is.** Jeff will order when the money comes in.

Status, FIELD TEST Small Dog Park (**Mike**) - Mike will loop back around soon to see where we are. The current volunteers are not doing much.

Follow-up with volunteers (**Liz & Steve**)

- Still trying to organize a Coffee or HH. **Liz and Steve will figure something out.**

Status, Tree donation (**Jeff & Steve**)

- Anne Benedict/Slippery Elms <furfling86@gmail.com>
- Mary Tracy wants to donate a tree <[tracy.m@att.net](mailto:tracy.m@att.net)>
- Pick a season where surface might be softer and get quotes on cost of installation.
- Jeff and Steve will follow up with donor interested above.

Ken – Dog rescue adoption? (**Liz**)

- Ken sent Liz some contact information for that rescue but has not had the chance to follow up yet.

### New Business

We need some new hoses because what we have isn't sufficient. 2 long industrial hoses would be good.

- Jeff gave Shawn budget authority to procure those hoses.

### **Elections reminder**

- Steve Zielenski (Chair)
- Jennifer French (Secretary)
- Rich Ableson (At Large-Chair)
- Jeff Pandin (resume: Treasurer)
- Sam Longstreet offered to step aside as At-Large for Rich Ableson •  
Membership/Fundraising (empty)
  - Liz Yap will stay on supportive position for Communications/Fundraising

**Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, August 14th**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM