

Westgrove PACK board meeting June 12, 2024

Attendees: Liz Yap; Jeff Pandin; Steve Zielenski; LeeAnn Williams; Yvonne Kinkaid; Michelle Primack

Regrets: Sam Longstreet; Shawn Bloom

Financials (Jeff):

\$20,675.96 B&H

\$453.98 Paypal

\$310 Venmo

\$21439.94 total

Old Business

HDF Sponsorships -

- Everyone got calendar invites to sponsor nights - please come to at least one event to help. We are doing great on sponsorships, and we are just about breaking even. That means all the money in the jar goes to the P.A.C.K.
- Caretaker table - (Liz, LeeAnn, and Yvonne)
 - 1x July 1x August. Would be good during HDF. Yvonne volunteers to work at the table. Liz can wander and talk to people. We probably don't need more than 2 people. Talk in July about whether or not we should have a September caretaker table.
- Any luck with a guest speaker? (Steve) - Animal control is the suggested speaker. Might not be a good idea because people won't be watching their dogs if they're listening to a guest speaker. Perhaps setting a table during a HDF would be more appropriate, or a guest speaker at the next general meeting. Steve to investigate and schedule.

Membership software update (Jeff) –

- If we use a free service, we are limited to 500 emails in a batch. We have 600+ in the system right now, but we could probably thin it down a bit. Jeff is going to see if he can get it down under 500, or we could segment into batches. Without paying the monthly fee (\$30/mo), we won't have the analytics anymore.
- Mike - might be worth the money to be able to know if people are opening/reading our emails. We are tabling the decision to pay the monthly fee to see if Nabeel can give us a different way to track opened emails/clicks.

Turf and park update (Shawn/Steve/Jeff)

- Different surface options other than stone dust for smaller end (engineered wood fiber "WoofBark")
- Group discussion of the current proposal. The current proposal hasn't changed much from previous proposals. Given the County's focus, the proposal was generally viewed as acceptable from a turf to ADA space perspective. We agree that we should move forward with existing drawing even though it isn't exactly what we want on the caveat based on ADA alternatives to stone dust.
- OPTIONS were discussed instead of stone dust:

- (Jeff) engineered wood fiber quote: \$18,000 - find out if FCPA would cover the first \$12,000 which is the proposed budget for stone dust. Engineered wood fiber is ADA compliant, but comes with a maintenance cost. Every three years we would have to pay for a refreshment of the surface (about \$4500 for a 3" resurface). Important to note that stone dust would probably have to be refreshed too (costs unknown).
- The folks we have been talking to have not put down engineered wood fiber at any place near us, which precludes a visit/inspection.
- Other possible option is canine turf ("astroturf"), but that is expensive and requires fairly expensive ground conditioning and is known to get really hot in the summer.
- Our current landscaper has had a health issue and has sold the company to one of his employees – it is unclear what the impact to our service will be. The mowing is getting done, but Jeff hasn't seen a bill since May. We aren't contractually obligated to this service, but we should make sure the transition to the new ownership goes smoothly as they get up and running.
- Next steps: Ask Adam if they are open to an alternate surface if we pay the difference. Also, are they open to us selecting the vendors. Are they expecting us to cover costs for items the county included in their estimate that we don't fully understand and/or the county should cover? Other estimates from the county seem very high as well. If we can choose the vendors, it is believed that quoted costs may come down.
- We will submit these questions via email.

Bird and Bat Houses: Install on June 29th. (Michelle)

- Volunteers needed - help from Board and users

Website updates (Steve)

- Steve created an email - Dog Park Etiquette (Thanks Steve!!). Liz wants to send it out the broader community. Improvements to PACK website are ongoing for ease of consumption as well as maintenance.

EMAIL campaigns

Asking: each board member come to next meeting with a submission). LeeAnn, Michelle, Mike have volunteered. Topic ideas:

- My experience being a board member for the PACK (tie in a plug to join the Board)
- Where does my donation go? A member guide to the operations of Westgrove.
- Three things I wish all dog owners knew before they came to the dog park.
- Why do dogs do that?
- Interesting facts about Westgrove
- Things I have learned having a dog

Social media post suggestions (Liz)

- Use simplified messaging on Social of the contents of the park/dog safety email. We want to show that we're active and we care about dog safety and other things.
- Kerry Carlson, social media volunteer. All okay if we give her access to Instagram. Photos of DOGS ONLY unless we put out a disclaimer for consent somehow.

Signs/Update at Westgrove (Liz)

- Strategically Placed: gate signs arrived today! Have QR codes on them. Installed by Steve on 6/13/24.
- New Fundraiser sign (thermometer again?). We need to take the current (outdated) one down, but we don't necessarily need to put a new one up right away.

Order Bench for tree? (Jeff)

- Friends Groups - capacity building fund grants for FY2025
- Have not heard anything from the County on Grant award. Jeff is waiting for the check to come in. Mike has requested a status update and will let everyone know.
- Yvonne mentioned that someone is planting/watering the tree and flowers at Westgrove. He means well but we need to tell him planting flowers inside the park this isn't a good idea.

Status of FIELD TEST small dog park (Mike) –

- Gathering info on who can volunteer. Will happen in late summer/September. Working with Caroline Neulight.

Friends of Dyke Marsh (invasive species training) ON HOLD

Follow-up with volunteers –

- Who would like to coordinate with Liz and Steve? Coffee or HH (Steve). Meeting with Rich Ableson on Friday to talk about the board. Informal gathering with others to answer questions about the board will be helpful.

New Business

Tree donation - Anne Benedict (can someone follow up and coordinate?).

- Offer for 3 slippery elm trees. They are native and can be delivered. When Anne reaches out again, Steve and/or Jeff can probably take the lead on making sure it can happen and where they should go. Mary Tracy might also have trees.

Ken - dog rescue adoption?

- Ken needs to organize. Will table for now - we can probably do something, but we want to stay within the parameters of the PACK's scope. Liz will check with Melissa since she organized Lucky Dog.
- Scrap metal collection (Probably outside our scope - Liz will say no). Outside of PACK scope.
- Rescue/shelter donation drive? Doing this for a single rescue opens the door to doing this for every rescue. Probably can't do it, outside of scope.

Schedule July & August board meeting dates: **July 10 and August 14**

Fall festival - set date at next meeting.

Elections reminder

- Jennifer French (Secretary) and Rich Ableson (Chair)
- Liz would like to stay on in a supportive position for communications or Vice Chair to support Rich depending on LeeAnn.
- We need CHAIR, SECRETARY, AND MEMBERSHIP

MOU expires in August. Mike and Jeff will get together and report back to board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM