

Westgrove PACK board meeting January 17, 2024

Attendees: Liz Yap; Jeff Pandin; Michelle Primack; Sam Longstreet; Steve Zielenski; Shawn Bloom; Yvonne Kinkaid; LeeAnn Williams;

Regrets: Mike Bober

Financials (Jeff):

\$16,842.13 B&H

\$6,243.02 Paypal

\$0 Venmo

\$23,085.15 total

This is enough money to fund the entire 2024 budget with 9K available for the project. Assuming additional fundraising, we will probably have about \$15K to apply to the project (a little more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of estimated cost).

2024 budget

We went a little over last year's budget (\$400 over \$13,000 budget). Given inflation, Jeff is proposing we add \$500 to operations, \$400 to administration, and \$100 to fundraising budgets giving us \$14,000 budget (less than 10% increase). Budget was ratified by board.

Old Business

Membership Software update (Jeff). Need committee. Jeff's student has been working and we are now in beta testing. We have a database - all of 2023 donors who gave us email addresses have been inputted. System is set up so we can send out emails to whole list or a subset (although separate from MailChimp, which we will be moving away from). System is attached to PayPal (all other donations are manually entered). Will be sending out tax statements. Also will be sending emails to previous donors who have not given in the past year. Mike is an At-Large chair, has experience with membership strategies, and hopefully he can get involved.

Meeting 1/4/24 with County (Jeff, Shawn, Liz). Water/Splash area project update. William Douglas and Adam Wynn from county were there. Park authority rejected the dog pool component (but maybe we can try again later). They were receptive to everything else. Adam from the county will work up a plan and put it in their format and we will move forward from there. Rough budget is \$40K. Is the county going to contribute some of the supplies or labor? Will be subject to negotiation and availability. Possibility to get a matching grant from the county for ~\$20K which would make this all very doable. Liz will push Adam from the county to have a plan available prior to our general meeting. Project is tentatively scheduled to begin at end of February/early March.

Turf update (Jeff/Shawn/Steve) - Any winter maintenance? Steve: Mentioned talking with someone (Scott Mitchell) this summer who wants to seed the field and potentially do something with mud (spread stone dust?) but it's been hard to clarify and coordinate. We definitely need to make sure that whatever we do is consistent with the plan we come up with the county (shouldn't proceed until then, at least). Once we hear from the county, we can let Scott know what the plan is and how/if he can help. What are we going to do about the muck until then? Twice a year aeration and power seeding could help. Hay has worked in the past and we are going to put down hay for now as a temporary measure.

We need to get about 10 bales from Home Depot or someplace like that. Shawn will buy the hay and spread it over the muck (will let Liz know if he can't).

Gates/latches update (Shawn). Long fence has not gotten back to us yet but Shawn has sent another message. Latches are on the gates but we are waiting for the spring closures. Latches need to be WD-40'd every now and then because they get a little stiff.

Follow-up on chat about Aggressive Dogs (Steve/LeeAnn). Responses to Dog Aggression email (Liz) - fewer than 10. Not a lot of suggestions or recommendations aside from "owners need to leave if their dogs fight" (or something similar). Should we table this until the spring? Liz will continue to gather feedback

Small Dog Park updates (Mike)^[SEP] Tabled.

Bird house update (Andrew/Michelle)^[SEP] On track for the spring.

Poop bags - Sign-up Genius (Liz). Each board member should choose one week minimum. Current poop bags are tearing when people pull them out of dispenser - Liz will mention to Pampered Pet. County bags are sturdier - should we ask for some? Maybe we should go back to the previous poop bags Pampered Pet gave us and split the cost?

Have we ordered bench for River Birch? (Liz/Jeff) We don't need one until the spring. How long does it take to order and assemble? Jeff will get information. Tabled for now.

New Business

Does Operations (Shawn) have an annual budget to make improvements without board approval? Budget just for 2024 approved has \$1,500 for operations. Hay, signs, rebar, other odds and ends, etc. Save receipts for reimbursements.

Social media post suggestions/Anyone want to write a letter? Liz as president is open to others wanting to communicate to the community. For example, let's follow up on the aggressive dog policy. Also, is there any information we want to share? Maybe mini surveys for quick turnaround feedback? Photo contests? Maybe videos from the dog park? LeeAnn will come up with some ideas. We can table this for now

Set General Meeting - for April 21. At Sherwood Library - 3PM. Get guest speaker? Animal Control? Would be responsive to dog aggression concerns. Steve will book the room.

Next meetings:

February 21 @7PM virtual.

March 20 @7PM virtual.

April 17 @7PM virtual.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:15.