

Welles Park Advisory Council
July 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Call to Meeting at 7:00 pm by Aaron Durnbaugh

Roll Call

Aaron Durnbaugh (WPAC President)	Chuck Slater
Bethany Simmons (WPAC VP)	Gillian Goem
Adrienne Roe (WPAC Secretary)	Steve Rowling
Sarah Dandelles (WPAC Treasurer)	Chris Warren Boulton
Michelle Baldwin (Welles Park Supervisor)	Susan Michelle
Jeanne Mervine (WPAC member)	Debra Freeman-Larrea
Gene Schulter (WPAC member)	Marc Brown
Rosemary Schulter (WPAC member)	Nan Winner
Jake Siddall (WPAC member)	Sheldon Winner
Claire Sharkey (WPAC member)	Jamie Butler
Julie O'Connell (WPAC member)	Sandy Cody
Tim Shambrook	G. Spataro
Sarah Staggs	Ivy Spataro
Carol K	Susan Misher
Burt Ferring	Elaine Prescott
Pamela Farnsworth	Tressa Ferrella
Charles Slater	

Introductions

Executive officers, PAC (Park Advisory Council) members, and first-time attendees each introduced themselves.

Bethany announced that she will be stepping down as Vice President after this meeting. There will be a vote at the September meeting for the new Vice President.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from March and May were approved.

Treasurer Report – Sarah

- Sarah explained that the donations from the WPPA for last year and this year were deposited; \$1000 for 2022 and \$2000 for 2023.
- Our current balance is \$56,821.31
- Payments for concerts will be going out this summer
- An address change issue with our bank has been resolved.
- Sarah requested that we email her for reimbursement requests. Emails should include receipt and what we bought.

Park Report – Michelle

- Summer camp is going well
- The Pool is open Tuesdays-Saturday, with family swim on Tuesday-Friday evenings
- There were many fireworks to clean up after the 4th of July
 - o There was damage to the gazebo from fireworks set off in the gazebo
- Green space outside the field house has been spruced up; cleared out bushes and added plants
- July 18th Movie in the Park, Puss in Boots
- August 19 Ecofest
- Fall session registration in August

- There was a question about Shakespeare in the Park. Michelle explained that it needs to be requested the year before and she is not sure why it was not.

Committee Reports

Gazebo Concerts – Sarah

- There are offers out to 3 bands
- Concert is planned for tomorrow
- Sound person has been booked
- Sarah asked Michelle if the outlets have been confirmed working by the park district. Michelle said she would find out.
- Concerts will be posted on website, facebook and in the alderman's newsletter

- Gene thanked Sarah for her efforts. He also asked if Old Town was involved this year. Sarah explained that Old Town was involved previously as an exchange for using the park for their summer camp. They did not use the park this summer.

Greening Committee- Jeanne

- June 3 was It's Your Park Day. 13 volunteers joined us to mulch the Nature Play Area and young trees.
- August 8 Chicago Cub Charities will be mulching as well
- Workday is planned for August 12, 9am-12pm
- Sarah Staggs added plants to the raised beds and sensory gardens in the NaturePlace.
- Jeanne added plants to the raised bed on Montrose.

- Sarah Staggs will be helping bring the U of I Extension for a day of summer camp potted plants

Swim Team – Aaron via Sherry's notes

- Sherry was not in attendance, but Aaron read her emailed updates:
 - We are moving ahead in purchasing a year membership to use Team Unify, a team management platform that will streamline declaring meet availability, reporting results, communication and volunteering. Cost is \$1,099 a year with a \$495 setup fee (which they tend to discount toward the end of each month). Our timeline is to purchase at the end of August and onboard in September for coaches and families to use in October when the season starts.

Welles Walking Club - Gene

- The Lincoln/Montrose kiosk lights are finally on again after 12 years
 - Forestry trimmed the branches around the lights also
- The group is categorizing trees on Sunnyside to see what needs trimming

Old Business

Pickleball/Horseshoe Pits Rehab

- Aaron reviewed the history of the rehab discussion
 - Some interest expressed led to creating indoors pickleball and lined painting outside (lines painted wrong)
 - Some advisory council meeting visitors requested more pickleball, but no one would come back after we asked for fundraising help
 - We requested costs from Park District to add pickleball courts. Plan returned included half horseshoe pits and half pickleball
 - Alderman initiated a vote for new pickleball courts in horseshoe area
 - Horseshoe group visited several meetings and don't want to lose unique area
 - WPAC wrote letter the Alderman to ask for more pickleball, but keep some horseshoe pits, fix painted lines and lighting
 - We are in support of all sorts of use at the park
- Gene asked that WPAC to be involved in the Park District planning/meetings/discussions
- There was a question about whether we could use the concrete slab or volleyball court
- There was a question about the Alderman survey; the survey said to replace horseshoe pits with pickleball, does that mean money will go away if we don't replace? Aaron didn't think so
- Gene suggested we ask the Alderman to use TIF money. Aaron suggested we wait for a budget.
- Some talked to Josh at Alderman's office and he said he could answer questions
- Aaron reminded everyone that the high cost of the original quote was for concrete

- There was a question about who will pay to repaint lines
- Gene asked if CocaCola or other could sponsor new courts (as was done in the past)
- Tim explained some more horseshoe pit at Welles history. The pits have been here since 1930 (park began in 1927). Horseshoe pits are the only remaining part of the original infrastructure. His group has been fixing up the pits for the last three years. He suggested we use the concrete slabs we already have. Also, he reminded us that the Senior Games used the horseshoe pits.
- There was a comment to point out that there were 18 people in attendance at our meeting in support of pickleball.
- There was a question about how the community will be involved in the project. Michelle suggested that with new playgrounds there are designs posted for comment, so she suspects this would be similar.

Eco Fest

- August 19, 10am-2pm
- This is our second year
- We will ask for help with the EcoFest table

New Business

- Question about installing a film on the pool deck windows to keep birds from flying into them. Michelle was looking into it.
- Gene asked about Midnight Circus. Aaron thinks we are having the circus, while Gene is not sure.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.