

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

Registered Members Present ✓:

	Name	V	Info (corrections only)		Name	V	Info (corrections only)
✓	Manny Vega (President)	Y	On file		Anne Sylvan (Field/Grounds Committee)	Y	On file
E	Dinakar Vinnakota (Treasurer) (Administration)	Y	On file		Margaret O'Connor (Field Improvement / TIF Committee)	N	On file
✓	Cathy Vega (Secretary)	Y	On file		Johanna Raimond (WP Tennis)	N	On file
✓	Amy Williamson (Nature Committee)	Y	On file		Mike Lonergan	Y	On file
	Elvia Heneghan	Y	On file		Kristen Lonergan	Y	On file
✓	Jacob Schuster (Treasurer) (Administration Committee)	Y	On file		Christian Blume	N	On file
✓	David Cady Jr. (Performing Arts in the Park Committee)	Y	On file		Eleanor Arnold	N	On file
✓	Mary O'Connor (FFA24 Service Sourcing)	Y	On file		Alyssa Edes	N	On file
✓	Russ Klettke	Y	On file		Mike O'Keefe	N	On file
✓	Dave Miretzky	Y	On file	✓	Jayson von Osinski	Y	On file
✓	Deb Miretzky	Y	On file	✓	Sarah Harpring	Y	On file
✓	Tessa Groll	Y	On file	✓	Chelsea Brown	Y	On file

Key: Voting /Standing - Y or N

Notified of absence - E

Chicago Park District Representation ✓:

	Name	Role	Email
✓	Lisa Ragucci	Park Supervisor - CPD	On file
✓	Maria Stone	Community Engagement Manager	On file
	Greg Czajkowski	Park Area Manager -North	On file
	Arthur Richardson	Community Engagement Director	On file
	Kate Thomas	Senior Project Manager - CPD Planning & Construction	On file

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

	Edward Warden	Community Stewardship Manager	On file
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Community ✓:

#	Name	Email	Phone	Member Interest? ✓

Manny called the meeting to order at approximately 6:16 PM

- **Public comment: None**
- **Meeting to start @ 6:16PM**
- **Quorum established? Yes 13 present, 9 needed**
- **Approve last month's meeting minutes**
 - find on winnemacpac.org
 - It was noted that the October WPAC meeting minutes indicated there was concern around a shooting in the park, but the concern was actually gunfire in the park. Noted and Cathy will change wording from shooting to gunfire.
 - Manny motioned to approve, Jacob seconded, and it was voted through with majority vote
- **Approve today's agenda:**
 - Deb would like to add excused absence vs. non-excused absence added to the agenda. There was discussion around many not being aware of this until recently and that the difference and how it's determined is not stated in the bylaws and should be.
- **Park Supervisor Report: Lisa Ragucci**
 - Construction is moving along – no other update
 - Jacob asked about lights and electrical – Lisa said they were digging
 - Still no update on the timeline
 - December 18th is the cookies and hot chocolate. Manny made the motion to sponsor the cookies and cocoa with a budget of \$150. Cathy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Updates:

- **Nature committee – Amy**
 - Wrap up for the year. Good relationship with park people and Amundsen's Seeds of Change

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

-8 work days including friends of the park

-Last Saturday of the month from 9-11:30AM

-The only issue is bathrooms. It's hard to ask people to work and have no bathroom

-Walk and Talk with naturalist – twice this year, 2 days each time. Amy asked members to reach out if anyone

-One final clean-up of the year on the 30th due to the good weather

Goals for next year– get an assistant park steward, educational planning and create a small card to hand out while volunteering so that people so they

- **Administrative committee – Jacob**

- **Restroom Facilities committee – Jacob**

-Jacob met with the Chief of Staff in the Alderman's office

-Alderman's office hey are trying to gain funding for the park so that we may be able to have more access to the bathrooms

-They also talked about public/private partnerships. If we go this route, may need to spin off another park

-Tess wanted clarification on whether the goal is to gain access to the existing restrooms or build new ones. The goal is to access the existing, but building could be an option.

-A piece of paper was passed around to sign up for interest on the bathroom committee

- **Movement in the Park committee: Chair not present to give report**

-Amy asked about this group. Manny explained that Mike is trying to get more recreational activities in the park.

- **Performing Arts committee – David Cady Jr.**

-He reached out to Beth Wolf (Shakespeare in the park)

-She and her committee will meet and we'll hear whether Winnemac is selected

Approximately \$250 was raised from the Jersey Mike's fundraiser which was earmarked for this committee and their initiatives.

New Business:

- **Nominations for standout members**

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

-The Friends of the Park is taking nominations – link is on the website. Manny made a nomination and encouraged others to do so if they know of a worthy member.

○ **Review Financials: Donations, Fourth for All Expenses, Operating Expenses**

- find on winnemacpac.org
 - See paperwork included with the meeting minutes
 - Dave asked about the first column – he thought more of the funds came in during the 2nd quarter. Tess said that most of the political funds were raised in the beginning and then they came through at the end.
 - Tess feels like the operating cost could be brought down. Manny explained that some of the URLs for the website had to be purchased and were for 2 year periods.
 - Russ wanted to know if there were any other huge fundraisers in the past. Dave mentioned the playlot.
 - Tess wants to send out something to try to gain funds all year-round vs only fund raised for an event.
 - Manny agrees that fundraising should be inclusive of all events offered at Winnemac.
- Jacob feels it's important to vote on the Winnemac Fourth for All tonight. He spoke to the Alderman and his office. The Alderman advised that he is willing to contribute or help with contributions as much as possible.
- Russ spoke about the event and handed out a paper to re-cap the previous event and list some improvements moving into the 2025 events.
- Tess feels that the fireworks were terrible
- Russ said that the Alderman said that he did not receive complaints that evening.

Guest speaker: Maria Stone

-She is going to send out a survey to see what the PACs want in the park

-PAC school January 25th at Warren Park and all PAC officers will be invited

-Maria mentioned that the PAC Binder needs to be kept somewhere that belongs to Park District. Maria had a few suggestions outside of Winnemac Park. Lisa confirmed that no one else is in her office and the binder can be kept there. It was decided by Maria and the group that it would be kept there. Lisa will take the binder after the meeting and will return with the binder to future meetings.

-Maria touched on absences (excused and unexcused) and said that we can have the bylaws be whatever we wanted. She advised that when we change or update

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

the bylaws, we make them available before or during a future meeting to be voted on.

-Chelsea mentioned Google Docs, Tess mentioned OneNote. Manny mentioned that the repository was MS Sharepoint.

-Every month should have what is the account balance, what was spent (just ins and outs reported by the Treasurer.

Old Business

- **Committee head determination for Fourth for All**

-Manny confirmed that members said that there is enough information for people to vote on whether we want to vote

-Russ wants to make it a firework-free event and advertise it as that. Many members cited concerns about advertising it as a firework-free event when we are unable to guarantee that it will be without incident.

-Dave mentioned that he doesn't like fireworks and knows that there will most likely be fireworks at the event.

-Lisa said that some people liked the fireworks last year and felt that the Winnemac Fourth for All was the show before the fireworks.

-Russ offered to be the chairperson

-Russ motioned to proceed with the development of the 2025 WFFA – the motion passed with 8 votes.

- A paper was passed around so those that wanted to volunteer for the 2025 Winnemac Fourth For All could be contacted by Russ.

- **Meeting to adjourn at 7:42PM**

To do:

-Jacob will meet with the bathroom committee to discuss the opportunities.

-Jacob will meet with the Administration team to discuss the proposed changes of by-laws addressing ambiguity in:

(1) Quorum

(2) Voting Rights

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
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Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

Public comments: None

Old Business:

Election to fill vacant roles in accordance with PAC by-laws:

- Jacob is the only member currently interested in the position. Tess expressed that she was comfortable with Jacob taking on the role. Manny motioned to appoint Jacob as Vice President, Cathy seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 10-1. FOIA Officer: No interest

Committee Head announcements:

- Fourth for All 2025 : No interest in chairing. There is some concern about securing enough volunteers to ensure the event's success again this year, especially with no one stepping up to chair the event. Russ requested event numbers including vendor numbers from the previous event to help us assess what will be needed for the next event. Jacob mentioned that we should check in as a PAC to decide if we want to move forward before making any decisions. Russ is worried that we don't have the numbers we need to figure out if we should keep doing the event. Dinakar has the numbers, but he didn't bring them to the meeting since there wasn't a request for them beforehand. Russ said he had asked for them by email before, but didn't follow up after that.
- Russ is concerned that we don't have the financials needed to make a decision. Dinakar will bring printed copies for next week, as we'll be presenting the financial report then.

Treasurer report: Dinakar – there will be presenting next meeting

Nature Committee: Amy

- Last event was Saturday, September 28, 2024 – 18 volunteers
- Saturday October 26th - mulching and taking out saplings
- Skipping the November clean-up
- There was a questions about a bush in the park dedicated in Memory of Patty Hamilton – no one had any information regarding it. The plant is dead – maybe we as a PAC can replace it?
- Cool plant in the prairie – Prairie Dock: the roots go 14 feet deep and can withstand a lot
- Stantec was in Winnemac today and they took out golden rod and many saplings

Park Supervisor: Lisa – not here

Mary is concerned about a shooting that took place near Hamilton and Argyle. Two guys with a handgun and a rifle shot at someone near the park, and the person they shot at fired back. She talked to the Alderman, who added it to the menu. Mary also pointed out that the Park District

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 6:15 PM

probably doesn't have the funds for anything like this. She asked if the PAC has any influence with the Park District.

We also talked about the possibility of adding more lighting at the corner of Hamilton and Argyle but decided to hold off on that discussion until next month.

Public Bathrooms: Jacob

- He is going to get some committee meetings planned – he's asking that anyone that is interested in being on the committee to reach out to him to get on the email list for the meeting.

Facility & Grounds: Anne Sylvan / Margaret / President – not here – no update

Youth Garden Learning Center: Mike Roach was not present – no update

The next Winnemac Park Advisory Council Meeting will be Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 at 6:15 pm in Amundsen HS RM 118. Please join us if you are able.

Summary of Action Items:

- Jacob and Tessa will post signs in the park for the meeting – at least 14 days before
- Cathy will follow-up with the Alderman's office to get it into the newsletter