

Winnemac Park Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Time: 6:15pm at Amundsen High School Library, Room 118

Voting members in attendance (8 total): Chelsea Brown, Tessa Groll, Claire Howard, Dave Miretzky, Deb Miretzky, Mary O'Connor, Anne Sylvan

Other meeting attendees (6 total): Kierstin Siegl, Jeff Borden, Lisa Ragucci, Amy Reeder, Mike Pavilon, Kelsey Poole

OPENING

Introduction and Call to Order

- Call to order
- Agreed that a quorum was present
- All those in attendance introduced themselves, including some first-time attendees

Approval of Minutes

- May meeting minutes approved (May 14, 2025)

Approval of Agenda

- June agenda unanimously approved (June 11, 2025)
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PARK SUPERVISOR REPORT

Presented by Lisa Ragucci, Park Supervisor, Winnemac Park

UPCOMING PARK EVENT:

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Movie Featured: Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025

UPDATES TO BASEBALL FIELD: Likely to be done sometime in late autumn; this is due to Com-ed and various electrical needs that need to be coordinated with the new light installation. These lights will be turned off at 10pm and are to be in use during games only.

PORTABLE BATHROOMS: Current portable bathrooms will be moved to more feasible locations that allows easier accessibility for park patrons | Provided by: Welles Park Parents Association (WPPA)

WINNEMAC KIDS DAY CAMP: will be running in the park from June 23st - August 1st

COMMENTARY

Public Comment: none

Member Comment: Tessa noted that during warmer months (busy season), people tend to use the black trash receptacles for dog waste as it is located at the exit of the park. Once overflowed, it begins to pile on top of the garbage can, being exposed for days. We discussed potentially looking into stations that have waste bags and covered receptacles where this occurs, but we run into the issue of who is removing the waste from that station. Because there are covered garbage cans in Winnemac (green and blue bins), waste needs to be thrown here, versus the ones that are dumped by hand.

TREASURER REPORT

Discussed by Deb and Claire (future treasurer)

Raw data of bank statements and credit card transaction had been supplied but information was incomplete. They were unable to confirm with Chicago Parks Foundation which expenses had been paid. As a result it was difficult to provide a YTD report on finances. It seemed that we currently have \$12,628 as a YTD total for income.

Swipe Simple machine-use: There is uncertainty about who and how could handle money and if fingerprinting is required in order to conduct transactions or collect donations at the event; WFFA is free but people will be able to donate on-site. We do have a donation page made with a QR code that goes directly to SwipeSimple. The machines allow an instant transaction.

OLD BUSINESS

Fundraising Campaign: Our first-ever fundraising week brought in ~\$1300 toward the Advisory Council (Thank you to: Dave Cady, Tessa Groll, and Sarah Harpring). This was promoted in various ways through WPAC members and our social media.

Call for Volunteers: WFFA will need additional individuals to assist with various needs around the park during WFFA (entry, individuals who can provide assistance, etc.) as well as flyering in the two weeks before July 4. If you or someone you know wants to volunteer, please let us know!

The link to sign up can be found here: [SIGN-UP LINK](#) or contact debmiretzky@gmail.com

NEW BUSINESS

Winnemac Fourth for All

WFFA report regarding donors, vendors, etc. The interest for this event is strong; we have three banners currently hanging in the park to promote Fourth for All, and promotions active on our WPAC social media pages (Instagram, Facebook, Website). Chelsea has been working very hard with our vendors and those providing entertainment. Despite having less room than we did last time due to the construction

upon the turf fields, we are enthusiastic about people gathering a bit easier than last year while having ample activities to keep kids and parents busy.

At this time we have the following individuals/organizations contributing to our event:

- Disc Golf provided by Disc Golf Chicago
- Soccer Games ("score on a coach") provided by Soccer Stars Chicago
- Puppet Bike
- Chicago Ornithology Society
- Face Painting provided by Lucy Gerardi of Fun to See Face & Body Painting an
- Card Magic by Rob Mendell
- Accordionist by Light-Up Tunes
- Balloon Animals by Jay Collen of Such Magic
- Yoga Class provided by Bloom Yoga
- Lego/Stem activities provided by Snapology Chicago
- Acoustic Guitar by Will Fancher (Old Town School, Wiggleworms)
- Aikido Demonstration provided by Kiku Matsu Aikido
- Jiu Jitsu provided by Redzovic Jiu Jitsu
- Full Moon Jam (workshop and main event)

Sponsor list: Rogers Park Montessori, JCYS, Scooterworks, Hoan Huyun, Gio's Bar & Grill, Bloom Yoga, School of Rock Andersonville, Andre Vasquez, Maggie O'Keefe, Bridget Degnen, Mike Simmons.

Full Moon Jam will be hosting a workshop prior to their event, starting at 6:00pm. Their main event begins at 7:00pm. This will have 50 spots. A handful of spots will be dedicated and reserved for our sponsors, etc. Any remaining spots will be open to the public. We will be composing a message regarding sign up for the WPAC Facebook, Instagram, and webpage. Names will be taken and if more people are interested than we have spots, we will determine a way to raffle off the spots.

Outreach to members/community: Providing or sending a google form to encourage individuals to share their concerns and ideas for the park in the fall was discussed. This will help us direct funding toward various events, activities, amenities, and address concerns directly. Our website has a submission form that allows others to drop a line or comment and it will go to our WPAC Gmail account (winnemacpac@gmail.com)

Fleet Feet Gift Certificate: Fleet feet provided a donation via Gift Card; because we are unable to raffle this or do not have a format to give it away at the event, we did gift this to Chelsea, who is a massive contributor in getting WFFA put together (who is also a runner). This was unanimously decided upon by members present. Thank you, Chelsea!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nature Committee

Amy Williamson not present for meeting, full report not given and some insight may be missed.

Walk-and-Talks

The first Winnemac Park Walk-and-Talk tour of the year was hosted by **Tessa Groll** and **Mary Jude Ramirez** was a success; they highlighted the many wonders of Winnemac, in the form of wildflowers, birds, trees, alongside providing informative insight about various species, stages of growth, and identification.

Edward Warden of Chicago Ornithological Society led a successful Walk-and-Talk on Memorial Day weekend, where the group collectively spotted ~20 species of birds during their walk attuned to beginner birders.

Tessa is interested in doing more nature/bird walks for all ages/experience levels. There is consideration to work closer with Chappell Elementary as many young kids have gained an interest in birding. Mary Jude has also expressed interest in continuing these offerings, making joint tours very possible in the future.

Work Days

Our most recent work day was hosted on May 31st where our fantastic volunteers removed bindweed from many of our prairie patches. It seems to have survived the burn and is getting a little too friendly among the Asters. Trash removal was also done on this day.

Movement in the Park Committee

Bloom Yoga will offer two free yoga classes, one on **July 21** and one **August 9**, sponsored by WPAC.

Jacob has offered to potentially host a Women's Self-Defense Class in the park if there is interest in doing so. Everyone at the meeting was enthusiastic about this possibility. We can see if there is further interest in fitness activities via the outreach survey.

Performance Arts Committee

Dave Cady not present for meeting, full report not given and some insight may be missed.

Midsommar Flight will land in Winnemac at the end of July. This is a free Shakespeare in The Park event that will take place once each day over the weekend. Tessa will be promoting the event using their materials via social media (Facebook, Instagram, Website)

Play: Love's Labor Lost

Dates: July 25, 26, 27

Times: 6:00pm on Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26 | 2:00pm on Sunday, July 27

Shakespeare's **Motley Crew** will perform Midsummer Mayhem in Winnemac Park

Dates: August 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

Time: 6:00pm

CLOSING

Adjournment | **Next Meeting:** August 13, 2025 at 6:15pm, location TBD

Minutes submitted by Tessa Groll