

Winnemac Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – 6:15pm
Amundsen HS 118

Registered Members Present ✓:

	Name	V		Name	V
✓	Manny Vega (President)	Y		Deb Miretzky	
✓	Dinakar Vinnakota (Treasurer) (Administration Committee)	Y		Anne Sylvan (Field/Grounds Committee)	Y
✓	Cathy Vega (Secretary)	Y		Margaret O'Connor (Field Improvement / TIF Committee)	N
✓	Amy Williamson (Nature Committee)	Y		Johanna Raimond (WP Tennis)	N
✓	Elvia Heneghan (Fund Raising Committee)	Y	✓	Mike Lonergan	N
✓	Jacob Schuster (Administration Committee)	Y	✓	Kristen Lonergan	N
	David Cady Jr. (Performing Arts in the Park Committee)	Y		Christian Blume	N
✓	Mary O'Connor (FFA24 Service Sourcing)	Y		Eleanor Arnold	N
	Russ Klettke (FFA24 Communication) (Excused schedule conflict)	Y		Alyssa Edes	N
✓	Dave Miretzky	Y		Mike O'Keefe	N

Chicago Park District Representation ✓:

✓	Lisa Ragucci (CPD Park Supervisor)		

Community ✓:

✓	Lauren Chojnacki	✓	Jayson von Osinski
✓	Philomena Kilcouner	✓	Mary Jude Rameriz
✓	Tessa Groll		

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Manny called the meeting to order at approximately 6:17 PM and there were introductions as there were many new community members.

Public comment:

-Philomena spoke about dogs off leash in the park running up to community members and through the prairie

-Dave suggested that they attend the local CAPS meeting

-Lisa advised that there were at least 10 signs in the park regarding off-leash dogs

-Manny made it clear that the PAC has no authority to enforce laws, but said that the community can either call 311 or go onto the 311 app and report it. Animal control and police can issue citations where park security can only tell dog owners to leash their dog.

-Jacob pointed out that the community is 50/50 on many things, but our mission is to bring the community together

New Business:

-Lost and Found: It was mentioned that it may be beneficial for the community. Many ideas were thrown out. Mike thought a barrel where people could put items would work well and protect the items from the elements. Community members could drop items off in the park district office (before and after school). The group decided that there may be too many with the 2 schools on the park grounds and that it would be difficult to maintain.

-Service Requests: Greg submitted a ticket to have the gate on the playground repaired. Lisa requested more garbage cans due to baseball and 4 additional cans were brought to the park.

-Members were concerned by the lack of recycling or trash in the recycling. There is not much that the WPAC can do about this. There are recycling cans in the park, but the WPAC cannot police the community's usage of these.

-There was concern that the WPPA only has one porta potty in the park in the summer. Jacob mentioned that it was already overflowing and members witnessed basketball players pass up the porta potty for the nature area.

-Seeds of Change is having a native plant sale on May 11th at 9 AM. Volunteers are needed, but need to have level 1 volunteer status since they would be working with the students.

Committee Reports:

Natural Areas Report – Amy Williamson

-Earth Day went well and approximately 55 people showed up. The name tags were good for introductions and meeting people.

-May 11, 2024 will be a work day. This work day will be a closed work day for people on the natural areas committee. They could use a few more people if any members have a partner or trustworthy friend that may be interested. It will be physical labor consisting of planting plants from the seeds of change and other donations.

-The committee obtained permission to put a wood chip path through the prairie across from the Children's Garden. They will also be cutting back some plants in a section of the big prairie (parallel to the stadium).

-Amy asked Lisa if she could use the restrooms for this work day - have to check on staffing.

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-The first of two walk and talk with Edward Warton (the liaison between CPD and the groups) will be the evening of Thursday, May 23rd. There will be 2 groups of 20 that can participate and Amy asked that it not get posted on social media or be widely announced. The session will be offered to Natural Area committee members, WPAC members and then community if there is still space. There will be a second walk and talk planned in August and possibly another in September.

-There was a question regarding the dead plants and the height of the prairies. There was no burn completed, but they did do a high cut. It's possible that there may be a proper burn in the fall.

Winnemac Forth for All:

Disc Golf:

-Mike with Chicago Disc Golf Authority will be facilitating the Disc Golf tournament. He talked a bit about the popularity of disc golf and that there are over 1500 members, but no courses in the city of Chicago.

-They plan to bring a pop-up course to the park and will have interested parties register in advance (sign-up will be 10-minute increments). They are excited because this is the first event like this in the City.

-There will be a tournament, but they will also bring 3 smaller holes that the community can try out (no registration needed).

-They will be obtaining the insurance policy for anyone 5+

-They discussed that they may be able to get discs with a logo or 4th of July themed.

Full Moon Jam:

-Deven from Full Moon Jam came to talk about their part in the Winnemac Fourth for All – they will be the main event

-This year is the 20th Anniversary of Full Moon Jam.

-They will bring 40-120 fire performers. They are planning to rope off an area double the size of a ball diamond) just south of the school (west of the parking lot).

-They usually bring 2000-4000 attendees to their events, but they usually don't do it on the 4th of July

-Deven has spoken to a sergeant from the 20th District and they said that they would be present for the event

-They have 20-30 staff members and some are trained in de-escalation

-They advised that at the end of the night, they will be encouraging their group to clean up

Permits:

-We will need to change the permit from kickball to disc golf

-We need to have a security plan in place and once all the documents are received, they need to be sent to obtain the permit

Fundraising:

-We are still \$5000 shy of our fundraising goal. We need to fundraise more and reach out to local businesses to get sponsors.

-Someone mentioned reaching out to Alderman Vasquez to keep him updated on where we are at with fundraising

Misc:

-It was mentioned that we need more kid friendly events/activities. Devon mentioned that he knew someone who may want to do a workshop.

-We talked about different kids vendor options (balloon twisters, magic, bubble person, etc). Someone mentioned that the vendors with permits may do it for the tips and may not want to be paid a lot

Adjourn: Manny Vega moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:26PM