

Winnemac Park Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 14, 2025
(6:15pm at Amundsen High School Library, Room 118)

Voting members in attendance (12 total): Chelsea Brown, David Cady Jr., Tessa Groll, Sarah Harpring, Claire Howard, Dave Miretzky, Deb Miretzky, Mary O'Connor, Mary Jude Ramirez, Jacob Schuster, Anne Sylvan, Amy Williamson

Other meeting attendees (5 total): Kira Bolos, Jeff Borden, Lisa Ragucci, Beth Wolf, Jon Woolwine

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

- 4/9/2025 minutes unanimously approved

Approval of Agenda

- 5/14/2025 agenda unanimously approved

Special Guest: Beth Wolf from Midsommer Flight

- Midsommer Flight has been offering free Shakespeare in Chicago parks since 2012, currently performing in up to 6 parks per summer on the North, South, and West sides of Chicago
- This year's play selection is *Love's Labour's Lost*, a romantic comedy
- Performances at Winnemac Park will be July 25 at 6pm, July 26 at 6pm, and July 27 at 2pm, cast members will arrive approximately an hour and a half before each show starts
- The performance will be approximately 90-100 minutes with no intermission, and will be done without lighting or sound
- Seating is first come, first served, and audience members are welcome to bring blankets, chairs, and picnic supplies
- The precise performance location in Winnemac is not yet decided, but a few ideas were mentioned
 - Beth will take another walk through the park to get an idea of what area will work

best for their production

→ Lisa will check what is on the baseball schedule for the show dates

- The cast and crew will have some rehearsals in the park leading up to the performance dates
- Midsommer Flight has a connection with Night Out in the Parks, and should be able to secure an additional porta potty for the weekend of the performances
- Midsommer Flight will accept donations, collected at the end of the show through cash, credit, or a QR code (linked to PayPal)
- After the show on Sunday (7/27), there will be a possible gathering at Gio's with cast and community members
 - Jacob knows the owner of Gio's, and agreed to help connect Beth to get the gathering set-up
- How WPAC members can help:
 - Share posters and postcards throughout the community (Beth will provide for distribution once they are printed)
 - Post and share digital copies of Midsommer marketing materials (Beth will provide for distribution once they are finalized)
 - Follow and tag *@midsommer.flight* on Instagram and Facebook
 - Help get the word out about the post-show gathering at Gio's on Sunday 7/27
- Send all other questions about the Midsommer Flight performances to Beth via David

Park Supervisor Report: Lisa Ragucci

- Welles Park Parents Association (WPPA) is supposed to provide 2 additional porta potties that will be located near the main parking lot
- A work order has been put in for the damaged bench near Chappelle
- Jacob shared that park visitors have pointed out dogs have been digging holes throughout the park
 - We should politely call out the behavior to dog owners when it occurs, and encourage them to follow rules and be good neighbors
 - There was no objection to the idea of self-repairing the holes when possible, by filling them with dirt
- The temporary fence at Amundsen should come down May 23rd
- Jacob shared that some park visitors have expressed concern over the commercial banners on the SE field's fences
 - Lisa shared that these are sun shade, and are provided by WPPA which is a park

partner (they share equipment with Winnemac Park, and are a revenue stream for parks programming)

- Lisa confirmed that any banners WPAC wants to put up for WFFA will require approval
- There is not a clear update on the new baseball field's timeline
- June 13th there will be a screening in the park of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, the movie

Public Comment

- none

Member Comment

- none

Treasurer's Report

- Jacob shared that between our two accounts, WPAC has approximately \$10,750
- It would be beneficial, especially with the upcoming WFFA event, to raise more funds

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment of Bylaws to Define Quorum

- **There was a motion to modify the WPAC bylaws to define a quorum by using the following definition:**
"A 'quorum' shall be defined as seven (7) voting members including at least two members of the Executive Board OR one-half of the current active voting members of the PAC including at least two members of the Executive Board, whichever is LEAST."
→the motion was seconded and passed with more than a 2/3 majority vote
→the bylaws should be updated to reflect this amendment

Small Donor Fundraising Campaign: David & Tessa

- WPAC will host it's first "Fundraising Week" from May 19-May 25, 2025
- Donations should be made through the WPAC website, and it was confirmed that donors should automatically receive a receipt for any donation they make through our set up with SwipeSimple
- Sarah will send participation instructions and a fundraising week reminder to the WPAC members so that they can be ready to participate in this initiative throughout

the week, as well as a fundraising “kickoff” email to all of our WPAC contacts and volunteers with text that was crafted by Tessa, and will go out Monday, May 19

- Tessa will make social media posts through our WPAC accounts with a graphic she designed, encouraging neighbors and community members to support Winnemac Park
- 100% of the money donated will go directly into the park

NEW BUSINESS

Request from Jake for Volunteers and Volunteer Coordinator for Day-Of WFFA

- WFFA volunteer needs include a volunteer coordinator, people to stand at the welcome tents on the East and West sides of the park (2), floaters (2+), and other opportunities
- WPAC members should send their availability between 9:00 am & 10:00 pm on July 4th to Jacob
- WPAC will need to review our WFFA park permit to verify if and how we can accept donations at the event

Additional Signage?

- The general consensus was additional signs in the park are not likely to change the behavior of those already breaking park rules

Move to Paperless (or less paper) Agenda

- **There was a motion to not print the agenda for meetings each month, or to only print a few copies for potential non-member meeting attendees. WPAC members can reference the agenda individually, which will be sent via email prior to each meeting.**
→the motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote

Bloom Yoga Events Sponsored by WPAC: Deb

- **There was a motion for WPAC to sponsor free Bloom Yoga classes in the park in June and August**
→ the motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote

Disc Golf Practice Hole

- There is interest in adding one Disc Golf Practice Hole somewhere in the park
→the cost would be approximately \$500

→there is not enough space for an entire disc golf course, but this could be a way to engage with neighbors who have an interest in this kind of recreation

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nature Committee

- The first Winnemac Park walk and talk tour of the year will be led by Tessa and Mary Jude on Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 am
- There will be another Winnemac Park walk and talk tour led by Edward Warden on Sunday, May 25 at 9:00 am, that will focus on birds in the park
- Last Sunday new native plants were purchased and planted
- A small DIY bird bath has been installed in one of the natural areas
- The next Natural Areas Workday will be Saturday, May 31
- 2 new benches have appeared in the park, and seem to move around a bit, but are being enjoyed

Movement in the Park Committee

- Chair position currently open
- Would be great to kickstart more movement opportunities in the park
- If WPAC members know someone who could lead movement activities or classes (such as yoga, self defense, martial arts, etc.) please invite them to host an event at our park
→events would require a permit, but would have no cost if the event was sponsored through WPAC

CLOSING

Adjournment

- meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: June 11, 2025 at 6:15pm, location TBD

Minutes submitted by Sarah Harpring