

Winnemac Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday May 11, 2023 at 6pm

Acting Chairperson (Manny Vega): meeting called to order at 6:03PM

**Introductions:**

Attendees introduced themselves:

- Anne Ryan
- Cathy Vega
- Mike Roach
- Dave Miretzky
- Anne Sylvan
- Lisa Ragucci
- Deb Miretzky
- Manny Vega
- Amy Williamson
- Mike Vacala
- Linda Vacala
- Elvia Heneghan

Manny:

- Established Cathy Vega to be the meeting secretary.
- Proposed that we follow an agenda created to move the meeting forward and stay on task.
- Motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting – approved

**Elect Officers/ Committee Heads :** Random order of positions needing to be filled: Secretary, Treasurer, VP, President and committees/groups

- Manny read through the job description of each position
- Treasurer: No one volunteered. An individual not present (Liz) was nominated by Dave and it was the nomination was not seconded. As nominations were being received of PAC members present at the meeting. Elvia may know of an interested party and will reach out to that individual to discuss.
- Secretary: Manny nominated Cathy. It was seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- Vice President: Amy nominated Dave Miretzky. It was seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- President: Dave nominated Manny. It was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**Committees:**

- Nature Areas - Dave nominated Amy Williamson. She accepted and the vote was unanimous. She will be the chairperson of this committee. Anne Sylvan expressed her interest and will be part of this committee.
- Fundraising – There were no volunteers. Dave suggested that it shouldn't be a committee at this time and we have different people chairing each event. This suggestion was agreed upon by the members.
- Communications/Social Media Chairperson: Amy nominated Anne Ryan. She accepted and the vote was unanimous. She will oversee communications to the public and will work on creating a website for the WPAC.

**New Business:**

- All elected officers will need to fill out the Volunteer Application for Adults (attached to the previous meeting minutes emailed out) and sent them directly to Maria Stone.

- Creations/Edits to the By-laws – Manny and Dave will review the By-Laws, make any needed updates and email those out to the members so that the WPAC By-Laws can be voted on at the next meeting.
- Establish 501c3 through Chicago Parks Foundation - Deb volunteered to see what this entails and Manny advised that Willa is the contact.
- Manny advised that an email was received from a patron looking to see if bathrooms were available this Saturday, May 13, 2023. Lisa advised that the bathrooms are never available on weekends and that she is the only staff member at Winnemac Park currently and they are not able to just be opened and left unattended.
- Lisa went over the rules for individuals that want to have a picnic/party in the park. 50 people or under need a picnic permit and more than 50 people would need a special permit, but no bathrooms would be made available.
- Manny asked if someone could drop a porta potty – they could, but would need a permit
- Cathy advised that all that information is available on CPD website and will forward the link to Manny (<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/permits-rentals/picnics-festivals-other-events>).
- Manny proposed the WPAC selling popcorn at the park on June 10<sup>th</sup> during the Bowmanville Block Garage Sales – the group decided it was too soon to participate in that event. Amy mentioned that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July may be a good day to sell items in the park (popcorn, water, etc.).

#### **Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks:**

- Manny proposed the fireworks would be a good opportunity to generate donations.
- Manny proposed handing out stickers directing patrons to the newly launched site, information on the future park plans, & how to donate. The group decided that maybe this would be a bad time to hand out flyers as most people would just want to debate the issue.
- Elvia mentioned that magnets with the WPAC website information would be useful.
- Manny brought up the bathrooms being open and Lisa advised that the only way to do that would be to plan an event in the stadium for that night.
- Mike Vacala mentioned that they had done a band play previously and it provided a fun event for community members to showcase their talent and a safe space for the community to observe the fireworks.
- Lisa advised that Mickey Pruitt (the CPS Director of Sports) would need to be contacted to make this happen.
- Members mentioned we could reach out to the surrounding schools if it was happening to see if there were bands that would be interested.

#### **President – Manny Vega:**

- Manny proposed using [winnemacpac.org](http://winnemacpac.org) for the WPAC website and the members agreed to that. Manny and Anne Ryan will touch base regarding the creation of the website (currently held with GoDaddy's parked service). The meetings and meeting minutes can be posted here.
- Dates and times of upcoming meetings:
  - June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the meeting room under the stadium (go to the east stadium entrance and it's the door on the left).
  - Michael Lange was invited to this meeting to discuss the TIF updates to Winnemac Park, but there has been no response from him to date so unsure if he will be attending.
  - The WPAC will also meet on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6PM in the meeting room under the stadium (or in the bleachers if it's nice and we prefer to meet there).
  - The members decided that we will skip meeting in August and meet in September. We can schedule the meeting if needed and/or specific committees can meet.
- Broader communication to the public about the upcoming meetings. Manny would like the message to be consistent & from one source (maybe go through Anne Ryan), put on the website being created and update to the Alder calendar (this can easily be done by filling out a form on the Alderman's website).

### **TIF – Winnemac Developments:**

- No update yet – just approved at the last City Council meeting
- Manny emailed Michael for update and to invite him to the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting – no response
- Cathy left a voicemail for an update– no response
- We discussed inviting Principals from both schools to the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group decided we should invite them if Michael Lange attends, but not if he isn't. Amy mentioned that they are busy and we should give them the date now to get it on their calendar (or their representative's calendar).

### **Earth Day 4/22 – Deb Miretzky:**

- It was a success and there was a good turnout despite the weather
- Manny mentioned that the bathrooms were supposed to be open during the event, but they weren't
- If there are funds – coffee and donuts could be provided in the future
- Amy mentioned that it would be nice to go out after the events and/or meetings as that may attract more members to the group. She noted that some attendees were there for a social aspect to “meet others”.

### **Natural Areas Committee - Amy Williamson: No update**

#### **Park Supervisor – Lisa**

- She is concerned that she is now the only staff member running the park. The positions of Recreation Leader and Instructors are vacant. Lisa mentioned that one of the positions has been posted with the CPD for a year with no applicants. The absence of these positions hinders the classes and events able to be held in Winnemac Park.
- Lisa mentioned that for the bathrooms to be opened- an employee needs to sit there the entire time. They are not able to just open the restrooms and leave them open with no one monitoring.
- June 17th - Movie in the park by the Park District @ dusk. The movie will be The Neverending Story.
- June 26<sup>th</sup> – Summer Day Camp Starts. Last Day of Summer Camp is August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-7PM is Toddlers, Tunes and Turtles near the youth garden
- Shakespeare's Motley Crew will return to Winnemac Park for the 11<sup>th</sup> year performing their Midsummer Mayhem. The play is on Saturdays and Sundays between the dates of July 29-August 27 and is 45 minutes.

#### **Save Winnemac Tennis- Anne Ryan**

- No update at this time but would like to ensure that the tennis courts are properly re-
- We discussed inviting Jill from USA Tennis – she may just need to touch base with Michael Lange or the point of contact for the project once we have more details.

#### **Winnemac Park Unleashed: No update**

#### **Winnemac Park Youth Garden - Mike Roach:**

- Mike appreciated the help on Earth Day. He accomplished in 4 hours what took him weeks to do last year
- There will be a Winnemac Park Youth Garden “Thank You and Info Session” pizza party this Friday, May 12, 2023 from 5-7PM in the garden. He reached out to Roots Pizza and they donated 10 pizzas. The forecast does not look promising and it will be rescheduled if there's rain.
- Deb offered to email this information to the Earth Day volunteers.
- Amy Williamson added it to the Amundsen newsletter

#### **School representatives / LSC Members: No update**

President: Motion to Adjourn Meeting - 7:04PM