

Winnemac Park Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, April 9, 2025  
(6:15pm at Gio's Bar & Grill, 4857 N Damen)

**Voting members in attendance (11 total):** Chelsea Brown, David Cady Jr., Tessa Groll, Sarah Harpring, Dave Miretzky, Deb Miretzky, Mary O'Connor, Jacob Schuster, Anne Sylvan, Dinakar Vinnakota, Amy Williamson

**Other meeting attendees (6 total):** Jeff Borden, Alison Donnelly, Claire Howard, Daniel Koslousky, Dan Pulka, Nina Wilfred

## **OPENING**

### Introduction and Call to Order

- all those in attendance introduced themselves, including some first-time attendees
- call to order
- agreed that a quorum was present

### Approval of Minutes

- 3/12/2025 minutes unanimously approved

### Approval of Agenda

- 4/9/2025 agenda unanimously approved

### Park Supervisor Report

- no park supervisor present

### Public Comment

- none

### Member Comment

- Amy shared an update about a Witch-hazel bush on the edge of the softball field. Reportedly a softball coach took it upon themselves to pull it out. The principal and athletic director at Amundsen have been contacted, have apologized, and will talk with all the softball coaches. Amy is in discussion with the Chicago Parks to make sure the bush is replaced.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Financial Report

- we are coming up short on 2025 WFFA fundraising, and need to push to cover the base event
  - we want to do a bigger event this year, all of those things cost money
  - last year, Andre raised approximately \$6,000 for us, he said he would try to do the same this year which would bring us to \$15,000 raised
- insurance could be higher this year due to an expected 2,500 people in attendance
- there was a discussion on fundraising communication
  - someone asked if we have an email list, physical pamphlets, and asked if we are making direct efforts to fundraise directly in the neighborhood
  - Tessa shared that we will now be working on these efforts, in part, through social media, by following the accounts of local business and building those relationships
  - it was asked if we have considered a WPAC “fundraising week” or focused period of time where we are all flooding social media with a coordinated attempt to ask the public to donate to WPAC—Tessa and Dave said they would connect to potentially lead this effort
  - Jacob mentioned that we have 5 or 6 food trucks that are each donating 5-10% of their sales from the WFFA event to us
- it was mentioned that when making a donation, there is no way for donors to note that they want their dollars to go specifically to WFFA, and it is difficult for WPAC to guarantee that each individual dollar is going to WFFA versus another project that WPAC is leading, therefore we should use intentional language such as: “When donating to WPAC, your money *will help make events like the Winnemac Fourth For All possible!*” as opposed to “Your money *will go to the Winnemac Fourth For All event.*”

### Membership Update

- Manny Vega, previous president of WPAC, has officially stepped down from the board
  - Manny handled a lot of WPAC’s tech, so we need assistance with tech moving forward, if anyone on the council is tech inclined
  - check with Tessa to figure out the specific tech needs
  - tech costs and upkeep are currently around \$1,600

## Social Media Update

- Tessa has taken leadership on our social media
  - just started Saturday and Sunday and already going well
  - asks that we follow the WPAC Instagram: @winnemacparkadvisory

## Earth Day Event

- Chicago historian Sherman Dilla Thomas is leading a tour through the park and West Andersonville on Saturday @2:30pm
  - this is not a WPAC event
- we are over capacity for the Earth Day event (30 spots originally, 40 people currently signed up), some people from Lincoln Square, some through Friends of the Park
- the first official workday will be Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 9am-Noon
  - Amy will send an email to remind everyone
- We will continue the educational programming that started last year
  - Edward Warden has agreed to lead two birding events in May and September (these will not be open to the public)
  - Tessa and Mary Jude will also be leading a walk-through to discuss birds and plants in the natural areas

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### WFFA 2025 Contract Delegation

- currently, according to our bylaws there must be approval from the executive board members to enter a contract; with all that needs to be accomplished for the 2025 WFFA event, Jacob mentioned the idea of expanding the ability to enter into contracts to all voting members, but only contracts related to WFFA 2025, nothing else
  - a 3-step process was discussed, and put into writing by Dinakar
- **There was a motion to amend the bylaws, specifically for this year, and specifically for the 2025 WFFA event planning using the following language and three-step process:**
  - “That the authority to enter into contracts for and by the Winnemac Park Advisory Council be delegated to the Executive Board of the Winnemac Park Advisory Council for the following types of contracts, and ONLY the following types of contracts: any and all contracts relating or pertaining to the execution of the 2025 Winnemac Fourth For All event.**
  - This will be done with the following 3-step process:**

- 1 – send an email notification to all active WPAC members including**
  - high-level description of services**
  - cost**
  - public comment via email**
- 2 – present to executive board**
- 3 – execute contract”**
- the motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote**

#### WFFA 2025 Disc Golf

- last year, disc golf was an important part of the WFFA event, we need to decide whether we want to incorporate it again this year or not
- Jacob mentioned he was leaning towards yes due to community enjoyment, and the benefit of having a unique physical activity component to the WFFA event, but is open to other feedback and thoughts
- many stated they were okay with the idea of having disc golf back, but perhaps with a shorter course and/or a shorter amount of time that it is played on the day of WFFA
  - the course will take up a lot of green space**
- Tessa mentioned the possibility of alternative physical activity options, such as soccer (though not sure if there is room for soccer now with recent field updates)
- Claire mentioned that she saw a lot of new faces at the park during last year’s WFFA that were visiting due to disc golf, which was great
- Deb asked if there are any costs to us associated with disc golf
  - Jacob responded that Mike paid for a lot of the incidentals from last year**
  - Jacob also stated that we should buy Mike’s crew water this year**
- Mike’s crew essentially was running the event because there were 9 of them, and very few of us from WPAC volunteering
- Jacob stated that Mike said he was willing to do disc golf at the WFFA event, though even if we vote yes tonight, it is not a guarantee that it will happen
- **There was a motion to pursue disc golf in some way at the 2025 WFFA event**
  - the motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote**

#### Quorum Definition

- quorum is not currently clearly defined, Jacob offered the idea of an addendum to our bylaws to define a quorum in such a way that would allow progress, but not chicanery

→there was discussion amongst present attendees on the particular phrasing of the potential bylaw modification

- **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.”**

**and putting it up for a vote at the WPAC May meeting.**

**→the motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Nature Committee

- Amy mentioned that there is an Amundsen student club called Seeds of Change that has a plant sale each year  
→we bought plants from them last year that were approved by the natural areas department
- **Amy moved that the Natural Areas Committee be given \$200 from WPAC’s funds to purchase plants from Seeds of Change**  
**→the motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote**
- two massive park bushes have been removed, Amy has worked out an arrangement where we will get a combination of large and small bushes to replace them
- a representative from Chicago Horticultural Society walked the park with Amy and was very pleased with our natural areas, they are something to be proud of
- excitement for what the natural areas will look like with the plants we seeded last year
- Tessa identified some non-native plants and dug them out

### Winnemac Fourth for All (WFFA) Committee

- WFFA items were covered during other portions of the meeting

### Performance Arts Committee

- July 25, 26, 27 are the confirmed dates for Midsommer Flight’s performances of *Love’s Labour’s Lost*  
→7pm on Friday and Saturday, and 3pm on Sunday  
→David invited the director to our next WPAC meeting (May)

- later this month we will be sent their press information
- the troupe will likely pop into the park in June to rehearse some
- no volunteers are needed for the event, but please come, and promote the show
- it was mentioned that it might be nice to connect our performance arts committee and the Midsommer Flight troupe with the Amundsen theatre club

#### Administrative Committee

- no updates discussed

#### Bathroom Committee

- no updates discussed

### **CLOSING**

#### Closing Comments

- Dinakar gave a shoutout to Jacob for his leadership in the role he has taken on

#### Adjournment

- meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting: May 14, 2025 at 6:15pm**

Minutes submitted by Sarah Harpring