Winnemac Park
Advisory Council

Winnemac Park Advisory Council, June Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 10th, 2026
Time: 6:15pm
Location: Stadium Room/Fieldhouse
Board Members: Jacob Schuster, Deb Miretzky, Claire Howard, Tessa Groll, Sarah Harpring

Introduction and Call to Order

Approval of May Minutes? Yes.
All Meeting Minutes can be found upon our website (www.winnemacpac.org/WPAC-meetings)

Approval of June Agenda? Yes

Members in Attendance (19 total, ~12 total voting members): Jacob Schuster, Deb Miretzky, Dave Miretzky, Tessa Groll, Jeff Borden, Mike Pavilon, Diana Diaz, Mary O'Connor, Joan Elias, Jessie Kauffman, Lu Firestein, Amy Reeder, Claire Howard, Lisa Ragucci, Sarah Harpring, Ron Rasmussen, Danielle Neergheen, Tony Correa

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Supervisor Report

Park Supervisor Report, Lisa Ragucci

PARK RUN 101:

The Chicago Parks Foundation is excited to launch Park Run 101 at Winnemac Park!

Led by a Certified Running Coach, Park Run 101 combines personalized coaching with the encouragement and accountability of a community training group. Participants will receive a customized training plan, bi-weekly coaching check-ins, weekly group runs, and educational workshops covering topics such as injury prevention, nutrition, recovery, race day preparation and more.

Over the course of the program, participants will work toward feeling strong and raceday ready for the Chicago Parks Foundation's Run for the Parks 5K on September 13th. Participation in the 5K is encouraged but not required.

Space is limited to just 20 participants to ensure individualized attention and a high quality experience. All that's required is a willingness to get moving, enjoy Chicago's parks, and take the first step toward your running goals.

👟 **Get additional information and register here:**
https://chicagoparksfoundation.givepulse.com/event/882953-park-run-101

6/22 - 7/31 - WINNEMAC KIDS DAY CAMP

8/1 - MOVIE IN THE PARK
Join us on August 1st to get Wicked for Good in Winnemac! We will be showing the first movie in the ~~sequel~~ series.

8/8 - CAMP WINNEMAC - EVENT IS SOLD OUT!
August 8th; celebrate a night surrounded by nature with the chance to camp in Winnemac Park! This opportunity is available to families of 6 to camp overnight in Winnemac Park.

9/3 - FIESTA MEXICANA
A family interactive musical event will take place on September 3rd

GRUB TREATMENT: FINALIZED

TRASH IN THE PARK: The trash overflow has gotten out of hand early in the season; we have spoken with Kiala and Lisa (Park District) to hopefully remedy the issue, which may include adding additional bins around the most popular areas of our park and spots of egress. Current pick-ups are Monday and Fridays; they were likely unprepared for the rush of individuals back in the park. The Park District covers the playground while Flood Brothers are responsible for the covered bins. Deb Miretzky inquired about bins for charcoal for WFFA; while no grilling is ever allowed in Winnemac, we do want to have them present as it is a better alternative than the base of trees shall it occur.

BALL PARK / TURF FIELD LIGHTS: Lights are hooked up, however, they create a loud "buzzing" noise which will need to be remediated for the sanity of players, coaches, neighbors, and park-goers. Tony Correa of CMBA inquired about additional outfield repairs and what he could expect in the coming months.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CURRENT FINANCIAL STANDING AS OF MAY, 2026
We currently have **~$16,494** in our account; this is a considerable jump from the ~$9,000 we had in May. Our fundraising week was very successful and brought in roughly ~$6,000 within 7 days. There are still payouts to be made regarding WFFA, but this brings us to a very comfortable status just weeks before the event.

Tessa discussed the idea of pursuing local businesses in groups to cover the costs of movies in the park; this would allow us to put them on more often and would allow us to get quality movies that would draw people to the park. This allows us to provide a free and engaging activity.

Jacob noted how successful our fundraising week was due to means of our incredible community and individuals who support our park and mission.

NEW BUSINESS

YES VOTE: refunding Amy Williamson $260 for new native growth for our prairies.

WFFA ART FAIR - Organized by Robert Lau and Jacob Schuster

Thus far, we have 22 artists signed up and ready to show off their talent at our upcoming WFFA Art Fair. **Joan Elias** asked about the Art Fair and what kind of art was needed or potentially missing to help round it out. Submissions are open until June 22nd and are still being vetted at this time and we will be finalizing artists in the coming weeks. Dave Miretzky needs to know a few additional details around the show for our permitting and to perhaps re-open our insurance costs (may or may not incur additional costs). He inquired about how the art will be displayed; this is still being outlined and it was proposed to take the conversation to a 1:1 setting to provide clarity.

JULY 12TH - EDGEWATER CASTLE FOOTBALL CLUB: Jacob Schuster is planning to have a party for some friends on their final game at Winnemac and hopes to have WPAC representation

WFFA RAFFLE: we will be having our first-ever raffle offered at this year's WFFA event. Prizes include gift baskets from 4Legs, a gym membership to LA Fitness, a brand new carry-on suitcase by Away, and gift certificates from Merz Apothecary, Lincoln Square Spice Shop, and Fleet Feet.

Items and prizes will be pictured and available for pick-up after the event. This mitigates the individual from having to be on-site when the winner is pulled. People will be able to put in a ticket for the exact item they want.

NATIONAL ANTHEM / RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENT: Will occur following the baseball game and prior to Full Moon Jam performance

MISS RUBY, NATURE STORYTIME IN THE PARK - JUNE, JULY, AUGUST
$50 FOR 30 MINUTES → WPAC VOTE: YES (Ruby Gibson)

NATURAL AREAS REPORT
Tessa Groll on behalf of Amy Williamson

Upcoming Volunteer Work Day: Saturday, June 27th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

May 30th Work Day Recap: We had ~20 folks lending a hand in our park and prairies and were able to get a lot done. We removed a lot of last season's growth (in patches that were not burned) and created room for our latest additions. Our work-day accomplishments include the following:

WILDFLOWER ADDITIONS: *Children's, Western & Eastern Prairies*
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
Lance-leaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis Lanceolata*)
Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

SHRUB ADDITIONS: *West Winnemac*
2 Chickasaw/Cherokee Plums
2 Swamp White Oaks
1 Red Osier Dogwood

SEDGE ADDITIONS *Children's & Eastern Prairies*
Plains Oval
Cooper Shouldered Oval Sedge
Palm Sedge

BINDWEED REMOVAL *Westernmost Prairie*
We are putting a strong focus on pulling at the root to reduce this focus at future work days; admittedly, many people really enjoy removing bindweed and are working to build a “bindweed army” of people who are dedicated to its eradication within our prairies.

Daily watering was conducted on all new plantings until the 2 week point; they have all taken spectacularly and we look forward to seeing the results!

Seeds of Change | **Amundsen:** The student group hosted their native plant sale on Saturday, June 6th; Amy was able to acquire a handful of plants for our prairies, allowing us to add variety to our pocket patches. This includes Early Figwort, Tennessee Coneflower, Bottlebrush Sedge, Rough Blazing Star, Spotted Beebalm and more! The WPAC voted YES and we will be refunding Amy on this lovely purchase from council funds **($260**).

BONUS WFFA OVERVIEW

Below is the list of current vendors that are slated to join us for our 3rd Annual WFFA. This is subject to change.

ACTIVITIES/VENDORS
Yoga Class, Bloom Yoga
Balloon Animals
Card Magic
P2 Soccer
Disc Golf
Ravenswood Neighbors Association
National Anthem Singer
Chicago Metropolitan Baseball
Snapology: STEM Activities
Chicago Ornithological Society
Fun to See Faces
Lita Keller, Tarot Reader
Story Time with Miss Ruby

ACOUSTIC MUSIC
(Accordion) - Daniel
(Guitar) - Will Fancher

HEADLINER
Full Moon Jam

FOOD TRUCKS
Limoni Belli
Tacomotura
Empanadas 5411
Kona Ice
Tom's Coffee
Reggie's
Double Dip Ice Cream
RITE TOILETS
Lita Keller

Minutes submitted by Tessa Groll, WPAC Secretary with edits and inclusions from Deb Miretzky (WPAC Vice President)