

Winnemac Park Advisory Council, November Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 (*final meeting of the year*)

Time: 6:15pm

Location: Amundsen Library

Voting members in attendance (11 total): Tessa Groll, Jacob Schuster, Amy Williamson, Jeff Borden, Mary O'Connor, Mike Pavilon, David Cady Jr., Anne Sylvan, Claire Howard, Deb Miretzky, Sarah Harping

Other meeting attendees (5 total, 3 new attendees): Nancy Rampson, Robert Lau, Diana Diaz, Ron Rasmussen, Amy Reeder

Introduction and Call to Order

Approval of October Minutes? Yes

Approval of Agenda? Yes

Treasurer Report

This overview and summary was provided by Treasurer, Claire Howard

We currently have \$2500 in our account; we need to decide how to best utilize and disperse this. Do we want to focus on WFFA (projected cost: \$12k+) or help to build other events?

Potential Bank Transfer: the WPAC is currently entertaining ideas of moving from 5/3 bank for our financial matters as there is nothing tying us to using their services. We would like to pursue more local banking options, such as Wintrust. An individual asked if there was a donation to the park that would coincide with a new partnership. Ron Rasmussen has offered to help with movement of financials as he has a sound background in this line of work.

Fundraising:

We aim to do an upcoming social media fundraising awareness; these efforts would extend to tapping into friends and family for smaller donations. **Giving Tuesday** falls on December 2nd, making it a great time to donate to our wonderful park!

Questionnaire Responses & Overview

This overview and summary was provided by Vice President, Deb Miretzky.

A survey circulated in our park (via posted QR code), social media outlets, and website from September to mid-October. In that time, we collected over 400 responses from Winnemac Park goers. These were pivotal in helping us prioritize our goals in 2026. A collective summary report of our results was sent to those who participated. These efforts were spearheaded by Deb Miretzky and Chelsea Brown.

→ Questionnaire findings:

Some of these results articulated the need to establish and underscore what our advisory council can and cannot do alongside providing greater insight into certain requests that are simply off the table (ie: dogpark → our park is part of CPS property, strongly prohibiting the chance of this occurring).

There has been a request for more activities for adults and providing options for all individuals (music, art, classes, etc.). This is especially relevant to our larger events, such as Winnemac Fourth For All, where it was more family-friendly activities and music themes that were provided. This is a priority for the WPAC.

Two concrete measures to come out of the survey findings were decisions by the board to:

- a. support a quarterly newsletter sent to the WPAC email list
- b. use the February 2026 meeting as a volunteer meeting to finalize and organize around 3-4 park events and 2-3 particular amenities for the park itself.

New Business

Looking to 2026:

In Q1 there will be a quarterly newsletter to provide updates on the park and council business, as well as the role and responsibilities of park advisory councils

Activity Planning:

A main focus for the PAC at the moment is agreeing upon 3-4 activities we could host for further community engagement through the course of 2026.

Calling all Volunteers!

In February 2026, the PAC aims to collaborate further with those who expressed interest in building our mission through volunteering. Many individuals noted they would like to help in ways such as fundraising, advocacy, and volunteering at/planning events. This “open house” would allow us to

solidify a volunteer plan moving forward and give us the chance to make a greater impact with the help of a larger community. The board needs to determine a location for this meeting.

Code of Conduct Outline, Standard Operating Procedures.

The Winnemac Park Advisory Council would like to solidify a more robust set of standard operating procedures that would allow us to set up future boards successfully, while also holding board members accountable. The Administration Committee will work on this and hopes to have this completed by the end of year 2025.

Upcoming Collaborations & Events

Cookies and Cocoa

This is an annual event hosted by Chappel's after-school program; we have collaborated with them in past years and aim to do so again this year with help of park supervisor, Lisa Ragucci. We would like to contribute (~\$100-\$200) in order to make this event special for the kids this holiday season. There is still plenty of time to donate to the WPAC, which helps bolster events such as these!

Date: Thursday, December 18th (*time to be announced*)

Expenditure projection: Less than \$200 to be allocated

Bloom Yoga Hosts: *Free Yoga In The Park*

The upcoming year will allow folks to hit the perfect tree pose here in the park as we have collaborated with Bloom Yoga for free classes from April to November (weather permitting) in 2026! These classes will take place on the second Saturday of each month from June-October starting at 10am, with the exception of the July 4 class.

Nature Committee Report

We will be hosting our last work day of the year on **Saturday, November 29th from 9am-12pm**. Those interested in volunteering can sign-up [here](#).

Amy Williamson reported that Winnemac is on the list for a scheduled burn, possibly in the pocket prairies and in the bigger prairies that were not mown. Last year this happened in December. If anyone is interested in being made aware of the burn the day of, you may call: (312)-742-4072 or email nature@chicagoparkdistrict.com

Amy reported our **Golden Eagle** fly-over (spotted by WPAC Secretary, Tessa Groll on Monday, November 3rd). While not uncommon to see around these parts this time of year, we do not often have them recorded here in Chicago/Cook County and those spotted are often found in Lake/McHenry/Will.

Public & Member Commentary:

Speed Bumps in The Park:

The use of scooters has become an issue here in Winnemac, as sadly, many teenagers use them recklessly or “scoot” at excessive speeds. This puts park-goers, dogs, and children at risk. We know that additional signage will not mitigate this issue and would like to see how we can tamp it down before it causes a larger problem or a severe injury. A few folks suggested adding speed bumps or some alternative that would allow those using scooters to exercise greater caution in our park.

Upon further discussion, this seems to be an issue that would extend to the Department of Transportation (DoT) as this is a certified and marked thruway for cycling/running, etc. Other issues were brought up, such as how speed bumps could pose inconvenience to those who have strollers or use wheelchairs and could become a nuisance to everyone else. It was agreed that the PAC was not in a position to solve the problem but would follow up with Alderman Vasquez and/or the Department of Transportation to request their involvement.

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