

Winnemac Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:15 PM

**Registered Members Present ✓:**

	Name	V	Info (corrections only)		Name	V	Info (corrections only)
✓	Manny Vega (President) Fundraising / Relationship Management	Y	On file	✓	Anne Sylvan	Y	On file
E	Dinakar Vinnakota (Treasurer) (Administration)	Y	On file		Margaret O'Connor (Field Improvement / TIF Committee)	N	On file
✓	Cathy Vega (Secretary) Communications	Y	On file		Johanna Raimond (WP Tennis)	N	On file
✓	Amy Wiliamson (Nature Committee)	Y	On file		Mike Lonergan (Movements in the Parks)	Y	On file
	Elvia Heneghan	Y	On file		Kristen Lonergan	Y	On file
✓	Jacob Schuster VP) (Administration Committee)	Y	On file		Christian Blume	N	On file
	David Cady Jr. (Performing Arts in the Park Committee)	Y	On file		Eleanor Arnold	N	On file
✓	Mary O'Connor	Y	On file		Alyssa Edes	N	On file
✓	Russ Klettke (FFA Committee)	Y	On file		Mike O'Keefe	N	On file
E	Dave Miretzky	Y	On file		Jayson von Osinski	Y	On file
✓	Deb Miretzky	Y	On file		Chelsea Brown	Y	On file
	Tessa Groll	Y	On file		Otto Barrone	N	On file
	Sarah Harpring	Y	On file		Emily Lewis	N	On file

**Key: Voting /Standing - Y or N**

**Notified of absence - E**

**Chicago Park District Representation ✓:**

	Name	Role	Email
E	Lisa Ragucci	Park Supervisor - CPD	On file
	Maria Stone	Community Engagement Manager	On file
	Greg Czajkowski	Park Area Manager -North	On file
	Arthur Richardson	Community Engagement Director	On file

Winnemac Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:15 PM

	Kate Thomas	Senior Project Manager - CPD Planning & Construction	On file
	Edward Warden	Community Stewardship Manager	On file

**Community ✓:**

#	Name	Email	Phone	Member Interest? ✓

Voting Members Present:

10 needed to meet quorum

Voting Members Present: **8**

Voting members present needing to meet quorum: **10**

Quorum Met: **No**

Public comments: None

Manny called the meeting to order at approximately 6:26 PM

**Park Supervisor's Report:** Lisa Ragucci - she's ill and couldn't make it Manny provided update.

-WPAC sponsored the cookies and hot cocoa. We budgeted \$150, but only spent:~ \$100 ,

~\$ 48 cash needs to be returned to the bank.

**Treasurer Report:** **Dinakar** is in Boston for business and could not make the meeting: Manny provided update.

-yearly fiduciary dues paid

-in good standing with the Fiduciary and Dinakar has paid the yearly fee and reported a necessary report of transactions throughout 2024.

-Outstanding – a board member will need to certify our simpleswipe payment technology before Feb. 10. There are penalties associated with a non-certified system.

Winnemac Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:15 PM

**Nature Committee: Amy Williamson**

- Decorative solar powered lights were placed in the park and received no complaints and lots of positive feedback. They were 4 strands and solar posts for around \$30 on Amazon. She would like us to consider the possibility of funding some more next year
- Friends of the park annual clean-up. Amy will be the site captain again this year and it will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025
- Amy has been talking with Edwin about more walk and talks this year. Edwin may reach out to some other people. We had 2 last year - hoping for maybe 6 this year.
- Will be receiving new native seeds from the park district - Amy requested ones we didn't already have in the park
- We didn't get everything burned that we wanted to. There are rose bushes near the children's garden that need to be addressed - Amy will take direction from Edwin as to when will be the best time to address the issue.

**Administration Committee Report: Jacob**

- There has not been a huge amount of work done in regard to quorum and attendance. He and Manny met over winter break, but didn't get a lot of work done as they would like the group to collaborate on the verbiage. They want to ensure that the people who are showing up and doing the work can vote and that others are not able to just come to a few meetings to vote on something they care about and then not come or participate.
- Jacob mentioned that we should discuss this at the next meeting but maybe limit it to 15 minutes. Deb mentioned it may be beneficial to prepare a doc with the wording ahead of time so that people can read and comment on it before the meeting. This would streamline the discussion at the meeting.
- There has been no activity in regard to the restrooms being reopened.

**Movement in the Park: Mike L. was not able to make it. Manny provided update.**

- He would like a permanent Frisbee Basket installed in Winnemac and feels that would generate interest ahead of the Fourth for All tournament event.
- Mike has joined another PAC and is hoping that they can get a whole course set up there. The park is to the west of the 40th Ward - there was speculation in the group that it could be Legion Park.
- Mike previously said that he was interested in participating in Winnemac Fourth for All, but we need to confirm this.

Winnemac Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:15 PM

**Performance Arts Committee:** David Cady Jr. Manny provided update.

- David has been in contact with Beth Wolf - Shakespeare in the park
- Beth was working on paperwork to get the event in Winnemac- she submitted it as if it was going to happen, but is waiting for the Park District to approve or deny
- It was mentioned that David would be a great candidate to getting event performers in the park

**Winnemac Fourth for All: Russ**

- Russ would like to get the communication out ASAP
- Manny talked to Reggie's - asked if they could bring 2 trucks and be the sole vendor. Manny told them we would be inviting other vendors and would still like a kickback to the WPAC. Reggie's talked about getting picnic tables set up and said they would work with us
- Russ would like to get some money back from food vendors - we did get money back from the Kona Ice and coffee trucks. The coffee truck should be invited back again, but earlier
- A digital marketing/graphic design point was brought up and Amy mentioned that - Tessa may be good at this
- Full Moon Jam is in and for a \$1000 extra offers prop instruction ahead of the Fourth for All Event
- Communications - Manny mentioned that Russ should reach out to Amy, Tess and Sarah
- Russ needs support in 3 areas: Entertainment, Day of the Event Volunteer and Security. Day of the Event Volunteer would be informational with tents at the entrances
- Jacob did this last year and said that he received some suggestions from parents last year. One of the concerns was the number of parents/kids and the lines for the events (face painting, balloon animals, etc.)
- Puppet Bike is in for this year
- Paws person who Russ talked with about bringing dogs, but that requires a lot of staff so not sure if this could happen
- Russ mentioned expanding the picnic time and calling it Family Fourth Time
- Dance teacher at River Park - PM Dance. org Phil Martini
- It was mentioned that the accordion player and magician were well received.
- Jacob is concerned that we need to get moving with the fundraising. It's already mid-January and the efforts have not begun
- Jacob also mentioned donation from the Alderman, but we have received no funds from him as of yet

Winnemac Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:15 PM

-Jacob and Russ agreed to lead the fundraising committee. Mary spoke up to support as well, but minimally.

**New Business -**

-Manny mentioned that several board members were planning on stepping down or not rerunning for the next term. The offices mentioned were the Secretary, Treasurer and President offices.

An earlier election than currently in our by-laws was suggested.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35PM