

THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Park Supervisor, Rebecca Medrano (312-747-6198)
Tuesday, NOVEMBER 12, 2024, 6:30-7:30 PM
(SPECIAL ELECTION FOR BOARD TREASURER)

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 13

PAC BOARD: (3)

Charles Williams	President
Lorraine Linnerud	Vice President
Ivette Williams	Secretary

PAC Members: (9)

Lisa Adams
Milton Chandler
Katrina Dillard
Maryann Drake
Mary Dunneback

PARK SUPERVISOR: (1)

Rebecca Medrano

Danielle Jones
Birgit LaVoie
Dan Niersbach
Becky Stevens

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:41 PM. Robert's Rules of Order were in effect.

II. NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

There were no new members or guests present. The PAC membership has a total of 46 members to date.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Williams asked for a Motion to accept Minutes from 10/8/2024.

Motion accepted by Maryann Drake; seconded by Dan Niersbach. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

IV. SPECIAL ELECTION

Vice President, Lorraine Linnerud, handed out ballots to the 11 eligible voting members present to fill the current vacancy of the Board Officer position of Treasurer. Rebecca tallied all votes cast and it was unanimously in favor of Daniel Niersbach as The Prairie Park Advisory Council's Board Treasurer for 2024-2025. The ballots will remain in custody of the park supervisor in an envelope and filed per the PAC By-Laws and Chicago Park District Guidelines.

V. MOTION(S)

Motion #1: Board President, Charles Williams, entered a Motion to hold virtual meetings on ZOOM in 2025 for the following two months: January (1/14) & February (2/11), and resume in-person meeting in March (3/11).

Motion accepted by Maryann Drake; seconded by Lorraine Linnerud. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

Motion #2: Board President, Charles Williams, entered a Motion for The Prairie PAC to make a 2024 end-of-year gift of \$150 to our mother park, Kennedy Park, c/o park supervisor, Rebecca Medrano, to use at her discretion to support children's park programming (for example: the purchase of a Christmas tree, holiday décor, bookshelf for little free indoor library for children, etc.).

Motion accepted by Lorraine Linnerud; seconded by Mary Dunneback. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Statement: Bank Statement and Treasurer's Report attached with detailed information. Charles Williams, as Interim Treasurer, gave a brief verbal summary of Treasurer's report and PAC's bank monthly activities from October 1-31, 2024. Beginning Bal. \$3,508.91; Total Deposits: \$87.00 ("Fall Social" donations); Total Expenses: \$192.97 (\$32.72 bank fee for SwipeSimple, \$50.00 "Fall Social" door prize gift card; \$110.25 Home Run Inn pizzas for "Fall Social"); Ending Bal. \$3,402.94.

VII. PARK SUPERVISOR

- **Grant Project Updates:** Rebecca has communicated with project manager, Kat Katsma, and she has confirmed that the sidewalk path will be at least 5 feet wide. The Build Illinois Grant expiration date is 10/31/25. Engineering firm has not been firmed up. Kat is not available for our December PAC meeting, but when there is a firm contract, she will meet (or Zoom) with our PAC in early 2025.
- **Park Requests:** There are no permits remaining for the rest of the year.
- **Calendar:** There are no park events currently scheduled.
- **Signage:** Signs will be posted around The Prairie Park with information: (1) when park closes; (2) permit is required; and (3) no open flames or barbecuing is allowed.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Park Events Planning Committee:** M. Dunneback – Full Committee Report was provided by Mary Dunneback in advance of meeting and verbal summary given at meeting. Please see report for full details. The "Fall Social" event on 10/15/24 was successful. The two door prize winners were Katrina Dillard and Dan Niersbach. The ping pong table was a big hit. Thankfully, we came in under budget. We received our first business sponsor: Home Run Inn. Later we received a second business sponsor, County Fair, and will have a free drawing at December's PAC meeting. We thank both our sponsors and all who participated and helped make this last event such a success. Committee Chairs: Mary Dunneback, JoAnn Altenbach.
- **Park Investment Committee:** L. Linnerud – Full Committee Report was provided by Lorraine Linnerud in advance of meeting, and verbal summary given at meeting of milestones completed and list of implementation considerations/questions for discussion with project manager at a future meeting. Lorraine Linnerud gave an example of the quarterly schedule of "Update Meetings" for *The Midway Plaisance End Improvement Project*. Please see report for full details. Committee Chair: Lorraine Linnerud.
- **Garden Committee:** D. Jones – Full Committee Report (with links to articles) was provided by Danielle Jones in advance of meeting, and verbal summary given at meeting. Waiting for the chip drop we requested to winterize garden. Volunteers are needed. Breanne Heath has garden application on hold until water access is installed in the SE area of The Prairie Park. Please see report for full details. Committee Chairs: D. Jones, D. Chandler.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- **11/20/24, Wed. (9:30 am):** Chicago Park District Budget Hearing. The General Superintendent & CEO presents the 2025 Budget to the Board of Commissioners @ Chicago Park District Administration Building, 4830 S. Western Ave. The public is invited.

X. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Giving Tuesday & End-of-Year Tax Deductible Donations Appeal. Please consider donating in any of 3 ways: (1) CASH donations at our PAC meetings; (2) CHECK made payable to "THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL"; or (3) ONLINE donations on SwipeSimple (there are no processing fees & no credit card info. is ever stored) at https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_7ebae5d3. Thank you for your support!

XI. PAST EVENTS

The Prairie PAC “Fall Social” on 10/15/24 (5-8 pm) hosted by the Park Events Planning Committee; 2 door prizes; first business sponsor: Home Run Inn. Thank you!

Chicago Parks Foundation Zoom Roundtable “Fiscal Partnership” on 10/24/24 (1-2 pm); Notes attached from Emily Beach.

XII. NEXT PAC MEETING

The last monthly PAC Meeting for 2024 is on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:30 PM in person at Kennedy Park. The PAC Board meets each month two Saturdays before the monthly meeting to set the Agenda for the upcoming meeting. If you would like to add an item to the Agenda, please contact one of the PAC Board Officers below:

President	Charles Williams	[REDACTED]@aol.com
Vice-President	Lorraine Linnerud	[REDACTED]@gmail.com
Secretary	Ivette Williams	[REDACTED]@icloud.com
Treasurer	Dan Niersbach	[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net

XIII. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:12 pm.

Submitted by: Ivette Williams, The Prairie PAC Board Secretary

