

**Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
January 19, 2021**

Attending

Doug Severs	Ken Haines
Charley Fisher	Audrey Hatch
Olga Loza	Jenny Meisel
Roberta Sperling	Stephanie Long
Mary Buckman	
Meredith Pettit	

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:34. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Roberta and was seconded by Doug. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mary reported that we have received about \$9000 in the last two months. The bulk of this was a check from the Starkers for \$5000. The rest were small donations. The cost of the fundraising letter was \$780. One donation was \$500 for Central Park. We don't have a line item for Central Park so maybe we can use this money for flowers.

There was a discussion about the process of thanking donors. Audrey mentioned that a thank you in 48 hours is considered best practice. Ken mentioned that he receives a thank you for donations anywhere from 3 days to 3 weeks usually. Olga Asked if A&S should be doing the thank you notes. Mary said they don't look good, so she does them herself. There was a discussion about donor software. Audrey said this should be worked out before fundraising starts for MLK Park. Mary suggested we wait a few months and then get the donor software. Audrey made a motion to do that, seconded by Doug.

The new investment committee (Mary, Ken, Stephanie) will meet in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Ken mentioned that fees will be a part of investing. Mary mentioned that the bottle drop is not as visible as it should be.

Roberta said that the tree for Karen Emery is in process and that Karen was really moved by the gift.

Park Maintenance

Doug mentioned that Woodland Meadows has a street light down. He also suggested that parks needs another water pickup to be able to keep plants and trees watered until they are established. Mary said we need to get an idea of the cost. Meredith said she was not sure where that would fall in priorities. Jenny noted that 2 to 3 feet of clearance around plants cuts down on competition and if native plants are used, they don't need to be watered after a year or two.

Meredith's Report

Meredith reported that there has been a shift to outdoor programs. For example, there was a winter solstice hike. Also, the outdoor pool at Osborne is open for lap swim. Parks and Rec is busy with enforcement of camping in parks. RVs at Pioneer Park were cleared out and now campers there need to pass background checks. As a result, RVs have moved to other parking lots and to the skate park area. The area near the BMX track will have managed tent camping away from riparian zones. She mentioned that a windscreen has been installed at the pickleball courts and will cost \$1604.47. Mary moved to approve the expenditure. Charley seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Update on MLK Park

Audrey reported that the campaign will be launched as planned in 2021. The committee is meeting every month. To be successful, the committee needs money for marketing and communications. Audrey estimates that initially 20 to 30K will be needed. Audrey also said the committee is thinking about hiring someone a few hours a week to handle social media for the project, etc. There was a discussion about what that position would look like.

Audrey talked about joining the National Association of Parks Foundation. Membership is \$375 per year and they provide many resources. Charley said the networking is very important. Ken offered that the fee is small for the help we could get. Mary suggested looking at it a little more before we vote on it.

Olga suggested we shift back to 5pm for future meetings. Everyone agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm. Next meeting will be February 16 at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher