

Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
September 20, 2022

Attending

Olga Loza
Audrey Hatch
Roberta Sperling
Meredith Petit

Absent

Ken Haines
Doug Severs
Stephanie Long
Nancy Ross Hathaway (guest)
Charley Fisher

Minutes

Olga brought the meeting to order at 5pm. A motion to accept the minutes from the March meeting was made by Roberta and seconded by Charley. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mary was absent from the meeting.

Olga reported that a \$20,000 donation was made for pickleball. Also, our new financial advisor, Sam Nielsen, has helped Friends invest \$100,000 in CDs. This money is from the Community Center holdings. Two CDs were purchased. Our Board liability insurance was \$886 this year. It would be nice to find a local agent that we could talk to face to face. That is becoming more difficult as small agencies are bought up by bigger companies. During the month, we voted via email to transfer \$40,000 to the city for the MLK project. Ken mentioned that we should look into investing more of the money we have on hand... Also, we should consolidate the funds that have very little money in them and put that money in the general fund. **A suggestion was made to consolidate some of our line items at the next meeting with Meredith's input.**

Ken suggested some sort of plaque at the softball fields to give information on who Rene Moye was. People don't know why the fields are named after him.

Olga made a motion to accept the report. Doug seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.

Guest

Nancy Ross Hathaway, sister of Chip Ross, is donating \$20,000 to clean up, redo, and repair benches at Chip Ross Park. The park was dedicated in 1979. The land the park is located on was donated by Chip's family. He had cystic fibrosis and died at the age of 16. Benches are falling apart and need to be replaced. Chip's bench needs to be moved. A new bench may be limited to metal or plastic, but Nancy prefers wood because timber was the family's business. She also requested signage about Chip and the park be added. Other families who have benches in disrepair at the park should be contacted. They are supposed to help with maintaining the benches.

Meredith's Report

Meredith has been talking to the Library Director about Friends of the Library and how they might help our group. Friends of the Library has a subscription which costs \$20 per year. People who join receive the newsletter. This is a good way to grow our database of names of potential donors.

Charley wondered how we would track people without sufficient manpower. Olga said we can do it electronically. The work is in setting it up and supervising it. Roberta suggested sending out emails several times a year to let people know what is going on and what projects we are doing. Olga said we could have different levels of membership. Roberta said sending out emails to folks more often would help. Stephanie said the Majestic needs to have tiers of donors. Meredith suggested asking the Friends of the Library person to attend a future meeting. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea.

Parks and Rec is transitioning to Fall. The parks crew works through October, then the winter crew takes over. Parks and Rec has a booth at the Fall Festival in the Arts Center Plaza. Ken asked if Jimbo would be replaced at the Majestic. Meredith said yes. There is also an open Aquatic Center Supervisor position. The annual Turkey Trot has grown and the Osborne staff has done most of the work. This year the event will be moved to Crystal Lake. There is more parking and there will be fewer neighborhood issues.

Saturday Market

We have one more weekend at the Farmer's Market which is October 29.

MLK Update

Audrey requested that the annual appeal contain pictures of MLK. Also, a discussion was had about having fewer project options in the letter. Audrey said MLK information can be available at the Farmer's Market. Doug mentioned that there are rumors that the new MLK dog park will be leash only and there will be no fence. Meredith said that the dog park will be fenced. Currently, it is supposed to be close to Walnut. Meredith is working with the architect to see if it can be moved away from the busy road. Charley asked about the pond. Meredith said the pond is gone from the design. There are yard signs available for MLK project. Committee is asking for a donation to get yard sign.

Reminder that Olga will not be at the October meeting. Roberta will be acting president.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm..

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher