

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**November 15, 2022**

**Attending**

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

**Minutes**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary said she is still ok to be a member of the Board for one more year, but no longer. Mary also said she is still willing to be Treasurer even if she is not officially on the Board. There was a question whether or not Mary would be covered by our insurance if she was not a regular member of the Board. Ken commented that this would be a great way to transition to a new person doing that work. Mary reported that there was not much activity since last report: we spent money on the Majestic Spotlight Award. Also we received \$50,000 from the Starkers for MLK Park. Olga moved to approve the report. Jenny seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

**Yearly Appeal Letter**

Olga said since we no longer have a Board VP, Roberta will volunteer to help with this if needed this year. Ken said that he and Doug don't have the ability to do the letter. Audrey said she can work on text, but not graphics. Ken asked Meredith what she might have available. Meredith said they could possibly do it in Word or Publisher. There was also a discussion about things that should be added to the letter, like a space for an email address.

**Consolidation of Accounts**

There was a discussion about moving small amounts of funds left over from other projects into different funds to clean up the Treasurer's report and lessen the number of projects listed. Mary and Ken talked about people who want to help as volunteers to work on Riverfront Park. Can we fund some hours of work for staff? Meredith answered that this really won't work. Supplying funding for maintenance is tough. We can donate money for maintenance, but not for a specific place or project. They are needing to replace benches (replace wood with metal) and they cost \$2500 each. Donors who want to fund maintenance will need dollars funneled to other projects. There were discussions to consolidate other small funds. Mary moved to ok consolidations. Jenny seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Membership**

Olga said if we proceed with this, we may have to amend our bylaws. Olga talked about tiered donations for individuals, families, and businesses. Also, we should provide an opportunity for committed, informed people who want to contribute, but can't afford to donate money. Also, there still needs to be a way to process memberships. We will need to deliver something to members like a quarterly newsletter. That will be a time commitment for someone. Charley suggested looking at other membership models like the Library or the Greenbelt Land Trust. Mary asked what the next step

would be. Olga said we need to talk about it more. Meredith said by-laws can be changed. Mary said we also need to look at the Articles of Incorporation. Doug added that once someone is a member, they have certain rights. Jenny offered that if there were volunteer events, they would need to be coordinated by the city. Ken pointed out that this adds another level of logistics, more than just the nine of us talking.

### **Meredith's Report**

Meredith reported that 750 people were registered for the Turkey Trot, which will be at Crystal Lake Sports Park. There are several staff vacancies: Majestic supervisor, Osborn supervisor, and a Parks supervisor. The Parks main staff will be back to normal size for the next four to five months.

### **MLK Update**

The banner will be going up over Harrison. The idea is to lay out completion milestones by August 2023, Audrey reported. Meredith reported that there will be a public report to Council in January. Construction will happen in 2024. Tweaks are being made to the design. Olga asked when the Appeal letter for funds would be sent out. Audrey said it would go out the week of November 30.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm..

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher