

Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
March 21, 2023

Attending

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

Olga brought the meeting to order at 5pm.

Treasurer's Report

Mary reported that the problem with the IRS not receiving our return last year has finally been settled after three different letters. The mistake was that of the IRS. There was \$2500 in income. There was an expenditure for \$16,500 for events at the Community Center. Olga asked what was to be done with the money in the account for the Rose Garden. Meredith said that staff would like to extend the paver walkways and use the money that way. Stephanie suggested that if the money was not needed soon, we could put it in a CD. Meredith said she would check on the schedule. Mary suggested looking to see if we can put more money in CDs as rates are good right now. Olga moved to approve the report. Stephanie seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Spring Cleanup

There will be two weekend events. The first will be at the Riverfront Park and the second will be at Central Park. Parks and Rec requested money to purchase plants. Everyone is encouraged to come. No sign up is necessary. Jenny suggested that native plants would be preferable to use. She also suggested getting perennials as well so everything doesn't die at the end of the season. Plants will be obtained from Peoria Gardens. Audrey and Jenny said they could be there on the 6th for the event. Meredith requested \$900 for plants at each location. Doug made a motion to approve. Jenny seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Chip Ross Benches

Nancy Hathaway made the first donation for replacement of benches at the park. Parks and Rec suggested using metal benches, but since the Ross family was a timber family, they want the benches to be wood. The cost of the bench was \$1121.76. The family will need to be responsible if the bench needs to be repaired or replaced again. Mary moved to spend the money for the bench. Olga seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Friends' Vice-President

Since we lost Roberta from the Board in October, Olga mentioned that we need a Vice President. Ken volunteered to step in. Olga moved to accept Ken as the new VP. Charley seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Meredith's Report

Parks and Rec is beginning to do the summer hiring. Free lifeguard training is being offered. Osborn is still short on lifeguards. The job pays \$14.50 an hour to start. It would be best if lifeguards could work 15 to 20 hours per week. There are some summer shifts that require as many as 17 lifeguards. The next class is the week of Spring Break. Meredith reported that a new Parks Supervisor will be

promoted from within. There is also internal recruitment for a new Theatre Supervisor. The Recreation Coordinator is retiring as of 6/30/2023. The YVC Coordinator got promoted as well. The new Activity Guide is out. There were 1650 transactions the first day for a total of \$280,000. Preparation for the local levy is happening. The rate will remain the same, but allocation of the funds may be adjusted. The levy will be on the November ballot.

MLK Update

Audrey reported that grant writing for funds has worked out well. Meredith reported that about 7.5 million has been acquired and they are trying to get to 9 million. Design changes will be kept to a minimum. The design will be scaled to 8.5 million. A \$200,000 grant from the state was received for trails as well as another for the playground and the restrooms. Community awareness has been slow. Audrey said they are developing a flyer to help. Construction will start 2024. Charley commented that fundraising for the Museum picked up after construction started. Charley also suggested updating the bulletin board so that there is something new to look at.

Our next meeting on April 18 will be held at the Majestic Theatre. Ken, Olga, Jenny, Audrey, and Meredith will meet at 4pm at Squirrel's to talk about membership model.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm..

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher