

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**April 15, 2025**

**Attending**

Charley Fisher  
Doug Severs  
Ruby Moon  
Laurie Mason

Tom Kirch  
Jean Scott  
Stephanie Long  
Ken Haines

Meredith

**Absent**

Olga Loja

The meeting was brought to order at 4:30. Charley asked that discussion of a table at the Farmer's Market be added to the agenda.

**Minutes**

Stephanie made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Laurie reported that we have four CDs earning interest. The general fund will be paying for fabric to put around trees in Avery Park for Pride Month. Fabric was bought at JoAnne's Fabrics going-out-of-business sale. The Majestic has received a \$1200 grant for stage combat materials. A&S Accounting is now Decimel Accounting.

**Parks and Rec Update**

Meredith reported that Parks staff is very busy preparing for the summer season. The new bike park project will host a community involvement open house at C3. The school district is paying for the assessment on Osborn. The City is taking the lead on the roof. Rep. Sara Gelser is trying to acquire five million dollars for the Osborn repairs. This would come from the same fund that gave four million to MLK Park. There are two new employees at Parks and Rec: one in pool maintenance and one in natural resources. Pride in the Park (wrapping of the trees) is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Plant Palooza is Saturday at 2pm at Chintimini Park and C3. Parks is gearing up for its seasonal work.

**Annual Appeal Letter, Etc.**

Ken said we need a game plan to raise money. He recently received two fund raising letters, both four pages long, from Vina Moses and Sister Cities. These were very specific in communicating what they are doing. For a fall or winter mailing, we need to start now. We also need someone to do our social media as Olga no longer wants to do it. We need to appeal to younger folks, especially as board members. Charley said younger folks are busy and often can't do it. Meredith mentioned that Audrey and Jenny wanted to do more, but they didn't have time. Tom said a lot of work needs to be done on this and it needs to be comprehensive, not just a brochure. Laurie suggested partnering with a class at LBCC to help us as we did for the logo. Meredith mentioned that there are facilitators out there who can help us make a strategic plan. Ken suggested someone at OSU might be able to help. Charley said they are more geared to state parks. Doug said we need to raise money and recruit people.

## **Farmer's Market**

There was a discussion about having a table at the Farmer's Market. Consensus was that we should try for twice in September and twice in October. Charley will reach out about dates.

## **Presentation on Central Park Garden**

Landscape architect Owen Dell gave an excellent presentation about his conceptual design for a native plant garden on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street side of Central Park at 8<sup>th</sup> and Monroe. He gave examples of what plants might be used and said it would take about three years for plants to mature. Friends will pay for this from the CBUF bulb sale money that we have had for some years. Mr. Dell is doing the design free of charge and said the installation will be done by volunteers. Ruby added that there is a bench in the area that might need to be replaced as well. Tom asked that when Friends are going to be asked for money for something at Parks and Rec, that we receive the request prior to the meeting so we can look at it before voting on it.

**Our next meeting will be held on May 20 at 4:30. Charley, Tom, and Jean will not be able to attend the May meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

After the meeting, there was an email vote to approve sending flowers to Charley after his surgery. The Board voted unanimously that we would do that and contribute money to Laurie, who ordered and paid for the flowers.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher