

Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
June 17, 2025

Attending

Christel Birdwell	Tom Kirch	Olga Loza
Doug Severs	Stephanie Long	Jean Scott
Laurie Mason	Ken Haines	Ruby Moon

Absent

Charley Fisher

The meeting came to order at 4:30.

Minutes

A motion was made by Laurie to approve minutes from the April meeting. Tom seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Laurie reported that one of our CDs matured, \$5000 from Citizen's Bank was added to it, and a new CD earning 4.1% was purchased for \$90,000. The Pride event cost less than budgeted. Olga asked if PayPal money goes into the general fund. Laurie answered that it does, minus our 3% admin fee. Christel Birdwell presented two money asks: 1. Bouncy maze for Movie in the Park - \$620 from general fund (Stephanie moved to accept, Laurie seconded) and \$250 to cover an ASL shortfall from Amadeus for the Majestic Theatre (Laurie moved to accept, Stephanie seconded). Both votes were unanimous. Also, Doug reported that Dave Eckert requested \$1000 for native plants for riparian zones at MLK Park and Bald Hill. Stephanie moved to approve the request. Ruby seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Parks and Rec Update

Christel Birdwell (in lieu of Meredith's absence) reported a successful Pride in the Park event which brought out about 200 people to wrap trees in Avery Park with multicolored ribbons of cloth. Unfortunately, most of the ribbons are gone due to people cutting them down. They are thinking about painting the dinosaur bones again next year instead.

Review of Webinar about Boards

Those who attended: Stephanie, Laurie, Ruby, Tom, Meredith. There was a lengthy discussion among Board members about how to move forward. Tom asked if everyone agrees regarding what the group does. Ruby asked about mission and visitor statements. Laurie responded that those are online, but who among us can give a quick elevator speech about what we do. Tom suggests we wait until we can all agree on our purpose and mission before trying to raise money. Jean, Ruby, and Stephanie are interested in doing fundraising letter or postcard. Stephanie suggested that, once we hear if Osborn receives money from the state for repairs, we focus our next fundraising letter on Osborn and, going forward, tailor the letter to a current need in the city. Laurie asked if we knew how much support for website and other tech support we are allowed to get from paid staff. Christel said they are checking with the City Attorney about that. Laurie said she would look at the Bylaws and suggest changes.

Olga Retiring from Board

Olga announced that she will be retiring from the Board after ten years. There was a discussion about the website, etc. that she has handled. Ken said if the City Attorney does not allow us to use City Staff for tech help, maybe we should hire someone.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher