To: Clark Park Advisory Council

From: Rose Wehner

Re: Minutes of February 21, 2023 Meeting

Date: February 24, 2023

Attending: Eric Anderson, Rich Costello, Jeff Daube, Bill Donahue, Tom McManamon, Jon Schwass, Anne Vargo, Rose Wehner

Minutes

Our meeting at Burning Bush Brewery began at 7:07 PM. Rich corrected the Treasurer’s Report section of the minutes of our January 17, 2023 meeting. The minutes should read “Rich reported on CPAC’s Financial Statement as of 12/31/22 which is attached to these minutes.  The fund balance is $36,570.87. There was a motion to transfer $12,255.44 from ‘Operating Funds’ to ‘Nature Play - Restricted Funds.’ Motion seconded and motion passed. This raises Nature Play funds to $14,500.” After review, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Rich gave his Treasurer’s Report as part of the Website Report.

Park Report

Eric and Jeff reported that Forestry removed a large section of trees from the woods along Rockwell including one of the trees we planted. This was about 90% of what they wanted. They cut a lot of young trees. They didn’t treat tree stumps. They’re grinding out the stumps of larger trees. Eric and Jeff would have preferred that they remove dead and hazardous trees.

Sean Shaffer is coming out to get a head start on Nature Play. The start time will be 10:30 but the date is unclear because of the forecast for bad weather.

Tom informed us that there will be lighting upgrades around the woods but not the interior section. Lower lights will be installed along the river side. Smaller lights will go in on the Rockwell side. They will not be super bright. The issue of timers on the lights is still on open question. The height of the lights will be an issue because we don’t want them to be destroyed. Eric suggested that keeping the brush down in the woods would achieve the same result and save $30,000. Bill recommended that the focus be on lighting the area under the Belmont Bridge because it’s where a lot of problems start, even if it’s not CPD property. There will be a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Park Safety on Monday March 13 at noon at DePaul College Prep. We’re all invited. Mary Dempsey, Lane reps, Tom, Alderman Martin and others will attend.

CAMBR Report

Jon informed us that CAMBR hasn’t been very busy lately. They’re considering holding a concert. Tom said it could be costly depending upon the number of people who attend. CPD considers a large group an “event” which requires a permit, insurance and security. Jon said they probably wouldn’t draw a lot of people. He said they might do a big work day in the future.

Website Report

Anne informed us that the website is now available on clarkparkadvisory.org. The next step is to decommission the old website and the BlogSpot. Nature Play’s formal name on the website is Clark Park Nature Play Space. Rich commented about the “Give Butter” feature. Donations don’t go automatically to Harris Bank. They have to be manually updated. He’d prefer it to be automatic. He gets email alerts for all contributions. We discussed what to do about service charges. There was a motion that was seconded to require donors to pay the service fee. The motion was approved. At this time, there haven’t been many large contributions that would generate big service fees. WIX is the host of the website. We get an owner App. Emails go to the App. To access, you have to download the App to your phone. Mike and Anne paid for the website for the first year ending in July. Anne will bring cost information for the upcoming year to our next meeting. We discussed whether to have donation sections on a dropdown such as general and specific campaigns like Nature Play.

Nominations for Advisory Council Officers/Election at March Meeting

We will hold officer elections at our March meeting. Please send your nominations for President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary to Rose via e-mail prior to the meeting. The two Vice-President positions are new.

TIF Proposal

We’re still trying to get TIF funding for Nature Play Space. Tom said the issue will probably receive greater attention after the lights meeting. We still need the price of the path repair. Tom has to get the information from Capital.

June 24, 2023 312 River Run Preparation

The River Run Committee will be having a meeting soon. We’ll be using the big tent again. We could use a couple more tents. Mike found some good 13 x 13 tents. We need a storage space for the tents. Tom will look into getting a container source. The Supervisor at Dunning might be able to help.

Work Day Saturday February 25, 2023 9:00 am to 12 noon

At this point Jon and Rose will be the only people from our group who are available to attend.

Other Business –Request for a Monthly Nature Play Funding Agenda Item

Anne requested that Rich provide a monthly update about money raised for Nature Play so that she can record it each month on our website.

Next Meeting Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Burning Bush Brewery.

Pizza will be served.

The meeting ended at 8:52 PM.

-2-