To: Clark Park Advisory Council

From: Rose Wehner

Re: Minutes of April 19, 2023 Meeting

Date: April 22, 2023

Attending: Eric Anderson, Rich Costello, Jeff Daube, Bill Donahue, Howard Luecke, Mike Manrique, Kiala Moore, Jon Schwass, Anne Vargo, Rose Wehner

Minutes

Our meeting at the Horner Park Fieldhouse began at 7:05 PM. The minutes of our March 21, 2023 meeting were approved.

Ad Hoc Safety Committee

We added Audubon Learning Center, located on the corner of Rockwell and Addison, to the list of schools in the immediate Clark Park area. Mike sees patrols in the Jewel loading dock area during his runs. He suggested we encourage them to patrol more often around Clark Park. They should be notified of games at Lane and DePaul College Prep. School chaperones would also be helpful. Kiala Moore, CPD Area Manager, said she would like to see the woods thinned. Eric Anderson, who has a forestry background, said the trees that should be removed include the American elms leaning over Rockwell, Siberian Elm and Mulberry. He will place a blue dot at the base of the trees that should be removed. He will meet with Kiala on Thursday morning to review his tree selections. Kiala doesn’t want any plantings that are high. Mike Brown of Forestry will also review the trees. Some of the removed trees might be chipped for our use. We’ll also notify Sean Shaffer that trees are coming down to see if he could use them for Nature Play. Eric said that CPD did a great job in their earlier work removing trees, but didn’t treat the areas they worked on. The proposed Nature Play area will have a ten foot setback along Rockwell. We plan to level the grade from the sidewalk to the Nature Play area. We will also put new wood chips along the walking trails in the woods. As part of the Nature Play plan, wildflowers and low native grasses will be planted. We would like to install a split rail fence along Rockwell adjacent to the woods. We asked Kiala if she could offer any assistance. We also need a better barrier than the chain link fence under Belmont. We want to clear out mounds of junk from fly dumping at the south end of the park. We hope to put native plantings there at a future date. We would clear a lane in the MWRD right of way on Melrose for police and service vehicles to get in. Kiala said adding lights to fill in gaps near the woods is under consideration.

We drew up safety priorities that the Advisory Council or Kiala want to pursue:

Decide the proper trees to take down, treat the stumps, manage the re-sprouts, and clear the underbrush. Keep working on it.

Improve vegetation on Rockwell.

Distribute wood chips on the trails.

Consider a camera or cameras on a pole on Rockwell and/or Melrose and the river path. (Might lack facial recognition.)

If a decision is made that lights are necessary, seek Alderman Martin’s assistance in paying for them.

Put a natural barrier around the water tanks in the woods.

Treasurer’s Report

Rich will send the Treasurer’s Report via email.

Park Report

The fence under the Belmont Bridge keeps getting pulled out.

CAMBR Report

Jon has a new giant wagon that’s helpful for work days. He also has some green reflective arrows for the track. CAMBR is working on the stairs for the storage unit during the first weekend of May.

Digital Committee Report

Anne reported that the website is up to date. The contract will be renewed next month.

312 River Run - June 24, 2023 10:00 AM

The next meeting is April 20. 90 people have already registered, which is substantially more than last year. You can volunteer now online and select the t-shirt size you want.

Advisory Council Officers Election

The following were elected officers at our March election: President Bill Donahue, First Vice-president Howard Luecke, Second Vice-president Jeff Daube, Treasurer Rich Costello, and Secretary Rose Wehner. Jeff has to work out a potential conflict with another advisory council he’s involved with before he can assume his office.

TIF Proposal

Our request for TIF funds for Nature Play is still pending.

Arbor Day Tree Walk-Friday April 28 10 AM to Noon Clark Park Woods

Jeff will be leading a tree walk in the woods. Anyone interested in attending can register online. There will be another walk in October. We’ll notify WGN about it.

Work Day Saturday April 29, 2023 9:00 am to 12 noon

Eric requested reimbursement for the augur he rented for our last workday.

Chicago River Day May 13 9:00 am to Noon

Next Meeting Tuesday May 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Burning Bush Brewery.

The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

-2-