To: Clark Park Advisory Council

From: Rose Wehner

Re: Minutes of May 16, 2023 Meeting

Date: May 19, 2023

Attending: Jeff Daube, Bill Donahue, Howard Luecke, Mike Manrique, Rose Wehner

Minutes

Our meeting at Burning Bush Brewery began at 7:20 PM. The minutes of our April 9, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

There was no Treasurer’s Report.

Park Report/Arbor Day Recap

Bill asked Tom for wood chips for the trails and help getting the pile of branches removed from Rockwell. We’d also like more mulch. The two abandoned pallets are still next to the dumpster. One of our next projects is to clear out the old unused fencing from underneath the Belmont Bridge. Jeff put up an attachment for garbage in that area.

Nine people attended the Arbor Day tree walk led by Jeff. Everyone was very enthusiastic. The walk began by circling the grassy area of the Park. Then we checked out the wooded area. One of the people in the group was knowledgeable about foraging. Two of the group were tree keepers. Melissa, the new member of Clark Park’s staff, was there for a while. We will contact Elias, a DePaul Prep student who is knowledgeable about herpetology, to see if he would like to get involved in a walk or do a feature on our website. The next tree walk will be October 6. Code Name: Oaktoberfest.

CAMBR Report

Jon couldn’t attend the meeting. We were informed that CAMBR has covered one of the water jugs. It was tagged right away. They’ll be covering another one soon. They’re trying to pour the stairs when weather permits.

Digital Committee Report

Anne couldn’t attend the meeting so she sent a printed update which we reviewed. Her memo is an attachment to these minutes. We suggested that she add Clark Park t-shirts to the digital store. She can add 47th Ward Ecofest 2023 to the calendar. The tentative date is August 19.

Chicago River Day Recap

We had a really successful day. Volunteers from S.C Johnson and Half Acre Brewery were great. Eric put together groups to work on pulling invasive, laying mulch, moving logs and branches, picking up garbage, and pulling two Divvy bikes out of the river. Jeff led the water crew in removing garbage from the river including bowling balls near Diversey Bowl. The MWRD barge picked up the bags of garbage which we had placed near the canoe launch.

Safety Committee Report

Four of us met with reps from DePaul College Prep, Lane Tech, the Chicago Police Dept., Alderman Martin and staff, and the Park District to discuss safety in the wooded area at Clark Park. We walked around the woods and moved to the second floor of the field house to discuss plans. Alderman Martin led the meeting. Eric reported on all the diseased and dangerous trees that will be removed, the brush that will be cleared, the plans for prairie plantings at the south end of the woods, and other native plants and shrubs that will go in on Rockwell. We also discussed lighting. We spent time discussing safety during and after football games at Lane and DePaul College Prep. We said it would be helpful to have chaperones near the Park for games. Lane’s Principal informed us of all of the measures they take to make sure there are no problems at football games. Mary Dempsey reported on their procedures. They will make sure the police department has a schedule of their football games. Eric and Jeff are working on a representation of what the woods will look like after the clearing is complete. We don’t have a set date for another meeting.

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

The next meeting is May 18. We need more volunteers. You can sign up online and get the t-shirt size you want. We also need to put up more posters.

Work Day Saturday May 27, 2023 9:00 am to 12 noon

Twilight Canoe September 10 5:30

Next Meeting Tuesday June 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Burning Bush Brewery.

The meeting ended at 8:25 PM.

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