To: Clark Park Advisory Council

From: Rose Wehner

Re: Minutes of January 16, 2024 Meeting

Date: January 19, 2024

Attending: Eric Anderson, Rich Costello, Bill Donahue, Jeff Jenkins, Melissa Lagowski, Howard Luecke, Michael Manrique, Jon Schwass, Anne Vargo, Rose Wehner

Minutes of Meeting

Our meeting at Revere Park began at 7:01. The minutes of our December 7, 2023 meeting were approved.

Presentation by Melissa Lagowski, Big Buzz Idea Group

Melissa and her staff of 15 associates work with non-profits and associations on management, public relations and promotions. They are familiar with the communities in our area. Her group has experience with fests (such as Rib Fest), working with volunteers and putting out newsletters. They charge a flat fee so there are no surprises. The engagement can be short-term or long-term. We expressed some of our concerns including getting our name out in the community; the park is not in a conventional neighborhood: outside traffic comes to the park, but not necessarily the immediate neighbors.

Park Report

Eric informed Mike Brown, a supervisor at the CPD Forestry Department, that our supply of wood chips meets our current needs. DePaul is using some of them. Eric will remind Mike Brown about the list of trees that need to come down and those that were removed that have resprouted. The parking lot is filled with Christmas trees, but none are in the woods. The benches have been installed in the woods. We discussed putting up a temporary stationary sign in the woods with information about nature and other park events. Jeff Daube hung a sign from the trees along Rockwell with a QR code earlier, but it didn’t survive vandalism and the elements. Eventually there will be a sign near the current Clark Park sign that will have information about the entire park.

Treasurer’s Report

Rich presented his year-end 2023 financial statement. The Statement is attached to these minutes. The fund balance is $48,662.54. After discussion Eric moved that we approve the Statement. Mike seconded. The motion was approved. Rich gave Bill our bank account information which will be included with our annual report to Friends of the Parks, our fiscal agent. Rich informed us that are membership fees are due and should be paid via Zelle to Clarkparkadvisorycouncil@gmail.com. He doesn’t want cash or checks. Anne made a motion that dues be increased from $5 to $10/year. Jeff seconded. The motion carried.

Rich presented a motion, which is attached, that he and Bill purchase Certificates of Deposit from Harris Bank. The current rate is 5.55% and it renews automatically. The rates are subject to change. He gave us two options:

Option A: Purchase two $5,000 six-month CDs. One in Jan., 2024 and one in July 24.

Option B: Purchase 4 $5,000 six-month CDs. One in Jan., 2024, one in Apr., 2024, one in July, 2024, and one in Sept., 2024.

After discussion, we agreed that the four C.D. purchase was the best option. Rich presented a motion that he and Bill purchase four six-month C.D.s in Jan., April, July and Oct., 2024. Mike seconded. The motion was approved.

CAMBR Report

Jon informed us that all of the trails are closed. They might be putting up a sign. The group will be having a meeting soon.

Digital Committee Report

The website had 56 unique visitors from November 1, 2023 through January 16, 2024. Anne will be making some updates including adding Riverview silk screen items available for sale. Jeff Jenkins recommended that we become more visible on Instagram.

Nature Play Fund

Anne proposed that we move $5,000 from general funds to Nature Play restricted funds. If we don’t have $50,000 in Nature Play by February 29, 2024. Rich suggested that a better approach would be to pledge the amount to Nature Play but not necessarily categorize it as restricted. After we discussed the matter, Eric moved that we pledge $500 from the general fund to Nature Play and revisit the issue at our February meeting. Jon seconded the motion. We voted in favor of the motion.

Work Day Saturday January 27 9:00 am to 12 noon

A scout group will be helping out.

Park District Visioning

Bill sent an email to us that includes a survey and a list of virtual and in-person town halls about the future of the Chicago Park District.

Reconfiguration of Clark Park Path

Mike suggested that the path be moved slightly to the east at the corner near the Goldenrod garden at the northwest corner of the woods when the path is widened. He will put his recommendation on paper.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting ended at 8:40 PM. Our next meeting will be at Revere Park, 2509 W. Irving Park Road, February 20, 2024 at 7 PM.

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