To: Clark Park Advisory Council

From: Rose Wehner

Re: Minutes of March 21, 2023 Meeting

Date: March 24, 2023

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

Minutes

Our meeting at Burning Bush Brewery began at 7:15 PM. The minutes of our February 21, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Rich informed us that there has been no activity in the account. 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.

Park Report

Alderman Martin’s office heard back from the City of Chicago Department of Planning about Clark Park’s request to repair the walking paths at the park. The repairs would target the path south and east of the boathouse, then west going to the 312, then east at the south end of the park. They probably won’t repair the path along Rockwell. The early estimate of the cost is $150,000. We will contact Sean to let him know about it. The twelve bags of construction debris fly dumped near the parking lot fence have been removed. Bill suggested that a group of us go to the Western Ave. police station to see what the footage from the camera looks like.

Sean has visited Nature play twice bringing some logs and moving stumps and other things. Our Area Manager Kiala Moore said we can mark the bad trees so they can take them out. There’s a trail camera hanging on a tree in the woods monitoring wildlife. It might be run by the Lincoln Park Zoo’s Urban Wildlife Institute.

CAMBR Report

Jon informed us that CAMBR will be meeting again on April 12. He wants to rebuild the stairs on the storage unit. The pump track is already being used. CAMBR is considering putting a baby pump track near the slab. Jeff wants the walking paths in the woods to be better designated. Eric wants to ask Tom for compost to use near the jumps.

Digital Committee Report

Anne informed us that Give Butter feature on the website can’t do an automatic fund transfer to Harris Bank. Give Butter requires a verification which can’t be done with groups that have a fiscal agent. The yearly expense to operate the website is $400 which will be due in June. All of the information that was on ClarkPark.net now goes to the new website. The BlogSpot needs to come down. Facebook has a link to the website. We also have an Instagram site. Some of the features in the new website include calendar notice, email confirmation and reminders for volunteers and event attendees, ability to reserve a table, map showing an event setup, ability to scan a QR code, ability to link a donation to a text. There’s a link to monitor the website traffic for things such as unique visitors, how many log on by cell or by computer and how many logons are new. Anne asked Rose for information about the community gardens for the website.

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

The site is up for people who want to sign up. Last year’s participants will get a code to sign up and a discount. There’s also a volunteer sign up. Runners and volunteers get a t-shirt with the option of designating a size. Banners have been ordered. Package pickup will be on Thursday night. We will try to get a cut of the bar proceeds. The after party will also be at Burning Bush. People submit their tickets for this year’s raffle when they arrive at the Brewery. Parking will be available at DePaul again. The maximum number of runners will be 500. The fee for runners who aren’t eligible for early bird discounts is the same as last year- $35 for adults, $20 for kids and free for kids under 5.

Ad Hoc Safety Committee

Jeff, Rich, Bill and Rose met with DePaul College Prep staff, Tom and Kiala Moore, Alderman Martin and his staff at DePaul College Prep on March 13. There were no Lane Tech or police department reps attending. We gave our thoughts on lights in the woods - that they are not necessary, too expensive and bad for the environment. We also mentioned that there will be continued thinning of trees and shrubs in the woods and a fence once Nature Play is established. We would welcome parental involvement on Friday nights when football games are scheduled. DePaul’s attendees talked about security issues, such as vandalizing their busses and students hiding liquor in the woods, potential recreational uses for Clark Park, including the woods, making the woods more open, and establishing speed zones on Rockwell and Campbell for safety. Kiala Moore said that 50 dead trees have already been removed from the woods. Herbicide work will continue. Tom and Kiala Moore discussed the outside electrical assessment on putting up new lights on existing polls around the woods and putting up two new polls. The estimated cost is $21,000. One problem is that lights on Rockwell are on the west side. A timer for lights might be possible. They also suggested that it might be possible to add security on game nights or certain times. Alderman Martin wants a schematic showing details of the area including where the lights would go. The next meeting will be in April, probably at Clark Park.

Advisory Council Officers Election

We held officer elections. The nominees were President Bill Donahue, First Vice-president Howard Luecke, Second Vice-president Jeff Daube, Treasurer Rich Costello, and Secretary Rose Wehner. The results will be announced at our next meeting.

TIF Proposal

See Park Report above.

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

Jeff suggested moving a pile of sticks and rocks, and digging fence posts. Rose will be meeting a volunteer who wants to do gardening work at the park.

Other Business – Chicago River Day May 13 9:00 am to Noon

Bill, Rose and Jeff have volunteered to be site leaders. Bill asked Eric if he could do the introductions for the volunteers. A large volunteer group has already signed up.

Mike wants a blueprint of Nature Play for the website. It will help donors understand the project and monitor the progress.

The U of I is interested in reverse-angle parking as part of their study of economic development.

The American elms along Rockwell should go.

Mike said now is the time to buy tree bags if we want to use them. We didn’t decide whether we want to proceed with this.

He also raised the issue of putting in a base for our proposed container. We might be able to get an asphalt base installed as part of the path repair/widening project.

Next Meeting Tuesday April 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Burning Bush Brewery.

The meeting ended at 9:10 PM.

-2-