

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

4/1/14

PRESENT: Linda Ketchum, Sandi Henschel, Hanny Heyen, Ann Butler, John LaPierre, Village Trustee [Liaison to Parks Committee]
[Visitor] Terry Joseph

ABSENT: Pam Ketchum, Carol Brakenbury, Losh Spalla, Lindsey Macmillan

The meeting began at 4:30pm.

The minutes were accepted with two suggested changes.

Discussions:

Corbett Park:

Visitor Terry Joseph is interested in joining our committee, but first she wants to see what responsibilities there are. She lives next to Corbett Park. She says she feels personally responsible for Corbett. She calls it 'My park.' She says it's a very peaceful park and not what some negative rumors suggest.

Discussion ensued re: Corbett Park fence:

1. Do we want to repair or replace with living fence?
2. Hanny Heyen explained that there was money set aside for **replacement** of a fence.
3. There is \$10,000 in this year's Village budget and another \$10,000 for the 2014-2015 budget for the replacement of the Corbett Park fence.
4. Harry Donohue will be responsible for clean-up and/or removal of fence.
5. Linda Ketchum suggested a pattern of short trees/bushes alternating with taller trees.
6. It was mentioned that the neighbors alongside Corbett have an assortment of greenery planted along the park side. Some have trees. Some have perennial gardens.
7. Hanny Heyen suggested we take a look at the fence before the next meeting, when everyone is back. There is 880' of fence-line. We have a number of things to look at before a decision can be made. There are too many members missing to make a decision today.
8. John LaPierre suggested that the Parks Committee should make a decision that requires minimum maintenance. The direction in which we should be going is:
 - A. Get the whole Parks Committee group together.
 - B. Meet with the homeowners around Corbett and South Ave. Parks.
 - C. Determine what they'd like to see/have.
 - D. Decide what we want to do based on input.

E. Make a recommendation to the Board.

9. No matter in which direction we go, the Corbett Park fence has to come down, whether it's to clean it or to replace it.

10. Terry Joseph made the point that it gets very wet near her home when the melt occurs.

11. Rick Lair's survey makes some suggestions for planting.

12. Picking up dog waste is also a problem re: Corbett. Terry Joseph suggests signage to improve people's ability to remember to pick up their dog's leavings.

New Members:

1. Hanny Heyen asked Mayor Blackman about the application filed for a position on the Parks committee. There has been one very well-qualified applicant to date.
2. We await the return of the missing members for further discussion on new members.

Old Business:

1. Topics we discussed last time: Splash Park; South Ave. Park playground equipment; Dog Park; Signage; Deciding on a tribute to Andrea Perry who was Chair of the Parks committee since its inception. Re: Andrea Perry tribute: suggestions included a living tribute. Perhaps, a plaque on the existing new lilacs at Corbett?
2. The drafting of the 'Naming rights' policy was assigned to the parks committee by Mayor Blackman.
3. Hanny Heyen explained that the park on South Ave. was originally designated as green space. We had agreed that the walnut trees needed to be removed from that park due to the extreme mess the nuts produce. However, tree removal requires us to find out about who actually owns the trees. There are things to be found out before anything further can be done with South Ave.
4. The Splash park idea needs a proposal to bring to the Board. **All** our ideas need to be put into proposals to bring to the Board.
5. The pickle ball court will happen. John LaPierre has been in touch with a *Democrat & Chronicle* reporter who will do an article once the pickle ball court is open.
6. Linda Ketchum said that all the parks are in very good shape. Corbett needs work. Equipment on South Ave can wait until we move forward on Barry Street and Corbett. We must prioritize.

7. Hanny Heyen explained to Terry Joseph some of the duties of members of the Parks' Committee. Sandi Henschel explained that among our responsibilities is a 'Saturday of Service' in the summer that involves our working with college student volunteers to do some of the clean-up and pruning work in the parks.
8. Due to Hanny Heyen's arm-twisting, once her 2nd term is up in June, Sandi Henschel will remain on the Parks Committee for a 3rd term, as Recorder.
9. John LaPierre suggested a scheduled timeline. Make a list of things that need to be done. Set up a timeline. Aim for the deadline dates to hit and then approach the village board with our proposals.
10. There was a question about the overgrowth of reeds in the Smith Street/Corbett pond. The DPW told us last season that the ducks in that pond make a huge mess and draw rats. The DPW person said they were going to try to discourage the ducks from returning.

General:

Hanny Heyen and Linda Ketchum are interim co-chairs. When the majority of members present we will be voting on new chair and vice-chair persons.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Next Meeting: May 6th, @ 4:30pm in the Village Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Henschel
Parks Committee Recorder