

NORTH DEARBORN COMMUNITY PARK MEETING MINTUES

DATE:

9/12/24

TIME:

5:00 PM ET

FACILITATOR:

Brenda Wheat, President

IN ATTENDANCE

Brenda Wheat, Danielle Bischoff, Julie Haydu, Joette Greiwe, Roy Johnson
Tammy Henson (via phone)

LOCATION

North Dearborn Library, Meeting Rm 2
25969 Dole Rd, West Harrison, IN 47060

BOARD

The board and guests were introduced.

NOTES

Park Updates:

- Lease agreement update
 - We are working with SDCS on a needed addendum about the path that overlaps the SDYAA football leased area. This is ready to be signed and returned to the school.
 - Parking for the overlap of park and football has been discussed and will look for a plan once our path is in place.
 - Busses is still a topic under review. Will call Mike Norman to talk about the busses and how/where to park. The suggestion will be made that on weekends during football season to have drivers park at their home or alternate location.
 - Liability Insurance – working with Andy Schegman (George's Insurance) working on getting a quote to cover the construction and other liabilities required by the SDCS lease contract.
 - Parking Lot – we requested a stripping quote for the park portion of the existing parking lot so that we can maximize the parking that is currently available instead of the existing diagonal parking lines. The Contractor Orschell gave a bid of \$750. We are also investigating doing the stripping ourselves, looking into paint material quote with Mike Klei. We will need to paint over the current lines with black paint first to remove the diagonal scheme.
 - We have purchased and will be putting up signs to say no parking in the grass. This is for liability & safety reasons. (example: drivers' car was stuck near culvert in the grass and needed towed)
 - Julie Haydu to make an image of where to park and will publish after we get parking lot lined.

Individual Projects: Trees (Roy Johnson – ECHS Teacher, Agriculture Dept)

- Roy introduced himself and gave an update on his plans. He shared that most landscape work will be removed next year due to middle school construction plans presented at a recent board meeting. He is working with a company called "Taking Root" (<https://takingroot.info/>) that serves many counties in Ohio and Indiana including Dearborn County. He had previously received a grant in 2020 and used the \$1000 to plant trees around East Central HS campus. In Spring 2023 he was informed there were remaining funds available, so he would like to have this representative come and meet with the NDCP to discuss how to use the funds at the park. The goal is to plant 5-10 deciduous native trees this fall 2024; even as late as Nov/Dec 2024. He will source trees through Natorps which is a sponsor of this grant. Many companies have fall plant/tree sales this time of year so will look to spend \$500 on this project. He will consult with the park board on where to plant and types. His class of students will plant, mulch and water, keeping a 4" mulch ring around

every tree to protect from mowing. In the Spring 2025, they will take care of additional maintenance of the young trees.

- This opportunity provides the students to work in the agriculture field within the community. They call this "EC Relief" and normally get \$10,000 in grants from FFA and has worked to replace the out-of-date landscape at ECHS. Students would work during the school day and after school if necessary.
- This fits the mission of the NDCP as we want the community involved. The park will plan to share photos, etc. on social media during planting.
- Next steps are that we need to meet with representative at "Taking Root;" Mr. Johnson will connect to setup in next 2-3 weeks. **ACTION:** Brenda to send her contact information to Mr. Johnson.

Stellar pathways

- We recently were notified by Mike Perlberg, from One Dearborn, that the same entities that are funding this grant are the same grants that we have looked into, but do not qualify because the money has to go to public entity. The final Stellar Pathways grant for Dearborn County submission deadline is November 1, 2024 so we will most likely not get alignment with the SDCS and get the path in. One Dearborn did offer a one-time donation of \$1,000 to NDCP to write grants.

Website

- A storage upgrade was done, cost was \$204 on the WIX site, and we secured a smaller URL. This will help with many aspects of the advertising and posting, including uploading more images.
- Old URL is <https://ndparks.wixsite.com/ndcp>
- New URL is www.NDPark.org
- Automatic re-directs from WIX site to the new website are already active.
- **Action:**
 - Change QR code link
 - Check if the upgraded website has capability to add a scheduling feature (baseball field, courts, etc.)

Individual Projects: Pickleball

- Brenda met with Mr. McDaniel to get an update on the court. He was planning for 12 pickleball courts; we shared our plans to just have 4 courts (his bids came in at \$175,000 ~ for 4 courts).

Fundraising:

- Jack's Forever 3 – 5K run/walk took place on 9/7/24, participation doubled with the help of our social media posts; a donation was received.
- Fall Bootcamp is going on and has 3 weeks left in this session. Danielle shared that there has been lower attendance this session; may because day of week was switched to Monday from Tuesdays. We will revisit dates in spring.
- Kroger Community Rewards is now active. Danielle will have social media post on 9/13/24 with how to select our park.
 - **Action:** Potential Outreach: send instructions to ND alumni association and at party in the park, help people setup on the spot (have face painting closer to our NDCP tent so that we can talk about it).
- Park needs more Fundraising Suggestions
 - Be on the lookout for opportunities for grants, donations, and events we can have.
 - Contact "At the Barn Winery" event for Spring 2025
 - Coordinate Jeep/Side by Side ride; start at the park and end up at a location for a dinner. Danielle to connect with Jocelyn Volpenhein & Mandy at 8 Top.
- Financial Report:
 - The financials are on file with the Treasurer.
 - Send all expenses via email to the Treasurer.
 - The "Go Fund Me" donations are sent quarterly. A separate account was linked to the pay pal giving site in order to get donations; Then will sweep to the main account. This keeps the main account more secure.

ACTIONS

- Website/Go Fund Me: Change QR code link (Joette)
- Website: Check if new website has capability to schedule (Joette)
- Make an image of where to park (Julie)
- Send contact information to Mr. Johnson for "Taking Root" (Brenda)
- Kroger Community Rewards: Social Media posts, spread word with ND alumni association and personal invitations. (Danielle)
- Coordinate Jeep/side by side ride (Danielle)
- Keep continuous visibility & conversation to the park (i.e., social media posting, go live when students are planting trees, etc.)

NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2024 | 5pm @ North Dearborn Library

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:15 p.m.