

Friends of Northwest Park

Minutes

October 14, 2008 Meeting

Attendees: Jay Melley, Chuck Drake, Randy Lee, Terry Langevin, Ford Parker, April Vines, Ann Allen, Chris Alford, Lauren Grimshaw, Nancy Taylor, Florence Barlow, Heidi Lindberg, Kate Lange, Vivian Cicero, Kate Ferris-Morrell, Dawn Morgan, Kathryn Grimshaw Pelton

Guests for Dog Park at NWP Presentation: Debbie Anderson (Rec. Dept. Presenter), Ina Forman, Jody Terranova

Regrets: Lon Pelton, Linda Alexander, Debby Silliman, Lesley Morgan Thompson, Mike Novak

Absent: Dick Dolliver, Tim Curtis, Carol MacMullen, Al Boehm, Mickey Mattei, Bill Schoner

The meeting started at 7:04 pm in the Nature Center. The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Presidents Report: The *Annual Meeting* is taking place Sunday, November 9th at 3pm. WINTV was invited and agreed to be present. Steve Ryan agreed to present his portraits of NWP. Jay will organize the agenda and Terry will distribute to the Trustees for all to view and comment. Those who volunteered in helping out for refreshments, please contact Terry.

Windsor Chamber of Commerce has sought out organizations as recipients of proceeds from their Auction event. They chose The Friends and Jay thanked them and is now looking for Trustees to participate in making this work. The event takes place on April 3rd of next year. We can donate up to 12 items for the silent auction (value up to \$200) and up to 12 items for the live auction (value over \$200). We are not to solicit someone who is already a member of the Windsor Chamber and they would like a commitment of up to 15 people to attend the Auction. Jane Garaby said organizations can be the recipients of \$200 or up to \$15,000 depending upon the effort we put in. Heidi already agreed to work with Jay and anyone else is encouraged to contact Jay and volunteer for this wonderfully positive event for the Friends.

Treasurers Report: Reports were handed out and are available on our web site. Dues is not consistent year to year due to the timing of the membership letters. Pay pal is paying almost 3%. Overall we have approximately \$112,000. The 1099 is necessary for checks written over \$600. We have never done this and now the accountants have pointed out that the IRS requires these and if they follow up and we don't comply, they can revoke our 501C3 status. Randy has the forms and they are on the web site for the vendors to fill out their information and tax ID# along with their signature. Randy requested instruction on how to proceed with

writing checks if he doesn't have the proper paperwork. It was agreed that he shouldn't write checks unless all is in order. Dawn suggested Randy make up a cover letter to go with the forms in order to explain why this is now necessary.

Concert Series: The first concert is November 15th. We have already sold a couple hundred dollars worth of tickets on line. For more information, see our web site.

Country Fair Report: This year's Country Fair was a grand success with wonderful weather! Nancy and Kate received a loud round of applause for their greatly appreciated efforts. The income was approximately \$16,700, \$4,000 above last year. Expenses are approximately \$9440, leaving a net income of app. \$7200. Dawn and Debby Riemer have agreed to take up the task of co-chairing the event next year. Items of concern for them to address are the expense of the Hay Rides and the involvement of schools in the Spring rather than waiting for the Fall.

Staff Report: Ford introduced Debby Anderson, a recreation specialist in the Recreation Department. She proposed that a dog park be put at Northwest Park in the overflow parking area in one of two areas on either end. She stated that the town group looking at this has looked at approximately a dozen places including River Street, Welch Park and now Northwest Park. They need about a third of an acre or about 60 parking places for an average size Dog Park. (See attached Dog Park Rules Debby provided).

The following concerns were discussed:

Parking: for major events at the Park including Columbus Day Soccer, and the Country Fair. It was decided that if there is a dog park at NWP, parking would be fine IF Soccer and the Country Fair did not occur on the same day.

Funding and Maintenance: Fund raising by the "Dog Park Committee" would be supplemented by up to \$1500 annually by the Town of Windsor Recreation Department. Trash collection/pick-up and restrooms would have to be provided along with a locked gate to the overflow area. The bedding in the fenced in area would have to be changed and disposed of in a timely manner. A reference was made to a recent newspaper article about a nearby town who was forced to enforce cleaning up after dogs because of poor water quality in the area.

Staffing: If people need direction, have questions or issues, the Dog Committee said they would provide appropriate personnel. It was emphasized that Park Staff should not be available for this task since it does not come under Northwest Park functions and there is currently an understaffing issue. Signage was suggested, directing people to the appropriate personnel and not to knocking on the door of the people at the white house. A suggestion was made to make sure that signage was used to assure the Dog Park is designated as a Dog Park and not part of Northwest Park.

Enforcement of Rules/Leash Laws: Several people discussed issues which already exist at the Park with people disregarding leash laws and the lack of existing control. It was suggested

that Brian, the Windsor Animal Control Officer, come speak with the Friends and discuss the enforcement of old laws and new ones that pertain to the proposed Dog Park. Note: A question about insurance liability arose after the meeting. Who is responsible to carry the policies for this venue?

Ford continued with his Staff Report: Eric Davison was recently at the Park proceeding with the Wildlife Management Plan. A prescribed burn will be scheduled for the Spring. There are concerns about the chain link fence that surrounds the Park being damaged and yard waste thrown into the Park. Cyd Groff has contacted the people responsible and the Park is responsible for making repairs to the fence.

SFE (Seeds for Education) Grant will be authored by Ford for \$500 and is due by November 1st. The Grant will allow the Park to bring in native species seeds to be used as a natural border for the organic gardening demonstration area. Randy & Jay agreed to help with the paperwork and we agreed we should encourage more grant writing.

The Clean-up of the old Farm Dump located just after the last driveway on the left as you enter the Park has been requested by Cyd Groff. The area abuts a neighbor property between the soccer field and the driveway, accessible via the rear of the picnic pavilion. People volunteered to help with the effort within the next three weeks. Ford agreed to work through Dawn to coordinate the effort.

The Capital Improvement program for the Park has been reduced from \$174,000 to \$154,000 and should include the Pond reclamation, the building of a sustainably built maintenance facility and substantial repairs to the warming shed. A suggestion was made to include a new carpet in the nature center.

Sustainable goals for the Park were handed out along with the geothermal system information for heating and cooling the Nature Center (see attached). Basically it uses water from underground, which is at a constant temperature of 55degrees F, as a heat/cooling exchanger. It will greatly reduce the use of fossil fuels at the Park as well as being utilized as an educational Tool. Town Management is excited about this project. The cost is app. \$80,000 which will be retrieved in app. 5 years. The cost includes drilling, heat pump installation, hot water system and controlling computer system. Actual quotes will be pursued. The Friends were asked if they were willing to help with the financing of this project. A capital fund drive was suggested. Timing will be reported back to the Friends by the Green Committee before the annual meeting. Discussion also included checking out the use of methane from the landfill when it is closed.

Membership Committee: Lauren presented the new Thank-you notes to be utilized for funds received other than membership. Thank you to both Ford for the pictures and Lauren for putting this together.

Mark your calendar: Creatures of the Night November 1st. A request was made for the Friends to provide donuts and cider which cost approximately \$150. A motion was approved unanimously to fund up to \$200 for Creatures of the Night refreshments. Thanks Kate Lange for volunteering to hand out the refreshments.

The next meeting is November 9th at 3pm in the Nature Center.

We adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Langevin, Secretary