To: Clark Park Advisory Council

From: Rose Wehner

Re: Minutes of September 17, 2024 Meeting

Date: September 23, 2024

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

Minutes of Meeting

Our meeting at Revere Park began at 7:15 p.m. The minutes of our August 20, 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

See Twilight Canoe recap.

Park Report

Several people living under the Belmont Bridge are leaving a lot of garbage. Jeff cleaned out most of it. He saw a rat hole nearby. Eric suggested we talk to them and tell them to clean up. This has been tried before. This might be A Streets and San issue. Jeff and Jon have also been cleaning out garbage in the woods. Artists cut down the fence under the bridge. Rose and a volunteer clipped off the tops of the Goldenrod in the Goldenrod Garden and the canoe launch garden. The prolonged lack of rain hasn’t been good for trees especially those most recently planted.

CAMBR Report

Jon reported that the Garden Jam will take place on Saturday September 28 from 10-6. He has been trying to clean up the graffiti in the wooded area. Eric’s going to do some trimming along Rockwell.

Digital Committee Report

Anne will be posting some updated aerial images and videos of Clark Park. 5K bandanas will be posted for $20 on Merch. She did a Twilight Canoe update. There were 311 web visits during the past month compared to 155 the previous month.

Twilight Canoe Re-Cap

We had great weather and broke our attendance record. The 4:30 start for canoes and kayaks went well. Most people came early. Next year we’ll consider a specific time for boats going into the water to reduce wait times and prevent stragglers. The lights went out in the boathouse but only briefly. Rose will do thank you letters and also provide Anne with a list of silent auction, in-kind and sponsors to post online. We’d like to get five volunteers for next year. They would receive dinner and a canoe rental voucher. Rich gave us the financials for the event. (See the attachment.) Revenue $11,035.24. This includes $530 spontaneous donations on the website this week. Expenses $1,903.97. Net Gain was $9,131.27. This was similar to the amount we raised last year. There are only a few receipts for expenses that are outstanding. Our overall bank balance is $65,111.56. We sold three framed Riverview tickets at the event. The only Merch left is the Riverview poster and the t-shirts. One person who couldn’t get a ticket because the event was a sellout volunteered to help. Bill tried to contact her 4 or 5 times but received no response. We designated September 7, 2025 as the date for next year’s event.

Work Days Saturday Friday September 27 and 28 9-12

Bane volunteers with work with us on Friday September 27. Jeff and Rose will be there. There is a lot of work to do in the woods. Rose will supervise cutting back Dogbane plants in the garden.

Saturday is our regular workday. DePaul Prep volunteers will help out.

October Park Work Day in Nature Play Space - Set Priorities

It will be helpful to know when tree removal will start so we can move things around for a revised layout. Sean will be bringing equipment in October. Forestry has been tied up with other projects. It might be helpful if the blue dots designating diseased/dangerous trees were made brighter. Eric reminded us that Forestry has to treat the stumps to prevent re-sprouts. Evening things out and fixing the fence will be on the agenda.

Other Business

Anne suggested we do a strategic session for 2025.

Next Meeting

The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m. Our next meeting will be at Revere Park, 2509 W. Irving Park Road, on October 15 at 7 PM.

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