

City of Lake Forest Park
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Summary
17425 Ballinger Way NE – Lake/Forest Room
March 23, 2022

Regular Meeting: Call to Order – 7:03PM

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present:

Tyler Dittman, Amy Hanegan, Tony Auriemma, Julie Wheatley, Max Beuter

Staff and Others Present:

Cory Roche - Community Volunteer Coordinator, Councilmember Lorri Bodi

Members of the Public Present:

Mike Dee, Judy, Jim Mead, Julian Andersen, Polly Saunders, Debbie, Lisa Pedigo, Linda Holman, Natalie Pascale Boisseau

Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approve March Agenda:

Amy motioned to approve the agenda, Julie seconded the motion to approve, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Review/Approve February Meeting Minutes:

Tony motioned to approve the February Meeting Minutes, Amy seconded the motion to approve, meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Discussion with Work Party Leaders of Five Acre Woods

Polly – Gave a background of the property and its history of its owners, before SPU became in ownership and put the property up for sale.

Natalie –SPU then held the property for the City to find funds to purchase it an urban forested property. Many knew it was the biggest undeveloped wooded area left in LFP and residents wanted to preserve. The Stewardship Foundation raised almost over \$130,000, many different funding agencies helped the purchase of this property. In January of 2018 was the first official work party, walking/working trails have now have been created in part of the ivy removal.

Polly – The number one task for the work parties have been ivy/invasive species removal. As ivy has been removed, there has been a lot of native live, plant restoration/planting has been going on.

Tyler – Wondered if there a need for volunteers and any specific work? Polly – Mostly ivy removal, plantings, and bamboo removal now. The group is always looking for volunteers.

Polly – Monthly parties are coming back, will have one in April.

Natalie – Mentioned that trees and other native plant species are being freed from the ivy removal, which helps to reduce pollution. They have been recovering plants from the ivy blankets, looking at planting to plan with the winter months. If there is a need for the park it would be expertise of a forest management plan.

Tyler – Thanked the Five Acre Woods group and mentioned they will see what the Board can do to connect Public Works and Five Acre Woods and Parks.

Councilmember Bodi – Cory will pass along Public Works comments on the park's needs and safety concerns.

Discussion with Work Party Leaders Grace Cole Nature Park

Jim – Gave the history of when Grace Cole Nature Park property was annexed into the City, stated the Stewardship Foundation was created to help preserve this property. He took over the work party leadership from Mamie Boulender, who spearheaded this project. The property officially became a park in 2006. Work parties have been and will go on monthly, mentioned there was a steward training program that has brought in a lot of volunteers, has the idea of dedicating stewards to each park, like Blue Heron to take care of. Besides invasive removal at Grace Cole, they also work on trail maintenance. Mentioned there has been sighting of a bobcat, coyotes, ducks, bunnies, and many different species of birds.

Tyler – Liked the idea of having a steward dedicated to each park. Asked if there are any upcoming projects for the summer?

Jim – Talked about wanting to extend the boardwalk, but funding might halt the project. Thanked the City for what they do provide and mentioned swamp lanterns aka skunk cabbage are coming in.

Discussion with Work Party Leaders of Pfingst Animal Acres Park Master Gardener

Demonstration Garden

Linda – Mentioned she has lived in LFP since 1983, currently runs the work parties for the Community Demonstration Garden at Animal Acres Park. In the past has run work parties at Blue Heron Park, Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve, and Horizon View Park.

The Demonstration Garden was started by WSU Master Gardener program that created a small garden for education towards the little kids. Linda took over and developed a larger area for a vegetable garden along with native plants. Everything grown is donated to food centers in need. The demonstration garden is there to help educate the community. Talked about how the hunger issue has grown and the need for food. This program could educate others on growing at home to donate around the community.

Tyler – Wondered how is the garden area connected to the master gardener program? Linda mentioned it has been funded through them, and all workers have been through them, but she now wants to open the garden to the community, teach and grow the program.

Amy – Thought this was wonderful way connecting people to the parks and will brainstorm more on what the board can do to help with the restoration of the other parks. Brilliant connecting nature, hunger, and the environment all in one.

Julie – Wondered what do smaller cities do with upkeep of maintenance?

Lorri – Mentioned there is a cap on 1% tax increase per year and LFP has no commercial income. Brought up the levy and how it was voted no, and those funds would have helped with park maintenance. Mentioned there are also no grants for park maintenance. The Budget planning for 2022/23 will start to begin soon and to attend those meetings if interested in the budget process. Mentioned there is also an increase of crime coming through LFP and Council will be looking hard at the budget and see what we can do for the parks maintenance but will require some creative thinking in how we can get funding for maintenance in.

Horizon View Tennis/Pickleball Court Updates

Amy – Since last meeting, she contact the Seattle Metro Pickleball association, they could help with crowd funding. The group talked about resurfacing and costs associated with the work.

Tony - Mentioned that it is important to take care of the cracking surface and new signs needed up at the park.

PRAB April Meeting and Update on Future Meetings

Meet possibly April 20th, will check back in. Update is coming for how hybrid meeting will be run but not there quite yet.

Other Business:

Cory gave an update on the awarded North End feasibility study for an aquatic center.

Public Comments:

Julian – Thanked the Board for your interest in the parks and nice to see the group functioning well. He has been with the stewardship foundation for many years, and helped with the Five Acre Woods, would be nice to get plans done and understands the financial issues moving forward. Happy we have such good volunteer groups.

Mike Dee – Thank you for opportunity to address, encouraged the City to record Board meeting. A lot of talk about money. City is giving out cares act funding, without public input. Thanked the group for their work.

Amy – Mentioned there should be a time limit on speakers.

Adjourn: 8:35PM