

August 21, 2024 Minutes

LGT Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Board Members Present:

Laura Miller
John Bickart
Casey Groff
Tina Skinner
Heide Harper

Staff

Ken Battin

1. Call to Order: 7:05

2. Adoption of Agenda

Approved

3. No guests

Guest: Mary Giordano, garden committee was thanked for attending

4. Approval of minutes

approved

5. Park Report:

Park and Dog Park

Ken said he has nothing on the park or dog park

Electricity will be run to the convenience center. Repair for the solar and batteries was \$40,000 and electricity to run the fans was \$30,000. Since installation this this would be the third time the batteries needed to be replaced. Electricity will be limited to running the fans and lighting.

Convenience outlets will allow for minimal hookups like a PA system. But it will not supply a lot.

Community Garden

Mary said it was a successful year. All the beds were filled. Some of the gardeners have asked for more raised boxes and they prefer the 4 x 12 (Laura said she can't find them) People made the 4 x 8s work by planting in ground in the remaining space. Mary also asked about some kind of borders for the ground beds to help the park maintenance crew. Mary has told the gardeners that they are responsible for keeping things inside the boundaries. Mary and Heide praised and thanked the groundskeeper. A decision needs to be made about where the soil should go. And one gardener asked about getting a tiller for the bed. Also there was talk of planting fruit trees.

Ken said the original park plan included an orchard, but the Parks Committee shot it down because of the potential for bee stings. Casey and Ken agreed that maintenance cost for fruit trees would be costly.

Heide said someone had wanted to donate a handicap-accessible raised bed. Casey said it has to be well made to be durable. Ken said it has to have paving around it. Casey asked if anyone has inquired in need? No.

6. Old Business

Goddard Memorial Garden Dedication: Laura said it was an overcast day. They set tents up over the benches. People brought chairs and everyone was able to cozy inside the tent. Twenty-one people attended. Conye Allegente (sp?) Attended and Eric Schott spoke, Chris Banning also spoke from the Board of Supervisors.

Volunteer Day

John said existing 6 x 6 water barriers were excavated and cleaned out to alleviate water runoff near Bridge #4. Heide came late, Casey and John were the only volunteers. A passerby stopped and learned more.

Next volunteer day August 22nd. Laura said she started putting together an annual calendar.

John said that when Eric implemented the yard signs there were signs around the upper parking lot announcing what was happening that week, and on the volunteer day he made himself obvious with T-Shirts he was giving out. He was very good at recruiting actively in the park. The signage was really obvious making it clear it was the third Saturday of every month. Heide suggested a table and some balloons. John said maybe a pop up.

Bridges

Laura said there was discussion about identifying the bridges. Ken agreed that bridge numbers are important. The latitude and longitude of each numbered bridge at the golf course is in the emergency response systems. John said he submitted a plan with the numbers. Ken said either we do it or public works will. John and Ken agreed chronological order starting at State Road and working south makes sense. Ken said he wants to check to see if they are numbered in the asset system already.

7. New Business

Grant updates

Ken said State DCNR grant for the master plan was due the end of May. Expecting news at the end of September. No news.

Consultant for flood plain mitigation study for \$75,000, and Ken said that the study is 80% complete. Looking at where the stream goes through the southernmost part of the park near the Goddard House. Two goals: MS4 Stormwater Management credit and placement of the bridge connecting park with newly acquired Goddard land. Also, there are a lot of erosion problems along the stream, steep cliffs, so they are going to break it into three or four shelf-ready projects for the next grant opportunity.

Tree for Sylvia Green

Ken said the BOS has sent this request back to the Parks Committee to manage. Family members have asked if they can buy/plant/maintain a tree. Casey said we want something that will grow well and serve wildlife. Ken said it would be along a path in full sun.

501c3

Golf outing. Teams are needed. Benefits Friends of the Park, Ken explained that the 501c3 is a funding mechanism. It was created to have seed money and for grant application opportunities that are not available to a municipality. This seed money can pay the matching amounts required by grants. The Park can go to the Friends to fund thing. Another advantage is that most people would rather donate to a charity than their local government.

Budget 2025

Mary said the new boxes are holding together better than some of the wooden ones that are coming apart. Somebody said the new boxes eventually will warp, but they will probably last longer. Mary said they would like four more (\$140/each before the discount, maybe \$100 each)
Lowes also gave a lot of plants for free for the garden sale.

Mary said a lot of the gardeners are elderly. Also she said it would be nice if the garden beds were framed out with wood borders for weed control. 2x12s. Ken said they will rot fast. So they need to be replaced every two years. Laura said cypress lasts 8 years, but it is more work Ken said. Laura said volunteers could do it. Casey suggested try just a couple to see how it works.

Laura suggested that a dollar amount be suggested for the budget, the details can follow.

\$3000 for memorial garden, community garden, and the sign area at the front of the park

Ken said we have a \$5000 budget this year, including recruitment and invasive that we didn't use.

Casey asked if we could put together a plan and hire a contract to go after some invasive, and Ken suggested a test area so that people could see what was going on. Contractor would need proof of insurance. So the \$1500 budgeted this year can still be put to use for invasive. Casey was authorized to work with a local contractor to create a plan for invasive removal. Ken suggested followup in budget next year too.

Laura said the \$2,000 for volunteer recruitment wasn't spent and probably won't be this year. Laura suggested buying signage. John said the fence banner isn't working. Ken suggested a volunteer banner. John said he wants something very visible at eye level when entering the upper Parking Lot.

For the invasive Laura suggested the pond itself. Casey said the low level would require special equipment. Casey said just the woods edge, knocking the invasive back in 10-15 feet. He said the pond takes special expertise.

Victoria Lickman will be the new Director of Open Space and Parks and Stormwater Management, full-time employee funded by Open Space Committee. David Sweet is a wealth of knowledge and will stay as long as Ken can keep him. Lickman has an engineering background. She will help to create more funding opportunities. Open Space money can now be used for open space maintenance. One of her main tasks is connectivity, identifying gaps in the trail system.

Ken advised that we spent \$3000 this year. He asked Laura to just come up with a number, like \$5000 for next year.

8. Adjourned: 8:30