

## **Friends of Patterson Park Meeting April 9, 2016 Minutes**

### **In attendance:**

Amy Cottengaim, Dude Man, Girard Kinney, Jane O'Brien, Jennifer Potter-Miller, Lisa Fuka, Meredith Frank, Mark Schiff, Mark Smolen, Priscilla Boston, Sam Wilson, Sunshine Mathon, Valerie Vogt, and wiccit.

### **Agenda**

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Reviewed accomplishments since 2002 and 2011 priorities
- 3) Discussed potential master plan for Patterson Park

Jennifer suggested that a master plan would be beneficial for the park and serve as a roadmap for FoPP's activities. She cited Ramsey Park as an example of an organized effort for park improvement. At Ramsey Park, stakeholders identified elements that would be transformative (such as increased shade), desirable, debatable, not feasible, and undesirable as a way to prioritize improvements. Jennifer asked whether or not FoPP would like a more formal or informal methodology for creating park improvements. She also asked whether or not we wanted FoPP to make greater improvements to the park or simply continue organizing community events such as the egg hunt, pumpkin decorating party, and luminaria night. Mark Smolen thought that both approaches were needed. The rest of the attendees agreed.

- 4) Finalized a survey to gather feedback on community priorities for the park

FoPP discussed disseminating a survey in order to identify the priorities for improvements. A FoPP member suggested including basic demographics in the survey. Other members suggested amending the survey to include multiple answers or a choice for Other next to a blank for suggestions. Girard Kinney remarked that we needed a basic drawing of the park. If PARD didn't have a drawing of the park, we could potentially look for landscape architects in the neighborhood to do the drawing. Someone else suggested that FoPP could reach out to the architecture school at UT.

- 5) Current business

- a) Update on status of soccer ban

Jennifer Potter Miller and Jane O'Brien both called the parks department about the ban on soccer. The ban of soccer has been lifted. If large games become a problem in the neighborhood, we could possibly put up signs prohibiting organized sports, but allowing neighborhood pick-up games.

- b) Cherrywoodstock music festival

wiccit and Dude Man shared updates on the proposed Cherrywoodstock festival. They submitted an application into Parks and Recreation for amplified sound, and are waiting to hear back. They were hoping to have the music festival with Cherrywood musicians in September.

- c) Gordon Bennett memorial trail markers to connect with Mueller hike & bike trail (\$1,621 to be administered by Chula League)

FoPP members talked to neighborhood icon Gordon Bennet's family, and they were in favor of putting a trail marker at the park, perhaps even as an extension of the trail markers currently in place at Mueller.

- d) Suggestions for small initial projects

Jennifer suggested repainting the picnic tables originally painted by Chula several years ago, but members who participated in that project said it was quite a lot of work and it would be best for the tables to be repainted by PARD. Mark Smolen suggested that all FoPP members could be invited to a work day on the community gardens, which recently had a license agreement for a water tap approved from PARD, and they were sending out bids for irrigation lines. Members agreed to schedule a workday in May.

- e) Suggestions for spring and summer community events at the park

Members supported Jennifer's suggestion of a Memorial Day summer kick off party, and looking at what is involved in hosting a movie night at the park. There was a request for a swim screening like the ones at Deep Eddy after the pool opens.

- f) Review of institutional relationships with nearby neighborhood associations and city

Mark Smolen described the process of getting neighborhood support for park improvements in the past as informal and more of an open call to participate in FoPP. A few years ago the PARD did start requiring formal approval by adjacent neighborhood associations for major improvements, and the community garden taskforce went through that process. There was discussion about whether improvements would have to be approved individually by the affected NAs (Wilshire Wood, Cherrywood, Schieffer-Willowbrook, Delwood 2 and Mueller) if they were included in the future master plan (to be approved by all the associations), and the conclusion was that they would not. This supports the need for a thoughtful and inclusive process for developing a master plan.

The meeting concluded and members and their families enjoyed pizza until 7pm.

**Notes submitted by Jane O'Brien.**