

**Friends of Patterson Park**  
**June 10, 2016**  
**Meeting Notes**

*Members in attendance:*

Priscilla Boston, Schieffer-Willowbrook, Vineland  
Mark Smolen, Wilshire Wood, Crestwood  
Mike Sullivan, Cherrywood, Walnut  
Jim Reed, Cherrywood, Werner  
Julie Nelson, Wilshire Wood, Crestwood  
Jennifer Potter-Miller, Cherrywood, Grayson  
Ryan Ostun, Cherrywood, Hemlock  
Lisa Fuka, Schieffer-Willowbrook, Cherrywood Rd  
Amy Bench  
Tim Bench  
Allison, Wilshire Wood, Lullwood

*Visitors present:*

Michael Berliner, Grow Green Initiative  
Destiny and Michael, Nature's Treasures  
Jennifer Chenoweth, Fistera Studio

*Call to Order 9:05 a.m.*

**Community Garden**

- Mark Smolen reported that the fence posts are being set. Irrigation lines are in though they are not tied to water yet. Next fencing panels will be installed and pergola will be built.
- Garden plots are still available. The allocation process will be a lottery for each plot. Owners are responsible for building their garden, which will be in raised beds because of caliche soil.

**CherryWoodstock**

- Ryan Ofsthun described plans for the [neighborhood music festival](#) planned for Sept. 17, 12-6pm at Patterson Park. Neighborhood-based bands will perform 30 minute showcases. A sound permit has been acquired from PARD.
- Sound will be amplified but directed toward Airport Blvd. There will be an 8x8 foot stage near the shelter. The event is alcohol free. Organizers are looking for walking traffic and not cars. There are only three people organizing this event and they would like help.

- Ryan requested a Letter of Support from FoPP and will ask for one from each adjacent neighborhood association. The letter should be emailed to Jason Mawer, head of PARD.

Concerns: Communication with the neighborhoods, parking. Jennifer suggested a Facebook page to share information. Michael Berliner offered to help create a website.

Action requested: Letter of Support. Jennifer plans to conduct online poll of FoPP members in order to get wide input.

Comment: Jennifer noted that FoPP is open to anyone who cares about the park, although the five adjacent neighborhoods will be asked to approve major plans.

### **Patterson Park Pool**

- The pool is not [scheduled to open](#) to the public until late July. Jennifer expressed concern that this may be a signal that economics of neighborhood pools are changing. This summer's pay rates are \$13/hour and \$19 for each overtime hour. Lisa Fuka, a swim instructor at the YMCA, suggested that this was causing displacement, taking lifeguards from other organizations such as the YMCA.
- Lisa spoke to Hyde Park's effort to find lifeguards for Shipe. Hyde Park funds neighborhood kids through the city's lifeguard program. Currently there is only one Junior Lifeguard taking advantage of that. Junior Life Guards are under the age of 16 and can only work at pools where there is a manager, such as Northwest and Bartholmew. One lifeguard worked 72 hours his first week earning over \$1000 for one week. Kids are not the only ones who can lifeguard.

Potential action: Assess what we can do for future years.

### **Gordon Bennett Way Trail Markers**

- Jennifer reported that the Chula League has \$1621 in its account for a memorial to trail markers. Since our April meeting Girard Kinney has looked into the cost of stone markers matching those at Mueller, but it is 1K+. Girard has proposed raising funds for the markers as part of a larger trail improvement grant. Jennifer has spoken with neighbor Chris Levack of [Texas Sculpture](#) about making wood trail markers instead with the available funds.
- Priscilla Boston, who has a long history in the neighborhood, FoPP and Chula, suggested we find out if the funds can be transferred to FoPP's account with the Austin Parks Foundation. She clarified that the markers extending Gordon Bennett Way from the [Mueller greenbelt](#) through Patterson would be a symbolic bridge or connection between development and neighborhoods to the west of Airport Blvd. Gordon had envisioned connected communities when he helped

develop the plan for Mueller.

Potential Action: 1) Determine if funds can be moved to the APF account, and 2) continue discussion on design, materials and placement of markers.

*At this time, about 10 AM we had been meeting for an hour and had to move locations due to the pavilion being used for another event.*

### **Austin Neighborhood Fest: Little Free Library Event**

- Michael Berliner from the [Grow Green Initiative](#) shared information about an event he is organizing in late July, location TBD. Free event in a park with BBQ, kid activities, supplies to build and decorate 100+ Little Free Libraries to be distributed across the city, and a community-wide book drive. FoPP members expressed interest in hosting the event at Patterson.

Next step: Grow Green will determine where the event will be held. FoPP will help spread the word regardless of where it is held.

### **Community Priorities Survey**

- Time was short so Jennifer quickly summarized results of the survey so far, and suggested a committee meet to evaluate them.

Action: The survey will continue through the summer. Jennifer will send a call out for members to begin an initial review of the results.

### **Austin Parks Foundation Grant**

- Jennifer reported that APF has invited us to apply for their [Neighborhood Grants](#). These are \$500 to \$4,999 and are awarded throughout the year on a rolling basis. They can be used for a list of pre-approved items from PARD, including trash bins, tables, bike racks, etc. Our next presenter, Jennifer Chenoweth, suggested we apply early and often since funding may not always be available. She also said in some cases there is not a big cost difference between commercial made and artist or custom made items like benches and bike racks.

Action: Jennifer will send a call out for assistance writing first grant.

### **Proposed donation of sculpture to community garden**

- Visual artist Jennifer Chenoweth of [Fisterra Studios](#) spoke about the proposed

donation of her kinetic sculpture, *Dance of the Cosmos*, to Patterson Park. The piece is currently on loan to the Elizabeth Ney Museum in Hyde Park. Jennifer earned her MFA in 1996, serves on the Austin Arts Commission, is a resident of East Austin, and has been an active member of the local arts community for 20 years. She is proposing a permanent donation of this piece to Patterson Park.

- [\*Dance of the Cosmos\*](#) was inspired by Robert Rauschenberg's Emotional Windows study and a Tibetan lotus mandala. It is part of the [XYZ Atlas](#), a Hedonic Map of Austin is interactive public art about our collective experiences.
- The sculpture has a footprint of 20 feet and is 8 feet tall when the flower is closed. It has electrical components tied to a solar panel. The solar panel needs to be within 30 feet. The sculpture is attached to a pad. The pad is not a single piece but many colored tiles. Maintenance after installation should not be much and it would be funded. The outer coating will be done in such a way graffiti can be easily removed.
- Jennifer C. had some potential locations mapped out in the park. The group looked over the map and identified another place between the pool, bathroom facility and picnic tables. The area is pretty flat and the solar panel might be placed on the bathroom facility.
- The group present was enthusiastic about the sculpture. If the broader FoPP group is supportive, Jennifer C. will pursue further community support from the adjacent neighbors and neighborhood associations.

Action: Conduct an online poll of FoPP member to see whether we should support the donation, and what would be the preferred location and write a Letter of Support.

*Adjourn 11:10 a.m. Members still present took a short walk to see progress on community garden.*

*Notes prepared by Lisa Fuka.*