

# **FRIENDS OF THE PARK COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

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**Committee Members Present:** Jennifer Brown, Jerrica Cecil, Adam Clark, Jamie Rowe

**Guests Present:** None

**1, 2. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The board president announces that the meeting is to begin and determines the presence or absence of committee members. President Vicki Windham called the meeting to order on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 5:30pm.**

**3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Vicki reviewed the minutes from the September meeting. The committee approved the minutes as presented.

**4. Public Comments:** There were no public comments made.

**5. Old Business:**

a. 501(c)3 Updates

i. Melinda is working on the application for a state tax exempt letter. She needs to collect some information on committee officers before completing this process.

b. Equipment purchase

i. Jamie has contacted some of the playground equipment companies regarding tetherball. Many of them do not sell tetherball equipment and she wants to make sure the equipment we do purchase is rated industrial.

ii. Jamie is also waiting for the trail to be completed as well as other upgrades being made at East Park to determine where the volleyball nets should be placed.

**6. New Business**

a. Halloween Happening event

i. The annual Halloween Happening at East Park is scheduled for October 31. Due to the expense of purchasing candy, costumes, and decorations, the committee voted to not participate this year.

b. Commem-a-Tree Purchase

i. The committee voted to purchase a commemorative tree to plant at Boon Park. It would be placed by the park department and would have a commemorative plaque with the committee's name. The tree and plaque would be placed at the park forever - if the tree dies or is destroyed by a storm, it is replaced by the park department at no cost. The cost for this is \$200.

**7. Discussion Items**

a. Ongoing fundraising plans

i. Taste of Dexter Fundraiser - November 21

1. Jamie asked the committee to work to sell tickets for the event. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online on the Dexter Chamber of Commerce's website.
  2. The committee brainstormed ideas for door prizes and gift baskets for the fundraiser. Jansen promised a door prize from Corner Cottage.
  3. Adam asked for additional information on what exactly Taste of Dexter will be. He stated that he has spoken to people and attempted to publicize the event, but has trouble actually describing what the event is. Jamie and Jennifer will bring it up at the Taste of Dexter meeting on Thursday.
- b. Cross Country T-Shirt Sales
- i. Profits from the cross country fundraiser totaled \$500.
- c. Social Media Update
- i. We continue to post pictures from the summer fun event with comments promoting the park.
  - ii. The committee will continue publicizing the Taste of Dexter fundraising event.
- d. Financial Update
- i. Our current balance is \$5416.68.
  - ii. A deposit was made for \$500 for the cross country t-shirt sales.
- e. New Fundraiser Ideas
- i. Jennifer learned that Nothing Bundt Cakes, a St. Louis-based bakery, hosts events for groups. She felt that it would be popular as there is not anything like that happening in this area. She offered to investigate and find out the details and logistics of how this would work.
  - ii. Jamie suggested combining the Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser with the Holloway chicken and dumpling fundraiser. The committee decided to combine the two ideas.
  - iii. Jerrica signed up to receive information on the Art to Remember fundraiser; this is the children's artwork fundraiser that we held last year. The company is under new management.
- f. Other Business
- i. Friends of the Park was awarded a grant through the Department of Natural Resources for \$10,000 to add a recycling center in Dexter, replacing an old, dilapidated recycling trailer. It is under construction and will be delivered in the near future. The recycling trailer's location may be mobile, but will initially be placed at Boon Park. The committee was excited to receive the grant and will be publicizing the new recycler when it is installed. This grant helps us expand our reach into the community beyond playground equipment, allowing us to continue providing a service that is a benefit to the public.
  - ii. Vicki discussed her hopes and ideas to add the story walk to Boon Park. She suggested contacting the library to ask if they would be interested in fundraising for the project along with the playground committee. Adam offered to bring it to the library director and board for discussion or to present it to Friends of the Library.
  - iii. Jamie gave the committee an update on the damage with Sugar Plum Park. The playscape there was completely destroyed in the May tornado. The park department has removed the damaged equipment. Jamie is currently working through the paperwork and red tape involved in replacing the play

- equipment. She hopes to have plans to show to the committee in the near future to get ideas.
- iv. Jamie gave an update on the damage to East Park, which lost dozens of trees in the May tornado event. The park department planted 83 trees in East Park today to replace the trees that were destroyed.
  - v. Jamie gave an update on the upgrades coming to West Park. The park department received a grant to replace the existing pea gravel underneath the newest playscape with the same pour-in-place surfacing that was installed with the new play equipment at Boon Park. The existing tennis/pickleball court is being renovated to become four lighted pickleball courts.
  - vi. Jamie updated the committee on Eden Park, which will be a nature park with trees and trails. The park will not have any playground equipment - it is intended to be a nature area.
  - vii. The committee is interested in participating in the Clean Up Dexter program as a community outreach event. Committee members decided to meet at West Park next Wednesday, October 9 at 5:30. Adam will send out an email and message to the committee to ask for additional volunteers.

Our next scheduled meeting will be **Wednesday, November 6 at 5:30pm**. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Clark  
Secretary