

Park Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 5pm

This meeting was called to order at 5pm by Chairman Rick Meyers, in the Village Community Center, Iola Village Hall

Members Present: Trustees Rick Meyers, chair, Missy Fenn, Pamela Parks; Other Present: Janine Beauchaine, Sandi Moore, and Erikka Flowers

Dog Park Updates

Fencing posts and wire are purchased with installation planned this April.

Ground covering-clover-planting projected to happen by end of March or early April, weather permitting and the finish of some minor grading and dragging to clear area of small rocks.

Cement needed for fence posts have been donated.

Gravel for parking area – still looking for donations to help with gravel material.

We are still in need of a sketched illustration/rendition of dog park space. Hoping someone will donate to this need.

Main gate fencing into dog park area will be installed by American Fencing Co., the same company who installed the pickle ball court fencing. By utilizing same company, there is a price break. The rest of the dog park perimeter fencing will be installed by volunteers under Rick's supervision.

Looking for more fundraising opportunities-Rick announced plans to start the next fundraising campaign for the dog park, Taylor Field, and even Krause Park during the Iola Winter Carnival this February.

Rick suggested having two more Brat Fry fundraisers at the Iola Sentry this year. We could start as soon as February 1st, to sign up. Hopefully, one will be held during the Iola City wide Rummage sale.

Also, there are plans to have another raffle start in the spring and run from April thru. May; with a drawing taking place in June. Unlike last year's raffle, the raffle ticket will be sold at 10 dollars vs. 20 dollars or three tickets for 20 dollars. However, we will still have 30 winners.

Janine asked about dog park hours of operation. The dog park will operate year round; however, no water accessible on the dog park grounds during winter hours-November through April per calendar year.

Sandi Moore (grant writer) has researched and found 8 potential grants for the dog park, but looking for the "why" and "when" from the committee, such as when dog park plan was proposed, expenses, including what expenses needed still with fencing, for example, Rick shared that 3500 to 4,000 is still needed to cover fencing and expenses for gravel parking, and water access hook up and expenses part of this installation, and so forth.

Pet Safe-an example of a grant Sandi is looking into for us. In summary, this grant can be applied for up to 2500 hundred dollars. Sandi is working to help in a pro bono on behalf of Rosie Paw Dog Park. There is also a grant from another company, Allies, which has a 5,000 dollars grant that we might be able to obtain.

Rick additionally shared with Sandi that our long term goal is to transform the shed left from the satellite company that owned the space into a self-serve dog washing area.

Sandi asked about plans for benches/sitting areas. Rick indicated that had been discussed. He knows a company that can do benches. Also people want to donate. Looking at having 3 benches down along each side of the fencing and across, along with planting maple trees around the space.

Rick indicated that trash cans and bags to help owners take care of their dogs' excrement have been donated and will be set up once site is ready for use. The final exit and entrances into the large vs. small dog spaces are still being finalized. But there will be yearly fee (can be paid at the Village Hall) or daily donation box on site (using honor system). Purpose of fee: to help with the maintenance of the dog park and to help check that owners are following vaccine requirements.

Sandi requested a budget from Rick. Most dog park grants will request policy and procedures. They must be posted at the park. Liability issues mentioned. Rick indicated the Village will not be liable for dog park use, according to legal counsel. But Village need to post: enter and use at own risk.

Community Garden

Children's Garden-Erikka Flowers will lead the Children's Garden for the 2023 year, but requesting a change in how money will be handled between the Children's Garden and Adult Garden area within the River Road Community Garden.

Rick will arrange a meeting between Stephanie and Erikka, the two co-coordinators as all money and financial holdings come under Village authority. Also other expectations by the Village will be discussed.

Rick also indicated that shingles necessary to fix the shed on the children's garden side are available from a donation. This replacement with some volunteers could take place as early as April. Erikka and others are willing to assist in this effort.

Update on Pickle Ball Court

Rick would like to check on light fixture to see if the dawn to dusk light mechanism is not in operation simply because bulb needs replacing or just something else really minor. Having lighting at the court would increase usage time. Rick will check with Glen.

Motion made by M. Fenn and seconded by P. Parks to adjourn. Motion carried. Rick announced meeting adjourned at 5:51pm.

Submitted by Pamela Parks, Village Trustee