

Candler Park Conservancy, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

7:00 pm

Rush Center Training Room

1530 Dekalb Ave NE, 30307

Present: Kim Awbrey, Ken Edelstein, Stacy Funderburke, Dan Hanlon, Elliott Jones, Scott Lenhart, Perry Smith, Amy Stout, Anne Weinberg, Lauren Welsh, Doug Wetzels, Jack White, and Omar Zaki

Not Present: Ben Klehr, John Skach*, and John Wolf* (with * denoting advance notice of absence provided)

The agenda for the meeting (although not formally adopted nor strictly followed) was as listed below:

1. Welcome
2. Review and Approve Prior Board Meeting Minutes
3. Report on Rat Poison Incident and Recent CPNO Meeting
4. Committee Reports
 - Board Development and Governance Committee
 - Membership, Fundraising, and Communications Committee
 - Finance and Audit Committee
 - Environment, Projects, and Programming Committee
 - Update on Amy Erwin Memorial
 - Update on Playscape Project
 - Update on Active Lawn Amphitheater Project

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the draft meeting minutes from both the October and November board meetings (with adjustments regarding the attendance lists) was unanimously approved.

Report on Rat Poison Incident and Recent CPNO Meeting

Amy Stout shared with the group that a neighbor had found rat poison at the beaver pond the Sunday before last and brought it to her. The neighbor's dog was trying to eat the green blocks. The group agreed that we should publish an article in the Messenger (including a request for assistance in identifying the poisoner) and contact Councilmember Amir Farokhi's office. On the following Monday, Amy asked the Atlanta Police Department representative who attended the CPNO meeting to confirm that it was illegal for a private citizen to put out rat poison in a public park, but he was unsure and suggested this would fall under the Park Department's domain.

Amy noted that event organizer Josh Antenucci was present at the December CPNO meeting to publicize the annual music festival he will stage in the park in late May / early June. There was no discussion about pallet washing practices or preventing sediment in the stream at this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Board Development and Governance:

- The governance committee had not met since the last CPC board meeting, but Scott Lenhart reported that he had submitted an application for Directors and Officers insurance and that it would be effective January 1st. It will cost \$650.
- Scott suggested that we go ahead and set the date for our annual membership meeting, and he recommended that we hold it on March 18, 2020 – the same third Wednesday of the month as our regular monthly board meetings.
- Dan Hanlon volunteered to contact the Rush Center to confirm the availability of the large meeting room for the annual membership meeting.
- There will not be a governance committee meeting this month, since the fourth Wednesday is

Christmas.

- Scott noted that he had shared the conflict of interest policy and the board commitment letter with all committee members and encouraged feedback on both.
- Stacy reported that he thinks Ben has the financial policy ready for evaluation, and he committed to follow up with him.

Finance and Audit:

- The finance committee had not met since the last CPC board meeting, but Treasurer Elliott Jones provided a very detailed financial summary that included income and expenses for the year to date as well as projected expenses based on previous commitments from prior years.
- He noted that our estimated cash available after outstanding expenses are paid will be almost \$50K.
- Elliott also shared a worksheet for 2020 budget development.
- Dan indicated that they will collect a list of anticipated expenses for all committees, draft an overall budget, and provide it for review at the January board meeting.

Membership, Fundraising, and Communications:

- This committee did not meet in December, and the next meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 2020.
- Doug distributed an agenda / list of events, tasks, and goals for the group.
- Another Beavers, Bluegrass, & BBQ event is being planned for the spring, and the CPC will become responsible for the movie night in Candler Park series.
- They are setting a schedule for publishing the Park Post on a regular basis.
- The team will be researching potential grant applications and exploring other fundraising opportunities.
- Receipts for donations to the Conservancy will be issued to donors for tax purposes, and Perry volunteered to send out an end-of-year review / solicitation.

Environment, Projects, and Programming:

- This committee met on December 11, and the group discussed the rat poison incident at that meeting.
- A representative from the Mary Lin Safety committee (Sam) attended to discuss how to improve drop off at the school. The Mary Lin group is focused on the east side of Candler Park Drive north of the club house, and we suggested that they put in a ticket with the Parks Dept asking them to clear the brush in the right of way closest to the road to provide more space to open car doors.
- Lauren stated that the Mary Lin group wants to install a multi-use path and asked whether our vision plan encompasses this area.
- We are waiting to hear from Park Pride regarding the grant application for the active lawn project. At the December CPNO meeting, the membership voted to award \$50,000 towards the project from the 2019 Fall Fest profits and also to award 80% of the profits over the first \$10,000 from the 2020 Fall Fest (contingent on CPC receiving the Park Pride grant.)
- We are on the agenda for the January Park Design meeting to get approval for the planting plan related to the Audubon project of invasive removal from the riparian corridor. Elise Cormier is finishing the plan and will attend this meeting with the City as will Walter Bland. Next they will do a walk-through with Sandy, who is overseeing the project.
- Stacy Funderburke provided an update on the Erwin Memorial Garden. The design has been scaled back, so the installation work will not require phasing and can all be done at once. He

stated that the funds will be secured well in advance. Every dollar for the memorial will pass through the CPC bank account, but it will be flow-through funding. The goal is to have the memorial complete by April 18, 2020. They still need to get approval at a Park Design meeting in either January or February. Elliott suggested a path to go from the memorial, through the cove, and up to the park entrance. Ken asked about maintenance requirements. The site will need some weeding periodically and perhaps the funds raised can include this future cost.

- Efforts on the playscape project are ongoing. Tomorrow an arborist will visit the park to evaluate the trees potentially impacted by the project. Kim, Elliott, Jack, and Dan continue to provide feedback on the design. In addition, the civil engineer who has been engaged for the project suggested that a drainage pipe in the area of the playground could be incorrectly oriented.