

Candler Park Conservancy, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Present: Ken Edelstein, Stacy Funderburke, Dan Hanlon, Elliot Jones, Ben Klehr, Scott Lenhart, Perry Smith, John Skach, Amy Stout, Anne Weinberg, Doug Wetzel, Jack White, John Wolf, and Omar Zaki.

Not Present: Kim Awbrey (with advance notice of absence provided)

Items provided ahead of time (email and/or Slack):

- Agenda, DW
 - Previous minutes, KA
 - Projects Committee - notes from 1/13, SF
 - Project Committee - small projects zone map & nomination form, SF
 - Finance Committee financial update, JW
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Motions Adopted:

1. Motion to approve December minutes – approved unanimously
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Meeting Notes:

Welcome/Call to Action/Timer Reminder (Doug)

Doug welcomes, mentions full agenda and need to move quickly.

Review & Approve prior Minutes

- Motion to approve prior minutes (December) with no questions or comments, and a note of thanks to Kim for providing lighthearted points - **approved unanimously.**

Active Lawn Discussion

- DW opened with the update that the active lawn group got back together and had three calls leading to general consensus to move forward with fundraising this year. Out of \$1.1M - \$1.2M we are at about 25% funded already, so pushing forward and getting in front of foundations to test the waters would give us an answer – i.e., we might get pushback, but if we did not start conversations, we would not know. Also more people are needed on AL/A committee, as is a board vote to move forward – not to stop the small projects process, but advance the AL/A simultaneously.

- AS stated that she believes CPNO has significant funding that could be applied to the project; and the Conservancy should go back to the CPNO board, remind them of their initial funding commitment, and let them know we will be following up. There is a need to communicate with the CPNO leadership soon since they are putting their budget together for the new year; and it might be worthwhile to request additional funds (possibly another \$50K).
- SF also mentioned that he thinks pursuing fundraising for the AL/A this year is a good idea.
- LW and PS also voiced their support for moving forward, and that the CPNO can see for themselves how popular the park is. PS reminded everyone that it will be an ambitious fundraising project and will require all hands on deck; but also recalled SF's comment that the first project is the most important project, and we might not get another Park Pride grant if we let it lapse.
- SF mentioned the need for a refresh of the AL/A committee, and perhaps also a community-wide push to show we can match foundation funding. LW is willing to take the lead on the on the community initiative and keep it separate from activities of the development committee.
- Various issues / questions were raised during the dialogue:
 - Is this the right time in the market? Will we be worse off if we can't raise the capital?
 - Are there other projects that would be more successful?
 - Is the design still relevant in a Covid / post-Covid environment?
 - Is the Conservancy ready to restart the effort from an organizational perspective?
- JW voiced his concern that the greatest challenge to the success of AL/A effort is the perceived lack of a significant number of users (i.e. there are many places where field-related activities can and do occur) whereas the playground has more attraction potential. SF and KE disagreed and said there are more users than ever on the field now. Can we convince users like soccer folks and others that their experience would be better?
- PS mentioned that Coxe Curry thinks it is as good a time as any to go to the fundraising community.
- JW asked to be added to the AL/A list to cover the finance component.

Governance (Scott) – 10 min

- Annual meeting on March 17, normal meeting time, scheduled for Zoom. Notice has been provided on the website.
- SL said anyone with at-large nominees for board membership can submit through mid-February. Question from PS on responding to other potentially interested candidates - hold for future, or nominate now? Governance prefers committee membership before board membership, with the focus this year on active lawn fundraising versus board development.

- AW announced that she will be moving this spring and will need to drop off the board. Everyone thanked her for her service.
- The board commitment form needs to be finalized. SL will convert it into a Google form and present at next board meeting. Target to have in place by April 1.

Projects (Stacy) – 10 min

- New Projects Committee member Linda Chmar, recruited by DW.
- Activate ATL (Parks Department greenspace master plan) update: new dates are posted to join forums and advocate for Candler Park. SF is participating on the Technical Committee and encouraged the board to engage.
- Small Projects are the focus for the next meeting utilizing the nomination form, zone map etc. Improve our process so we are aligned with our mission. If anyone on the board has an idea, send it in.
- SF would like to set up consistent volunteer events, even if small; ideally the first Saturday of each month, 10 AM-12 noon. February's volunteer project will likely be something light like trash cleanup; but still important for board members and friends to volunteer. Every other month is the goal – start in February, next event in April. SF encourage the board to submit ideas for volunteer projects.
- Kudos to DW's work on refreshing front entry paths – looks good, holding up well.
- PS has done some coordination with Trees Atlanta on kudzu removal along Candler Park Drive embankment and discussed with them what that would look like.

Membership/Communications/Fundraising (Ken) – 10 min

- KE intends to work on preparing a media request form to give folks an easy way to request social media.
- Regarding Movie Night – CPNO is interested in seeing movies in late spring, but DW thinks it is a city decision; fall may be more likely. DW will reach out to permitting as CPNO has asked the Conservancy to handle the program. LW asked if the CPNO annual budget contains a line item for Movie Night (check online to see if it is available); and AS noted that it would be better if it is budgeted for now, although not impossible to add later in the year. More discussion on future funding needed.
- KE said KA expressed interest in helping plan for some socially-distanced events, but unclear as to which committee would take the lead. KE clarified that entertainment- or education-related events belongs to the Development Committee; and events related to capital improvements or maintenance belong to the Projects Committee.

- DW brought up the idea of a pop-up disc golf event, not on the golf course but scattered around the balance of the park. The event would run from Thursday AM with disassembly the following Monday. DW volunteered to absorb the cost but would welcome assistance from CPNO. General support for the idea from the board.

Finance (John)

- JW sent out a finance update on Slack. There were no questions.
- DW mentioned the good news that the Conservancy received a \$4000 donation (source was a family foundation).

General Update on Parks Department Call

- PS and DW reconnected with representatives from Parks (Commissioner Dargle, Doug Voss and Aaron Weiner) to update them on various fronts. Parks is excited about the Erwin Garden and the front entry refresh, and recommended they reach out to Tara Buckner for assistance on educational activities. Regarding golf course access, they suggested talking with Jeff King about clearance for one-off events like cleanups, Paideia activities etc. However, they are not doing anything more on formalizing greater public access beyond the one-offs. Parks' position is that the golf course is a functioning business, and there are lots of alternatives in other parks (Commissioner Dargle may be open to discussing further, but Doug Voss is not).
- Parks excited about the AL/A project in theory, but they have no funding to contribute as an early donor. However, they may be open to coming in with "last gap" funding should it be needed.
- Playground improvements are currently funded through the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program. They would consider replacing the existing equipment if it was damaged or someone became injured as a result of normal use, but the replacement would simply be a prefabricate unit and nothing customized to reflect the Playscape concept design.
- It is unlikely that Parks would financially support physical improvements to the pool house restrooms but would be open to sharing in the cost of maintenance; and requested the Conservancy provide a quote for regular cleaning. They did however commit that golf course staff would be available to open the restrooms in the morning and lock them in the evening. DW suggested that we look for a reasonable price quote for regular clean-up – somewhere in the range of \$12,000 annually – that could be the basis of a cost-sharing agreement with the city (the vendor would need to have insurance and commit to showing up). JW to provide the contact information of a neighbor that could be a resource. Other ideas: reach out to the Freedom Park Conservancy, or possibly approach the New Church to see if they might be willing to share their service.
- General takeaway is that Parks is high on maintenance commitments, but low on supporting

new investments.

- General update closed with news on new development team for Pinebloom redevelopment. PS to share more information on Slack.

Erwin Endowment

No discussion.

Closing Comments / Scheduling

Board meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday in February; however, DW will be out of town. Request to reschedule to the fourth Wednesday.

- Rescheduling to be discussed on Slack.

Meeting adjourned.