

Friends of Fisher Park Annual Meeting 2019 DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 7:00 – 8:45 pm
Fisher Park north picnic table

Present:

Co-chairs: Kristina Hunter (KH) /Sonya Jantz (SJ)

Matthew Lawrence
Lindsay Mierau
Martin Lyons
Kris Doerksen
Amanda Doerksen
Muriel Lukovich
Jennifer Lukovich

Lynn Baker
Ian Schillberg
John Botkin
Wendy Botkin
Michael Farris
May Wady
Ray Offman

Minutes:

1. Overview: KH provided an update on the park status. Former councillor Jenny Gerbasi advocated for the park before her departure from city council resulting in funding for flower beds in 2018, upgraded lighting and irrigation, and ongoing renewal work in 2019.
2. Work proposed for 2019: KH and SJ met with the city to discuss plans for 2019 (copy of plans were available at the meeting). Ongoing renewal projects/information:
 - No healthy trees removed
 - Hedges are being trimmed right back to deal with years of neglect. Going forward, City is committed to annual trimming.
 - Path widening (1.8 m) and surfacing (compacted, crushed limestone) will occur in 2019 . Access points will be paved for ease in maintenance
 - New benches and path circling the flower bed, with paths from the four sets of stairs.

The group discussed the path and benches near the flower bed, expressing some concern about accessibility or appropriateness of plans. In general, all are pleased with the renewed attention and care focused on the park.

Action: Friends of Fisher Park (KH) will express thanks for the ongoing work, but will enquire about rationale for path/benches near the flower bed, and accessibility issues.

The group also discussed maintenance issues such as winter clearing of the sidewalk, and entrance ways. These are operations issues, and people are encouraged to direct these issues to the city via the 311 line, separate from the Parks branch.

3. Options for future development

Other options for park enhancement if funding were available (possibly from private donations or sponsorships, or designated councillor funds) were discussed:

- BBQ pit (small asphalt area – low cost, and easily removed if there are problems)
- Water fountain (with irrigation already upgraded, this would involve only a one-time installation cost)
- Tree treatment /care– Issues related to Emerald Ash Borer are responsibility of Forestry/Insect Control (not Parks) branch. Note also that apparently all Ash trees in the city will eventually be removed and so focus on preserving these trees is likely a losing battle. General agreement that the trees define the park and are a high priority.

Motion (Michael Farris, 2nd - Sonya Jantz): that tree maintenance and prompt replacement be a key priority for any special funding or hands-on projects in Fisher Park. All in favour.

4. Zoning/Land Classification

Park is currently zoned as a 'residential park' with an assigned land value. There is uncertainty about whether that means that the land could be sold for development. This should be clarified, and changed if necessary.

Motion (Ray Offman, 2nd John Botkin): that Friends of Fisher Park petition our city councillor to ensure Fisher Park zoning and classification are appropriate to ensure preservation of the park and to protect it from any potential development projects. All in favour.

Action: KH will make initial enquires and follow up with a letter if necessary.

5. Park Projects

Discussion returned to specific projects to enhance the park.

Motion (KH, 2nd May Wady) that Friends of Fisher Park approach our City Councillor to request funding for a park water fountain that could be used by people and dogs. All in favour.

Action: KH will raise this with Sherri Rollins

6. Friends of Fisher Park hands-on activities

SJ provided information on the Adopt-a-Park program, which would give formal recognition of the Friends of Fisher Park role in park care, and more official access to city resources for clean-up projects, etc.

Motion: (John Botkin, 2nd Sonya Jantz) that Friends of Fisher Park apply to the City of Winnipeg Adopt-a-Park program. Vote passed with 1 abstention.

Action: Amanda Doerksen will prepare and submit application.

As discussed last year, the group continues to have an interest in spring and/or fall events to help with park clean up and/or tree banding.

Motion: (KH, 2nd Ian Schillberg) that a sub-committee be struck to organize spring and/or fall clean-up and family day. All in Favour.

Subcommittee: John Botkin, Ray Offman, Michael Farris, Amanda Doerksen, KH/SJ

7. Communications:

Communication within the group and to the community will be via email distribution list, articles in the Bugle and Riverview Reflector, and through Facebook page (established by KH). All encouraged to post photos on the FB page.

8. Motion to adjourn (KH)