



Western Gateway Recreation & Park District

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Wednesday April 17, 2024

Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

- 1) **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Dan House
- 2) **Roll Call** – Nancy Peirce, Chairman, present via phone; Sharon Lewis, Vice Chairman, present; Dan House, present; Brandon Lindsen, present;
- 3) **Introduction of guests** – GCDGA: Dennis Heil, Michala Inman, Jeff Stoops, Nicole Mizener, Jason Herm, Michael Travers, Chris Carpenter, Mike Woodman; Dog Park: Tom Hartnett, Marko Glendinning
- 4) **Agenda Approval** – *Director Lindsen moved and Director House seconded that item 11a and 9c be moved to Public Comments. Unanimously approved.*
- 5) **Public Comments** – Tom Hartnett submitted specs for park bench in honor of Jeri Stone with a bronze plaque to be commemorated the week of June 15th to 23rd, six months from the date of her death. Her sister is purchasing the six-foot bench which will be installed on a concrete pad; would like to add as an agenda item for board approval next month. A site for the bench needs to be picked by three of the dog park board members. Tom also thanked the park for resolving the water leak issue. Marko Glendinning submitted an estimate for \$2779.50 from Inspired Electric to run power to shed, to be added to next month's agenda for board approval.

Jason Herm spoke about GCDGA's organizational structure focusing more funds and improvements on Condon Park course in Grass Valley than Western Gateway's course, the past work and improvements and growth promotion made by a small group of dedicated players, including firebreaks, clean ups, adding extra holes and placements to enhance the course. He proposed forming a separate disc golf club and expressed his thoughts regarding the benefits of a new local to Hanging Oaks disc golf club, which can develop and implement community programs, workshops, tournaments, outreach events, and would cater to the evolving needs of its members.

Jeff Stoops commented that the course would benefit from a local hands-on approach, by players who live close, are here often, have good improvement ideas, the ability to implement them and will focus on making Hanging Oaks the best course it can be.

Michael Travers introduced himself as a founding father and past president of the GCDGA who designed the course, as well as donated the baskets. He stressed the importance of the proposal process regarding disc golf course changes and improvements, stating that the GCDGA board was elected, and the organization consisted of ninety members. Michael recognized that all proposals must be introduced to and approved by the park board. He is interested in many changes and improvements, to be officially proposed as per protocol.

Mike Wood stated that he has been involved continuously with the GCDGA since 1998 and takes some offense to the notion that the Penn Valley course had been ignored. The organization has strived to improve the course, add holes, etc. and has tried to include Jeff and Jason.

Dennis Heil introduced himself as the new board president this year, he described the new board as a strong one, focused on progress, who would like to be given a chance to get going. They have plans to propose, including revenue sponsorship. Following the steps required, improvements need to be proposed at GCDGA meetings so they can be brought before the WGP board. He listed cutting down trees, weed eating, and trying to encourage appropriate planning and adherence to proper channels. As an example, he mentioned that the wildlife preserve setback was crossed. GCDGA consider themselves as guests of the park.

Director Lewis commented that it sounds like both parties want the same thing, and there should be a way two different groups can have a conversation, decide what both groups are wanting, get on the agenda and present a united proposal to the WGP board. Both parties seem to want the same result but they want to go about it in different ways.



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Dennis Heil continued that there have been separate agendas and the only thing that has changed is that people got caught, were told stop, and that's why we are here, because proper channels were not gone through. On Easter Sunday he and other GCDGA board members walked the course with the two gentlemen, while they explained what they had done and why they felt it was justified, and he took the time to hear them out, but in the end proper channels were not followed.

Chairman Peirce noted that we don't have an MOU that has been followed up on. The board had asked the GCDGA for a fundraising tournament that has not happened. The disc golf course encompasses almost forty acres of park and generates the least amount of income than any other area for the amount of property they take up. Baseball fields generate \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year, the picnic areas generate significantly more money than the disc golf course. There was a proposal for fundraising through sponsorship that also never happened. There has been deterioration on the course. This is supposed to be the responsibility of the GCDGA. The disc golf association is supposed to hold maintenance workdays that have not happened.

Chairman Peirce recognized that there had been a pattern of rogue work happening without board approval, possibly because they were unaware of protocol, but they were trying to take care of things. The way the issue was handled on social media was inappropriate. The blame game being played and the attitude of ownership by the disc golf association is upsetting. GCDGA was speaking for the WGP board on social media, which should not have happened. A Master Plan for Hanging Oaks needs to be done to facilitate going forward in a productive and constructive way to result in a course we would like to have at Western Gateway Park. The current divisive system is not working. Two WGP board members can facilitate the formation of a Master Plan. She stated that she is not opposed to two groups, as in many situations, people will gravitate to the group that matches their personality and dynamics. There should be groups that cater to the different interests. WGP can accommodate both groups. Chairman Peirce stated that we have heard enough public comment, the issue needs to be added to next month's agenda but the board needed to hear about the two holes, which had been started, and might be an enhancement to the course. She strongly suggested that the public comment be concluded until the next meeting.

Director Lindsen expressed that it was not necessary to discuss the two holes issue if there will be a discussion on a Master Plan for the entire course. Chairman Peirce responded that we needed to talk about the two holes, which had already been aired on social media, and the board needed to know what happened and be informed that she can't talk about what occurred unless she was speaking with the entire board.

11a) - Chairman Pierce began with an introduction and outline of events stating that she had an email from Chris Carpenter, representing GCDGA, with whom she has had a very good past relationship and interaction. However, Chairman Peirce felt that the email from Mr. Carpenter was not representative of whom she had come to know. Chairman Peirce followed up on the email via a social media post and photo requesting information on the course "improvement" in process. The post comments devolved into inappropriate negative contributions causing Chairman Peirce to remove the post as she would like to only see positive messaging on the park social media. The responsible party, Jeff Stoops, came forward and Chairman Peirce spent 1.5 hours walking the disc course with Mr. Stoops and was educated on the history of the course, perspective of work done and those involved. Upon request Mr. Stoops provided a written history of the course supplemented with photos taken during the building process. This historical information was forwarded to the remainder of the board. Chairman Peirce requested that Mr. Stoops attend the board meeting regarding his role and intent of the recent improvement attempts.

Jeff Stoops: In 1996 Mr. Stoops was part of the original crew who built the course and subsequently spent ten years maintaining the fairways via pruning one fairway at a time, installing seventy pin placements and mowing. Roger Elliot had the machinery to bring in and he with others contributed to the build, design, and improvements of the course, including the moat, bridges, pond, volcano, alien head, crescent moon, signature holes, poles to protect Blue Oaks, which have become known as Stoops Poles, and working with equestrians on a horse trail, during which time he worked with the park board. Since 2007, many of these design elements have not been maintained and deteriorated either functionally, visually, or both. Mr. Stoops has begun playing disc golf at the park again and has worked on repairing areas, cutting fallen trees after storms, burn piles to clean up the course area, and working on course distance.



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When he began construction of the new forms on Holes 4 and 9, Mr. Stoops was unaware of current protocol processes. When the issue arose, he reached out to Chris Carpenter. They had a great conversation and walk through the course with GCDGA board members and felt the situation had been left on good terms, with a handshake and agreement and understanding to work together but has since been called a criminal and "slammed" by members of the GCDGA for his actions. He has been approached by people who referred to him as a criminal, or asked if he was being arrested. Mr. Stoops described this as defamation of character. Mr. Stoops said he did not take actions with criminal intent but with heart. Mr. Stoops and others have improved and maintained the course on their own time, with their own money, without cost to the park, and with great savings to the park. He would like to form a separate, local Penn Valley disc golf club to improve and maintain the course via volunteers, which he expressed they can do effectively, and with style.

Michala Inman, Secretary of GCDGA – Ms. Inman took issue with the GCDGA board being attacked and blamed for social media defamation, claiming that neither she, the president (Dennis Heil), the treasurer (Chris Carpenter) or the vice president (Mike Woodman) or other board members were involved in contributing to comments on social media. Director Lindsen interjected that this is often the involvement of "keyboard warriors."

Mike Woodman, Vice President of GCDGA – Appreciates Chairman Peirce's proposal of a Master Plan and agrees that this is the best way forward. He added that in the past, improvements were done by the club and the disc golf community, in conjunction with the board. Players should not be putting poles up without the board approval process. Mr. Woodman offered to provide a list of past improvements could be provided.

Director Lindsen advised that histories are not needed at this point as much as accurate, current status and the future plans that are needed. He disagreed with the philosophy of installing obstacles rather than replacing trees, emphasizing the importance of protecting smaller and other existing trees and planting new trees as an important part of the MOU. Jeff Stoops voiced concerns about watering new trees to which Director Lindsen assured that planting native trees in October or November would suffice.

Director House stated that without an MOU and a Master Plan nothing is going to happen, and without cooperation between the two groups, these will not come to fruition. Director House noted that the park wants to be a part of the process to improve the course but a MOU and Master Plan must first exist. Director Lindsen added that the proposed plan must include a map for better understanding of proposed improvements.

Chairman Peirce suggested a motion that Western Gateway Recreation & Park District form a committee, not to exceed nine persons, to include two WGP board members, with GCDGA members and other interested community members, with the mission of the committee to draft a Master Plan and MOU going forward between the community groups and WGP board. Director Lindsen moved and Director House seconded; unanimously approved.

Chairman Peirce volunteered to be on the committee and suggested Director Lindsen consider volunteering as well. Chairman Peirce advised she would be in touch with GCDGA and Jeff Stoops and will reach out to seek other community members to form the committee. Michael Travers volunteered to join the committee. Chairman Peirce advised GCDGA to come up with three of their members to join the committee. Jeff Stoops also volunteered to be a part of the committee. Chairman Peirce thanked the disc golf community members for their time.

- 6) **Correspondence** – no correspondence
- 7) **Board Minutes** – Director Lindsen moved and Director House seconded to review the March minutes at the following meeting. Unanimously approved.
- 8) **Financial Report** – Director has not yet inquired with our bookkeeper about the office supply overbudget concern. It is possible that equipment rental costs may be listed under the grounds' maintenance budget. Chairman Peirce moved and Director House seconded that the Financial Report for March be accepted as presented. Unanimously approved.



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9) Old Business

- a) Financial Audit – audit was completed in one long day on April 10th. The report could take another two months. Next there will be a two-year audit of the last and current fiscal year. The Board has the option of a two-year review audit and one full year audit but there is a roadblock in that Larry Bain does not do review audits.
- b) Solar Array Pad – a pour date for the pad has not been scheduled. Excavation is well underway and Director Lindsen will be bringing boulders on Friday, April 19th. Director Lindsen used his bobcat to level the pad area, during which two sprinkler heads were relocated to water grass around the solar array. Chairman Peirce noted that the concrete pad will be an amazing improvement to the park.
- c) NID Treated Water Leak – the leak was found today and isolated by Joe Blake. Tom Gomes will be keeping watch via Eye on Water. The meter is read daily at noon. Director Lindsen noted that two leaks at the dog park were fixed, adding that a shut-off and is still looking for the connection where the well water and NID treated water meet and feed the same pipes. It may be under the asphalt, or in that general area. We will need Joe Blake to trace the pipes. Director Pierce indicated that Jacob can look in the shop for maps of dog park water created by Tony. Water between well water and treated NID water is co-mingling but this should not be a concern as the well water is very clean. Chairman Peirce mentioned an issue with the system is that the well is a residential grade vs an encased commercial grade well. Director Lindsen stressed that it is important to find the connection and that he has created a map of what he has so far deciphered. Chairman Peirce added that there is a potential issue with water on the baseball fields as well and that it needs to be determined if any leaks exist.

10) *Not included on the agenda*

11) New Business.

- a) *Moved to Public Comments.*
- b) Message Sign Update - Louie Osterude was not present to apprise the Board as anticipated.
- c) Sign Usage Policy – Chairman Peirce stated that each line represents a thirty-minute time investment; having employees do this will come at a cost. The Penn Valley Area Chamber charges \$50 for use of their sign. This feels exorbitant for the park but Chairman Pierce feels that there should be a fee assigned as well as a policy regarding what is put on the sign and park priority. Director Lindsen added that he would like to offer community members the ability to have messages posted for a fee, such as Happy Birthday, Congratulations, etc. Chairman Peirce further noted there are four lines on the sign with one of them typically listing “Park Reservations 530-432-1990.” This line can be freed up with a lower banner listing this information. A policy needs to be drafted for vote on the number of lines, length of time, fee, and prioritization of park events; Chairman Peirce and Carol will work on this policy for discussion at the next Board meeting.
- d) Asphalt Patching – Director Peirce advised that the hole cut in the parking lot asphalt where there was a leak and two other holes need to be patched. She has reached out to Scott Miller who is in Egypt and will contact her when he returns from his vacation. There is no estimate yet but considering expediency Director Lindsen moved and Chairman Peirce seconded a motion to approve asphalt patching work not to exceed \$3500. Unanimously approved.
- e) Baseball Lights - Director Peirce advised that nearly simultaneously we were advised by Chris Potter of Penn Valley Area Little League that field lights were not coming on and by Musco that contact had been lost with the controller. Director Pierce confirmed with Tyler that he had the key to the controller so that he could work with a Musco tech to resolve the situation. However, Tyler reported today that there was no electricity to the controller. Director House also noted that there were power issues on the baseball field. Chairman Peirce reached out to Gray Electric as they have familiarity with the park. She left a message and expects to hear back tomorrow.
- f) New Volunteers – Secretary Carol Fulkerson updated new volunteers: a gentleman who provided eight community service hours weed-eating, an eight grader who will be fulfilling his school required community service hours at the park and a couple of people who routinely enjoy and walk the park calling in to ask if they could maintain the Flag Garden. They will bring in their own tools, trim shrubs, pull weeds and paint the benches.

12) Advisory Groups - Presentations

- a) Buildings and Grounds
 - i) Park Maintenance – Chairman Peirce provide an update on park maintenance. Jacob has been working on the dump truck with Tom’s assistance. He has purchased and replaced a few parts and has communicated that the truck is in working order. Jacob brought to Chairman Peirce’s attention that the park has a somewhat rusted



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shredder which Jacob asked if he could work on to get back in operation. Chairman Peirce consented to this request. Tom reported to Chairman Pierce that the roll up doors unwound backwards and fell off the tracks, stating it would need outside repair. Director Lindsen suggested contacting a metal building fabrication company first before reaching out 49er Garage Doors. Director Peirce advised that Tom had parked the golf cart against the door to prevent break ins. He further noted that the maintenance staff are doing a good job and are both easy to work with. Carol Fulkerson added that Tyler has been dealing with ongoing issues of vandalism in the men's bathroom, involving clogging toilets and the urinal with paper towels and toilet paper, and human waste smeared on the floor and walls. This was reported to the Nevada County Sheriff yesterday, April 16th.

- ii) Firewood Program, CRV Program and Farmers Market – Nothing new to report on Firewood Program. CRV - Rick had not kept up with the CRV Program and it is really backed up. Jacob has been consistently working to clean up and catch up this issue. People are also dropping off cardboard, which costs the park. Kathy and Jennifer of Black Iron Baking will be picking up the cardboard for weed suppression. After which time we have signage to put on the trailer to discourage dropping off cardboard. Farmer's Market – Chairman Peirce reached out to Catrie Levenson who advised she is no longer in that role but she advised the park will not have to pay a \$500 fee to the planning department, as this is an annual fee. There is no fee to the Ag department . We will pay fees quarterly depending on the number of vendors we have, which is \$2 per vendor. Applications have been submitted to the county. Secretary advised that we currently had thirteen vendors established. Next we will need to measure the perimeter of new concrete pad at the solar array area where the vendors will set up. Director Lindsen noted that we should paint lines for booths. Chairman Pierce noted that in the past she has used chalk which does not last but after a few weeks the vendors know what they are doing. Beyond that she agreed in principle that painted lines could be beneficial.

b) Upcoming events and reservations report

- i) Upcoming Events Report – upcoming events include disc golf and bocci tournaments, spring music festival, dog park open air market, tri tip drive thru and May 26 Santana tribute concert. Picnic areas are booked every Saturday in April and May, June is catching up. The Solar Array fee needs to be updated.

13) **Director Comments** – Director Lindsen asked about the permit fee waiver. The county was contacted but due to county personnel changes, it has been a challenge getting a response. We need to reach out again. Director House had no comment. Chairperson Peirce's comment will be forthcoming at the next meeting. Director Lewis had no comment.

14) **Adjournment** – *Director House moved and Director Lewis seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM*