

Twin Brook Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2011

In Attendance:

Iwona Tarling	John Eldredge
Terri Mallony-Kelley	Anne Witte
Diane Clement	Jackie Stowell
Kay Fowler	John Leavitt
Diane Clement	Christopher Bolduc
Peter Bingham	Laura Neleski
Shirley Storey-King	Tom Gruber

Call to Order 6:30pm

John Leavitt

Introduction and welcome to all attendees. Mr. Leavitt announced that John Eldredge was re-appointed to another 3 year term on the committee.

Motion to accept the minutes from October 4, 2011

Motion by Mr. Eldredge

Seconded by Ms. Witte

Vote - Unanimous

Old Business

Fees: Peter Bingham gave presentation on the current fee structure for Twin Brook. He has been working on it for 9 months. He would like to make the presentation more transparent. Mr. Bingham passed out handouts on Applications, Facility Request Forms and possibilities of fee programs. Mr. Bingham spoke for a few minutes regarding the expenses associated with groups using the park such as: lining fields, moving goals, and repairing fields and parking areas. The Greely Road side of the park is handled slightly differently as it is primarily used for the M.S.A.D.

Conversation ensued surrounding pickup games, casual users, organized clubs and groups and the fees that apply. Mr. Bingham made it clear that no one wants to discourage pick-up games and casual users; this is what the park is all about.

There are primarily 5 major events each year at the park and there is advertising value for holding these events in addition to the revenue they bring in. The biggest impact on the park is the parking for these events. And this varies greatly dependent on the weather. Mr. Bolduc showed some slides that captured some of the damage that can be done at the park due to parking.

Mr. Bingham reviewed a new option to discuss regarding fees. Instead of a flat fee for these events perhaps a 'per car' charge could be assessed to the group holding the event. Mr. Leavitt wondered why the fees should be one way or the other, why not a flat fee and an additional fee determined by the amount of cars attending. Ms. Storey-King enquired about the possibility of an admission fee. Mr. Bingham said that for these particular events, all the cars show up at once making it nearly impossible to stop each car, take a fee, and make change. He said that the cars would be backed up in all directions.

Ms. Witte commented on having two large events back to back at the park. She is sensitive to erosion on the trails and the parking issues that arise. Mr. Bingham noted that the damage is usually not on the trails but in the parking areas and that we do reserve the right to cancel events due to the

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weather. Mr. Bolduc added that their emphasis is always on the best interest of the park. One example of this is how they have arranged to have buses only park on the Greely Road side of the park; this helped keep parking organized on the Tuttle Road side.

Mr. Leavitt enquired about the billing process would work for a per/car charge. Mr. Bingham said they would use a car clicker and send a bill later. Mr. Gruber wondered about the sticker shock a group might feel at getting a bill after the event. This raised the conversation about a flat fee and a per car charge or a flat fee plus a charge for every car after the first X amount of cars. How to charge for a multi-day event versus a single day event was also discussed. This discussion brought up several pros and cons for each type of billing plan and fee structure.

Mr. Leavitt thanked Peter Bingham for the information and asked the group to think about the possibilities until next meeting. The topic should go on the next agenda. Mr. Leavitt requested some budget numbers to review.

Community Garden - [1st Year Community Garden Report](#) was presented by Karyn Marden, who then took questions from members of the committee.

Q: Were there any animal issues?

A: Dogs hit the netting, but they also kept the deer away. We put planting up around the fence and it was no longer an issue. Then there were suggestions as to what would make a good living fence.

Q: Will you have the garden next year?

A: Yes.

Q: Will it be larger?

A: If the demand is there.

Q: Does the Community Garden need the Committee's approval to expand from this year?

A: The Committee really just needed to approve the use of the park for this concept, which in essence they did last spring. The Town Council would like a recap. The potential space for expansion was already approved and permitted.

Mr. Leavitt asked for a show of hands if the concept of the Community Garden was still supported by members of the Twin Brook Committee. The vote was unanimous approval.

Resident Concern – Diane Clement informed the committee that she had an observation about a dog in the park since the last meeting. She had her horse in the parking lot and a man brought his dog to the park in a pickup and let the dog out to run. She thought it looked like a mean dog. One of the Ms. Tarling asked if the dog did anything. Ms. Clement said the dog didn't actually do anything. She just felt by looking at the dog that it was a mean dog. Ms. Clements friend also thought it looked like it might be a mean dog. Ms. Clement said she has heard that some dog owners would not go to Twin Brook because there were mean dogs there. Mr. Leavitt commented that at some point in the future, the committee might want to relook at the dog policies at the park. Ms. Stowell said she goes there every day and has not heard those comments and would be very upset if someone were to suggest changes in the dog walking guidelines. There continued more discussion on dog walking and how much more activity there is at the park over the past few years. Ms. Tarling and Ms. Witte commented that the majority of the comments they receive on the park are very positive. The negative comments usually revolved around the need of individuals to be respectful of the park and of other users. Everyone was reminded to report any abuse to Mr. Bolduc or Mr. Bingham or law enforcement if necessary.

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Park Updates - Mr. Bolduc had several updates for the committee:

1. Bags and Dispensers for picking up pet waste have been ordered and should be up before the next meeting.
2. The town will be doing an aggressive trail upgrade that will start as soon as the weather allows. The intent is to fix the current trails and make them a safer and dryer place to walk.
3. Ticketing. There will be parking tickets issued at the park for any cars remaining after park hours or parked in any way that blocks a gate or access road regardless of the time

New Business

Mr. Leavitt suggested that the Twin Brook Committee plan on meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every other month, starting in January. Everyone thought this seemed like a good idea. Next meeting scheduled for January 10, 2012 at 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn

Made by Terri Malone-Kelly

Seconded by Anne Witte

Vote - Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm