

2012.04.26 Minutes

Friends of Camillus Park Committee Meeting

Mary Flynn opened the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes which were accepted.

Eric Beacon was introduced and provided the following remarks:

Grant preparation is continuing and is directed toward the New York State Environment Protection Fund. Nancy Cantor, Syracuse University Chancellor and Neil Murphy, SUNY ESF President are members of the NYSEPF Central Council. These grants will require an indication of how local Businesses and Chamber of Commerce will be affected and improved. Other possible sources of funding could be health insurance companies and community foundations. For example Allied Chemical funded the original swimming pool at Camillus Park.

Eric explained the need for a property survey to determine the Camillus Park boundary lines before any work could begin. Having established property lines will allow the Committee to begin contacting Camillus Park Neighbors to explain the various phases of future work such as clearing yard waste, building playgrounds, determining ownership of trees that will require trimming and/or removal and an entrance path from Winding Way.

Eric also, emphasized the need for committee members to become a “voice for the Friends of Camillus Park Committee” by talking with neighbors and explaining current events and future plans.

Dave Callahan spoke of the possibility of repurposing the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Building.

Mary Flynn explained that she contacted Bob Davis, SUNY ESF, and Director of ESF Forested Properties. Bob is the interface person between the Committee and the ESF Students who are preparing a report containing observations and recommendations. Mary is working with Bob to arrange a presentation by the Students hopefully late May or early June 2012. Bob emphasized that a property survey will be required before any further activities on the part of the Students can begin.

As was discussed in previous meetings there is a need to promote and advertise the committee and its' activities. One way of accomplishing the effort to promote the FCP would be with T-shirts. A supply of shirts has been obtained and is available for sale at \$10.00 a piece. Another activity that would help to promote the committee would be to participate in the Camillus Memorial Day Parade. Mary will have a sign made which can be used in the parade and at other events. Eric will make the necessary arrangements to obtain a parade permit. Eric will add an item to the Camillus Parks and Recreation Seasonal brochure to announce the availability of Friends of Camillus Park T-shirts.

SueEllen Callahan will have her phone number placed in the brochure and she will manage T-shirt sales.

Mary had emailed an article from New Times newspaper titled Why Trees Matter. The article explained the importance of trees in our lives from both a physical and physiological standpoint. She also recommended "The Last Child in the Woods" for learning more about the importance of trees and the impact they have on child development. Most of today's adults have as children experienced times in wooded areas but young children of today seldom have the opportunity to play in the woods except for park areas. With this in mind a movement has begun in the United States creating multigenerational usage of parks areas. We have the forest where families can enjoy the woods together or independently. We also have an area where generations can play together. To demonstrate the idea she shared an article from AARP magazine showing multigenerational exercise equipment funded by contributions from the Humana Insurance Company and a Township in Florida. She distributed some of the brochures she had received from companies that manufacture multigenerational playground equipment.

A discussion ensued as to the development of a Splash Pad. Eric explained the health implications associated with a Splash Pad and various complications of maintaining and operating a Splash Pad. Dave Callahan maintained a position that a Splash Pad would have a longer seasonal use period than that of a swimming pool.

Attention was turned to the need to prepare for the Camillus Memorial Day Parade. Dave Callahan suggested the next meeting be held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 to develop a flier that would be distributed at the parade by members of the Friends of Camillus Park.