

FRIENDS OF CAMILLUS PARK APRIL 25, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Mary Flynn, Committee Chair opened the meeting welcoming everyone!

No changes were made to the March 28, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Joe Flynn, with second motion by Dave Callahan.

Clean Up Day April 21, 2013 was considered a huge success. The weather was beautiful, and many volunteers arrived ready to “clean up”. Chair Jim Gleason thanked everyone for their efforts, and really felt we accomplished our set goals of clearing up loose branches in the picnic area as well as trash and other debris in the Park. Mary Luber, Chair of Publicity, was thanked for doing an excellent job of getting the word out about the clean up, with a thank you to all those who delivered flyers and “talked up” the event to make our neighbors aware of this event.

Joe Flynn explained about the Geo Cache, a type of interactive treasure hunt using an app on your smart phone. A volunteer at the clean up day talked about the Geo Cache, and the group talked about using Camillus Park as a place to “hide” a Geo Cache. This app can be downloaded on your iphone at no cost. This is another avenue to get people of all ages interested in the Park, as the Geo Cache is a fun and interactive activity for individuals and families to do.

Update on Not for Profit status: Mary Flynn updated the group that an Employer Identification Number has been obtained. Unfortunately, donations cannot yet be accepted as there is still another application process that is needed before donations can be accepted. We are, however, able to work with other 501C3 organizations in terms of obtaining funding while we are waiting on NFP status.

Stephen Harris, Arborist for the City of Syracuse, toured the Park/Forest with several “Friends” committee members. Trees along the Park’s perimeter were discussed. There was discussion about a new study about the possible inoculation of Ash Trees against Emerald Ash Borer as a more cost effective way to manage the Forest vs having to remove the trees. More investigation on this topic is being done.

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Dave Callahan updated the group that Eric Bacon, who has been unable to attend recent meetings due to his Grad school schedule, but will be attending May's meeting. The Parks and Rec Department's focus will be on taking down the rest of the Bath House and spreading top soil in the areas where the 2 pools have been removed. Dave also reported that Eric has some exciting news that he hopes to share with the group in May. Dave plans to approach the Town Board about obtaining "seed money" in order to pay for some applications fees for the NFP status, and for other initial start up costs that may be needed. The "seed money" would be in the form of a loan, and would need to be repaid.

Fund Raising suggestions were discussed. "Camillus area Calendar" featuring pictures of the Park in different seasons, as well as featuring pictures of the Park from years ago, possibly utilizing pictures that Virginia Webster and Ceil Pigula have taken. Topic of the Calendar, and note cards displaying pictures of the Park were discussed. The group also discussed starting a Friend of Camillus Park Website, where activities can be posted, etc, and costs of website and development of this will need to be explored.

New Business: Fund Raisers: Picnic in the Park, -"PARKNIC" in late July or early Aug. Events to include an auction to "adopt a tree" in the Forest with creative ways to do this. The Parknic event will also include a Dog event with local Venders. As always our goal is to draw people to the Park .

JULY 13th or July 20th will be set as Parknic day depending on availability of the Park Pavilion. Dana Johnston has offered to spear head this Fundraising event which will include dog walk/parade and tree "auction", and Mary Flynn will assist in contacting some local vendors and vets to help sponsor event.

Mary Luber will continue to post emails, and advertise on Community billboards to get the word out about upcoming events. Once we have a Website, we will be able to post events on our Friends' website.

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Memorial Day Parade is May 27, 2013

Line up time 8:45am and all are WELCOME to walk in the parade to support Friends of Camillus Park, More Details to Follow

NEXT MEETING: Thursday May 23, 2013 at 7pm,
Large meeting room in Town Hall.
ALL ARE WELCOME-PLEASE JOIN US!!!

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Flynn with second motion to adjourn by Dave Callahan.

L. Gleason