

**Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
January 23, 2024**

Attending

Ken Haines	Laurie Mason	Meredith Petit
Doug Severs	Charley Fisher	
Mary Buckman	Stephanie Long	Olga Loza

Special Guest

Sam Niesslein, Edward Jones

New Board Members

Tom Kirch Lynne Dimmick

Special Guest: Sam Niesslein, Edward Jones

Olga brought the meeting to order at 4:30pm. In the interest of time, the group decided to table the logo discussion until a later meeting. Sam Niesslein from Edward Jones introduced himself to the group. Currently, we have about \$260,000 in CDs which mature about every three months. They are earning a good rate of return (greater than 5%). Sam explained how CDs work should we decide to sell them at any point in time. CDs are a safe, insured investment. Sam suggested that in the future we might want to look at other investments (stocks, etc.) and plan 3 to 10 years into the future.

Mary asked how endowments work. Sam explained that we would have to be able to live on our interest. Also, our actual portfolio would be in stocks and bonds. Mary asked if, when we receive gifts of stock, mostly from Bob Rothschild, does Sam communicate with him? Sam said yes. Laurie asked if we could have a standing order to sell the stock we receive from Bob? Sam replied no, he has to contact him each time. He pointed out that the value of stock changes every day. Current trends are up: yesterday was up, but today is down. Mary pointed out that we could invest in stock to achieve higher earnings, but there is more risk as well. Sam gave his cell phone number: 541-231-3674. He also made a suggestion that we send postcards for fundraising rather than letters as they are easier to hold onto and cost less. Sam said that when we are ready to create an IPS (Investment Policy Statement), he can help us with that.

Introduction of New Board Members

Olga introduced and welcomed Lynne Dimmick, who is applying to be on the Board representing C3. Lynne said she is really interested in the Senior programs at C3, especially those that provide socialization which is very important. Many of these folks need social interactions and need to make friends. She pointed out that many of the seniors she works with do not have much money. Lynne has raised money to support free programs for seniors by establishing relationships with local business people. Olga asked how Friends can help with this? Lynne replied that people need to figure out who we are and what we do. Mary pointed out that, by far, the donations we have received for C3 makes up our largest fund. Mary made a motion to elect Lynne to the Board. Olga seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Charley introduced Tom Kirch, who he has been working on to join the Board for several years. Tom has been involved with Parks and Rec, the Boys and Girls Club, and the OSU Foundation, and has done a lot of fundraising. He offered that “friendraising” is the first stop to fundraising. He said the park system is the heart of the community. Olga asked what methods of fundraising he has used. Tom said he has worked on research, scholarships, other things someone has an interest in. In his time working on the OSU Foundation, annual giving tripled. Olga asked if he preferred Board outreach or targeted giving. Which has better results? Tom replied that he has used both, but that personal contacts yield the best results because you tie into what people care about. Mary made a motion to elect Tom to the Board. Charley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Election of New Board Treasurer

Laurie said that she would like to have the job, and has been working with Mary to figure out all the different parts. Her goal as Treasurer is to make our finances tighter and more specific. As she has handled books for non-profits before, she would like to stop using A&S and instead use QuickBooks Pro. Mary said she is excited about the transition. Stephanie made a motion to elect Laurie treasurer. Doug seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer’s Report

Mary reported a couple of large donations from the Starkers. Laurie mentioned that Cloudy Rockwell was paid \$175 for financial advice and that Laurie donated that money back to Friends. She also mentioned that we should have a finance sub-committee and do a general audit every year. Mary made a motion to spend up to \$200 on QuickBooks. Stephanie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Laurie talked about buying a Majestic star for Karen Emery. We can either secure that now or wait a while. Charley said sooner is better than later.

Meredith’s Report

Meredith reported that about \$1000 of unspent money was refunded to us by the levy committee. She mentioned that there is a lot of cleanup going on from the ice storm as there are a lot of downed trees and limbs. Rachel Kohler has been hired as the new recreation coordinator. The construction of the new skate bowl (next to the original skate bowl) will be underway soon. The builder is ready to start in March. The city is working with ODOT to move the homeless population out of that area. It will take three months to build. Mary asked what the city is doing to address the homeless camps in the parks. Meredith said the answer to that is nuanced and difficult, as the city has to deal with a lot of state mandates defining sleeping vs. camping, making sure everyone has a warm dry place to sleep. There is a lot of new, affordable housing in the works as agencies look for a longer term solution. The Parks and Rec Activity Guide will be out in March.

Our next meeting will be held on February 20 at 4:30 for 2 hours to allow more discussion time.
The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher

