

MGPDOA Board Minutes
March 24, 2012
Held at the Meadowood United Church

Those in attendance:

Jones-Smith, Rosalyn (member-at-large)
Lang, Colin (member-at-large)
Little, Cindy (member-at-large)
Machovec, Frank (secretary-treasurer)
Machovec, Jacquie (member-at-large)
Manley-Tannis, Richard (co-chair)
Pucknell, Lance (co-chair)
Unrau, Kim (member-at-large)

Regrets:

Hubka, Bardee (member-at-large)
Tree, Michelle (member-at-large)

1. The meeting came to order at 13:45
2. The topic of succession planning for board positions was added to the agenda.
3. The minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2011 were accepted as circulated (motion Lang, seconded by J. Machovec, carried).
4. Frank Machovec reported on recent correspondence:
 - a) The 2012 report for the Companies Office has been received, updated, paid, and filed; a copy has been delivered to Casera Credit Union.
 - b) We have been invited to a stakeholders' meeting for Maple Grove Park groups on Tuesday, March 27. Two board members will be attending.
 - c) We have just received a number of newspaper clippings and papers about the association's inception from Scott Campbell.
 - d) Correspondence was received about the possible creation of an off-leash area in Whittier Park.
 - e) We have received the resignation of at-large board member Don Rose who has requested that the record show "that I have never and do not now support the landscaping proposal at the park."
5. Frank Machovec reported that we have recently received a cheque from the City for the master plan. The current bank balance is \$11,028.93, and we have an additional \$50.00 in petty cash. Some minor expenses for the recent park clean-up and for clean-up equipment are expected.

6. Manitoba Great Pyrenees Request:

Discussion took place about the procedures to be followed when other groups wish to use Maple Grove Dog Park for their events. It was noted that while we do not own the park, the City allows us to vet requests for activities by other groups. Concern was expressed about the precedent that would be set if we “endorse” other users’ events.

It was agreed that Rosalyn Jones-Smith will investigate and report on the permits and other requirements for events using city parks, so that we can create guidelines for handling requests. This investigation is expected to take two weeks or less.

7. Municipal Plan Update:

While the City has paid out the grant for the architect’s master plan for the park, there are still some concerns about the issues of formal “acceptance” of the plan by the city and the apparent failure of the plan to address park users’ requests such as the provision of water and lighting.

Frank Machovec is directed to send an email to Mr. Spearman expressing appreciation for the plan, but requesting clarification of the rationale for not including requests such as the provision of water and lighting.

Additionally, at the upcoming stakeholders meeting, Messrs. Machovec and Pucknell are to ask the City representatives if the plan is officially “approved.” If necessary, a follow-up meeting with Jonina and/or Karl will be arranged. Other park user groups (Mustangs, Rugby, MODS) are to be asked about their experience with Mr. Spearman or others in preparing master plans.

8. Planning for a Spring BBQ event:

We will conduct a barbeque event at the park on Saturday, May 26 from 11AM to 1 PM. Kim Unrau will coordinate the event and involve Kathleen Clear, Malveen St. Vincent, and other board members and volunteers as necessary.

9. Frank Machovec reported that a subcommittee meeting was held to discuss various communication issues. An overall website redesign will take place to improve appearance and navigation, but in the interim, the new logo has been added to the site. Reference to the website has been added to the Facebook page, and a problem with usage statistics has been resolved. The matter of an acceptable use policy for the Facebook site was deferred.

10. Kim Unrau reported that the poop clean-up day on March 17 was very successful, and incurred minimal costs. Frank Machovec is to update the website to include a thank you to volunteers and donors.

11. It was moved by Jones-Smith, seconded by Little, and unanimously carried that the board expresses its endorsement of efforts to create an off-leash dog area in Whittier Park. The secretary is to send a letter to Mathieu. Allard about this endorsement.

12. Concerns about formalizing board structure:

Discussion took place about an idea from Don Rose about formalizing the responsibilities of various board members. The consensus was that the current informal arrangement is preferable.

13. Richard Manley-Tannis initiated discussion about the issue of succession planning for the co-chair positions since he will be stepping down at the end of his term. Board members were urged to consider their possible interest in running for co-chair. Discussion also took place about the evolving role of the association, especially regarding fundraising and grant-writing should we pursue some of the items in the master plan.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 16:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Machovec
Secretary-Treasurer