

**Westside Community Center Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024**

Members Present: Justin Trudeau, Tena Jelinek, Kathy Perry, Susan Baldwin, Mary Tauras, Nancy Bernard, Judy McKay-Harbert

Members Absent: Ann Petit

Alternates Present: Margie Valin, Sarah Grant

Parks Board Liaisons Absent: Greg Thornton

Staff Present: Mark Snow, Jamie Bequette, Felicia Barnhart, Anna Bingman

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Committee Chair Justin Trudeau brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Agenda Preview

Committee Chair Justin Trudeau provided a preview of the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

Committee Chair Justin Trudeau announced that he would need to leave the meeting a little bit early, so Vice Chair Liz Lopez Vaughan will resume the meeting once he leaves.

Citizen Discussion

There was no citizen discussion at this time.

Approval of Minutes

March 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion – To approve the March 21, 2024 meeting minutes.

1st – Nancy Bernard, 2nd – Liz Lopez Vaughan, Approved, Unanimously.

Committee Announcements

There were no Committee announcements at this time.

Action Items

Proposals for Leased Space

There were no proposals for leased space on this agenda.

Proposals for Programs/Services

Best Foot Forward Nursing LLC – Lisa Heinecke

Lisa Heinecke, owner of Best Foot Forward Nursing LLC, provided a brief background on the proposed program and why it would be a suitable fit for implementation at the Center.

Motion: To recommend the Best Foot Forward Nursing LLC proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.

1st – Nancy Bernard, 2nd – Liz Lopez Vaughan, Approved, Unanimously.

Tai Chi – Martin Kelly

Martin Kelly was unable to attend the meeting, however Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided a brief background on the proposed program.

Motion: To recommend the Tai Chi proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.

1st – Nancy Bernard, 2nd – Susan Baldwin, Approved, Unanimously.

Committee Business

2024 Event Update – “Westside Community Saleabration Block Party”

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided the following updates on the “Westside Community Saleabration Block Party” Event:

- Jamie said the banners are complete. Additionally, she has yard signs for Committee members who requested them and flyers for distribution.
- There are two food trucks confirmed as of now: Good Grub and Cupcake Doctor.
- Jamie is also looking into having coffee served. To receive a coffee, you will need to fill out a survey.
- Music is confirmed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. While the performances will be inside on the stage in Hughes Hall, there can be speakers outside so the music can be heard everywhere.

- Registration for the event is online, and the webpage has been updated to reflect all current information. Jamie asked Committee members to let her know if they notice anything is missing from the webpage.
- The event is getting quite a bit of traction on Facebook. However, vendors are still needed. Jamie is pushing the yard sale slots, and there are about forty still available.
- Committee Chair Justin Trudeau asked if staff wanted to add any community organizations, like the Organization of Westside Neighbors (OWN), to the program. Jamie said this would be great, but her bandwidth for the event is already overextended. Jamie stated that outreach for these organizations would be on the Committee. Justin offered to take the lead on creating a spreadsheet of potential organizations to invite, and Committee members can reach out.
- Committee alternate member Sarah Grant suggested there be a community table where people can leave their business cards.
- There is a door hanger in production, and Jamie is now turning her focus to continued outreach efforts.
- Jamie is putting together a supply list.
- There was a suggestion to hand out flyers at the farmers market in Bancroft Park in the weekends leading up to the event. Jamie said she would provide flyers to those who would volunteer to hand them out.
- The next planning meeting will be on May 2, at 5 p.m. with an option to join in-person at the Center or via Teams.

Community Garden Bed/Working Committee Adoption of Beds along Bijou

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided the following updates on the Community Garden and adoption of beds:

- Two sponsored beds have been secured. Three remain available.
- There is a school group volunteering on May 2nd, which will be focused on planting and weeding in the beds against Bijou Street.
- Another volunteer group is coming on May 11th to finish whatever is not completed on the May 2nd workday.

May Parks Board Presentation on WCC/WC Status

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, will be providing an update on the Center and the Working Committee at the next Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting, which is on May 9th. Committee members are invited to attend, and Committee Chair Justin Trudeau will co-present with an overview of the work of the Committee since its inception.

Presentation Items

Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers

Theresa Odello, Recreation and Cultural Services Division Manager for the El Paso County Parks and Community Services Department, and Risë Foster-Bruder, a longtime volunteer with the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers, provided the Committee with a presentation about the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers group and the benefits of their partnership with El Paso County Parks and Community Services. This presentation included the agenda; introductions; purpose of the Friends; Friends contributions; the partnership with El Paso County; wins and challenges; and finally, future goals.

During the presentation, Theresa and Risë answered Committee member questions and highlighted the benefits of the partnership, while also explaining some of the different challenges. Additionally, they explained the structure of the Friends and the various ways they can provide input on projects and initiatives.

Staff Updates

Westside Community Center – Facility Operations; Community Garden; Signage on Campus; Programs and Leases Update; OCCA Mixer on May 14

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, and Felicia Barnhart, Park Operations Administrator, and provided the following updates:

- Jamie said that she would like to invite Josh Gainey, Park Operations Administrator for Hillside Community Center, and the Hillside Advisory Team (HAT) to the next meeting to provide a similar presentation as the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers, and how the HAT operates and supports Hillside Community Center and the surrounding neighborhood.
- The new signage will be installed soon.
- Concrete was poured in the garden to create two wheelchair accessible plots.
- There are eight plots left to adopt in the garden.
- Jamie provided an update on programs and leases currently happening at the Center.
- Jamie reminded the Committee about the OCCA Mixer on May 14th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and invited Committee members to attend, however she asked that they please RSVP so Jamie can provide an accurate headcount to the OCCA.
- Job postings are online for seasonal staff.
- West Elementary will celebrate its 100th birthday on Friday, September 27th from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Jamie will have a booth at the event.

Colorado Springs Boards and Commissions Appreciation Night

Anna Bingman, Staff Assistant, reminded the Committee that they had been invited to attend the annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation event that evening at City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. This event honors volunteers on the various City Board, Committees, and Commissions.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion – Move to adjourn the Westside Community Center Working Committee meeting at 4:07 p.m.

1st – Liz Lopez Vaughan, 2nd – Tena Jelinek, Approved, Unanimously.