

FRIENDS OF HUNTER PARK

Next Meeting: January 5, 2005, 6:30 p.m. at Allen Neighborhood Center

Minutes of Friends of Hunter Park meeting held on December 15, 2004

In Attendance: John Martinez, Nancy VanHoozier, Sarah McDonald, Francine Watts (co-chair), Denise Lynch (Lansing Parks & Rec), Doris Witherspoon (City of Lansing), Anna Hope, Joan Nelson (ANC Director), and Bri Havens (ANC MSW Intern).

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the November 17th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

Allen St. School:

There was discussion about how the closing of Allen St. School may affect the Friends of Hunter Park. Joan Nelson mentioned that the decision would be made in January about whether or not Allen St. School will be closed. Joan also said that many groups are writing letters to the Lansing School District (LSD) to express how much closing Allen St. School will affect the Eastside. LSD wants a data driven argument for maintaining the school, which Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC) is researching and going to present to LSD in order to hopefully help prevent the closing.

Winter Event:

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the proposed winter event in Hunter Park. The following points were made:

- Nancy VanHoozier volunteered to create the flyer for the Winter Event. A form will be created and ready to go so that when it snows enough to sled and create snowmen, the form will then be distributed and the event will take place. The event will take place sometime in January. Nancy will email the flyer to Bri Havens who will then take care of making copies and distributing it to neighborhood presidents in addition to Allen St. and Bingham Elementary schools. Bri is in charge of calling Celebration Cinemas, NCG Cinemas, Toys R Us, Ceasarland, Bells Pizzas, and McDonalds for prizes to give away at the event.
- The idea was mentioned to sell hot cider or hot chocolate during the Winter Event in order to raise some money for the Friends of Hunter Park. Joan will ask Jane Bush about possibly donating cider to serve at the event. Denise Lynch will talk to Murdock Jemerson, the Director of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department, about the rules concerning selling concessions in the park and report back at the next meeting.
- John Martinez suggested having a bon fire during the Winter Event. Joan is going to call the Fire Department and Nancy will talk to Murdock to discuss the rules concerning having a bon fire in a public park. Both will report back at the next meeting.
- There was also some discussion about the contest rules for the Snowman Building Contest. Several ideas were discussed such as "Funniest Snowman," "Biggest Snowman," and "Best Overall Snowman;" however, it was not decided if the contest will be broken down into age categories. At the next meeting we will decide the specifics of the contest rules.
- Additionally, Anna Hope suggested a "Frozen Fish Toss" contest where those who attend the Winter Event could purchase a ticket to throw a frozen fish. Ideas were discussed as possibly getting fish from Mitchell's Fish Market.

- Lastly, it was suggested that we have a 50/50 raffle during the event as another fundraiser at the Winter Event.

Spring Clean Up Event:

There was a lengthy discussion about the Spring Clean Up. The following points were made:

- The Clean Up date was set for April 30th (The Rain Date is May 7th)
- Nancy brought up the point that the trashcans are removed from the park at the end of the summer. Nancy wondered why and if it was possible for us to get more trash cans in the park all throughout the year to help reduce the amount of litter in the park. Denise will talk to Murdock about the trashcans and report back at the next meeting.
- After the clean up there will be a picnic in the park for those who participated and if it is too cold to have it in the park it will be held at Allen Neighborhood Center
- Denise suggested we talk to Tonya Moore who organizes the “Adopt a Park” from the Parks and Recreation Department. Bri will call Tonya to discuss the following points with her:
 - What is involved in the “Adopt the Park” program?
 - What’s been done in past cleanups at Hunter Park?
 - Is there a list of tasks to do? If so we will discuss this list at the next meeting and be more detailed about setting up a Spring Clean Up Committee.
 - Are there any supplies Parks and Rec provides for the “Adopt a Park” clean up?
 - If mulch is provided can we mulch the path during the cleanup day?
 - Nancy will talk to Irene Cayhill in the Forestry Department about the mulch and report back at the next meeting.

Spring/Summer Event:

There was a lengthy discussion about the Spring/Summer Event. The following points were discussed:

- When to have the event? There are thoughts to have the event in late July to avoid competing with Memorial Day weekend, June graduation parties, and Fourth of July activities. A specific date was not set. There will be more discussion about this event at the following meeting.
- There was a great deal of consensus that the following items would most likely attract people into the park for a warm weather event:
 - Music from local artists
 - Diverse foods that express the culture of the Eastside
 - A tennis tournament, walkathon, or some large activity

Grants/Funding Opportunities:

Bri is currently working on the Neighborhood Advisory Board Grant application. She reported that she is waiting to speak to some other groups who have applied for funding for paths and to discuss the logistics of their grants. However, it was also discussed that the funds for this particular grant must be spent fairly quickly after approval, so perhaps this grant will be written to fund the new entrance off of Kalamazoo St. Bri will call Joe Wright at Capital Consultants to find out how much the proposed entrance would cost and perhaps the Neighborhood Advisory Board Grant will go towards a new entrance?

There was a lot of discussion concerning the Kalamazoo St. entrance to the park. The question was raised if it would be possible to paint the current sign that is at the Kalamazoo St. entrance to make it more visible. Denise will ask Murdock if it will be possible to paint the fence and will report about that at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

Please call Bri at 367-2468 with questions, comments, or corrections. Thanks.