



Packard Area Planning Alliance Business Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023 | 7:00 pm
GE Club - 1030 Swinney Ave, Bldg #23

Officers: Sierah Barnhart, President
 Ben Ruhl, VP
 Lyndsay Perez, Secretary
 Rebecca Gremaux, Treasurer

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Introductions- Introductions were made and a quorum was confirmed.

Agenda Approval- a motion was made to approve the agenda, seconded and approved.

Secretary's Report & Minutes Approval [2 minutes]-

March minutes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pc7LD9enhFBkhaRfEIQO1MF-A754ASnR/edit>

A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report [2 minutes] - \$2446.41 is our balance and we have 5 dues paying members.

Committee Reports

- Historic Preservation [Steve McCord, Erika Stuller]- no updates
- Marketing & Communications [Sierah Barnhart]- no updates

Old Business

- none

New Business

- **Guest Speaker: Alec Johnson, CoFW, joined us to share updates on the process we have been thru to advocate for the redevelopment of Packard Park as well as provide a current update on next steps, timeline, estimated costs etc.**
 - o **Alec is trained as a landscape architect and serves as the deputy director Fort Wayne Parks and Rec. Alec gave some background on**

himself as well as a status update of the Parks and Rec dept and there current projects. Goals are long term planning and also in process of updating the comprehensive plan (20 year plan) for the next two decades. There will be public input meetings as well as stakeholder meetings as well as meetings at SWAP if you would like your voice and that of your neighborhood to be heard. Alec is here today to give us a quick update on Packard PARK, one of a few neighborhood block parks (others include Brewer and Moody for example). He also shared some good news on the horizon about improvements to Hannah Homestead and Reservoir Park to come! Parks and Rec has adopted redevelopment Plans for both Brewer and Packard so far. Questions of redevelopment for Packard park arose when it was learned that the Park was not meeting neighborhood needs. Neighbors in the area came to Alec and his dept to see what could be developed or improved at this Park. After a process to learn what needs were not being met a conceptual drawing was created to envision how Packard Park might be improved. Next steps- we need to hire a landscape architect/engineers to do actual construction drawings and determine the current estimated redevelopment cost. When the idea of redevelopment was first being explored by the steering committee there were no funds set aside. In time, we were able to secure ARPA dollars from the federal government pandemic dollars in the amount of \$1.8M. Next week, CoFW will put out an RFP for proposals on the design/engineering of Packard Park. There will be a period of 6-8 months for the design process and Parks hopes to choose a consultant team in May. Estimated time to break ground on the project is in March 2024. Alec shared some info about how the public uses parks much differently now than when they were built (in this case nearly a century ago) however historical preservation is important. Parks tries to take all the varied opinions on the use of a park into consideration but ultimately defer to the guiding principles of the steering committee. After the guiding principles are establish an opportunity for public input is made (ie community event in the Park itself, etc). Then all that input is weighed against the guiding principles and the team comes up with a master plan. The Plan is then taken back to the steering committee for feedback and any adjustment that needs to be made. After that the Plan is presented to the Board of Park Commissioners. The Plan is then posted on the Parks website for 1-2 months for public view. Then adoption of the Plan is proposed to the Parks Board before being able to move forward. We have passed this important step of Plan adoption. For Packard, once 50% of the funds are raised we start on the design and we are in a good place there. Within a month, we should be in front of City Council to get funding approved for the RFP. Construction takes about a year and we hope to open a new, redeveloped Packard Park in 2025!

- Comment from Rebecca: Thank you for the cleanliness of Reservoir Park, kudos to all those involved in that effort from the CoFW!

- **Q&A opened (each person in attendance was given the opportunity to write down their questions on a notecard and submit to Sierah Barnhart to ask to Alec):**
- **Q: What are the key challenges neighborhoods can help overcome? A: We hope that a neighborhood embraces the changes. To have a lot of money, attention, time and then see a park not used would be disappointing and more difficult the next time a new park is to be considered for redevelopment. Positive use drives out negative use. Make sure to use the park!**
- **Q: Any road closures during park renovation? A: No during construction however there may be additional city projects on streets, sidewalks, sewer etc that take place near the Park at the same time however and are done to improve the overall area. Also with contractors on site parking can be an issue.**
- **Q: Will the design/overall be limited to the park? A: There will be design/renovation which bleeds beyond the borders. Take advantage of this where you can.**
- **Q: After the park has been adopted, how will you select native plants, and keystone trees? A: At the moment, no plants have been chosen. Every year, we use more and more native plans. It makes sense to stretch our maintenance budget further. The park is truly an arboretum.**
- **Q: Where are the Survey results for Packard Park? There are concerns that the survey did not reach everyone. A: We leave it up to the neighborhood and the steering committee. Sometimes there is a survey, public input, events etc in the park to gauge community input. It is difficult to make sure that 100% of the public is aware. Parks is not mandated to do a survey (although they think it is important) as there is not enough staff. It is preferred that the neighborhood association coordinate this. We do not own any survey results. We have to depend on the neighborhood to do that. If we see a gap in the steering committee we ask them to add members (ie businesses, churches, other neighbors etc).**
- **Q: Was Wildcat considered as an option for the ballpark? A: It was vigorously discussed. In the end, the consensus was that neighbors did not want the ball park. The softball team using the ball diamond was composed of players that for the most part did not live here and the park was locked at all other times to neighborhood use. Additionally, the ball park takes almost 50% of the space which is almost never a good idea in parks planning. Sports fields typically are built in a recreational park not a neighborhood park. Many thought they did not have access to the park and felt excluded. Parks has an agreement with the softball team, for future fields for this team.**
- **Q: Is there fundraising that needs to happen? A: We believe we will be operating with a \$2.2M budget and currently that leaves us about \$200K short. ARPA funding has been received and must be spent by a certain date. Parks will work on finding the additional monies.**

- **Q: What happened to the Steering Committee? The Committee was dissolved when Parks Board adopted the Plan as is normal process.**
- **Q: Is there a survey? There were many neighbors that have stated they did not receive the survey. A: A Survey was completed many years ago when the idea of improving the Park was first considered.**
- **Q: What about the speeding on Fairfield? Will there be anything to help reduce speeding when the park is redeveloped. A: The Park itself will not include plans to reduce speeding, however some of the redevelopment that may bleed over the borders of the Park may help with this issue. Consult the Packard 2030 Plan (ie push button crosswalks)**

- **Q: Is ATC involved at all? Please consider their input for traffic calming. A: Noted.**

Thank you Alec for all your efforts!

Next Month: No meeting in May, stay tuned for our next meeting in June. Details coming soon!

Good of the Order

Charlie: City GIS webpage removed CIP layer. Does anyone support or oppose that this is turned off? Charlie made a motion that PAPA write a letter of support to reenable the CIP map. The motion made was seconded and passed. PAPA will write a letter expressing our desire to reactive this map.

Terri: Remember to clean up your street drains.

June 3rd PorchFest in Williams Woodland.

Oakdale May 6, Great American Cleanup, two dumpsters at WK.

April 25: Small Scale Development open house at WK

May 20: INcremental developmental Alliance Workshop, more info coming

Kevin- Three Rivers Active Streets, group bike trails audit sunday the 16, meet at Union St Market

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm

Attendees:

Lyndsay Perez

Sierah Barnhart

Rebecca Gremaux

Ben Ruhl

Alec Johnson, CoFW

Charlie Fritz

Kody Tinnel

Melissa Kurten

Julie Lepper

Holly Munoz

Tony Borton

Terri Stumpf

Allison Bricker

Officer Martin, FWPD

Sarah Aubrey

Travis Haines

Cody Aldrige

Jennifer Donnelly

Shelly Baker

Steven Hardy

Kevin Brooks

Dan Swartz

Andy Kurzen

Jim Sack