

Park and Tree Meeting Minutes 4/18/23

In attendance: Ed Hersh, Judy Esposito, Caitlin Parwana

Meeting called to order 7:02pm

Old business:

Friends of Wiswall updates:

- Just updates the group on Friends of Wiswall happenings. The group is looking for volunteers to sponsor bench repairs and to help repair the benches. Ed is happy to spread the word to the Lions Club.
- Friends of Wiswall looking to get more resident feedback on what people would like for the future of Wiswall Park. Hoping to have tables/booths at various outdoor events in the park to talk to people, show their ideas, and receive feedback from public. Ideas for events being maybe farmers market, birdhouse event.

Victory Circle Benches

- Money was moved for this current budget to get 2 benches for Victory Circle. This is a project that Ray was heading but he has since resigned. Thus there was discussion about how to go about getting the benches moving forward.
- Caitlin will talk to Jeff at DPW about installation of said benches. Ed remarks that the installation should only require 8-10 bags of concrete, which would be under \$100. Delivery could take up to 2 months.
- The group will continue to discuss the ordering and delivery location of the benches.
- Discussion on where to install the benches, and the possibility of getting feedback from people living close to the site.

Arbor Day tree planting

- Park and Tree Board planting a tree on Saturday April 29 at 10 am. I might rain, but that's ok.
- Planting a moon sycamore! A tree that is descended from a tree grown from a seed that was taken to the moon and back in 1971 on the Apollo 14 mission.
- Kris has tested the soil at Kelley Park to make sure the acidity is appropriate for the type of tree. Sycamores are fast growing, flood plain tolerant, as well as drought and air pollution tolerant. Is perfect for Kelley Park
- Discussion on planting location. Decision to have it semi close to the playground, allowing it to eventually provide some shade in that area.
- The tree from the previous year was recently pruned by Kris
- Caitlin will ask the Village and Frank to post about the tree planting.

Residents wanting to plant trees in right of way space

- A local business owner recently reached out wanting to plant a tree. The group had already discussed the matter some by email. She business owner consulted Caitlin to ensure the tree type was indeed on the Village recommended tree list. Measurements were taken to assure that the tree would be far enough away from buildings, utility poles, and there are no overhead utilities. The Park and Tree board gave the ok for the business owner to move forward with planting the two trees, but to first contact 811 to make sure there were no underground utilities, and to make sure they planted far enough in from the apron of the driveway.
- The group will work on putting together a set protocol/procedure for those wanting to plant in the right of way space moving forward.

Upcoming grant opportunities

- Will need to look into and get bids from tree maintenance providers
- Need further discussion when more are in attendance in future meetings

Next meeting Tuesday May 16. Meet in a park if weather permits, in the library should weather not be favorable.