

Candler Park Conservancy, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

7:00 pm

Rush Center Training Room

1530 Dekalb Ave NE, 30307

Present: Ken Edelstein, Dan Hanlon, Elliott Jones, Scott Lenhart, John Skach, Perry Smith, Amy Stout, Lauren Welsh, Jack White, and Omar Zaki.

Not Present: Amy Erwin*, Stacy Funderburke*, Ben Klehr*, and Doug Wetzel* (with * denoting advance notice of absence provided)

The agenda for the meeting (although not formally adopted) was as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Review and Approve Prior Board Meeting Minutes
3. Committee Reports
 - Finance and Audit Committee
 - Board Development and Governance Committee
 - Membership, Fundraising, and Communications Committee
 - Environment, Projects, and Programming Committee
 - Chimney Swift Habitat Restoration Grant
 - Paideia Faculty Workday Project

Review and Approve Minutes from Prior Board Meetings

A motion to adopt the draft minutes from the June 20, 2018 board meeting was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Finance and Audit:

- The committee did not hold any meetings since the last CPC board meeting
- Elliott Jones distributed a detailed written report at the board meeting that included expenses and revenue amounts for each month for the period from January, 2017 through July, 2018.
- He has taken over the bank account.
- The current balance is ~\$23,500, and there are checks pending for ~\$1,500 in expenses to pay.
- They are still working on the financial policy. It is not ready to share with the group yet.

Board Development and Governance:

- The committee did not hold any meetings since the last CPC board meeting, and no written report was provided.
- Scott Lenhart indicated there was nothing to report.

Membership, Fundraising, and Communications:

- This committee met July 9, and Doug Wetzel provided a written summary via email.
- Perry Smith reported that they are proposing to host a pop-up public engagement event at the Candler Park Market. The date and time are still to be determined; but they checked with the Market, and they are supportive.
- We will be participating in Fall Fest. Ken Edelstein noted that we will have a booth in a more prominent location this year, at a site farther down in the crowd. The committee wants to have activities in the booth that will engage people (but not so many as to be confusing.) The current plan is to (1) provide an update on the status of all the major projects and (2) perhaps have a person in a beaver costume to take pictures with for posting on social media.

- The committee is planning a Walk in the Park on the first weekend in November to promote the projects from the Perkins + Will Vision Plan.
- They are tentatively targeting August 30th for a Community Engagement Session for the Active Lawn / Amphitheater project. They plan to have an article in the upcoming Messenger to advertise this.
- Other initiatives that the committee plans to pursue include sending out an engagement letter to all residents immediately adjacent to the park and re-engaging those with expired memberships.
- The committee doesn't feel they have a clear vision for fundraising objectives (other than the legacy grant application that will be submitted.) Dan suggested we might want seek outside guidance from a professional advisory group such as Coxe Curry. It was recommended that consulting with Mike Vinciguerra (Business Development Director for Trees Atlanta and Lake Claire resident) would be a good first step.
- The board approved a motion authorizing Lauren Welsh to nominate Amy Erwin for the Cox Conserves Heroes program in time for the July 31 deadline.

Environment, Projects, and Programming:

- This committee met July 10, and John Skach provided a written summary in advance of this meeting.
- Ken Edelstein gave an update on the active lawn / amphitheater (AL/A) projects describing that actions that have been taken since the written update that he provided the board on June 28.
 - He attended the July meeting of the CPNO board and suggested they designate a representative for the stakeholder group. They chose Susan Rose, and Ken has since interviewed her to gather input.
 - Ken also has interviewed Josh Antenucci from Rival Entertainment.
 - Dan Hanlon has interviewed representatives from the Atlanta Track Club and the Inter Atlanta FC Blues (youth soccer league).
 - John Skach has interviewed Mark Clement (movie night) and will also interview Elliott Jones (professional hydrologist).
 - Stacy Funderburke is to interview Dan Calvert from the City of Atlanta Parks Department.
 - The surveyors were scheduled to begin their work today.
- Perry Smith and Elliott Jones updated the group on recent progress towards possible Wildlife Sanctuary Certification by the Atlanta Audubon Society for designated areas within Candler Park.
 - They went on a walk-through in the park with Melinda Langston on July 13, and they went to all eight proposed sites (representing 12 acres). When they were at the golf course, they saw the beaver and green herons, and the saw barred owls in the coves.
 - After this meeting, Melinda seemed less enthusiastic about immediate certification because of rampant invasives and water quality issues. (See below.) She would also like to see more native species planted.
 - A phased approach will probably be best. We could apply for approval of the cove areas first, since this area has already had significant invasive removal completed. It will likely be ready for certification once we have additional native species planted there.
- Jack White reported that recent testing by Georgia Adopt-a-Stream indicated that the

dissolved oxygen levels are low. The lower pond is severely eutrophied at the current time, and there is much algae. (It should be noted that the current status is atypical, and pond levels were especially low at the time of testing.) There was also a high fecal count in the upper stream near the area where there is physical evidence of sanitary sewer overflows. It would be relatively easy to set up our own regular testing. Paideia classes used to do it.

- Jack also reported that he had obtained the application for habitat restoration grants from the Atlanta Audubon Society. We could apply to have a chimney (for chimney swifts) installed similar to the one recently added in Piedmont Park. The application deadline is August 31.
- Dan Hanlon reported that Paideia had reached out to us with interest in doing a volunteer project in the park on August 9. There will be 8-12 faculty members available for 2-2.5 hours. He suggested that they could do the tree tagging for area immediately adjacent to the AL/A zone. GeoSurvey could do it for \$1,000, but this would be free. Micah Lipscomb already has tags, so we would not even have to pay for those.
- Lauren Welsh asked what kind of efforts might be appropriate for communicating with the community about stream quality issues such as the sewage contamination and sediment pollution by the festival organizer.

Old Business

Lauren reminded the group that we previously contracted with Tamara Jones to do strategic planning. Lauren has a call with Tamara scheduled for the end of the month. She hopes we can get on her schedule and get this done, especially since we have already paid her \$1,000 (half the fee.)