

Shoal Creek Park

November 6, 2019

Members present: Mary Ellen Heuton (ex officio, representing John Stewart), Mike Hardig, Philip Busby, Marty Everse, Nisa Miranda, Susan Fulmer, Cheryl Patton, Dee Woodham, Carey Heatherly

Members absent: Terry Arnold, John Nix, Sue Wilder-White, Kelly Wacker, Ashton Cottingham, Hollie Cost (ex officio)

Ex Officio present: Alex Dudchock, Mary Ellen Hueton (representing John Stewart)

Ex-officio absent: Hollie Cost, Mike Jones, Eldon Woodie

Others present: Stephanie Moore

Susan called the meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

1. General Board Issues and Financial Report: In February, we will elect new members and officers. Susan gave the following financial update-As of October 31, 2019 the Trustmark MMA balance was \$82,289.31. The Regions checking account balance was \$1,000. The Park Foundation also has a credit card through Regions for expenditures requiring online and automatic payments, i.e. the website. In October, the Foundation also participated in an audit for MDCD regarding money disbursed to them for the Arnold bridge.
2. Update on Park: Cemetery update (Marty)- the plan is to clear by hand, run Ground Penetrating Radar over the location to better mark the area with graves. Use the same technique plus metal detecting and archaeologist expertise to find church afterwards. The north, northeast corner 3 acres seems to be the most logical place to search for the church. Nisa suggested searching the records housed at Moundville/UA records facility to see if there are official cemetery records available. Alex said to make sure our efforts are recognized as a sanctioned search. He agreed that having a subcommittee devoted to the cemetery/church was sufficient. Marty mentioned that winter is the best time to do this work and Alex pledged to devote crew to the hand work after an official request was made to and approved by the city. Philip will contact Shane about making a formal request to Alex for laborers.

Mike—wildflower trail. Identified about 20 different trees. Three additional signs to illustrate wildflowers, pollinators, water routes, etc. have been designed.

Alex—Curbs and timber bridge are in, handrails may or may not be added depending on need. Using contractor TrailVisions for this project and it is still under budget.

Stephanie—Problems with people using the park without permission for birthday parties,

photoshoots, etc. Also, anyone entering the park is entering at their own risk. However, requiring rental of the pavilion alleviates some of the risk. The one pavilion is the only potential rental site available in the park (Alex).

Working with Brian Rushing, economic development and Randy Haddock, Cahaba River Society to identify potential launch sites (inner tube/kayak). Frank Arnold Bridge will possibly be main site with three additional launch sites in park. Meetings, for now, will only concern the Frank Arnold Bridge launch site.

Friends of Shoal Creek Park group is researching what people envision at the park. Posting information around town and in the Vallo Voice (UM newsletter) to solicit feedback.

Alex—Potential connector to overlook at Alabama National Cemetery. Spoke with Senators Jones and Shelby and US House Rep Palmer. Connector will probably be a greenway. The Alabama delegation will get a formal request from us.

Trails will be multi-use so mountain bikes can use them.

Dee--Did not get dog park grant.

Bridge plaques are up.

ADA Loop trail (Betty Mahler Loop) links the two bridges and did a report for future grant writing purposes. \$582,000 to make ADA compliant (on paper). Will have to do grants.

TrailVisions is currently working in the Badlands and wooded section Purple Trail area.

Kiosks are still outstanding, hope to get those placed in the area of the bridges soon.

Nancy Simmer is willing to aid the Foundation with birding. She is a member of the Audubon Society. Shoal Creek Park will be named an Alabama Birding Site.

3. Marketing and Communication:(Cheryl)Facebook--A photographer from the UK took several photographs of the park and donated to the Board for our use (social media and other).

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Website: Is up, but the free version contains the word “Webbly” in the url address. A real site costs \$350/year. The pay site is \$250 plus another \$100 for Paypal functionality to facilitate online donations. Our current email for the park and for the website is shoalcreekparkfoundation@gmail.com.

Cheryl made motion for the board to fund and maintain a website, Marty seconded. Passed unanimously. Money designated for web presence. URL will match email address. Kristen Gilbert is helping with the design (pro bono).

4. Events—Dee is waiting on city to do ~~some work~~ establish and enforce park rental rates. Herman asked about how much to charge. Also looking for a couple of annual events to host. Phillip has reached out to area Track and Field coaches about potential high school meets/events. Do we want to do the event or hire event promoters to take care?

Events at pavilion need to have signs that the pavilion is for rent. Signage helps with policing.

Would the high school like to move Farm Day out there?

Potential Earth Day event in April?

Archery?

5. House update: No update.

Minutes from August 7, 2019 meeting: Moved (Cheryl), second (Susan), approved.

Potential new business: No Hunting signs for the perimeter of park.

Upcoming meetings in 2020: February 5th, May 6th, and August 5th.

Elections in February.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm