

## Meeting Minutes: Joyce Hughes Park Committee 26 October 2020

### Attendees (Bold = in attendance):

Amy Elbaor

**Anna Sanyal (present for most but not all of meeting)**

**Ashley Martin**

**Bernard Hayman (co-chair)**

Erin Schmitt

**Holly Moritz**

**Jacob Yount**

**Jennifer Cheeks**

**Jim Dowdle**

**Jody Poth**

**Jonathan Lucyshyn**

**Julie Sims**

**Laura Bidwa (co-chair)**

**Laura Kogan**

Matt Negron

Pallavi Mandiga (present briefly)

**Robert Poletto**

**Steve Bollinger (present briefly)**

**Tanya Long**

### 1. Opening (Laura B):

Thanks everyone for making time on a Monday night, notes that Mondays can be difficult to find spare time for meetings. [Joyce Hughes Park] represents the first community development to be built east of N 4th St since the segregated elementary school in the 1950's. Notes that this meeting is the first step towards building community and using our connection as neighbors

### 2. Intros: Where do you live and what was the 1st thing you liked about WP?

Laura B. - Lives on Hamlet St, first thing she ever liked about WP was the gigantic trees around the neighborhood. Enjoyed the shade and the scenery.

Steve B. - Lives on ??? Avenue, across from the elementary school. Has lived in CBUS for 8 years, moved around different areas before landing in WP. Enjoys getting to know people in WP as part of his work and that was part of what brought him here.

Anna S. - Lives on East 8th Avenue. Currently phone banking for PA. Chose to live in WP because she is single, so the affordability and diversity of WP was what appealed to her.

Tanya L. - Current president of WPCCA. Lives on 6th Street. Chose to live in WP because of the opportunity and potential it represents for herself and her children, as well as the connections that her family and relatives have had with this community going back many years. Enjoys being close to many different attractions (fair grounds, downtown, OSU, etc).

Ashley M. - Lives on Hamlet, been here for 11 years. First great memory was before closing on her house; checking on the house before they moved in found that some of the windows had been broken, received help from neighbors on the street despite not knowing them at all. Appreciates the welcoming nature of the community here.

Bernard H. -

Holly M. - Lives on Grant Ave for about 5 years, moved here from Texas. Didn't know much about WP but enjoyed the neighborhood feel within the urban space was why they moved here.

Jacob Y. - Live on Grant Ave, near the back corner of the park. Moved to WP because it is close to campus, very walkable to Short North and businesses in the area. Really enjoy how friendly everyone is, how everyone sits on their porch and waves.

Jen C. - Lives on 6th St. Originally from Cleveland, came to CBUS for school. Moved around a lot before finding housing with CPO. Didn't know much about WP before moving here, only knew the stigma and reputation. Enjoys that WP is a uplifting community where there is diversity and everyone is accepted.

Jim D- Lives on ??? Ave. Recent residents to WP, enjoying getting to know about the neighborhood and learning about the history of WP. Likes the sense of community and friendliness.

Jody - Lives on Cromartie (?). Enjoys the sense of community and friendliness here. Used to live in the Short North but wanted to be closer to her job at OSU and also a more welcoming vibe. Grew up in a rural area, only exposure to WP growing up was traveling to state fair, and so now she gets to learn more about it.

Jon L. - Lives on Grant Ave. Moves to CBUS 6 years ago, used to live at the Wonder Bread factory. Wanted to live close to downtown due to a job at CPD and be invested in the area where he lives. Enjoys the welcoming aspect of the community.

Julie - Live on Cromartie. Recently moved here (June 2020), used to live in Cincinnati and Lexington. Wanted to be in an area close to everything. Likes that even at 6 am when she runs that many people are out with their dogs and friendly, waving and greeting each other.

Laura K. - Lives on Grant Ave for 4 years. Used to live in Short North, but WP is special because it is where they started their family and appreciate how diverse the neighborhood is.

Her sons are able to have friends from all different backgrounds and that share culture with them.

Rob P. - Live on Cromartie, moved here in June 2020. Been in CBUS for ~30 years, always lived close to OSU throughout. Seeing how WP has evolved and changed over the years, and the neighborhood culture has impressed him. Hope that there can be lots of big trees in the park.

### 3. Reading #1 feedback and general questions

- Show of hands who has read the article. What did you like about the article?

Laura B. - appreciated the parts about clarity, generous

Jim - Direct feedback versus gossip

Rob P. - Agree with jim, but also emphasize transparency. Likes the idea of being experiential, appreciates being able to solicit different perspectives.

Tanya - Willingness of everyone to work together for a common cause and common good, importance of having an open mind and keeping the goal in mind as we collaborate (teamwork makes the dream work)

Bernard - Enjoyed the points about accountability, bringing people in to be a part of this process and the community, emphasized importance of establishing this project as a foundational opportunity to improve the culture of WP

- What would make this committee a nightmare?

Laura B. - Holding grudges, gossip and shit talk, being silent and holding things back can impede the efforts of the common cause we have here.

Jen C. - Confusion and unwelcoming. Enjoys how people in WP feel like community and family, want to see that continue. Confusion of not knowing which places are welcoming and available to people can go

Laura B. - Thanks Jen for bringing that up. That's part of why this committee exists, to ensure that every person is included and made to feel welcome in all spaces.

Holly - Aggressive behavior would be offsetting to this group. Even if we all have separate visions and experience conflict there's no need to be aggressive in how we express ourselves and resolve issues.

Tanya L - Chiming in on Jen's point that wants to see WP remain welcoming and not see places roped off from people even as new developments occur and spaces change in the neighborhood.

Laura B. - Didn't used to be a person that said hi to everybody on the street, but enjoys that aspect of WP culture and wants to see it kept strong and maintained.

Laura B. - Might draft a set of parameters for the group to help us stay focused as we go through discussions, so that in times when we have conflict or stress we remain committed to

#### **4. Parks in WP (good, bad, vision)**

- What you have noticed about parks in the community - likes, dislikes, worries, hopes, what could be good, what could be bad.

Laura B. - Has been spending time in Franklin Park outside the conservatory, really enjoys plants and botany. Hopes that JH Park in the future could have a similar aesthetic and vibe so that we could have similar spaces in WP.

Tanya - Has noticed the willingness of residents to keep parks clean, proactively pick up garbage or waste that might otherwise degrade the quality of the public spaces in WP. Would like to see more of that sort of community engagement and culture. Really liked the trees in the park at the last WPCCA meeting, just really appreciative of nature and the weather. Looking forward to JH Park being a space where more neighbors can go and engage with each other. Doesn't mind that homeless people are in the parks, would rather those spaces be welcoming for them so that they can have somewhere to go. Working with CPD to uphold their word to keep WP more safe and be a resource for the community. Wants this park to really uplift the memory of Joyce Hughes.

Laura K. - Piggybacking on Tanya's comment about picking up trash, was part of the group that helped cleaned up. Appreciated that no one complained or balked, likes that there is a level of empathy in WP between neighbors. Seems like this community is a safe space for everyone regardless of history or SES status, and welcoming.

Laura B. - Walks through WP many times during the week, always tries to pick up trash as they passes through and sees other doing so as well.

Julie - Walks her dog in their area every day, tries to pick up 3-4 pieces of trash each day. Has been doing to parks more because of pandemic and finds being out in nature very restorative. For those who live on the park boundary there is going to be an elevated exposure to the park, feels that she has special/unique concerns about noise, trash, indigent peoples compared to when she lived in places that were not as close to park spaces.

Laura B - Used to live behind a bar and understands having the aspect of having concerns about unexpected or unpleasant aspects of being in close proximity to heavily used public spaces.

Laura K. - Really nice to have spaces where neighbors can congregate and interact with each other, important to keep park spaces open and welcoming to all residents of WP.

Laura B - Part of discussion will be how we navigate these issues, which will be an ongoing process that will involve trial and error. WP as a community has not been shy about wanting to do things differently and retain a sense of possibility.

Rob P. - Park space used to be an ugly factory space and now something beautiful is being constructed. Has been looking out at the space from his porch and envisioning what the park might look like. Feels that park will be part of his experience as a property owner without being proprietary, and that will help creating a welcoming vibe for the community.

Laura B - really misses the more active community aspect, such as kids walking to school down their street. Wants JH park to be representative of that experience.

Ashley - parks create social infrastructure in our community, allows us to get to know neighbors that we wouldn't know otherwise. Might create awkward or frustrating situations but working through those issues and challenges are worth it because they improve the community for everyone. Not just living in proximity but becoming neighbors invested in each other's lives. Whether we live right on the park or somewhere else everyone has a personal stake in JH park and something that has been promised as a community space that will be welcome for all - part of the reason that it was named for JH park. Important to carry that over into the spirit of space.

Laura K - JH park was originally intended as a 3 acre park, should be sensitive for the changes that have occurred in development and the vision

Jim D. - Didn't know that the park was originally promised as a public space, something that wasn't explicitly told to property owners. As they paid a premium to be on the park face but ongoing process for everyone to get on the same page

Ashley - WP residents didn't know that property owners weren't fully vested into the ways that this space would be created and used.

Jacob Y. - Up until recently Thrive told property owners that JH park was not a public park.

Laura K - Technically true, JH park is not a public park because it is owned by thrive. Public space on private land.

Laura B - Not the first time that realtors/developers have given disparate information about how spaces will be built/used. Having to balance viewpoints between those on the park front and neighbors in wider WP community.

Jen C. - Looking forward to celebrating Joyce Hughes with this park, wish that newer residents could've know her and known what she did for WP.

Bernard - Acknowledges concerns of residents who live in close proximity to parks, shares understanding of incidents that can be unpleasant or inconvenient as people use parks in ways that are outside of common standards. Suggests that this group can be an opportunity to dialogue with people on both sides of those issues, bring a consensus that everyone can be comfortable with and that can create the conditions through which all of the the public spaces in WP can be improved and made more welcoming for everyone.

Laura B. - We do have a list of rules from Thrive that they use to manage their park spaces and so that can be the jump off point for figuring baseline ideas (good, bad, what needs to change). We can share that out and use it for the next meeting.

Laura K - asks for the Thrive park rules to be shared out with meeting attendees.

Tanya L - suggests that we share a write up of Joyce Huges based on a previous presentation so that everyone can understand her influence and why she is so important to WP. (many agree)

Holly M. - Asks if there is going to be a plaque or some kind of recognition of JH in the park (Laura affirms)

## **5. Q&A and closeout**

Laura B. - Any suggestions for questions or topics for our next meeting?

Holly M - Concerned about the traffic speed on Grant Ave, feels that roundabouts don't slow people down enough, could pose a risk to children crossing the street to get to JH park. (Tanya and Laura K both agree, Laura K says that speeding/crosswalks are part of the mobility committee discussion in WCCA)

Laura K - flashing beacon with crosswalk could be a solution, have been working to get similar infrastructure in other points in the neighborhood. Depends on who is able to pay for and implement it.

Jody - What is our goal to have these done, what is the commitment for this planning, what is the timeline for the park opening.

Laura B - Oversight committee will meet again in Jan or Feb to review our proposed rules for JH park. Wanted this group to start meeting in Sept, but did not want to get out in front of the JH family design involvement. Assuming that if we can get rules together by ~Feb that should be sufficient to get them approved. After that we would shift to discussing park opening, activities, fundraising, etc. Don't want meetings to be a burden over the next few months.

Laura K. - when do they think it will be completed?

Laura B - Expect some time in Spring 2021

- Best time for meeting in November?

Laura B. - Monday before or after thanksgiving?

Tanya - Mondays are better for her towards the end of the month

Holly - Could we meet sooner, depending on how everyone is able to engage with the materials? (many agree) ~November 16th

Laura B. - Prospective meeting on November 16th, 6 pm EST. Will send out materials and other resources.