

Meeting Notes: Joyce Hughes Park Committee / Weinland Park Community Civic Association

8/9/21; 6 pm in Joyce Hughes Park

(Thank you to Pallavi for volunteering her patio as a back-up place to gather!)

Present:

Jacob Yount

Jody Poth

Laura Bidwa (co-chair)

Matt Negron (Thrive)

Pallavi Mandiga

Rob Poletto

Tanya Long

1. Icebreaker: What's your favorite summer memory from Weinland Park 2021? (10 min)

Jacob – Planting flowers around our patio

Jody – Porch and patio time

Laura – Watching my garden do great

Matt – Park construction getting underway

Pallavi – Getting out and about after pandemic restrictions

Rob – National Night Out gathering in (the city's) Weinland Park

Tanya – All the berries and activities at the Berry Patch

2. Update on park construction (Matt) (5 min)

There was a lot of grading needed on the site; had to adjust plans to accommodate, but fortunately for maximum accessibility, a solution was found that prevented needing a step at the park entrance. (The reason the circular path looks so far below the main level of the dirt right now is that the concrete is just the bottom-most layer of the path – there will be gravel and permeable pavers installed on top of it in most areas.)

Expect to have concrete done by end of August. Installation of irrigation and plantings will take at least 4 weeks. Hoping for early to mid-October completion. There will be a period of at least a few months after that when the new sod should be treated very gently (recommend avoiding large gatherings).

3. Discussion/decision: Where in the park should the signs go? (led by Matt) (15 min)

Joyce Hughes sign – in or adjacent to the rose bed near the front of the park (by Grant Avenue).

Rules signs (2) – at the front corners of the park by the Grant Avenue sidewalk

Once we get final texts to Matt, he will start the design process with Thrive designers and Jeff of Fastsigns. He'll circulate some mock-ups to the committee via email. For the Joyce Hughes sign, we liked the structure of a sign Jacob showed us that is raised on 4 legs, horizontal but tilted a bit for easier viewing, in McFerson Commons Park downtown.

4. Dedication planning (15 minutes)

- a. Activities – Because the park may not be quite completed and even if it is, the new sod will be fragile, this will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony only. We'll plan a larger gathering to celebrate the park in spring of 2022.

Special guests to be invited to ribbon-cutting include city officials and other community leaders who knew Joyce and will want to help honor her – some may want to speak. In addition to the actual ribbon-cutting, we want someone to talk about Joyce's work in the neighborhood (Michael Wilkos has done a great job on this in other contexts). Laura will ask Pastor Robey of 7th Ave Community Baptist (where Miss Joyce was a member) if there is a choir or some combination of members who could sing at the ceremony. For refreshments – depending on weather, either lemonade or hot cider, and fancy custom-decorated sugar cookies. If Freedom a la Cart could do this, we'd be glad to hire them.

Thrive's newly hired event planner may be able to help us estimate budget and finalize planning for the event – Matt will invite them to this committee's Sept 13 meeting.

Ideally we will announce the date of the spring celebration at the ribbon cutting.

- b. Date – Mid-to-late October. Tanya will contact some city-connected people to ask if we'd get better turnout on a weekday early evening or a Saturday afternoon. Timing of construction completion will be clearer by end of August. 10/16 is a bye week for OSU football; 10/23 is away.

5. Update on upcoming NCA board meeting (5 min)

No date selected yet per Mark Lundine as of 8/4, although he said they planned to meet in August. A resident seat is open since NCA chair Erin Prosser has taken a job with the city of Columbus; the committee would like to know how the seat will be filled. No response from Mark about feedback on the park rules. Laura will forward the rules email(s) to Matt for follow-up.

Next meeting: Monday, September 13, 6:00 p.m., in person in Joyce Hughes Park. Focus will be planning for the ribbon-cutting. We will send a calendar invite and agenda separately.