

# MINUTES

SEPT 1, 2021

6:30PM

IN PERSON

<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Monthly Meeting
<b>CHAIR</b>	Peter Billipp
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mardi Turner
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Members Present: Peter Billipp, Will Bertron, Mardi Turner, Maryann Grahamann, Laura Turley, Brett Bingham
	Members Absent: Jeff Chen, Nina Pilson, Lindsey Swiger, Sami Morrison
	Staff: Susan White, Donna Lamond
	Council Liaison: none
<b>VISITORS</b>	

**I. Halloween Fun Run**

Michelle Marvin provided an update on the Halloween Fun Run on October 30, 2021. Still need sponsors and volunteers! Check out [www.westutx.gov](http://www.westutx.gov) for more info.

**II. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Peter Billipp.

**III. Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Susan White reminded us that we had all received the minutes via email. No formal approval was recorded.

**IV. Citizen Comments:** None

**V. Friends Update: Donna Lamond**

Donna thanked Peter for his service as a member and chair of the Parks and Rec Board from 2015-2021. Susan and Donna presented Peter with an award acknowledging his contributions over the past 6 years.

Fathers and Flashlights is still planned as an in-person event on October 23. Registration starts soon! Masking will be encouraged and spacing will be increased. A COVID note is included on all communications.

Mardi noted regarding spacing that some F&F families participate in all the evening and morning activities, but choose to sleep at home, requiring no tent space. Would it be possible to have different types of registrations (with or without a tent space) in the future? Donna said this was and will be considered.

The Park Lovers Ball will be at the Hotel Zaza on February 5, 2022.

**VI. Council Update:**

City Council has not yet appointed the board representatives. Mardi attended the City Council meeting where Gregg Thompson from Tri-Sports presented their recommendation for a new one year MOU. She summarized the major points of the agreement.

**VII. Parks & Rec Update: Susan White**

- 1) Huffington Park – the reopening event took place on August 26. It was well attended and was given good coverage by the Village News and Community Impact. One neighbor complained about the removal of the arbor and several of the crape myrtles.

The neighbors to the west are planning to demo their house and rebuild, but are open to consideration of selling the property, if they find another suitable home in West U.

- 2) Judson Park – Development will be put on hold for the appointment of the new board. Consideration is being given to a new tree in the 2-5 year old play area and perhaps a gaga ball pit. The Chimney residents really want to keep their children from having to cross Bissonnet to get to a park.
- 3) Interest in pickleball is growing. Susan is looking for possible locations for a court.
- 4) Brooks Smith (parks maintenance) and Anthony Hagan (assistant recreation manager) have both left West U. Susan is interviewing for replacements.
- 5) Fall Events – Planning is underway for both the Halloween Fun Run and the Full Moon Festival.
- 6) Christmas Event – Multiple events are planned
  - a. The tree lighting will take place on December 6 after the City Council meeting, but there will be no booths or activities.
  - b. There will be a Santa Truckin’ through West U. The plan is to have Santa in a convertible, with a fire truck leading the way. The route will be park based, like the Easter Bunny event.
  - c. Laser light show – This event was so popular that we plan to repeat it. Susan said that we might use the Rec Center fields instead of being the parking lot, and possibly add some booths for this event.
- 7) Budget – Improvements to Judson Park will be included in the 2022 budget. The City Council budget workshop is on September 11 and approval meetings will take place in September.
- 8) Oleanders on Edloe – Work to remove the dead oleanders and grind the stumps is ongoing. We discussed the future of the space between the street and the Harris County Flood Control District fence that borders Poor Farm Ditch. We might be able to add a walking trail and some landscaping. There may be grants available for a trail project.
- 9) Other freeze damaged plantings – Brooks created an inventory of all of the plants that were lost in Winter Storm Uri. One large bid to handle the whole project repalcemnt.

**VIII. Park Ambassador Assignments:**

- Colonial Park East (Will) – nothing to report
- Colonial Park West (Nina)
- Colonial Park Pool (Mary) – no issues
- Friends Pocket Park (Sami)
- Huffington Park (Maryann)
- JEH Park (Laura) – things look great
- Judson Park (Jeff)
- Recreation Center Playground (Mardi)
- Whitt Johnson (Brett)
- Wier Park (Lindsey)

**IX. Order of Business:** None

**X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned:** 7:41p.m.