

Agenda

1. Review the Charrette reference guide (with focus on Next Steps)
2. Decide on next steps, prioritize order of importance and start

Notes from parks meeting 10-29-10

Updates since Charrette meeting

- Charrette reference will be online soon (<http://www.genevanrc.org/resource.htm>) and hard copies are available at the GNRC. The charrette reference captures the ideas and discussions from the 10/2/10 planning session.
- Decided it was too early to start 501c Friends of the Pocket Parks organization, need to decide goals and increase interest first.

Suggestions for next steps (Sage Gerling)

1. Create a 2011 calendar for steps to complete park projects, recruiting interested residents, planning events, helping with programming, etc.
2. Finalize unique identity and priorities for improvements each park (including necessary improvements for existing amenities such as benches for a highly used softball field).
3. Select a manageable number of parks to do a summer physical improvement project. Also decide if any city-wide projects should be done, such as dog waste bag dispensers or memorial benches for each park.
 - a. Determine the physical improvement
 - b. Talk to Rec. Dept. (Janelle Toner) and DPW to confirm that the projects are feasible and how they could help
 - c. Find collaborators
 - d. Determine fundraising strategy (sponsors/fundraisers)
 - e. Develop calendar for getting the project done
4. Recruit city residents to be involved in the Friends of the City of Geneva Parks.
5. Decide ways to increase awareness about the park and programs.
6. GNRC to work with the police department (Eric Heick) to get the parks on the neighborhood officers' walking routes.
7. Other suggestions developed by the group.

Current state of programming in parks (Janelle Toner)

- Summer programming for kids: Last summer they tried to have programs in some of the neighborhood parks for kids, but participation was low.
- Indoor facilities (restroom/rain shelters) are important.
- Their day camp program at the lakefront park had 45-60 kids per week.
- Ongoing programming: Star party- 2nd Friday of every month in Washington Park 6:30-8:00 p.m. (led by Doug Reilly)

Programming ideas from the group

- A citywide build for benches and tables. HWS architecture students design and precut. Find donations for wood and materials. A day of volunteer building.
- Identify programming already sponsored by other groups and encourage them to use the parks.

- Encourage neighborhood association to host events in their local park (e.g. snowman building contest with hot cocoa)
- Bocce
- Park picnic lunches for seniors
- Starting playgroups (a set time where people bring kids to park)
- Parenting group for new parents' instant group- bonding- social network.

How to publicize programming?

- Solicit free public service announcements on radio, post on Chamber of Commerce website, neighborhood associations, Facebook, City page, GNRC website, Genevalution website

Growing the Friends of the Parks

- Recruit people through volunteer projects
- Seniors
- New parent groups (organized by the hospital?)
- Mom's groups
- Adult coed softball league

Infrastructure to consider

- Park basics: benches, picnic tables, dog amenities, seating, pathways
- Are grills possible?
- How to supply balls to parks (check out with deposit- is there a company with this service?)
- Park supervision would allow someone to oversee distribution of equipment.
- Kid's bike rental (modeled after European parks or HWS yellow bike system?)
- Focus infrastructure on creative outlets rather than just focus on team sports
- Do we need porta-potties in the summer? (Cost is \$100-200 a month)

Fundraising notes

- BID may be seeking Main Street Grant for improvements to Bicentennial Park? Should we be involved? (Anne Hoyt will share Bicentennial Park ideas with John Hicks)
- Work with the city on any grant cycles
- There was an organization for the memorial benches at the lakefront park. \$1,000 donation for bench, city put down concrete pad and bolted it. Does organization exist on paper and could it be revived for benches in the parks? (Marty Davis will learn more)
- Cost to use parks for larger events: need reservation and liability insurance. Smaller events are encouraged to reserve the space to guarantee priority.

Next steps

- Meetings every 3-4 weeks
- Alternate between Saturday mornings and Wednesday or Thursday evenings
- Topics to cover (in this order):
 - Benchmarks (examples of parks around the country offering unique physical amenities or programming, organization structure for park associations, group usage of parks, programming ideas, etc.)
 - Priorities (infrastructure and programming)
 - Fundraising

Pride in Our Pocket Parks Campaign
Geneva Neighborhood Resource Center
Next Steps Meeting: October 28, 2010

Next Meeting dates

- Saturday, Nov. 20th 9:30-11:00 AM (GNRC)
- Wednesday, Dec. 15th 6:00-7:00 PM (GNRC)

Action Items before next meeting:

- Add the park reservation form to the city website (Janelle Toner)
- Find out if grills are legal in the City parks (Janelle Toner)
- Find out if BID is seeking grant for Bicentennial Park (Anne Hoyt)
- Find out if the organization for memorial benches still exists on paper and could be revived for a similar program in the parks. (Marty Davis)
- Group to investigate benchmarks (examples of parks around the country offering unique physical amenities or programming, organization structure for park associations, group usage of parks, programming ideas, etc.). Janelle has material for benchmarks and ideas-she will leave them at GNRC for people to look through for ideas.
- Develop a 2011 calendar draft for moving projects, park awareness events, resident volunteer recruitment, programming, etc. (Loren Marshall)