

## **Pride in our Pocket Parks Meeting 1/22/11**

**Attendees:** Vicki Baroody, Fred Brockway, Paul Cosentino (Geneva DPW), Marty Davis, Tony DiCostanza, Sage Gerling, Jason Hagerman, Amanda Garris, Loren Marshall, Scott Ostrowski, Gavin Sacks, Todd Taylor

**Brief summary:** At the meeting there was consensus to pursue four projects in 2011: benches for all parks, improved entrances, a kick-off event (bike rally, April 30th), and a series of smaller events in the parks. Our main goals for now are planning the projects and connecting with collaborators to make them happen. We will likely need to develop public-private partnerships to accomplish many of our goals. Loren will be conducting a survey of park use this spring. A dog park and pavilions are still of interest.

**Update: Geneva Department of Public Works (Paul).** Over the winter and spring they are completing work in Gulvin Park, including a bridge across the creek, which was installed this winter. They have \$30,000 in playground equipment in storage ready for install in this park.

**Update: Playground by skating rink.** The large playground built by Geneva Community Projects (GCP) has been deemed hazardous and is now off limits. GCP may consider another site (lakefront was the idea years ago) for a community playground.

### **2011 Park Projects**

**1) Benches. Many parks that have playground equipment lack seating for the parents, grandparents, and other caretakers.** We'd like to have seating at all parks and especially near the playground equipment. It may be possible to fund some as memorial benches like those at the lakefront. We have tentatively set April 16<sup>th</sup> as the day to build them, as this is one of HWS's days of service. Loren will coordinate with GNRC and potential partners to further this project.

#### **Potential partners:**

- Geneva DPW (bench design approval)
- HWS (bench design – design by HWS students with potential to work with Ben and Claire and their bike rack/bench project, bench design and build volunteers through CCESL or HWS arch. society)
- BOCES for woodworking
- Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County
- Potential sources of scrap lumber: Jered Slusser with New Energy Works, Amy and Brandon Phillips with Miles and May
- Neighborhood Associations

**2) Entrances. Some parks lack signs, have signs that are overgrown, or are otherwise unwelcoming.** We'd like to create welcoming entrances to the parks through signage and landscaping. (Note: DPW would like a uniform style for the signs.) One idea is to have a landscaping competition.

#### **Potential partners:**

- Geneva DPW (signage)
- FLCC Master Gardener Class
- Landscapers

Neighborhood Associations  
Hoe N' Hope Garden Club

**4) Bike Rally.** We'd like to have one big event to draw in a large crowd and start publicizing our projects to the community. We're planning a bike-themed event to take place at the Lakefront Festival/Seneca7 Race on April 30th. Will need to have a parks pamphlet ready for distribution by then.

**Potential activities:**

Bike swap  
Bike registration  
Tune-ups  
Skills training  
Free helmets  
Survey the public about parks

**Potential Partners:**

Geneva Police Department (bike registration, skills demos and training)  
Ontario County Sherriff  
Bike store  
HWS students

**4) Pocket Park Passport Project:** A series of events from the Bike Rally event on April 30<sup>th</sup> to October to draw people to the different parks (noting that "free" can draw crowds and that the Star Parties will rotate through parks this summer). Need more ideas for next meeting!

**Event ideas**

Frisbee tournament  
Scavenger hunts in the different wards  
Events hosted by ward councilors  
Health-themed event with Chiropractic College and Finger Lakes Health (walker and cane swap? Health screenings?)  
Approach other non-profits to get them to adopt projects or events  
End with Halloween-themed event

**Dog Park and Pavilions** are of continued interest.

**Park use survey.** Loren will be creating survey to get feedback on park use. Basic questions: Do you use the parks? Why or why not? Will likely launch in February. Will focus on Richards, Jefferson, and Ridgewood Park areas.

**Action items**

**Meetings:** We will be meeting approximately every two weeks, or as needed. Schedule is available on the GNRC website. Next meeting is Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM at the GNRC.

- Communicate with DPW about ideas and share a copy of the charrette document with Paul **Cosentino (Sage)**
- Check to see if all parks have signage, including secondary entrances **(Sage and Amanda)**
- Find out about HWS student bike rack/bench design, perhaps invite designers to next meeting **(Loren)**
- Talk to Katie Flowers with CCESL for potential HWS student involvement **(Loren)**
- Look into City dog + park regulations **(Sage)**
- Groundwork for Bike Rally **(Marty)**

- Invite skate park advocate to next meeting to share info (**Sage**)
- Ideas for events (**Everyone**)
- Develop parks survey (**Loren**)
- Brainstorm collaborators for entrances (**Fred and Amanda**)
- Check with Chiropractic College about volunteers for events (**Vicki**)
- Send email update including links (**Sage**)