

Fisher Park Neighborhood Association

January 20, 2021 General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

- 7:05 pm by Nancy Collins

Board member introductions

- Nancy & Rick Collins - Co-presidents
- Les Hall - Treasurer
- Ryan Murphy - Member at Large and Neighborhood Communications
- Salomeh Kingston - Member at Large
- Paul Sanford - Member at Large

City staff introductions

- Daisy Perez - Assistant to the City Manager, City of Santa Ana
- Parks & Recreation Exec Director - Lisa Rudloff
- Ron Ono - Been with the city over 50 years. Parks guru - Admin Services Manager
- Alyssa Ventura - Neighborhood Initiatives team
- Jessie Lopez - Ward 3 City Councilmember
- Margarita Macedonio - Neighborhood Initiatives team

Residents

- Jim Farley, Mark Ball, Paulina Valdez, Jeff Kats, Debra Russell, Daniel, Carla Martinez, Barbara Russell, Alexander Fitch, Aaron Dawson-Becker, Manny Escamilla

Treasurer's Report

- We really appreciate contributions to the association. It's what keeps us going.
- Check or paypal. Cash is a bit harder now since we aren't having many events.
- Bylaws say they are voluntary and confidential.
- 2020 was a tough year due to the pandemic
- Biggest income source is Open Garden Day which didn't happen, may not happen this year.
- Jan 1 - \$5,536.34
- Dec 31 - \$5,073.00
- Right now - \$5,141.74 in the bank

JFPNA Board

- We have an open secretary position on the board.
- We could use some extra help. Reach out to us for help.

Holiday Photo Scavenger Hunt

- We put together a new fun event
- We had three people submit photos that won prizes.
- All three will win Starbucks gift cards.

Decorating Contest

- Congrats to Alex and Tim

Guest Speakers

Jessie Lopez

- Born and raised in Santa Ana, attended public schools
- Thank you for allowing me to be here tonight and having the opportunity to be with you.
- Mom used to work at Hoover
- Even though I don't live in Fisher Park or Floral Park, I love the area
- I'm here to listen and build working relationships with you folks.
- Paul Sanford asked about her primary focuses for the first few years. Her biggest priority is COVID, bringing vaccinations to the city. Taking the budget into consideration for the future decisions. She is aware that our communities have seen an increase in homelessness, encampments in the creek.
- If you need anything, please feel free to email jessielopez@santa-ana.org or call 714-822-0891.

Lisa Rudloff

- Wants to provide her support to the neighborhood.
- Been with Santa Ana for two years.
- Trying to improve our parks system. They should be safe, clean and activated.
- The pandemic doesn't help, but we need to get to a place where people feel that way when they visit.
- Ron Ono is the person trying to improve our parks.
- Typically funded out of grants, not general funds.
- This past year, we applied for \$18 million in grant funding and received about \$8 million.
- Two new parks to Santa Ana, improvements to Santiago Park
- Email is the best way to reach out. Nancy Collins has my phone number.

Ron Ono

- Gave a presentation about recent and future improvements to Jack Fisher Park
- General operational improvements
 - Hired 5 park inspectors, including two tree arborists, opens restrooms and inspects custodial cleaning, inspects park landscape maintenance contracts, identifies repairs and reports to General Maintenance staff
- Custodial contract cleans restrooms twice per day
- Increased funding for tree maintenance contract to about \$250,000 (previously \$50,000)
- City is systemically making improvements as funding is available

- The funds are normally grant funding, CBDG, cannabis funding.
- Recent park improvements
 - Removal of dead trees
 - Removal of old tool shed
 - Installation of lighted flagpole
 - Installed new irrigation controller
 - Repairs to park/creek fencing
 - Replaced wood fiber in playground
- Future park improvements
 - Improving irrigation system around the canon
 - Re-landscape the entire area by the canon and the old tool shed
 - Install new park regulation signs in English and Spanish
 - Propose removal of existing restroom and installation of new prefab restroom
 - Behind the cabin
 - Safety issue
 - Difficult to see
 - Need to identify funding, estimated to cost \$350,000
 - Designed to match the log cabin appearance
 - It will probably be close to the existing restroom due to utility lines in the area
- Preparing a park master plan for a roadmap for future parks, improvements to the parks, costs, and maintenance needs.
- Will be taken to the city council for approval

Open Discussion

- Jim Farley - The park at the end of City Drive is among the nicest but there's no parking. Are there any plans to provide parking for that park?
 - Lisa - That will be evaluated as part of the park master plan process
 - Ron - When that was first developed, we wanted the entire parcel but we were unable to get it. Since we weren't able to get the entire parcel, the park was designed mostly for access from the bike trail. It also serves the newer housing development directly next to the park.
- Nancy Collins - We try to go to the park one time a week to see what's happening. We just use the MySantaAna app to report when something is broken? In front of the park, the sidewalk is demolished.
 - Ron - That's the easiest way to do it though hopefully my staff can catch it before you do it.
- Carla Martinez - Is that a 10 year plan for the parks?
 - Lisa - Yes, it's a 10 year plan
- Debra Russell - I grew up in Fisher Park, visit the park once a week. Barbara Russell is my mother. I heard there was some talk about the fire pit being removed. Is that true? It's a very important part of my childhood. We don't want to see that go.
 - Ron - We have closed the fire pit because of a situation. We heard from one person about a removal but we need community input.

- Nancy - We love the fire pit as well but it concerns me that it's not safe. Can it be renovated to make it safer?
- Les - Is there a prohibition about using it as a fire pit? Cannot be used without a permit?
- Lisa - We just need to make sure it's maintained and safe.
- Ron - It would be safer if people made a reservation to use the fire pit. Kids were going in there late at night or early morning doing a bonfire.
- Lisa - How I would like it to go: The firepit should be just like a BBQ. We need to get there and make it safe and clear up our process on permitting. The goal is to make it usable for the community.
- Debra Russell - I don't currently live in the neighborhood but when I heard about the fire pit removal, it alarmed me.
- Jessie - One of the observations I made today was about the lack of drainage.
- Nancy - I was told we couldn't add a drain by one of the maintenance staff. Maybe add a railing?
- Lisa - Let us do an assessment to make it safe and accessible.
- Nancy - Several neighbors said they would love to participate in a park cleanup day, plant flowers, etc. Excited to do another movie night, jazz night, etc.
- Paul Sanford - I see huge improvements over the past year. It looks so much better. The grass is no longer dead. Security is there all the time. I do want to make sure you know that the improvements have been remarkable.
- Barbara - Are there plans to replant or replace any removed trees?
 - Lisa - We did have an increase in our tree budget. We'll continue to ask for more to take care of our trees.
- Mark Ball - Any chance of gaining access to the riverbed via the park?
 - Ron - This fence is there because of all the homeless activity. To regain access, we almost need to address the homeless issue first. Several years ago, we applied for a grant to put a butterfly garden along the creek bed but because of the undesirable activity to block access. Hopefully this is a temporary measure. In Santiago Park, we got a grant to put viewing decks into the creek.
- Ryan Murphy - Will the parks master plan agreement add more amenities or features to Jack Fisher Park?
 - Lisa - Yes, that's the hope as part of the process.
- Paul Sanford - We chased away unsavory characters (homeless, drug usage, teenagers) recently in the creek. Most are good about leaving when confronted.
 - Jessie Lopez - COVID had affected law enforcement patrols but it's something we're continuing to push on.

Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:14 pm