

CPNO Board Meeting  
May 9, 2011

Attending: Trey Long, Lexa King, Cherie King, Mark Clement, Lauren Welsh, Jay Sandhaus, Kate Sandhaus

Absent: Christie Kuropatwa, Dave Aynes,

Visitors: Commissioner George Dusenbury, Rebekah Jones, Randy Pimsler

- I. Welcome – Jay Sandhaus welcomed the Board and visitors at 7:03 p.m.
  - a. Welcome to Kate Sandhaus, our newest board member.
  - b. Vote to approve the March board meeting minutes. Cherie King made a motion to approve and Mark Clement seconded. All were in favor.
  
- II. Visitors
  - a. Commissioner George Dusenbury to discuss Candler Park
    - i. Questions
      1. Pool Hours – Cassandra West proposed that the Candler Park pool stay open later than first week in August. George Dusenbury stated that there are costs associated with keeping it open later. Lauren Welsh stated that she will follow up with Cassandra. George stated that the Grant Park pool is open longer because it is a bigger pool. It costs the City of Atlanta approximately \$80k a year to do the pools. Cassandra is shooting for a September 5 pool close date. Kate Sandhaus stated that it would be good to keep consistency with pool opening and closing times. George stated that there is a gap between the free swim time and the paid swim time.
      2. Poison Ivy – George Dusenbury stated that he would look into this. George stated that a work order needed to be created to get it sprayed. George stated that the proposed budget doesn't have funding for spraying. George stated that the budget is tight this year and the parks department got hit hard to reduce costs.
      3. 420 Fest – George Dusenbury stated that they are meeting with event organizers. George stated that they are looking at having the event organizers do some regrading to help with the drainage. George asked for feedback. Jay Sandhaus stated that neighbors brought up the following items – parking, field damage, dogs at the fest. George stated that there should not have been dogs at the festival. Whether dogs are allowed at a

festival depends on the size of the festival. Randy Pimsler asked George when a fest gets too big for our park. George stated that they are looking at this. George stated that there needs to be a better traffic plan to deal with the traffic issues. Lauren Welsh asked how the City determines what is appropriate for recompense. George stated that they are looking at what they want them to fix. Lauren asked what could be done in the future – George stated that you do a walk through before the event and document any previous damage. George stated that Sweetwater 420 festival organizers are going to have to re-sod the areas that are damaged. George stated that the City needs to make sure that the irrigation system works or this will not work. George stated that if the damage cannot be fixed this way, they may need to limit what type of festival can come into the park. Kate Sandhaus asked about timing of when Sweetwater was going to fix the damage and the next festival. George stated that he didn't think that would be a problem. Mark Clement asked what the difference is between our park and the other parks that have festivals. George stated that the irrigation in our park does not work, our park is poorly irrigated and the compaction that was done did not work. George stated that Candler Park is the second most popular park behind Piedmont Park. Jay stated that the membership will be voting on the Mid-Summer Music Festival this Monday. George stated that the Mid-Summer Music Festival is not a problem and that the City will coordinate the timing on Sweetwater fixing the field before the next festival.

4. Drainage problem next to the swings – George Dusenbury stated that Mark Clement recommended that the sidewalk be removed. George stated that they will remove the sidewalk and it will be regarded. George stated that there are a lot of springs in that area. George stated that they invest in parks where the community raises money for the park. George stated that Park Pride has funding that can match our funding for improvements.
5. Stairs going down to basketball court – George Dusenbury stated that he will look into this. The City is aware of the problem and that they are not safe.
6. Sidewalks on McLendon – Kate Sandhaus stated that she put a ticket in to get these fixed. Kate stated that they are waiting for the Parks Department to sign off on the fix. Kate spoke with Public Works – George

Dusenbury is not aware of the ticket. Kate started with the Parks Department and they referred her to the Public Works department.

7. Evasive plant – George Dusenbury stated that this is an issue all over the City and that the spraying program is phasing out. Mark Clement is working on getting funding to help with this issue.
  8. Erosion problem – George Dusenbury stated that he would be willing to partner with us on fixing this issue.
  9. Tennis court – George Dusenbury stated that the drain at the top of the hill keeps stopping up.
  10. Electricity in park – George Dusenbury stated that the parks department would allow us to do this.
  11. Tree Care – east side of soccer field – This area gets heavy use. George Dusenbury hopes that the re-grading will help. Randy Pimsler asked if mulch would help and George stated yes. Mark Clement stated that the Friends of Candler Park can do it. George stated that they can get free mulch.
- ii. Golf course – George Dusenbury stated that it takes approximately \$35,000 a year to run the golf course. George stated that the beavers are taking over. George stated that if we changed the golf course to a driving range that it would be positive versus negative income. This idea would get rid of the golf course and turn part of it into a driving range, putting range, nature preserve and dog park. George wondered if the neighborhood would be OK with this idea. Mark Clement stated that driving range would increase more people and cars; therefore, requiring more parking. Mark asked if we could do without the golf theme. George stated that with the budget cuts that there are not a lot of funds. George stated that there is a lot of parking on Candler Park Drive. George stated that he does not want land that needs to be mowed because it would cost more money. Mark stated that they could put a path through it. Trey Long asked where the money would come from to make this change. George stated that if there is an investment that would reduce their long term operating cost they would be interested in making the investment. Lauren Welsh asked what the current demands on the golf course. George stated that people use it and that we should keep a golf experience involved. Kate Sandhaus stated that the dog park is very popular. George asked Randy Pimsler if it would be feasible to add a second story on the pool house and maybe add a driving range on top. George stated that this would keep the bathrooms open all year around. Randy didn't think the structure would support a second addition. Randy stated that

the wet lands have become bigger. Mark asked what the City's position is on the beavers. George mentioned that they have been removed from other parks but that these beavers appear to not be doing that much damage. Mark stated that they are drowning trees. George stated that there is currently not a plan for the golf course but that he would come before the membership to discuss further at the June meeting. Randy asked whether they would allow houses to be built on the other side of Terrace (currently golf course). George stated that they are not interested in doing that because it would hide the park. Lexa King asked how much experience George has with dog parks. George stated that he would look for a sponsor for the park. Lexa asked if it would be a problem with the location of the dog park because of residences close to the park. George stated that it would be buffered. Trey mentioned that individuals did not see Candler Park as a serious golf course. George stated that there will not be a lot of people at the driving range. If bathrooms were open, we would attract an Alta tennis team. Lauren asked if there was value to establishing a conservancy. George stated that most conservancies are friends groups.

- b. Rebekah Jones, Mid Summer Music Festival – Rebekah stated that this is not an artist market. There will be 20 plus food vendors. The festival is looking to getting a stronger crowd during the day. The festival will mark the grounds on Friday. Officer Chris Clarke is doing security. The City asked them to not fence off the playgrounds. Cherie King asked if it was a free festival. Rebekah stated that you would purchase a wrist band to drink a beer. Jay Sandhaus asked if Rebekah would write a few paragraphs about the fest for the website and come to the membership meeting to discuss. Lexa King mentioned that it would be important to know the non-profits that are involved for the Monday's membership meeting. Lauren Welsh and Kate Sandhaus both have concerns about the timing of the Sweetwater fixes. Mark Clement stated that he talked to Joy Brown and everything but the EMS has been approved for this application. Lauren stated that we need to find a way to keep folks responsible for making sure things get fixed. Mark mentioned that in previous years that Mid Summer festival allowed Mary Lin to do a 5K race. Mark asked if it would be a problem if the Friends of Candler Park decided to do the race to raise funds for Candler Park. No one objected. Cherie King made a motion to approve the festival and Kate Sandhaus seconded. All were in favor.
- c. Kate Sandhaus asked about the donation to Park Pride from the proceeds from the Sweetwater beer bands. Mark Clement stated that they are giving the same amount as last year to Park Pride. Mark will forward email from Sweetwater.

### III. Old Business

- a. Update on process for festivals & races – Mark Clement/ Lauren Welsh – Jay Sandhaus recommended that the emails be put into a document to be socialized to the board. Jay is going to work with Mark to get it done.
- b. Potential grant from Atlanta Track Club -- need someone to own this. Jay Sandhaus stated that this is free money. Ben Dostal reached out to CPNO to identify projects that would benefit runners. Projects to be identified by late summer/early fall. Some examples are water fountains, sidewalks, etc. Jay Sandhaus mentioned a path around the park would be great. Mark Clement asked about how much funding was available for these projects. Lauren Welsh stated that they are looking for a small, med and large project. Lauren asked if it would be worth putting in the newsletter to see if anyone can help with this. Lauren is going to work on an article. Lexa King mentioned year around bathrooms. Mark mentioned physical fitness equipment around the field.

#### IV. New Business

- a. Friends of Candler Park micro grant proposal -- \$1k for invasive plant removal. Jay Sandhaus stated that this will be tabled until next month. Mark Clement applied for a micro grant with Park Pride. This would be a matching grant. This would include poison ivy, kudzu and wisteria in the ravines. Terry Stewart will be doing the work. This is a five year plan. Jay asked about using the goats at Mulberry Fields. Mark mentioned that the goats eat more than the plants that you want to get rid of.
- b. Board discussion & vote on \$10k for Friends of Iverson Park - Randy Pimsler stated that his only concern was that we have already provided funds and these funds were not used for the purpose they were provided. Kate Sandhaus agreed and stated that we should follow up on funds that are allocated to make sure they have been used for their purpose. Kate stated that if they are not ready to use the money it should be disclosed. Mark Clement asked if there was a way that we can do this and put parameters around funding. Kate stated that it is important to let membership know about the \$10k that was given previously and they did not use it for that purpose. Jay stated that they are getting \$28k from Park Pride. Lexa King mentioned the proposed MARTA station redevelopment and wondered if it could have an impact on this park. Randy stated that incidences went down when the gate was locked. Lexa wanted to raise awareness about the potential of it having the gate opened up because this could create more issues. Jay mentioned that we should have the membership vote to have the \$10k previously given to be repurposed to go towards the playground equipment. Jay mentioned that the positive is that this aligns with our mission statement and the negative is that the plans changed and the funds previously given have not been used. Cherie King made two

motions. Motion 1– Change use of previous \$10,000 granted to the Friends of Iverson Park to be used for playground equipment. Lauren Welsh seconded. All were in favor. Motion 2- Commit \$10,000 to the Friends of Iverson Park to be disbursed if total project funds have been raised and work is substantially completed by December 31, 2011. (Substantially completed means that it is ready to be used for its intended purpose.) Lauren Welsh seconded. All were in favor.

V. Officer Reports

a. *Membership- Lexa King*

- i. Food partner for membership meeting this month is the Pickle. Kate Sandhaus mentioned that this has been successful.

b. *Treasurer – Dave Aynes*

- i. Partnership with Nalley Nissan – Deferred to next month.
- ii. SweetWater 420 Fest made \$21k. Lexa King asked how much was raised last year. Mark Clement stated between \$16,000-\$17,000. Kate Sandhaus asked about lessons learned from this year's race. Mark stated that there were not enough people in key positions. There were problems with logistics with the festival personnel not knowing about the race and how it was going to flow. Definitely need more people involved from the beginning. The race coordinator that was used this year was new and there were a couple of issues.

c. *Zoning – Vacant*

- i. Potential new zoning chair. Jay Sandhaus may have found someone for the zoning chair. Randy Pimsler has met with the individual. Randy will remain on the committee but resigned from being the chair. There will be three items for the agenda for Monday: 1338 Iverson – side yard setback, 1655 McLendon (Flying Biscuit) – change of owner for alcohol license, 1240 Euclid (Montessori School) – Old townhouse project would stay unless they do the school.

d. *Safety – Christie Kuropatwa*

e. *Environment – Trey Long*

f. *Special Projects – Mark Clement*

- i. *First movie night was a success – about 150 people attended.*

g. *Fall Fest planning – Jay Sandhaus stated that we do not have leadership in place. We need to decide how we are going to do this festival. Mark Clement has agreed to co-chair the festival. No one has stepped up to co-chair. Jay mentioned that the by-laws need to be updated. Currently the by-laws state that the Fall Fest chair can write contracts to spend up to \$25k without prior authorization. Kate Sandhaus stated that last year we had a check and balance system in place with Dave Aynes signing the contracts. Need to authorize a budget. Mark stated that the funds are not supposed to be committed unless on the budget. We are looking for a project management/organizational skill set. Jay stated that the board needs*

*to solve this problem – each of us to bring three names back and go out and ask individuals by the end of this week. If the individual is not interested in co-chairing, ask if they are interested in other Fall Fest roles.*

- h. *Vice President – Lauren Welsh*
  - i. *President – Jay Sandhaus*
    - i. Will be absent from May membership meeting. Dave Aynes will run meeting. Randy Pimsler stated that he will also be absent. Childcare update – there were approximately 10 children the first month and approximately five children last month. Kate Sandhaus mentioned that we need to advertise that we are providing childcare. Jay mentioned that we need to go back and look at the funding to make sure we are covered until the end of the year.
  - j. *Recording Secretary – Cherie King*
    - i. Overview on CPNO files. Lexa King and Cherie King will merge their files at the end of the year.
  - k. *Communications – Kate Sandhaus*
    - i. School Update - There is a demographers meeting on 5/18. Kate suggested that we do a formal letter like Lake Claire. Lexa King mentioned that agents are getting calls from Candler Park residents about potentially listing their property. There is a 30307 Schools Group that has been formed by residents.
- VI.** Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m. Lexa King made a motion to adjourn and Kate Sandhaus seconded. All were in favor.

Compiled by Cherie King, Secretary