

Friends of Cathedral Square  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
03/15/2016

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**15 March 2016/ 6:00 PM / 825 N Jefferson St, Milwaukee, WI, East Town Office**

**ATTENDEES**

Carl Baehr, Dave Reid, Edward Beckard, Emily McElwee, Greg Patin, Mariiana Tzotcheva, Thomas Leisle Jr., Dan Taylor, Lindsey Arnold, Joan Herriges

Not in attendance: Kim Morris, Mary Patzke, Rob Holtz, Laura Schloesser (Parks Department)

**AGENDA**

- 1) Introduce new guests- Dan, Lindsey, Joan
- 2) Approval of Last Meeting Minutes
- 3) Discuss/Approve Mission
- 4) Legal entity discussion

**NOTES**

**1. Introduce new guests- Dan, Lindsey, Joan**

Dan Taylor, Lindsey Arnold and Joan Herriges joined the group

**2. Approval of Minutes, Review and Approval**

Approved the minutes from the February 16th meeting.

### 3. Discuss/Approve Mission

Previously proposed mission statements:

*“The mission of The Friends Of Cathedral Square Park is to create a diverse urban destination for fun and relaxation that adjusts well to an ever changing downtown while still honoring the unique role the square has played in Milwaukee's History.” (Ed Becker)*

*“To make Cathedral Square Milwaukee's most inclusive, vibrant and beautiful public gathering place. (Dave Reid/Greg Patin)*

*“To enhance Cathedral Square to be a more inclusive, vibrant and beautiful public gathering place.” (Dave Reid/Greg Patin)*

Greg Patin proposed a combination of the statements above:

*“To make Cathedral Square Milwaukee's most inclusive, vibrant and beautiful urban gathering place for public recreation and relaxation that adjusts well to an ever changing downtown while still honoring the unique role the square has played in Milwaukee's History.”*

Additional proposal by Thomas Leisle:

*“The mission of the Friends Of Cathedral Square is to support, maintain, and enhance Cathedral Square as a public park and historic civic gathering place.”*

Dave Reid brought attention to the plaque in the park now. It reads:

*“ Court House Square, donated, in 1837, by Solomon Juneau, Morgan L Martin. For a public Recreation spot. The people of Milwaukee owe a debt of everlasting gratitude to these public spirited pioneers”*

The group discussed the proposals. Additional topics discussed:

- The mission should be short, should be tied to the history of the park

- The Historic Fountain, made from cast iron and pictured in a greeting card from approximately 1915 is rumored to be still saved in a city storage unit. Group discussed how nice it would be to have it restored and back in the Cathedral Square. Nice
- East Town had paid for Capital Improvements to the Cathedral Square, for example - electrical
- The County charges a lot of money for events such as Jazz in The Park, Bastille Days, however, only a small portion comes to the park.
- The cost to operate these events is significant, and is financed by membership fees and beverage sales

#### **4. Legal Entity Discussion**

- The group discussed requirements to form a Wisconsin Nonprofit Corporation. To create a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, first is required to form a Wisconsin nonprofit corporation under Wisconsin state law (Wis. Stats. Ch.181) , and then this corporation applies for tax-exempt status from the IRS and the state of Wisconsin. The group reviewed the steps (Refer to handout for additional info)
- The group will like to proceed with forming a Wisconsin Nonprofit Corporation. Mariiana Tzotcheva will prepare draft bylaws (based on examples from other park groups) and the Article of Incorporation Form and distribute to the group so a discussion can take place at the next meeting.
- Pending is Address for the entity - will confirm with Milwaukee County Parks
- The group targets June 2, the first night of Jazz in the Park to start marketing the group presence - have a table at Jazz in the Park, have flyers to hand out, start collecting donations and cell memberships.
- Dave Reid to replace Greg Patin as Acting President

## ACTION ITEMS

1. **All** - review proposed ideas for Mission Statement
2. **Mariiana Tzotcheva** - email the group meeting minutes and handouts from the meeting, Bylaws from other park groups.
3. **Mariiana Tzotcheva** - prepare proposal Bylaws and Article of Incorporation Form for discussion at the next meeting

## NEXT MEETING

**04/13/2016, 6:00 pm, 825 N Jefferson St, Milwaukee, WI, Board Room 1st Floor**