***FRIENDS OF PORTAGE PARK MINUTES - JANUARY 16TH, 2018***

**DOG PARK REPORT**

* Dog found at dog park and returned to owner
* Great Halloween Event
* Easter Egg Hunt? - Have had in past, may plan this year
* Suzanne can add dog park info to web page if desired

**PREVIOUS EVENTS**

$478 Raised from Craft Fair Attendance + $2,500 from table

* Vendor Surveys: 12 responses. All really liked it. Everyone would return, good feedback, overlap - made the most money during/right before tree-lighting, a little crowded in senior center, too many of one kind of shop
* Community/Shopper Survey: So excited. Overlap times with tree-lighting
* Jury Vendors for next year (judge entries to diversify and choose the best products) - Be prepared to start sign ups by July,
* Getting more volunteers
* Park Response (Tom): Should be fine to backup and overlap times, went well, gym very seamless, continuing relationship working with senior center, everyone liked and good feedback

Tree Lighting - Cost $2,500

* Most people we have ever had for Tree Lighting

Thinking about next year

* Have volunteers there earlier
* Prepare for a lot more people
* Other Social Media options #Instagram
* Tent: $1156 Possibilities - Considered purchasing a tent, but no place to keep something that big at park. Rent from another place or go in with another organization to buy one and store elsewhere?
* Elected Officials sponsor professional tree decorator or tent rental?
* Sleigh Rides - $750 for 2 hours, add another sleigh?
* Charge for sleigh rides, eliminate some line, raise more money, or keep free?

Overarching Question for future events - What is the goal? Fundraiser or Community event?

Getting the word out about FOPP - Possible Future Survey Question - Do you live in neighborhood. Have you heard about Friends of Portage Park?

Tom to make list of possible things that we could help pay for park improvements

**FUTURE EVENTS**

Farmer’s Markets

* Have had no response from Elsa regarding money collected at last 3 farmer’s markets of 2017. Jennifer, Suzanne, and George have all attempted to be in contact.
* Discussion of searching for a new coordinator or to divide up responsibilities between FOPP members and handle on own.
* Will attempt to line up a new coordinator to line up previous vendors, procure new vendors, be in charge on market days beginning at end of Feb. Typically 2-3 hours a week. Jennifer will make a coordinator description.
* Will publicize need for more farmer’s market volunteers to keep in going in hopes to get people who really love it to step up and help.

LUNCH WITH THE BUNNY - March 24th

MOVIES IN THE PARK - Discuss summer movies at next meeting

DANCE NIGHT

* Would love to have one in Feb
* Dance instructor would need to be okayed by the park - Tom will look into how it would work to bring in our own or if it’s even possible since park teachers are usually through the park

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

Job Descriptions for positions - Suzanne will create with emails for each

Jennifer Dianovsky - President

Mary Jo Neher- Vice President

Suzanne Bensch - Secretary

Mary Williams- Treasurer

**VOLUNTEER FORMS** - Complete online version.