Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council Meeting
Thursday, June 09, 2005
7:00 PM
3707 Greenleaf Circle
Parkview Hills

"The recorded comments below are expressions of council members and are not approved policy until voted on. The statements were not recorded verbatim and cannot be used as quotes."

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order
Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

II. Roll Call
a. Sign-In Roster
   Council Members Present: Mary Hosely, Bob Nagler, Cal Mastin (rep. for Mark Hoffman), Ann Paulson, Duane Hampton, Tim Holysz, Paul MacNellis, Michael Nassaney
   Guests Present: Cari DeLong, Pat Klein, Eleanor VerMeulen, Priscilla McDougal, Jim Burns, Don Beveridge, Carol Beveridge

III. Adoption of June 9th, 2005 Agenda
Duane Hampton moved to adopt the June 9th, 2005 Agenda. Ann Paulson seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. Approval of May 12, 2005 Meeting Minutes
Anne Paulson moved to approve the May 12, 2005 meeting minutes. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business
a. ALPA Boardwalk Proposal (Cal Mastin- President of ALPA)
   Motion: Pat Klein motioned to establish a list of potential projects for the purpose of prioritizing the projects. Paul MacNellis seconded.
   Motion Amendment: Mary Hosley proposed an amendment to the motion to include that a list of projects be compiled until a management plan has been implemented. At that time voting could resume based on the prioritization of the project list.
   All in favor. None opposed. Motion with amendment was passed.
The Kalamazoo Gazette article that stated the boardwalk would extend around the lake was incorrect. The boardwalk is proposed to connect the north and south trails. It would run the length of the west end of the lake for about 400 feet.

In past ALPA has supported the preservation of Asylum Lake Property for the passive use. ALPA is proposing to use monies from the memorial of Renay and Montford Piercy be used for a simple, modest boardwalk across the west end of the lake to bridge the path that currently lines the lake.

ALPA would like it to be wide enough for a wheel chair.

Proposed materials include cedar wood or composite materials made of plastic and wood (lasts longer).

Estimated cost is $2500 to $3500 including material and labor.

ALPA would like to complete this project this summer.

ALPA will raise monies for a plaque with approval of the Council dedicating the boardwalk to Renay and Montford Piercy.

There was suggestion to form a committee to work on the boardwalk project.

ALPA has less than $1,000 for the project and would like the Council to approve money to be requested from Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

There was suggestion for the Council to visit the site before adopting this project.

There was comment that the visitation to the property should occur on each member’s personal time so as not to take the place of a meeting.

Pictures of the property, outlining the proposed route were passed around.

There was question as to whether ALPA had companies in mind for the work. ALPA would rely mostly on volunteer labor; however some professional work would still be needed.

It was mentioned it is important to go ahead with the boardwalk due to the hazardous walking conditions around the west side of the lake.

Pat Klein motioned to establish a list of potential projects for the purpose of prioritizing the projects. Paul MacNellis seconded.

It was stated that since the Council still needs a management plan, according to the management framework, the Council should wait to vote on the boardwalk until a vision of the property has been established.

Concern was raised over the approval of $18,146.04 to be used by Landscape Services for maintenance of Asylum Lake Property although WMU had previously provided those services for free.

This point was discussed at the last meeting and it was due to the budget cuts at WMU.

It was suggested that maybe legal action should be taken since the state promised these minimal maintenance duties. However, the Council may not be happy with the minimal amount of maintenance.

It was asked whether or not Landscape Services had a budget to present to the Council per the motion. Landscape Services did not have a budget because they had not performed any services on the property.

Mary Hosley motioned to halt the voting process until the management document is finished.

It was suggested that once the $18,000 is spent by Landscape Services, it should be placed on the list with the other projects.

Several comments were made regarding the disappointment in WMU for gong back on promises made.

Cal Mastin stated his support for developing a management plan before voting on projects. The boardwalk should be included in the larger picture.

A 1999 letter from Dr. Hopkins to the President of WMU stating how the endowed fund should be used and suggested this document should be a guide to follow for approval of projects. This letter was given to the Council at a past meeting.
There was question as to the status of the projects approved by the Council thus far. The first project has been approved. The second one has yet to be submitted to the KCF.

There was suggestion that the project list should be a fluid list with a constant prioritization with no deadlines.

Mary Hosley proposed an amendment to the motion to include; a list of projects shall be compiled until a management plan has been implemented. At that time voting could resume based on the prioritization of the project list.

The Council voted on the motion and amendment. All in favor. None opposed.

VI. New Business

a. Asylum Lake Preserve Archaeological Assessment (Michael Nassaney)

- March 2003 Archaeological Assessment for Asylum Lake Preserve was presented.
- The results of this assessment have produced a model of probable locations of archeological artifacts.
- Methods included background research and a pedestrian survey in order to determine archeological evidence of past human activities at the Preserve.
- The data gathered was used to divide the property into high, medium and low archaeological sensitivity.
- 126 artifacts and features were identified on the property.
- The prairie was not surveyed.
- The results of this research concluded:
  - There are potentially significant archeological resources in the project area, particularly associated with the Colony Farms.
  - Landscape modifications of any kind should be avoided in areas of high and medium sensitivity, as determined by the study, as these may potentially cause adverse impact to significant archaeological resources.
  - The archeological sensitivity map presented in the final report should be consulted when any activities are planned that may adversely impact the landscape, especially in the medium and high sensitivity areas.
  - Further documentary and archaeological research should be conducted at the Preserve to identify a broader range of resources and evaluate those that have already been identified according to National Register criteria.
  - Professional archaeologists such as those affiliated with the WMU Department of Anthropology, can assist in making future management recommendations that take into consideration the archaeological potential of the project area.

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports

a. Operations Committee

- Operations committee was not present.
- Paul MacNellis reported the prairie burn had been conducted successfully. Twenty-six acres of the prairie was burned. The burn was called off because of the amount of smoke. The remaining area was mowed. A burn may be tried on the remaining property in the future. Purpose was to kill the invasive plants

b. Research and Education Committee

No new business to report.
c. Management Plan Committee
Paul MacNellis has met with Nate Fuller and discussed management plans. Will move forward and hopefully present a document within the next few months.

VIII. Public Comments
None.

IX. Council/Staff Comments
None

X. Adjournment
Next meeting is July 14th, 2005. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.