Asylum Lake Policy & Management Committee Meeting
Thursday, 10 November 2016
7:00pm
WMU Physical Plant Conference Room

Agenda:

I. Call to Order: 7:06

II. Roll Call: Council, Kay Chase (KEC alternate) Susan Andress (ALPA alternate), Steve Kohler (Institute for environmental studies and sustainability), Jay Emerson (Parkyn Village), Cam Vossen (at large), Tyler Bassett (KEC), Paul Scott (Oakland Drive Winchell), Lauri Holmes (ALPA), Steve Keto (FM), Duane Hampton (at large) Quorum Met
Guests: Phil Micklin, Scott Merlo (WMU Public safety)

III. Adoption of November 2016 Agenda, Approved with change, Old Business, preserve safety, first order of business.

IV. Approval of October 2016 Meeting Minutes, Not approved until personal information, names and personal comments are removed from e-mail read at October meeting. An updated copy is attached.

V. Old Business:
   a. Preserve safety; Scott Merlo, chief of Police WMU. E-mail scott.merlo@wmich.edu
      The council discussed with Chief Merlo the recent safety events (drowning, robbery..) and the perception people have of the Preserve. Officer Merlo emphasized that statistically the Asylum Lake Preserve is VERY safe. Asylum Lake does not detract from the overall safety of WMU. There have been what appear to be false reports. While the police will issue alerts when there is an event, they must be very careful about calling a report false unless there is evidence. This leave public with a false sense of risk in the preserve. Bad stories get front page, good stories or retractions/corrections never do. Officers will be encourage to visit the preserve and bikes may help them cover more that the parking lots. The City of Kalamazoo Public safety also travels to Parkview Campus. While Preserve is safe, personal responsibility and common sense must prevail, walking with
friends, carry a cell phone, let other know your plans. Some reports of crime appear false but no evidence to officially publicize this. Using 911 call works, dispatch to City of Kalamazoo first, they will contact WMU based on event. The council discussed with Officer Merlo the wisdom of Cameras, call boxes. While currently there is no electrical infrastructure to do this, future surrounding development may provide access to add video monitors to lots. The council discussed their responsibility in counteracting bad publicity. While the police cannot dismiss a report publicly they can identify them as “alleged” if not proven true. Scott Merlo is willing to answer any e-mails directed to him about campus and Preserve safety.

b. Governing documents review update: Council discussed the proposed changes to documents. Suggestions for council to get in line with documents NOT modify documents. Discussed representation, committees, meetings. Some items to change drop term limits, filling seats with other WMU departments, (Office for Sustainability declined to join council), assuring that council as whole has responsibility for fund dispersal, more active committees, special meetings. This was a first reading of changes more to come before council is ready to send proposed changes to VP of Business and Finance.

VI. New Business

a. Asylum Lake Fund Report (Kalamazoo Foundation, see statements)

b. Landscape Services maintenance charges. (see Steve’s points and Landscape estimate for work done in the Preserve). PLEASE NOTE: the estimate shared at the council has been recalculated with labor charges that better reflect the comparison with outside vendors. The original estimate is an internal WMU number that accounts for all Union Benefits as well as wages. It should be noted that while this estimate is lower it is still larger than the $10,000 allocated yearly by the ALPMC for WMU landscape assistance at the Preserve. Landscape Services will be doing a better job at tracking all work done in the Preserve.

c. Wildtype proposal; Council voted to approve Wildtype Proposal for 6.6 acres of Oak woodland to be treated for invasive trees and shrubs using Time and Material calculations by vendor. Currently there is a balance of (Approx. $4217) in Oak Forest management account. An estimate from Wildtype to do this site is (approx. $10,560.) The council approved another (Approx. $6343) to complete this round of management. Mark Frever will work with FM accounting to develop a Project number and access exact funds from Kalamazoo foundation to start this work. Steve Will contact Wildtype.
d. Update on City Sanitary sewer on North Shore: Steve Keto has been in contact with the City of Kalamazoo utility department to monitor conditions of the sanitary sewer on the North shore of Asylum lake. There are concerns that this line will need maintenance in the future and there is NO direct way to access this line due to slope and limited access points. The city responded with Steve to reports of manhole covers being removed. The city will begin to secure all the covers on this line. With surrounding development (BTR 2.0, Vermuellen property) the utility may experience more volume and this development may provide an access point for city equipment to do sanitary work. Steve will stay in touch and support the Council and City to protect Asylum Lake during any work.

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports:

VIII. Public Comments:

IX. Council/Staff Comments:

X. Adjournment 8:30

There will be NO December ALPMC meeting

Next meeting January 12, 2017 at the WMU Physical Plant conference room.