I. CALL TO ORDER & ZOOM ROLL CALL.
• The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

• There were no changes to the agenda.
• Mr. Strazdas, supported by Mr. Frever, moved approval of the April Agenda as submitted. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

III. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2020 MEETING.
• There were no changes to the Minutes
• Mr. Bassett, supported by Ms. Holmes, moved approval of the March Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.
a. Duane forgot to invite Tom Sauber & Tad Deleonabreau.
• Mr. Fever reported that Mr. Sauber had an emergency and was not available to attend the March meeting. Mr. Sauber has been walking the trails at the Preserve, and has called in sanitation and waste control. He intends to be at the next meeting.

b. Herpetologic study posted on our web site yet?
• Mr. Deleonabreau and Mr. MacNellis do not have access to editing capabilities off campus. They have to be connected to university Wi-Fi to make changes to the website.
• Mr. Frever and Mr. Sauber are having connection issues but they can edit information on the website.

c. Kieser study is happening, including water sampling. More later.
• There is nothing to report yet. Kieser is taking samples to a lab in Lansing for analysis.

d. Buying Haji Tehrani’s parcel C? - No news?
• Mayor Anderson joined the meeting on-line. He needs to be on the ALMPC meeting invitation list. His e-mail address is danderson@ifkzoo.org. He had a conversation with Mr. Tehrani, who is open to the idea of selling Parcel C. They are talking about numbers and what Parcel C would look like. There has not been much progress but discussions are ongoing.
• Mayor Anderson has been in contact with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. He is looking for important boundaries regarding environmental issues, such as water and geography.

e. Any feedback on raising money to purchase property?
• It was suggested that people might not want to invest in property during the current economic situation. The developer might want to sell parcel C but the details are still being worked out.

V. PROJECT/SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS.
a. Any applications for using the Preserve?
• There were no new applications to review.
b. Signage Committee questions for the Council.

- Ms. Huxmann suggested doing preparations and having verbiage for the permanent signs worked out for whomever will manufacture them. When the sign company is open again, the information can be submitted to have the signs made.
- The signs at Anderson Preserve could be used as examples and adapted for use at Asylum Lake Preserve. The subcommittee has discussed the possibility of involving other people to help with the permanent signs.
- Mr. Frever worked with Trent to get the temporary Corona Virus signs in the Preserve. They used Word format and adapted a PDF of a national parks sign. Trent would be considered essential staff if COVID-19 signs are needed in the Preserve, but he would not otherwise be considered essential.
- The sign subcommittee would need to work through Eleonora Philopoulos, Trent’s director, regarding the permanent signs to be placed in the Preserve. The proposed Asylum Lake Preserve sign information was forwarded to Mr. Hampton and Mr. Strazdas.
- A suggestion was made to place the signs at the three main entrances to the Preserve. Tom Sauber should be kept in the loop regarding signage. Signs that are not related to COVID-19 will not be dealt with at this point unless they are deemed to be essential. The Council could continue working on the details of the graphics for the permanent Preserve signs.
- Mr. Kreuzer stated that the signs would be a remake of the current signage in the Preserve. The subcommittee is also working on markers for the trails, signs regarding disposal of dog poop, as well as interpretive signs regarding the Preserve.
- Ms. Strazdas suggested having the subcommittee complete the verbiage for the signs, along with a depiction of what they are proposing, including the dimensions, materials, etc. that the manufacturer will need.
- Vice President Proudfoot has to approve all graphics on University property. The signs would need to have the “W” icon. He will follow university signage guidelines.
- The 90% version of the proposed sign could be provided to Tony Proudfoot for approval, then it could be provided to the Council and then to the manufacturer, after it is approved.
- Mr. Frever stated that RWL Sign Company is billed for time and materials for the University’s way-finding signs. They have access to approved logos. Mr. Kreuzer and Ms. Huxmann will continue working on the proposed signs.
- RWL Sign Company is a vendor (private company); they are not under the guidance of WMU. The work they do is above and beyond the work that Trent does. They are a pre-approved business partner for the University. Mr. Frever will forward RWL contact information to the sign subcommittee.
- Mr. MacNellis stated that the former Chair of the Signage and Public Relations Subcommittee looked at using Pannier Graphics for permanent, educational signs in the Preserve. The subcommittee didn’t follow through with that sign proposal. Mr. MacNellis doesn’t have details regarding the signs that were discussed at that time.
- Pannier provides signage for the Celery Flats Interpretive Center in Portage, MI. Their signs are photo-sensitive aluminum and fiberglass and they are bullet proof. The sign frames can also be bullet proof. The sign company would do the layout for the signs. Mr. MacNellis will forward Pannier’s contact information to the sign subcommittee.
- The sign committee was looking at putting educational signs on the board walk and along Parkview Avenue to explain the ecology in the Preserve and what people were looking at. Those signs would be under the jurisdiction of the City of Kalamazoo rather than the Council. WMU has some Pannier signs on campus.
- Mr. Strazdas recommended that the sign subcommittee get quotes from multiple sign companies with the goal of stretching the budget as far as possible.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget proposals for 2020/2021 ALMPC year were adopted last month. The minutes say “The Chairman for each of the subcommittees should work out a plan to bring back to the Council.” Let’s talk about why we should do that.

- The motion from the March Minutes states that the Council voted to adopt a proposed budget. The Chairman of each subcommittee should work out a proposal to bring back to the Council.
- Mr. Strazdas suggested that the subcommittees partner with Mr. Frever, Mr. Strazdas or Mr. Sauber regarding the purchase of necessary items and how things will get done. The subcommittees can bring details back to the Council for a vote.
b. Overuse/Abuse of Asylum Lake Preserve, including lack of social distancing, picnicking, trash, parking on the roads, and exposure of landscape services personnel. Signs asking for social distancing were designed, printed, and installed at each entrance. Update – anyone?

- The weather was nice the weekend before Easter; City and County parks were closed at that point. The WMU Grounds keeper spent four hours cleaning up debris that people left in the Preserve.
- People noticed that social distancing precautions were not being observed by some of the people using the Preserve. People were parking on the streets because the parking lots were full. That was the impetus for the signs asking for social distancing, which have been placed in the Preserve. Recently, the weather turned bad and there have not been as many people in the Preserve.

c. What more needs to be done to protect the Preserve and people?

- Ms. Holmes noted two basic concerns regarding people who were using the Preserve: 1. lack of social distancing and, 2. Trashing of the Preserve. What can the Council and WMU do to protect the Preserve? Is the issue of social distancing beyond the power and authority of the Council?
- Mr. Bassett suggested that the Council should do everything in its power to encourage behavior to benefit the public. Social distancing may not be part of the Council’s mission but these are extraordinary circumstances.
- Mr. Strazdas stated that the Council is a public entity. If there are public gatherings in the Preserve, the Council is legally responsible to address this issue. The signs are there to let the public know that the Council is taking their responsibilities seriously.
- The City of Kalamazoo doesn’t have enough people to police their parks so they closed City parks to protect their financial responsibilities regarding people who might get sick or die from Corona Virus.
- There appears to be nothing egregious going on now at the Preserve, so Mr. Strazdas was not in favor of closing the Preserve at this point. The signs that were posted recently provide protection against potential litigation.
- Any additional signage should address issues of concern at the Preserve. If there is trash and dog poop in the Preserve, workers would need to be brought in to deal with that.
- Mr. Kreuzer stated that a few signs were put up at the Preserve. They were printed on a printer and added to signage by the parking lots, benches and hard surfaces in the Preserve. They are not official Council or WMU signs. ALPA put the signs on the Asylum Lake Facebook page. Mr. Hampton requested a copy of the signs that were posted in the Preserve. ALPA will forward the sign information to Mr. Hampton and Mr. Strazdas.

d. Should we determine criteria for closing the Preserve? Should we determine criteria for reopening the Preserve?

- It was suggested that, if the Preserve is being damaged, it should be closed, but how can that be done effectively?
- There might be more damage off the trails. People were constructing Yurts and Teepees from fallen tree limbs. This could damage flora and fauna.
- Ms. Holmes suggested increasing patrols at the Preserve as the weather gets warm to let people know about the rules they need to follow. Ms. Holmes, Mr. MacNellis and Mr. Kreuzer volunteered to help pick up trash in the Preserve.
- Ms. Strazdas stated that, when the City of Kalamazoo closed its parks, he alerted Vice President Brenneman. They thought it would be best to keep the Preserve open and get a recommendation from the Council. The WMU Administration and the Council have not expressed an interested in closing the Preserve at this point.
- Mr. MacNellis stated that he was at the Asylum Lake Preserve recently, people were not adhering to social distancing recommendations. There were lots of cars in the parking lots but they were not full. He also went to Kleinstuck Preserve, there were lots of TP’s there too. He picked up trash – three small items. People were doing well with social distancing. Some of the Stewards of Kleinstuck go there almost every day and they did not observe any problems.
- The Drake Road trash can at Asylum Lake Preserve was full, the Parkview trash can was about one third full and the Winchell trash can was about half full.
- Mr. Kreuzer stated that he would look into getting more Covid 19 signage posted in the Asylum Lake Preserve and try to recruit people to walk the trails and hand information to people regarding proper etiquette.
- It was suggested that the message should be positive so that it is better received by people using the Preserve. Maybe the message could state that what people bring into the Preserve, they should also take out of the Preserve.
e. Update on plant inventory & updating management plan

- Ms. Shattuck commented that the Preserve doesn’t signal people to get close, like a park might. The Preserve doesn’t have seating areas. It lacks that socialization infrastructure; people have to go out of their way to create a problem. People walking together probably come from the same household. This does not present the same concern as a park with picnic tables, etc.
- Mr. Hampton stated that people are tailgating in the Preserve because it doesn’t have the facilities for a picnic. Maybe the message should state that no tailgating will be allowed at the Preserve during the Corona Virus crisis and that social distancing is required.
- Discussion followed with regard to the appropriate colors for the signs in order to catch people’s attention. They need to read the signs before going on the trails. Ms. Shattuck commented that red and green are the least effective colors, she suggested using blue or orange.
- Mr. Deleonabreau stated that he has only been to the Preserve once or twice since the Corona Virus issues started. He suggested encouraging environmentally-conscious people to do the right thing. Students are not usually good at reading signs, but they are good at talking to each other. Something positive would be better received than something negative; students don’t react well to negative things.
- Most students are not part of the social-distancing concerns at this point; many are elsewhere now. There is not much reason for them to stay on campus.
- Ms. Chase, Ms. Shattuck, Mr. Strazdas, Ms. Huxmann, and Mr. Kreuzer volunteered to create temporary signs for the Preserve addressing the issues associated with Corona Virus. It was suggested that something should also be posted on the Asylum Lake website.
- Based on the comments that were made, the temporary signs will read as follows: Observe social distancing rules; If the parking lot is full, we are at capacity; Take out of the Preserve what you bring into the Preserve, No tailgating in the parking lots, Pick up after your dogs and keep them leashed.
- Trent can start making the signs, they will be black and yellow. He has political signs that stick in the ground, they are vinyl. Volunteers could install the 18 signs by the parking lots and trail ways.
- Ms. Holmes, supported by Ms. Alkema, moved to have volunteers from ALPA put the temporary signs in the Preserve. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Frever stated that the current signs were inspired by the National Parks Association and other associations. The wording was put together as quickly as possible to address COVID-19 issues. The proposed sign is a local solution.

f. Election for Council offices, when and who?

- The Council normally has odd-year elections but there was no election last fall. The governing documents state that elections should be held every TWO years. It was suggested that the Council should have its next election in 2021. It would be helpful to have a nominating committee.

VII. NEXT MEETING – ON-LINE. DO WE LIKE ZOOM?

- Some of the attendees at the Zoom meeting had issues with sound quality. There was some distortion and delay of audio being transmitted.
Ms. Dever suggested that the issues might have been caused by the Internet connection. The audio might be better if attendees dial in on their phones. Ms. Holmes and Ms. Chase had issues with their audio. Mr. Strazdas thanked Ms. Dever for hosting the Zoom meeting.

The next ALPMC meeting is scheduled for May 14th. If things are going well at the Preserve, it might not be necessary to meet at that point. If things are not going well, the Council might need to meet sooner.

VIII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.
- None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
- None

X. ADJOURNMENT.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.