I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.
   - A quorum of members was present and the meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

II. EDITING AND ADOPTION OF JUNE 13, 2019 AGENDA.
   - There were no changes to the agenda.
   - Mr. Strazdas, supported by Mr. Kohler, moved approval of the Agenda as submitted. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

III. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.
   - There were no changes to the Minutes.
   - Mr. Kohler, supported by Mr. Lemberg, moved approval of the Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. Art Falk memorial tree was planted.
      - A Chinquapin Oak was planted at the Parkview entrance to the Preserve. This type of tree grows slowly but should eventually reach a height of 60-70 ft.
      - Ms. Alkema contacted Nancy Falk to let her know the tree was planted. There is a possibility of doing a plaque but someone cautioned against drawing attention to the tree. Ms. Chase will follow up with a communication to Mrs. Falk regarding the tree that was planted.
      - Mr. Hampton stated that Arthur Falk was a philosophy professor at WMU who did a lot for the preserve and other places but he didn’t take credit for a lot of the work he did.

   b. 1-acre marsh burn and 30-acre prairie burn were successful.
      - The one-acre marsh burn was done to help control the Phragmites. The 30-acre prairie burn was also completed and the hope is that this will be done on an annual basis. Mr. Frever volunteered to work on the RFP and the Council nominated Paul MacNellis and Steve Keto to help with the RFP.
      - Mr. Frever suggested reviewing the details for procurement and adding some information to the template. He and Mr. Keto were present for both burns. The burn on the marsh was spotty but still successful; there were challenges with the high water level due to the amount of rain this spring.
      - Mr. Bassett advised that Phragmites would not be eradicated with one spray/burn. It is sprouting again and the sprouts should be sprayed with more chemicals. He will talk with Bill Schneider about taking care of it and then he will provide an e-mail update to the Council.

   c. RFP for biological survey was approved by e-mail vote.
      - Two contractors bid on this job. Orbis was approved by majority e-mail vote of the Council to work on this project. The contractor has already made one trip to the Preserve and is planning a second visit before the end of the month. They planned on three visits over the course of the summer.
      - The contractor is updating the plant species list in the Preserve. This is in preparation for a more detailed project next year.
      - Mr. Bassett advised that the RFP for the future biological survey will be included in the planning discussions by the Ecological Management Sub-Committee. The Management Plan for the Preserve needs to be updated and that will also be part of the discussion this fall.
d. BTR2

- Mr. Hampton advised there were public relations issues when the trees were burned on the BTR2 property. Ms. Holmes reported that people were driving by and asking what was happening. The fire made an impression on the community.
- Mr. MacNellis stated that he and Arthur Falk were on the Advisory Committee. WMU did most of what the committee suggested. The trees had Apple Scald and Fire Blight so the wood could not be taken off the property; it had to be burned on location.
- WMU cleared out most of Norway Maples from the forest stand. That helped get light into the main forest area. They also got rid of the Japanese Knotweed at the north end of the property but he was not sure where they took it.
- The structures around the desirable trees were suggested by the Advisory Board to help save them, rather than just snow fence, which is in the WMU specs. The diseased trees were clear-cut and people were upset but what’s gone needed to be removed.
- Mr. Strazdas stated that calls were received regarding the BTR2 fire and the prairie burn. He explained that the orange fencing and structure in the Drake Road median was placed there to protect the Burr Oak trees. Contractors sometimes pile forms and other items around trees during construction; the structure will help prevent that from happening.
- Before development starts on BTR2, Canadian Wild Rye (native grass) will be planted on the property. Ms. Holmes has a copy of the book that describes everything that has to happen from the viewpoint of a developer who wants to build on the BTR2 property.
- There is a review panel being formed and a position is open for a citizen to be on that board. Mr. MacNellis intends to apply for that position.
- Mr. Strazdas reported that Ms. Holmes and Mr. Kreuzer noticed sediment coming off the BTR2 site and it was reported to the right people to do corrective measures. If you see something that is a concern, please report it so it can be corrected.
- Discussion followed with regard to the best way to provide information to the public about activities in the Preserve and BTR2. There is a website for BTR2 where the public could state opinions, it is similar to the NFP Overlay website. Also, there were public meetings for the WMU Advisory Team. Local media (Channel 3 and MLive) did report on the burn.
- It was suggested that signs could have been placed by BTR2 stating that the burn was to reduce blight not kill trees. The sign could contain WMU website information, which would provide more details.
- Ms. Holmes mentioned that people used to read the letters to the editor in the Kalamazoo Gazette but that resource was eliminated three years ago and there has been less local news lately.

e. Monthly budget statement for ALP.

- Mr. Frever stated that the first page of the report provides details of work done by WMU staff. The second page is a summary of projects. The last page shows what was recently spent on herpetology. The balance is now $5,432.00.
- Mr. Strazdas stated that the Budget Committee met and will provide a recommendation for how much the Council should request from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

f. Water quality data over time for AsylumLake.

- Mr. Kohler obtained water samples on Friday. He will get a couple more samples over the summer and his class will be out in the fall getting samples. A report should be available in time for the October ALPMC meeting. The water quality is similar to how it has been for the last few years.
- Already the lake is anoxic from about seven meters on down. That is not unusual for a relatively productive lake but that will get worse over the summer. About 40 percent of the lake is uninhabitable for fish and other organisms and it is likely to be that way for most of the summer. Chloride concentrations have remained about the same, which is relatively high compared to several other water bodies in the area. No harmful algae blooms have been reported at Asylum Lake.
- It is a productive lake with regard to fish. The fish are confined to the upper seven meters of the lake. The Zoo plankton that the fish eat, are also confined to that area and can’t escape the fish. That affects the ecology of the lake.
- Only about $25% of the money allotted for this project has been spent and it and won’t all be spent this year.

V. Project/Special Committee Reports.

a. Research & Education Subcommittee.

- No new proposals were received since the last meeting.
b. Trails Subcommittee.

- The Trails Subcommittee has not convened again since they met with Tom Wheat from Prein and Newhof to look at several areas at the Preserve. They have not heard back from Mr. Wheat about the cost for designing those areas. The Trails Subcommittee will be meeting soon.
- Mr. MacNellis explained that the intention is to close both of the trails that run along the woodlot to allow for acorns, etc., to germinate in that area. There is a mowed trail through the center of the field, which has been an open field since 1932.
- The Trails Subcommittee is focusing on getting the “backbone” of the trail in place from Winchell to the spillway on the south side of the lake by the marsh and then south to Parkview. Once that is completed, other trails will be closed.
- When the prairie was first put in, the trails formed a hub in the middle and spokes that extended out from the hub. When the curved trail was created, signs were put up stating that other trails had been closed.
- The Master Plan for the trails is on the website. The trails subcommittee is looking at updating that plan, which is from 2009. Some of the trails might be closed because of the habitat that is being disturbed.
- Mr. Scott mentioned that Wildtype made some areas more accessible and people are creating their own trails.

c. Budget subcommittee (Tyler, P-Mac, Pete, Paul M. & Lauri). Did they meet & allocate money to trails, signs, Wildtype, ecological assessments, etc.?

- Mr. Bassett reported that funds from fiscal year 2018 have been spent, per the last page of the budget statement. Sarah Larson compiled information regarding what the Council has spent over the past three years. Once the spending pattern was determined, that provided a basis for the proposed request to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
- Following is the breakdown of what has been spent: administration, $2,500; operations, $40,000; research and education, $7,000. The rest of money would be in a category called projects, which would be about $45,000. Based on this information, the Budget Subcommittee is proposing that the Council request $95,000 from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
- Mr. Strazdas mentioned that the last five-year budget plan expired. According to the Bylaws, the Council needs to approve a five-year budget plan with these four categories for each of the next five years. Each year for the next five years would have $95,000 but that can be changed.
- Mr. Strazdas, supported by Mr. Scott, moved approval of the Budget Subcommittee’s recommendation of $95,000 each year, over the next five years, and that the Council request from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the first payment of $95,000.
- Ms. Alkema suggested having the subcommittee look into what large projects might be coming up in the future so that plans could be made to request the appropriate funding. Mr. Strazdas stated that the Council has a carry-over budget not a base budget. Unspent funds would be carried over into the next year’s budget.
- Mr. Bassett advised that the project line item in the budget allows for the Council to think long-term about what kind of projects they want to do. The funds won’t necessarily be spent as previously categorized.
- The Ecological Management Subcommittee will convene over the winter and update the Management Plan, which includes long-range planning. He suggested that the Subcommittees could have a retreat to make further plans.
- Discussion followed with regard to the amount of interest that might be lost if the entire $95,000 was transferred all at once. In the past, the Council would request half of the money and then, later in the year, request the other half of the funds. Having all the money at once would provide more flexibility.
- Mr. Hampton amended the motion to state that the Council will request half of the $95,000 now. The other half of the money will be requested when needed. Mr. Strazdas and Mr. Scott supported the amendment. With a voice vote, the amended motion carried unanimously.
- Ms. Holmes mentioned that it was likely that more of the money would be spent over the summer. There was concern in the past about easily the funds could be accessed since the Foundation only cut checks twice per year. Mr. Strazdas advised that the process is more flexible now. Obtaining the other half of the $95,000 should not be an issue.
- Mr. MacNellis stated that the Foundation funds totaled 1.5 million in 2004 when the fund was originally set up. The other $500,000 is accrued interest that the Council hasn’t spent. The Council could spend the interest but that would not be advisable.

d. Ecological Management Subcommittee.
(Refer to information under IV c.)
VI. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Herpetological survey of Asylum Lake Preserve for $5,500.
   - The survey was approved by a majority e-mail vote of the Council. Mr. Frever will follow up with the contractor and get an update regarding the survey, which includes turtles, snakes, frogs and toads.

b. Signs at Asylum Lake: (1) about whom the public can contact for help – Paul; (2) Bonnie Alkema; (3) Lauri Holmes.
   - Mr. Scott advised that the sign shop is adding information regarding Bronco Fix It to the existing signs from the Preserve. Bronco Fix It has details on who to contact if there are issues in the Preserve that need to be reported. There will be a charge of $105.00 for updating the signs.
   - Ms. Alkema suggested having signs stating, “Asylum Lake Preserve” at the Drake Road and Parkview entrances to let people know that it is a Preserve. The signs could include the website address. Mr. Scott suggested having a branding sign rather a brick sign like WMU normally uses. One substantial sign could be placed at Drake Rd. and Parkview. If the sign is at an angle it can be seen from both streets.
   - Mr. Strazdas was in favor of having two signs, one by each parking lot. There is a sign subcommittee that could discuss the details. The Preserve is University property and they have a branding standard.
   - Ms. Davis mentioned that the branding is in development. She inquired as to the deadline for having the signage. Mr. Scott mentioned that the conversation started over two years ago.
   - Mr. MacNellis suggested that the Trails Committee could look into the options. Mr. Scott volunteered to follow up with more information regarding signage. The Trails Committee can bring the information to the Council for further discussion. Ms. Holmes is on the Trails Committee and the Sign Committee.
   - Ms. Holmes mentioned that people who come to the Preserve parking lot know they are coming to the Preserve. If there is a desire to let the general public know what the Preserve is, then it might be advisable to have a diagonally placed sign at the corner of Drake Rd. and Parkview. Ms. Chase added that people who are at that corner would be sitting at the stop light and could see the sign.
   - Ms. Davis stated that the branding look is evolving. It could be a year from now that a decision is made regarding the appearance and color palette for the sign. Ms. Alkema suggested leaving space on the sign and adding the brand at a later date.
   - Ms. Holmes found at a sign Kleinstuck Preserve, which states that “Due to numerous incidents, tickets will be issued for dogs off leash.” It would be helpful to have similar signs at Asylum Lake Preserve.
   - Mr. Strazdas spoke with the WMU Police Chief. They have officers checking on the Preserve on a regular basis. They did ticket a person who did not have a dog on a leash. The District Court Judge said the person who got the ticket didn’t have to pay it. It was unclear as to what legal details were involved with that decision. WMU police will still approach people regarding dogs off-leash.

c. Hadji Tehrani redrew the 3 parcels in his property; letter from John Kreuzer about the development situation; approval of the overlay.
   - Ms. Holmes stated that the ALPA board met on June 5th and made a statement about the former Vermeulen property.
   - The ALPA Board would be willing to accept the rezoning of parcels A & B to low density commercial, provided that parcel C is developed in a way that is not disturbing to the tranquility and environmental integrity of the Preserve and includes an undisturbed buffer from the southern boundary of the property line, extending north 100 feet.
   - Mr. Tehrani expanded the size of parcels A and B and shrunk the size of Parcel C. The dotted lines on the hand-out show where the hundred-foot set back would be. There is a group of people who are interested in spaces rather than just features.
   - The map says all of the property is protected by the Overlay but Mr. Tehrani is requesting that parcels A and B be exempted from the Overlay. Currently, the entire property is zoned residential.
   - Mr. Kreuzer stated that ALPA is working with other neighborhood organizations and citizenry to make a stronger coalition to minimize development of the property Mr. Tehrani owns. The original ALPA statement was lacking specificity.
   - The ALPA would support the rezoning of parcels A & B and provide more specifics regarding what type of commercial zoning they would support for parcel C, provided that the 100-foot buffer is maintained north of the Preserve. The NFP includes a 25-foot buffer but that would allow development right on top of the Preserve.
• Mr. Tehrani’s site plan shows a restaurant and apartment building near the edge of the Preserve. We need to be more specific regarding what type of zoning we would support.
• There is a letter from City Planner, Christina Anderson to Mr. Tehrani dated October 7, 2017. The letter states that the southern part of Mr. Tehrani’s land (area near Asylum Lake) should be given special consideration. About 10 days after the letter was written, Mr. Tehrani bought the land and then submitted a site plan with development on the edge of the southern portion of his property.
• Ms. Holmes and Mr. Kreuzer will be meeting Wednesday with City staff, Christina Anderson and Jamie McCarthy.
• Mr. Tehrani demolished buildings on the Davenport College campus to make way for a car wash (W. Main St.). It is uncertain if this will affect his plans for the proposed car wash on Stadium Dr., since it is not far from the Stadium Dr. property.
• Mr. Kreuzer stated that he has not seen a revised site plan. It is important to know how it will impact the Preserve. He inquired as to the Management Council’s position with regard to rezoning of that property. There is an opportunity to be proactive to minimize development on that property. He inquired if the Council would support the 100-foot buffer, which is represented on the map by gray circles.
• The ALPA is trying to be proactive and prevent degradation of Asylum Lake. Discussion followed with regard to the possibility of the Council making a statement.
• The developer hasn’t gone to the Planning Commission yet with a rezoning request. He submitted a request last year but that was shut down by the moratorium that existed while the Overlay was being written.
• It was suggested that the Council could comment on the need to promote the ecological integrity and natural aesthetics of the Preserve. A statement from the Council would have to be scientific-based with regard to increasing the buffer from 25 ft. to 100 ft. etc. What is the correct distance to protect the lake? Special attention should be given to the water quality of Asylum Lake and the importance of protecting the watershed. The statement could say that rezoning the adjacent property will have an impact on the aesthetics and the water quality in the Preserve.
• A set buffer only works if the land is flat or has a standard slope. The Council would need to know what the final topography would be, what type of soil and fill would be used, and how much pavement there will be. The statement could include a threshold regarding salinity or nutrients, etc. that will be monitored, and there could be a threshold they can’t go above.
• Ms. Holmes commented that the birds will not come to that end of the lake if there is a development in that location. Mr. Lemberg suggested the possibility of having a sound wall, similar to the ones by the freeway, to limit the sound that reaches the Preserve from the development.
• Mr. Kreuzer emphasized the need to be proactive and make a statement about the rezoning of the property rather than making a statement about the development of the property after it is rezoned. The Land Use Plan/Master Plan 2025 is not law, it is a guide. The Planning Commission and the City Commission would need to vote on the rezoning of that property. The car wash will only exist if the property is rezoned.
• Mr. Hampton commented that the rezoning will happen because the community wants more tax base. He inquired as to what kind of rezoning is available to Mr. Tehrani. Mr. Scott advised that there are seven commercial zoning categories; four of them allow car washes. The CN-1 zoning category does not allow car washes.
• The storm water has to remain on the property. The higher the zoning density, the more road salt there will be. The road salt will wind up in the lake and that is a big portion of the issue.
• Mr. Hampton referred to the March 2nd Letter of Concern from the Council to the City Planners and the City Commission. He suggested that portions of that letter could be used in a new statement voicing the Council’s concerns. It would be helpful to know what the actual target is before sending another letter.
• Ms. Holmes spoke of the importance of the aesthetic appeal of the Preserve as well as the need to protect the watershed. The proposed development would change the character of the Preserve and that will have a huge impact on the way the community sees WMU’s stewardship of the Preserve. Mr. Strazdas emphasized the importance of focusing on measurable things, such as water quality, etc.
• Ms. Davis inquired if the City Commission would be more likely to listen to comments about aesthetics or information about something that is measurable. Mr. Kreuzer stated that the Commission listens to all of the information that is presented.
• Ms. Alkema commented on the need to let the Commissioners know what people are thinking. It is important to educate the Planning Commission and the City Commission regarding concerns that people have.
Mr. Hampton suggested having a sub-committee to discuss creating a new Statement of Concern to be sent to the Planning Commission and the City Commission. Mr. Bassett commented that a general statement about the rezoning might not be as effective as a more specific statement about a plan that is presented.

Mr. MacNellis is on the NFP Review Panel; they get to vote on plans that are presented rather than just advising. That group will get to see the rezoning request and the site plan. He suggested becoming familiar with the 29 pages of NFP codes, which explain what will happen.

Mr. Hampton, supported by Mr. Bassett, moved to have five members of the Council craft a letter regarding the proposed rezoning of the former Vermeulen property and submit it to the Council for a vote. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Holmes indicated that it would be helpful for ALPA to have the Letter of Support from the Council as soon as possible.

Mr. Kreuzer, Mr. Hampton, Ms. Alkema and Ms. Huxmann volunteered to create a draft letter; Paul Scott came to their meeting.

d. We approved revision of the two governing documents

Attorney Stankewicz provided revisions to the governing documents. It was suggested that the Council members send e-mail comments to Mr. Hampton before the upcoming meeting, which is a week from tomorrow.

e. [https://wmich.edu/asylumlake](https://wmich.edu/asylumlake) We need to update the Asylum Lake website in many places. How can this be done given WMU’s requirements?

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

f. Next meeting – 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019, at location TBD.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

None

VIII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.

Mr. MacNellis stated that the NFP Overlay Review Panel meetings are open to the public.

Ms. Chase advised of a workshop in Lansing focused on ADA accessible trails and natural areas. She will forward information about the workshop and find out if anyone is interesting in attending.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.