

# Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 8 April 2010

7 pm

Parkview Hills Clubhouse

3707 Greenleaf Circle

*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 7:00 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

#### a. Sign-In Roster

Council Members Present: Tim Holysz, Paul MacNellis, Bill Steinmann, Jay Emerson, Duane Hampton, Tyler Bassett, Frank Wolf, Chuck Ide, Mark Hoffman

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Mike Hodgkinson (Alt. for Tim Holysz), Kay Chase (Alt. for Tyler Bassett), Dave Lemberg, Kathleen Baker

### III. Adoption of 8 April 2010 Agenda

There was not a quorum present to approve the agenda.

### IV. Approval of 11 March 2010 Meeting Minutes

Jay Emerson moved to approve the 11 March 2010 meeting minutes. Duane Hampton seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Minutes were approved later in the meeting, once a quorum was reached.

### V. Old Business

#### a. Animal Control

##### Tim Holysz

- Kalamazoo County Animal Control has been patrolling Asylum Lake Preserve and will continue at random times and intervals
- The first two weeks they will just be giving warnings.
- Permanent signage is posted at all entrances notifying users that animals must be on leashes
- Temporary signage was placed at all entrances twice. They were torn down both times.

### VI. New Business

#### a. Effects of Climate Change on Asylum Lake Forest Presentation

##### Cari DeLong

- Cari presented her master's thesis work on the effects of climate change on the woody vegetation within the forest habitat at Asylum Lake Preserve. She included management recommendations.

#### b. Parkview Avenue Parking Lot and Rain Garden

##### Tim Holysz and Paul MacNellis

**Motion:** Tim Holysz motioned that we proceed with construction of the Parkview Avenue parking lot and rain garden. Chuck Ide seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

- Tim reported that the bid packages came back and have been reviewed
- The lowest bid package total was \$78577. The companies with the lowest bids were great quality companies; J. Allen & Assoc., Woolf Excavation, S&T Landscaping, Earley & Assoc. and Soil & Materials Engineering.
- Native plant lists were put together with help of Tyler Bassett and Steve Keto.
- SME has taken soil samples at the construction area.
- This has not been awarded yet because we were awaiting approval from the Council.
- Tim Holysz motioned that we proceed with construction of the Parkview Avenue parking lot and rain garden. Chuck Ide seconded.
- Duane asked if there was any reason to not go with the low bid on this project?
- Tim stated that he has worked with all of these contractors and they have good reputations. S&T Landscaping was the contractor that constructed the Winchell Entrance and we were very happy with that.
- Frank asked what will it take to close the small parking lot near Little Asylum Lake?
- Tim responded that the City of Kalamazoo will extend their guardrail when they construct the new sidewalk.
- Duane asked about a timeline for this project.
- Paul responded that we have not outlined a timeline as of yet but construction will probably be around 3 weeks. Cari responded that because we are planting native seeds around the project area, it needs to be completed before June. The rain garden will be contoured but not planted until September 2010 by Landscape Services.
- Mike asked if we should approve a 10% contingency to cover unforeseen costs of the project?
- Paul stated that for this project we could use unspent funds in other accounts to cover any overages.
- Tyler added that we should keep this in mind for future projects.
- All in favor. None opposed.

## **VII. Project/Special Committee Reports**

### **a. Research/Education Committee**

#### **Cari DeLong**

Cari reported on applications that had been approved by the Research & Education Committee since the last Council meeting.

- The Gibbs House was approved to host a trash clean-up of the Asylum Lake property on Sunday April 11, 2010 beginning at 9am.
- A WMU Art Professor was approved to install bluebird boxes in September of 2010 made by a woodworking class to replace the existing deteriorating boxes in the old field at Asylum Lake Preserve.
- MSU would like to continue with their biofuels research within the prairie habitat at Asylum Lake Preserve. This will be their third year of research. They would like to add a study to determine the effects of birds on insect populations within the switchgrass. They were approved to add a temporary structure made out of pvc pipe and netting to exclude the birds from a 4x4 meter, 1.5m area.

### **b. Operations Committee**

#### **Cari DeLong**

- Cari reminded the Council that the ROTC will be conducting training exercises at the property on April 9, 2010 from 6pm overnight through April 10, 2010 at 5pm.

- The Gibbs House will be hosting a 5K run/walk through the property on Saturday April 10, 2010 beginning at 9:30am.

**c. PR Subcommittee**

**Cari DeLong**

- The 3 message boards that were approved at the last Council meeting were ordered.
- They will be installed by Landscape Services at the Winchell Entrance, Drake Rd entrance at the prairie and the Parkview Entrance once it is constructed.

**d. Trails Subcommittee**

- Paul has asked Larry to give him fees for design the trail on the east side and the observation towers. He has not gotten back to him.
- Paul and Cari walked the property with Larry and discussed the east trail.

**e. Construction Subcommittee**

**Paul MacNellis**

- See New Business section B, “Parkview Avenue Parking Lot and Rain Garden”

**VIII. Public Comments**

None.

**IX. Council/Staff Comments**

- Kay mentioned that the Chicago Wilderness Magazine made the decision to stop publishing. She will be looking into other possibilities.
- Mark asked if we could appoint a subcommittee that keeps track of the Council’s spending.
- Paul responded that Cari reported on the accounts at our last meeting. Each project is tracked with fund numbers. Anything spent and received is recorded electronically. There are checks and balances throughout. Tim and Cari have access to view the accounts at any time.
- Mark asked if we could have an annual summary of the accounts.
- There was general agreement that this is fine.

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33p.m.