

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 11 February 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, Jay Emerson, Chuck Ide, Bill Steinmann, Mark Hoffman, Bob Jorth, Frank Wolf, Duane Hampton, Tom Edmonds, Kay Chase

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator)

III. Adoption of 11 February 2010 Agenda

Tom Edmonds moved to approve the 11 February 2010 meeting agenda. Tim Holysz seconded.

IV. Approval of 14 January 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mark Hoffman moved to approve the 14 January 2010 meeting minutes. Duane Hampton seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business

a. Council Seats

Paul MacNellis

A list of all the council member seats and their terms was passed out. Paul explained that some seats are up for renewal this year. Cari will need verification from your appointee if you would like to be re-appointed. There was no election last year for Chair and Co-Chair. In June there will be an annual election for those positions.

b. Y.O.U. Crew Supervisor Budget

Cari DeLong

Motion: Duane Hampton moved that the Council seek the money required to pay a supervisor for the Y.O.U. program provided we have a management plan for them to follow. Tom Edmonds seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

- Cari summarized the estimated cost for hiring a supervisor at around \$13,000 for May through September at a wage of \$15 an hour. She is waiting to ask for the money from the Council because she has not received final word from Kalamazoo RESA that this program will continue this summer.
- Duane stated that since the Council does not always meet every month, we should vote to approve the money for when we know definitively the program will be a go.
- Duane Hampton moved that the Council seek the money required to pay a supervisor for the Y.O.U. program this summer. Tom Edmonds seconded.

- Paul stated that the management committee should meet to develop a plan for the crew.
- Kay asked how we found a supervisor last year.
- Cari responded that she posted the job through WMU academic departments and then held interviews.
- Kay stated that this could be a positive, long lasting impact on the Y.O.U. crew members if we include educational and motivational activities.
- Duane stated that this is a socially responsible activity that will bring in youth from the community and provide something to WMU by hiring a WMU student as the YOU supervisor.
- All in favor. None opposed.

c. Animal Control
Paul MacNellis

- Paul explained that the county animal control department has not been patrolling Asylum Lake. They have not answered our calls or emails. He contacted WMU DPS to see if they would patrol the property. Their fees are \$60/hr for a minimum of 3 hours for a total of \$180 per visit. 1 visit per week for a year would be \$8,640.
- Tom volunteered to contact the county animal control.
- Bob suggested we use better signage. Include the \$75 fine on the signs.
- Cari will set up a meeting with the PR committee to develop signage.

VI. New Business

a. Kalamazoo Community Foundation Annual Report

Cari DeLong

Cari handed out copies of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation annual report and went over the details with the Council.

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.

- WMU's ROTC applied to complete a 2 day training exercise at Asylum Lake Preserve on April 9, 2010 at 6pm overnight through April 10, 2010 at 5pm. The cadets will be spending the night in the forest in sleeping bags and performing training exercises during the day. Signs will be posted at all entrances.
- Originally the ROTC wanted to land a helicopter in the prairie, drop off the cadets and take off again. Cari brought the plans for this to Tim Kellogg, Risk Manager for WMU to get approval for liability reasons. Tim stated that this activity posed too high a risk to the University for environmental and liability reasons.
- Paul mentioned that camping is not allowed at Asylum Lake.
- Duane stated that Geosciences has had people stay overnight to watch the equipment for educational purposes. This activity is similar and should be allowed.
- Chuck stated that we should require them to bring a porta-john and to camp close to the trails to reduce the impact to spring vegetation.

b. Operations Committee

No report

c. PR Subcommittee

No report

d. Trails Subcommittee

Comprehensive Trail System; Tom Edmonds

Motion: Tom Edmonds moved to approve funding, not to exceed \$15,000 for Larry Harris & Assoc. to design 1. The east trail from the proposed Parkview parking lot to the Winchell Entrance. Trail should be designed for disabled and emergency accessibility. 2. The observation tower that extends from this trail and overlooks Little Asylum Lake 3. The 2 observation platforms in the prairie.

Bob Jorth seconded. All in favor. One opposed. Kay Chase.

- Tom reported on the trails committee meeting. They discussed the mowing of the trails during the spring and summer and recommend that the mowing conform to the proposed comprehensive trail system design and begin to close trails as noted by the trail design.
- The trails committee also recommends approving funding to have Larry Harris & Assoc. design improvements to the east side of the trails system plan linking the Parkview entrance and the Winchell entrance. Also would like approval to design the tower that connects to this trail and overlooks Little Asylum Lake. This would be the first phase in moving forward with the trail system design and making the preserve disabled and emergency accessible.
- Bob added that the Council should also include the observation platforms in the prairie in the design.
- Jay asked how the observation towers will affect the prairie burns?
- Paul responded that the burns can be controlled by mowing around the towers and soaking them with water.
- Kay asked why the proposed plan was to place a trail in the middle of the old field and remove the trail that borders the old field and forest habitats? It is a trail used by many, especially cross country skiers and birders and shouldn't be removed.
- Paul explained that currently every habitat on the preserve has a trail bordering it's edges and they act as a barrier. The trails committee, along with Larry Harris decided it was best to reduce the amount of trails along habitat edges for the purposes of improving the ecology at the preserve.
- Mark stated he was concerned about people riding their bikes along the north trail. He asked if we could place obstructions along the path to stop the bikers.
- Paul stated that this could potentially be a project for the Y.O.U students.
- Tom Edmonds moved to approve funding for the design of the east trail for accessibility plus the tower and the 2 observation platforms in the prairie, not to exceed \$15,000. Bob Jorth seconded. All in favor. One opposed. Kay Chase.

e. Construction Subcommittee

Parkview Parking Lot; Paul MacNellis

Bid package for the construction of the Parkview parking lot will be taken to WMU tomorrow. Construction committee met to go over specifications for the bid document and made revisions. The committee put together an approved list of bidders. Usually the turn-around is 10 days.

Drake Road Parking Lot; Paul MacNellis

Motion: Bob Jorth moved to proceed with requesting money from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for Larry Harris & Assoc. to design the Drake Road parking lot. Tom Edmonds seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

- Paul reported that he asked asked Larry Harris to give a cost estimate to design a new Drake Road parking lot for 20 spaces, place for a bus to turn around and a rain garden treatment system that the parking lot would drain into. The design will include potential expansion. Larry quoted a price of \$7,9013 to do the design and put bid documents together.
- Paul added that the intent of the trails system design is to close off the parking near Stadium Drive and have this be the only parking lot off of Drake Road.
- Bob Jorth moved to proceed with approving money to be used for Larry Harris to design the Drake Rd entrance. Tom Edmonds seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Council/Staff Comments

- Cari commented that she posted the trail design maps on the Asylum Lake website for people to view and comment.
- Mark stated that he didn't want the Council to lose sight of the cost of ecological improvements as well as infrastructure projects.
- Paul stated that he is looking for proposals from the Council for projects.
- Kay mentioned that it has to be done in conjunction with management plan.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17p.m.