

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 14 January 2010

7 p.m.

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, Steve Kohler, Mark Hoffman, Bob Jorth, Frank Wolf, Duane Hampton, Tyler Bassett

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Larry Harris, Frank Szopo, Kay Chase (alt. for Tyler Bassett) Cal Mastin (alt. for Mark Hoffman)

III. Adoption of 14 January 2010 Agenda

Paul MacNellis asked to add "YOU Program" under "New Business". Mark Hoffman moved to approve the 14 January 2010 meeting agenda as amended. Tim Holysz seconded.

IV. Approval of 08 October 2009 Meeting Minutes

Bob Jorth moved to approve the 08 October 2009 meeting minutes. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

a. Parkview Avenue Boardwalk

Larry Harris, Frank Szopo

Larry Harris presented the plans for the Parkview Avenue sidewalk and boardwalk project. Presently the sidewalk is on the south side of Parkview Ave. and ends at Greenleaf Blvd. The new path would begin along the north side of Parkview Ave. from Greenleaf Blvd and join with the existing sidewalk next to Asylum Lake Preserve that dead-ends into Parkview Ave. A section of the path will be a boardwalk along Little Asylum Lake. The rest of the path will be concrete. There would be a retaining wall holding the walk and a handrail. There will be minimal intrusion into the wetland. The city will also discourage parking at Little Asylum Lake by extending the guardrail. The trail entrance here will remain open to pedestrians. The project will begin this

summer and is funded by the city. This path will be cleared of snow by the city but will not be a high priority.

b. Parkview Avenue Parking Lot

Larry Harris

Motion: Bob Jorth moved to have Larry Harris & Associates put together an RFP bid package for the Asylum Lake Parkview Avenue parking lot design and have WMU proceed with bidding the project. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Larry Harris of Larry Harris & Associates presented the Asylum Lake Parkview parking lot design. He has worked with the Construction Committee to develop plans for a parking lot off of Parkview Avenue. This lot will improve safety for cars pulling in and out, and improve the ease of which it can be patrolled from the road. The entry will occur just to the west of where the present sidewalk ends. This spot was chosen because there is adequate sight distance on the road and there is access to the trail system. There are concept plans to expand the parking lot to the west if the need arises. The parking lot will be paved and it will slope into a rain garden to the east of the lot. This rain garden will act as a sink and filter for the water. It will hold almost 1000 cubic feet of water. As it reaches the maximum capacity, the water will overflow into the nearby city drain system that goes into Little Asylum Lake. This rain garden could become an educational opportunity for the public.

- Kay asked whether porous asphalt would be better? Larry responded that it is very high maintenance because it gets clogged easily.
- Paul added that WMU was advised by the city to pave the parking lot and treat the runoff. Porous asphalt would allow the water to percolate but contaminants stay with it. By paving and adding a rain garden, the water will be slowed down and pollutants filtered out by plant and soil microbes.
- Frank Wolf asked whether there are handicap spaces? Larry responded that there are none in the plan right now, but it is required by the city, so one will be added.
- Paul noted that once this parking lot is built, WMU will be closing the parking lot across from the Gibbs House and the lot next to Little Asylum Lake.
- Bob Jorth moved to have Larry Harris & Associates put together an RFP bid package for the Asylum Lake Parkview Avenue parking lot design and have WMU proceed with bidding the project. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.
- Mark noted that ALPA is still interested in dedicating a bench, possibly at this parking lot location.

c. Kalamazoo Community Foundation Quarterly Report

Cari DeLong

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

d. YOU Summer Program

Paul MacNellis

Paul reported that last summer the Youth Opportunity Unlimited program was very successful at WMU. The Natural Areas Program hired a supervisor for 8-10 YOU crew members. They worked mostly at Kleinstuck Preserve to remove invasives, maintain trails and control erosion, but also at Asylum Lake on fence and trail maintenance. They renovated the Gibbs House barn to use as a meeting place and storage area. This summer we would like to have two crews, one for Kleinstuck and one for Asylum Lake. We would like to hire a supervisor for the Asylum Lake crew using Foundation funds.

- Cari added that she will be developing specific management plans from the Native Connection's vegetation inventory for the crew to follow throughout the summer.
- Tyler suggested we hold a management committee meeting to discuss this topic.
- Cari will put together a budget for a YOU supervisor and bring to the next meeting.

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.

- "Influence of Salinity on Wetland Biodiversity". Dr. Koretsky of Geosciences applied to take sediment cores from the wetland area along Drake Rd. She will be collecting around 27 cores during each of the four seasons beginning in October of 2009. She will also be collecting cattails to grow in her lab.
- "Ecology Lab – Parasitoidism and Predation of Goldenrod". Dr Karowe applied to have his students collect samples of goldenrods from the prairie and savanna areas on October 22nd and 23rd.
- "ROTC – Situational Training Exercise". ROTC applied to have about 20 ROTC students in the forested area of Asylum Lake to practice army procedures from dawn until dusk on Nov 7, 2009. Signs were posted at all entrances.
- "Ecology Lab – Tree Competition". Dra Karowe applied to have his ecology students identify tree types and characteristics in the forest area of Asylum Lake.

b. Operations Committee

No report

c. PR Subcommittee

No report

d. Trails Subcommittee

No report

e. Construction Subcommittee

Paul MacNellis

Trails committee will be continuing to work with Larry Harris & Associates. They have asked Larry to produce phases of the trail system development so that we can potentially start on changes to the trails this spring.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Council/Staff Comments

- Tim brought up concern for dogs off of leashes at the Preserve.
- Paul responded that animal control has chosen to not patrol at Asylum Lake since the fall of 2008.
- Cari will contact animal control and WMU DPS to inquire about their rates.
- Mark asked about the status of the earthen dam/spillway reconstruction project. Paul responded that we have a design for that area but he needs a motion from the Council to proceed with bidding the project.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46p.m.