

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 14 May 2009

7:00p.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 7:00p.m.

II. Roll Call

a. Sign-In Roster

Council Members Present: Paul MacNellis, Bob Nagler, Chuck Ide, Steve Kohler, Mark Hoffman, Mike Hodgkinson (alt. for Tim Holysz), Bob Jorth, Tyler Bassett

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Charles Emerson, Philip Micklin, Lowell Rinker

III. Adoption of 14 May 2009 Agenda

Bob Jorth moved to approve the 14 May 2009 meeting agenda. Mark Hoffman seconded.

IV. Approval of 12 February 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mark Hoffman suggested changing the first sentence under “Public Comments” be changed to indicate that Amy DeShon was a “past” president of ALPA. Tyler Bassett moved to approve the 12 February 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Mark Hoffman seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business

a. Asylum Lake Vegetation Survey

Tyler Bassett

Tyler gave a presentation on the highlights from his vegetation survey of the entire Asylum Lake Preserve property. His full report will be completed soon.

VI. New Business

a. Kalamazoo Community Foundation Report

Cari DeLong

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

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports

a. Research/Education Committee

Cari DeLong

Motion: Bob Jorth introduced a motion to approve the burying of garlic mustard plants on Asylum Lake Preserve property. Chuck Ide seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

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

- WMU Biology 151 lab on forest dynamics. It was held April 7-9th within the forest habitats of Asylum Lake. Students measured various parameters.
- MSU study on switchgrass. This study began early May and continues through the end of October. It is the same study as last summer, in which they measured pollen transfer and insect diversity of switchgrass within the prairie. Additionally, this summer they added a bee nest box for the purposes of attracting and counting native bees. Cari and Paul installed a sign next to it, warning visitors of the possible presence of bees.
- Garlic mustard monitoring project. This project was started early May and will continue through the summer and repeated next summer. A Gibbs House fellow is conducting the study and has set up control and experimental plots of garlic mustard for the purposes of monitoring the spread of this plant.

- Michigan State Youth Convention garlic mustard pull. This event will take place on May 15th from 11am to 2pm. There will be 200-300 high school age kids pulling garlic mustard throughout the forest areas at Asylum Lake.
- Cari explained that WMU would like to dig a hole next to the paved drive off of Parkview Ave., in an area already dominated with garlic mustard. Any pulled garlic mustard would then be placed in the hole and buried. This is an attempt to be more environmentally friendly with the disposal of garlic mustard, which in the past was landfilled after being pulled.
- Bob Jorth introduced a motion to approve the burying of garlic mustard plants on the Asylum Lake Preserve property. Chuck Ide seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

b. Operations Committee

No report.

c. PR Subcommittee

No report.

d. Trails Subcommittee

Comprehensive Trail System Project

Tom Edmonds

- Paul reported for Tom Edmonds. WMU hired L.L. Harris & Assoc. to work with the trails committee to develop a comprehensive trail system at Asylum Lake this summer. He reported that along with Cari and Chuck, he has been involved in a grant from EPA focused on improving access for senior citizens to outdoor recreation. He and Cari have developed a survey to be taken by visitors to the property. This survey will aid in our trail improvements.
- Paul reported that he has been in contact the City of Kalamazoo about the new walkway along Parkview Ave. overlooking Little Asylum Lake. It is not high on the City's list of priorities. Our survey could be used to show that community members are using this space and are behind this project.
- Lowell added that he will be meeting with the City soon to talk about many topics. This trail project should be addressed at the meeting.

e. Construction Subcommittee
Parkview Entrance, Winchell Entrance
Paul MacNellis

- Paul passed out copies of the new Parkview entrance design done by L.L. Harris & Assoc. He went through the details of the design with the Council. There is no price on the project yet. He has to finalize the design with Larry Harris.
- Mike asked if we would be abandoning the current parking areas off of Parkview Ave.?
- Paul responded that yes we would abandon the current parking areas by extending the existing guardrail so that it blocked access.
- Mark added that we should also prohibit parking across from the Gibbs House.
- Paul agreed. This area is dangerous to get in and out of.
- Paul passed out copies of the design for the spillway project created by L.L Harris & Assoc. Design may still be modified. Clean Earth took a video of the inside of the culvert and determined it was structurally in good shape except for the last section that has slid out of alignment. Paul reported that WMU intends to raise that section of the culvert, pack gravel under it, and place a concrete patch around it. In doing so, the path above the culvert may have to be modified.
- Philip asked if there will be a trash gate placed at the end of the culvert?
- Paul responded that part of the proposal is to include an angled cage at the inflow of the culvert.
- Bob Nagler commented that the KCF money has decreased dramatically. The Council should be cautious in spending this money because if we erode this fund too much during the recession, we will also be decreasing the protection this fund provides Asylum Lake. The Council should be looking at other granting opportunities to supplement these projects.
- Paul commented that he cannot disagree. He is not going to propose that either of these projects go ahead. WMU will use the design of the Parkview entrance to push the City into building the walkway.
- Paul passed out a conceptual drawing of the Winchell entrance as well as pictures of the current construction project. This project is coming along well. Some of the plans have changed. Changed from open pavers to a different type of permeable paver for the patio areas. A lot of the specs are natural or recycled materials.
- Tyler asked if the plantings for around the entrance had been specified?

- Paul responded that ground cover will be planted initially. Extra money from the KCF on top of costs for the project was requested to cover the plantings. Steve Keto, on our Landscape Services staff will be assisting us in picking native plants. Landscape Services Dept. will be doing the planting.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Council/Staff Comments

- Bob Jorth explained that there was trash along the north edge of the lake that couldn't be reached by ALPA volunteers
- Paul responded that WMU is getting Youth Opportunity Unlimited (YOU) kids, a program that gives work to economically disadvantaged young adults. Paul and Cari petitioned to take 10 YOU workers from the ages of 18-24 to work at Asylum Lake and Kleinstuck Preserves. They will be doing projects such as trail maintenance, bank restoration, and invasive species removal. Any money spent will be from WMU's natural areas fund, not the KCF Asylum Lake fund. Removing trash from the lake will be a good project for these kids.
- Lowell asked if there was a plan for signage at the property?
- Paul explained that there is a signage committee that has been formed. This is something we will be developing soon. Needs to happen in conjunction with other projects such as the development of a trails system.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17p.m.