

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 13 May 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: Paul MacNellis, Amy DeShon (Alt. for Mark Hoffman), Bob Jorth, Jay Emerson, Duane Hampton, Chuck Ide, Tom Edmonds, Frank Wolf, Steve Kohler,

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Phil Micklin, Pat Klein, David Nesius

III. Adoption of 13 May 2010 Agenda

Paul motioned to add Pat Klein and the use of the property to the agenda under "Research and Education". Cari motioned to add an agenda item for a report on the KCF funds under "New Business". Tom Edmonds motioned to approve the 13 May 2010 agenda. Amy DeShon seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. Approval of 08 April 2010 Meeting Minutes

Frank Wolf moved to approve the 08 April 2010 meeting minutes. Steve Kohler seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business

a. Parkview Ave. Parking Lot and Rain Garden

Tim Holysz and Paul MacNellis

- Paul passed around pictures of the construction progress on the parking lot.
- The project started Monday. Gravel is in, curbing is in, rough grade for rain garden is complete, and top dirt was being put in. S& T will start landscaping tomorrow.
- Will need to ask WMU DPS to do the paint striping. There will be money in the account to complete this. The project is under-budget at this point.
- Found a Geoscience well that had been installed to monitor leaves. Recommend to leave it there and monitor the rain garden

VI. New Business

a. Comprehensive Trail System – East Trail and Overlook Design

Paul MacNellis

Motion: Duane Hampton motioned to accept the bid by Larry Harris & Associates to design the east trail from Winchell Avenue to Parkview Avenue along with an observation tower overlooking Little Asylum Lake for \$15,628.

- Paul passed out a proposal from Larry Harris and Assoc. for \$15,628 to design the east trail from Winchell Ave. to Parkview Ave. and an overlook structure next to Little Asylum Lake. The trail from Parkview to the beach will be handicap accessible and the entire trail will be emergency vehicle accessible. Price includes design not construction.
- Design will be split into pieces. From Winchell to spillway and from the spillway to Parkview. The spillway is already designed. .
- Duane Hampton motioned to accept the bid from Larry Harris & Assoc. Bob Jorth seconded.
- Amy suggested that the Council give instruction for the design to be as modest as possible but also forward thinking. Design to keep construction costs under control.
- Paul stated that the construction committee meets with Larry throughout the process and will keep this in mind. However the design needs to meet WMU liability standards and needs to last.
- Tom added that the design is in phases so we can construct pieces of it at a time.
- All in favor. None opposed.

**b. Kalamazoo Community Foundation Quarterly Report
Cari DeLong**

- Cari went over the details of the report 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.

- Dr Hampton submitted an application to continue research on a group of existing PVC wells in the old field. From May through June he and a grad student will replace 4 of the 5 wells and test them. A truck to access the wells for hauling equipment will be needed. Once testing is completed, the wells will be removed the culvert underneath the wells will not be.
- Cari DeLong submitted an application to have Landscape Services dig a hole next to the paved drive off of Parkview Avenue in order to bury garlic mustard that will be pulled at the property. This hole will have a fence and signs along the perimeter and will be filled in at the end of garlic mustard season.
- Cari DeLong submitted an application to host around 200 volunteers from the MI Youth Convention at Asylum Lake Preserve to pull garlic mustard on May 22, 2010 from 11am to 1pm. They will pull garlic mustard from the west end of the property and work towards the paved drive.

**1. Activities at Asylum Lake
Pat Klein**

- Pat reported that she was walking through Asylum Lake on Saturday, April 17th and heard gun shots. She met up with 4 young men who said they were students from WMU doing a class project filming an ambush in Iraq. They were shooting pellet guns.
- She stated that these activities are wrong and damage the environment. She was concerned that since ROTC training qualifies as an academic activity this would also. On April 9th and 10th there was a sign on the gate that the WMU ROTC department was holding training on the property. These students probably read the ROTC signs and

thought their own activities would be permitted. The ROTC sign likely influenced their behavior.

- Pat stated that neither the student activities nor the ROTC activities are consistent with the Declaration of Conservation Restrictions. These activities are not consistent with the “goal of permanently protecting the Asylum Lake property, including efforts to reverse and reduce environmental degradation and to develop passive recreational opportunities.” As outlined by the Declaration.
- Her suggestions included 1. Adopting policies that promote ecosystem integrity and aesthetics. 2. Post signage that reminds people they are entering a nature preserve and describe the approved uses. 3. Post signage identifying plants and animals. 4. Set examples that sustain the preserve. Camping should not be allowed. Going off of trails should not be allowed. Posting signs that declares these activities are taking place by the ROTC does not set a good example.
- Tom commented that there is a valid issue with the students firing pellet guns. That was an illegal activity. The ROTC issue is separate.
- Pat commented that parameters need to be set up. Let people know they are entering a nature preserve.
- Duane stated that nature conservation is a purpose of the property but not the sole purpose. Research and education are also important at the property but are approved through our protocol. This activity was not approved.
- Pat stated that research and education activities must be consistent with conservation purposes.
- David stated that the Council should set a positive tone in the signage and not just what is not allowed.
- Tom added that we need to communicate to the faculty the rules and protocols of the preserve.
- Cari stated that she will set up a meeting with the PR committee to discuss signage.

b. Operations Committee

Cari DeLong

- Cari announced that she will be marking the newly designed trails in the prairie and old field before Landscape Services mows for the first time this season. She will place signs at the old trails notifying the public of their closure.

c. PR Subcommittee

Cari DeLong

Message centers for the entrances have arrived. Landscape Services will be installing them soon.

d. Trails Subcommittee

Tom Edmonds

Refer to “New Business” section.

e. Construction Subcommittee

Paul MacNellis

Refer to “Old Business” section.

VIII. Public Comments

- David Nesius announced that he has been leading nature walks from Gazelle Sports. Twenty-two walks through nature areas. Three will be at Asylum Lake.
- Amy stated that ALPA has not taken a stance on her following comments. She raised concern that Parkwyn Village voted to support the treatment of Little Asylum Lake with herbicides. WMU's policy has been to not do anything on the resident's side of lake. It should be the Council's policy to be notified in advance and evaluate whether it conflicts with our priorities. To not have Council involved in the discussion could negatively affect research.
- Chuck stated that he, along with Steve and Cari consulted residents at a Paw Paw lake on how to control invasive plants. His research is on the health effects of pesticides. They are dangerous to humans and implicated in neurological diseases. This topic needs to be discussed in an academic setting.
- Paul stated that WMU has known about the treatment and would be encouraged by alternatives but don't know of any. Tom had approached the University under VP Bob Beam. Bob said not to deny or approve riparian rights. VP Lowell Rinker's stand has been the same.
- Amy commented that we should research alternatives to share with the neighbors and work in collaboration.
- Tom stated that Little Asylum Lake has been used as a dumping ground and is full of phosphates entering from Asylum Lake. The treatment is trying to stop it from artificially from becoming a bog
- Duane suggested we create a subcommittee.
- Bob agreed. The subcommittee could do the research and bring it back to the Council.
- Cari suggested we use the Water Quality Committee that was created to oversee Kieser's water quality report.
- Paul stated this topic will be put on the agenda for our next meeting.

IX. Council/Staff Comments

- Paul announced that we still have not heard anything about the Y.O.U. program.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22p.m.