

# Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council

Thursday, 09 July 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, Bill Steinmann, Steve Kohler, Mark Hoffman, Tim Holysz, Bob Jorth, Cam Vossen, Frank Wolf, Kay Chase (alt. for Tyler Bassett), Duane Hampton

Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Amy DeShon, Bob Jameyson (alt for Bob Jorth), Cal Mastin (alt. for Mark Hoffman)

### III. Adoption of 09 July 2009 Agenda

Bob Jorth moved to approve the 09 July 2009 meeting agenda. Duane Hampton seconded.

### IV. Approval of 14 May 2009 Meeting Minutes

Bob Jorth moved to approve the 14 May 2009 meeting minutes. Bob Nagler seconded. All in favor.  
None opposed

### V. Old Business

None.

### VI. New Business

#### YOU crew updates

- Paul MacNellis reported on the Youth Opportunity Unlimited program. This program has provided us with 10 students to form the natural areas and preserves crew. We hired a supervisor to be on site with the students. They have been working for several weeks and the program continues through the end of September. Most of their time has been spent working at Kleinstuck Preserve. Some of their time has been spent doing maintenance work at Asylum Lake Preserve. They have been removing shrubs from the fenceline along Drake Rd and Parkview Ave. They just finished pulling garlic mustard at Kleinstuck and filled in the pit at Asylum Lake. The main focus has been at Kleinstuck Preserve because we haven't specified management projects for Asylum Lake. We have

had great success with the program at Kleinstuck and would like to do the same at Asylum Lake once projects are determined.

- Mark asked if the projects will go before the Asylum Lake committees to make sure they are in compliance with management plan?
- Paul responded that yes they will be approved. He was hoping the committees would develop projects.
- Tim added that right now the crew is just doing projects under maintenance.
- Mark stated that our management plan that was recently passed should be used as guidance for projects.
- Frank added that maybe a committee could be formed to develop management projects.
- Bob Nagler suggested that the Council interact with the Environmental Studies program. Students and professors should be involved at the property.

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

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

#### **Cari DeLong**

Cari reported on the application that had been approved by the Research & Education Committee since the last Council meeting. An REU student working with Dr Ide and Cari on a project for the summer filled out an application for permission to take soil samples throughout the old field and forest 1 habitats. He would also like to possibly use a backhoe to dig a hole in the old field around 10 feet deep to look at the soil stratification. This hole would be filled in immediately after analysis.

### **b. Operations Committee**

No report.

### **c. PR Subcommittee**

No report.

### **d. Trails Subcommittee**

#### **Comprehensive Trail System Project**

##### **Tom Edmonds**

Paul reported that the trails committee has contracted with Larry Harris for the design of a trail system. The trails committee can begin to meet with Larry and his team. Trail surveys of visitors have been coming in and will provide us with more user information. Larry is waiting for direction from the trails committee.

### **e. Construction Subcommittee**

#### **Parkview Entrance, Winchell Entrance**

##### **Paul MacNellis**

- Paul passed out construction spec documents, cost estimate sheets and design diagrams for the proposed new entrance off of Parkview Ave. and explained the scope of the project. Paul met with city officials yesterday. He had the opportunity to emphasize what we are doing at Asylum Lake as well as the increased community interest in the property. The goal was to reinvigorate the proposed city boardwalk project along Parkview Ave

that had been postponed. He explained to the city that the council has plans to build a new entrance off of Parkview that could connect to the boardwalk.

- Tim added that as a result of the meeting the city moved it up on their priority list for stimulus money.
- Bob Nagler suggested that we generate political clout and make the argument that currently the route from Parkview Ave to Asylum Lake is dangerous. We should get the Parkview Hills group involved.
- Paul added that he also talked with city officials about the impact of stormwater from the surrounding areas on the Asylum Lake watershed.
- Paul explained that the next step to completing the proposed parking lot is to submit these plans to the city to review. He would like to propose a bid for this project in the fall.
- Paul asked that the Council please look over the plans and give them some consideration.
- Bob Nagler commented on the newly constructed entrance off of Winchell Ave. He explained that this entrance is now harder for senior citizens to traverse than the old entrance. He has heard many complaints from Parkwyn Village occupants. The handrail is in a difficult position, the steps are too large, and the fiber erosion mats are a tripping hazard. He has also seen people on bikes get through the entrance. There needs to be signage.
- Amy added that a member of ALPA told her that when it rains hard puddles form on the platforms and it is slow to recede.
- Paul suggested that Amy contact him with more information. There was adequate drainage installed and water should not be pooling.
- Duane commented that the council's review process for that project was flawed and we need to have higher level of scrutiny for Parkview entrance proposed project.
- Paul added that the city will be reviewing the Parkview entrance plans. He also added that the entrances were planned to be inviting but not all of them were intended to be accessible.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

None.

## **IX. Council/Staff Comments**

Kay explained that the city of Chicago publishes a monthly magazine called the Chicago Wilderness that highlights Chicago's extensive network of natural areas along with events and volunteer activities to improve these preserves. She would like to get a gift subscription to this magazine for one year to the members of the council.

## **X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17p.m.