

## Lake Park Friends Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 26 • 7:00 p.m. • Location: **Marcia Coles Community Room**

Excused: Katie West, Brian Hansen, Dennis Buettner

Present: Tom Cheney, Brian DesPlaines, Sarah Zimmerman, Anne Booth, Phil Schultz, Jim Cope, Steve Morse, Steve Duback, David O'Brien, Mary Ritchie, Ann Wollmer

Not present: Virginia Schwartz, Susanna Mortara, BG Hook

1. Tom Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Tom asked whether the directors would be open to changing the night and week of the board meeting due to conflicts that Brian Hansen and Katie West have. The Board generally agreed that it was open to changing the regular day of the board meetings, but no definitive change was discussed at this time.
3. Approval of December minutes: David O'Brien made a motion to approve the December minutes, Steve Duback seconded and the motion passed without opposition. Steve Duback praised the Secretary for drafting excellent minutes.
4. Government Report: There was no government report.
5. Treasurer's report: Brian DesPlaines discussed the 2009-2010 budget. Finance committee says we are conservative on our contributions and revenue. In the coming year we plan to spend Waterfall money that was already raised; as a result the budget shows a deficit. We have built a lot of cash and need to put some of that money to work. Steve Morse asked about credit card fees. There are fees associated with the card to run credit card numbers per transaction. Steve Morse asked about a \$2,000 expense for insurance and wanted to clarify what that was. Brian D. said that money was never spent but was budgeted when the board was discussing insurance. Brian D. would like for Chris Buell to supply regular reports to the committees. Steve Duback asked about the \$100,000 Memorials column. Brian D. says that is the donation for the Performance Structure. Personnel, Musical Mondays, Waterfall, and ice skating are the largest expenses in the budget. Sarah made a motion to approve the budget, Anne seconded and the motion passed without opposition.
6. Administrator's Report: Ann Wollmer thanked the board for the holiday gift card. Security signs are now posted on Lake Park Road due to some smash and grab car robberies. Ann also encouraged groups to plan out activities and events for the year to get them on the 2010 calendar. Renewals are going well and are being sent on a monthly basis. Renewal reminders are also being sent via email. A list of members who are not in good standing will be provided to the board. Also, a list of current members will be provided to the board to help with recruiting new members and to create a general awareness of who is a friend of Lake Park. Steve Duback reported that he feels an effective way to recruit new members is through personal letters. He agreed to draft a letter and work with Ann to help the board in this endeavor.
7. Old Business:
  - a. Ice Rink/Skating Party – Jim Cope said we have raised \$8500 for the rink. We had some good skating weather but lately some thawing. The party was 45 degrees but a number of people came to eat s'mores and make pom poms for their skates. The County is flooding a few nights this week to get it back up.
  - b. Waterfall Ravine Update – Phil Schultz said there is good progress this winter. The mason is there working and uses fire to heat up the mortar. He's also using hay to keep the freshly dug ground from freezing. The excavator was there to dig the footings for the overlook

wall. County has committed to do the designs for the two rain gardens. Dennis' idea is to put brass plaques on lecterns at either end of the curved overlook. The committee will look into whether moisture on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole can be addressed as part of this project.

- c. Performance Structure Update – Tom Cheney passed around some initial renderings of the structure. LaDallman is researching materials and coverings and will be giving us a proposal and a contract. There may be a public meeting at some point and the plan must go through Historic Preservation and the County Board.

8. New Business

- a. AmeriCorps position – Brian Russart/Mary McQuiggin (guests)

In 2010, Brian would like to secure two (6-month) AmeriCorps positions, one that serves from March 1st - August 31st and a second position from September 1st - February 28th. Each 6-month position costs \$7,000. Preserve Our Parks has issued a matching grant of up to \$3,500 for the March AmeriCorps position. Brian asked if Lake Park Friends would be interested in matching that grant at an amount of \$3,500. The person hired would organize and supervise UWM and MATC students in restoration projects, assist with the promotion of The Park People's Weed Outs, would work closely with Mary McQuiggin (a good plant identifier and certified to use herbicides) in invasive species control and inventory. It is aggressive to think the person would be here 50% of the time because there are other projects and other parks that need attention. Decision is needed before end of March. The Board discussed working with the Nature Committee to spell out what we want to have done. Dave O'Brien made a motion to fund the AmeriCorps stewardship position at \$3500 on the condition that the expressed goals of the Board of Lake Park Friends become a part of the AmeriCorps member's responsibilities. Sarah Zimmerman seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

- b. Musical Mondays 2010 schedule – Jim Cope said Thallis Drake has mentioned wanting to schedule the first concert on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> (July 4<sup>th</sup> observed). The board felt it was a good idea.
- c. Development: End of Year Appeal – Anne Booth reported that we had about 62 people respond with a total of \$20,000. \$1,700 for bird seed, \$7,500 general fund, \$8,500 skating and \$2,500 Waterfall Ravine.
- d. Staircase Planting – Dennis Buettner has some plans for the staircase planting and boulevard planting and wants to share them at the next board meeting. Tom Cheney has contacted the county to see where they are in planning for planting this season.
- e. South Lion Bridge – Mary reported that Kevin Haley said they will start construction after Musical Monday season in late August 2010. The Brick Arch Bridge at the entrance to Lake Park Rd. will also be done at the same time.

Dave O'Brien motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., Phil seconded and the motion passed.

Next board meeting Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Upcoming Events:

February 23 – Executive Committee Meeting

February 28 –History Program, John Gurda 1 p.m. at MCCR