

LAKE PARK FRIENDS
Minutes for 13th Annual Meeting
Lake Park Pavilion – Marcia Coles Community Room
May 18, 2009 • 7 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.; he thanked the members for being involved in the organization and coming to the meeting and noted that copies of the minutes were available for perusal.

2. President's Report

Tom Cheney reiterated the mission of LPF, which is used as a touchstone as we decide where to put our resources and focus our efforts. He noted the following recent, completed, and ongoing efforts:

Recent initiatives: This has been a period of change, including:

- The hiring of part-time administrator Ann Wollmer, a huge step forward for the organization (Ann Wollmer was applauded);
- Contracting of bookkeeping to an outside source rather than relying on volunteer efforts. Chris Buell has experience with nonprofit finances and her work will allow us to be better stewards of the resources with which we're entrusted;
- Renovation of the warming house, including painting, renovating the office, and moving furniture;
- The first Movie Night series, which we hope to repeat;
- AWE Art Truck Studio, a good example of the kind of initiative we can pursue.

Completed initiatives:

- Restoration of the Erastus Wolcott statue at a cost of \$175,000.
- Renovation of the Marcia Coles Community Room. We coordinated with County to maximize the quality of the renovation and promote open access to the room, which is now available at no charge days and evenings every day of the week. We should encourage other community groups to use this great resource. One member suggested that we clarify with the County whether it is permissible for other nonprofit groups to use the room for fundraising events.
- Phase I of Wahl Ave Bluff Restoration Project. The project has been somewhat controversial but is unique and valuable: it involves a landscaping plan that will benefit the neighborhood greatly over the long term.
- Tree Planting project: LPF secured donations of 110 trees and rounded up enough volunteers to plant them.

Ongoing projects:

- We are in the early phases of planning for a new performance stage. There was a recent public meeting to discuss location. A consensus was reached that the current performance location is the best site for a new stage. The next step is to hire an architect.
- Waterfall Ravine. During heavy rain, there is actually a waterfall. Tom Cheney displayed photos of the ravine in winter.
- Lion Bridge Restoration.

- Ice Rink. Partners have helped LPF put it on every year. There has been lots of positive feedback from users. LPF believes the rink is a good use of resources because it is unique, public, and promotes recreation in the park.
- History Events: Presentation on “things that are missing” from the park (bandstand, amphitheater, streetcar stations, toboggan slide, old warming house).
- Musical Mondays/Wonderful Wednesdays. These activities form a crucial part of the organization.
- Weed-Out. Like our other activities, furthers the goal of preserving and promoting a landmark.

3. Minutes from 2008 Annual Meeting

Sarah Slaughter presented the minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting. Dave O’Brien made a motion to approve the minutes, Phil Rozga seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Brian Desplaines introduced himself as incoming treasurer, distributed copies of financial information, and thanked the membership for contributions of funds and time. He noted recent steps to strengthen LPF’s financial position, including contracting with Chris Buell to improve the state of our books and reduce Treasurer burnout and turnover. Brian Desplaines noted that LPF has a lot of cash on hand and does a good job raising money. The waterfall ravine project is on budget. We will use our strong financial position to apply for grant money: we are in a position of strength because we produce tangible results people can appreciate. Chris Buell was applauded.

5. Acknowledgments: Retiring Board Members

Tom Cheney presented retiring Board Members Sally Merrell, Sarah Slaughter with gifts, and they were applauded by the group. Retiring Board Member Donna Smith was not present.

6. Presentation: Conservator of the Year Award

Tom Cheney presented Joanne Barndt with the Conservator of the Year Award and designated her Lake Park’s “Queen of Weeding” with a crown. Joanne was a founding member of LPF and was the first president. She initiated the weed-out program and helped create the Nature and History Committees. The Park People recognized her as weeder of the year. Joanne accepted the award and made some remarks.

7. Election of Board of Directors and Officers: See below*

8. Announcements

Tom Cheney announced there would be dessert and conversation, followed by a tour of the waterfall ravine led by Dennis Buettner.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

***ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:**

All proposed directors and officers were elected to the board:

Motion to elect the following new directors was made by Lenore Lee and seconded by Mary Kelly. Sarah Slaughter introduced the new directors, and the motion carried unopposed.

Steve Duback
Susanna Mortara

Both are elected to two-year terms (eligible for three successive two-year terms).

Motion to reelect the following continuing director was made by Steve Morse and seconded by Anne Booth. The motion carried unopposed:

Continuing director who has accepted nomination to the Board for a first complete 2-year term (having filled a vacant position mid-term) (eligible for three successive two-year terms):

Brian Des Plaines

Motion to reelect the following continuing directors was made by Dave O'Brien and seconded by Mary Ritchie. The motion carried unopposed:

Directors who have accepted nomination to the Board for a second 2-year term:

Karen Percy Fox
BG Hook
Steve Morse

Motion to reelect the following continuing director was made by Sally Merrell and seconded by Sarah Zimmerman. The motion carried unopposed:

Directors who have accepted nomination to the Board for a third 2-year term:

Ann Booth
Dennis Buettner
Tom Cheney
Mary Ritchie

(Directors Continuing: James Cope, Dave O' Brien, Virginia Schwartz, Phil Schultz, Sarah Zimmerman, Supervisor Gerry Broderick (ex officio))

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: (1-year terms)

Motion to elect the following officers was made by Dolores Knopfelmacher and seconded by Anne Booth. The motion carried unopposed.

President — Tom Cheney (2nd year of two-year term)

Secretary— Sarah Zimmerman

Treasurer — Brian DesPlaines

It was noted that the President may nominate up to five Vice Presidents. A motion to elect the following Vice Presidents was made by Sally Merrell and seconded by Dave O'Brien. The motion carried unopposed.

V.P. Development — Anne Booth

V.P. Improvements — Dennis Buettner

V.P. Recreation — James Cope

V.P. Education — Steve Morse

V.P. Administration— Sarah Zimmerman