

## Lake Park Friends Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dave O'Brien, Jim Cope, Sarah Zimmerman, Anne Booth, Virginia Schwartz, Ann Wollmer, Gerry Broderick, Brian DesPlaines, Tom Cheney, Dennis Buettner, Sally Merrell, Phil Schultz, BG Hook, Joe Sanchez (Full Time Park Ranger from Milwaukee County Parks Desk: 414-257-4892; Cell: 414-217-4363. He focuses on general park safety and training and is a supervisor. In the summer there are 10 rangers for the entire park system. Lake Park will have 1-2 rangers stationed full time.)

Excused: Steve Morse, Mary Ritchie, Donna Smith

1. Tom Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.
2. Dave O'Brien made a motion to approve the January and March 2009 minutes. Sarah Zimmerman seconded and the motion passed.
3. Gerry Broderick mentioned that the Milwaukee County Sailing Center is holding a fundraiser for their new, very well-designed building.

Gerry Broderick reported that the Milwaukee County Park System has been nominated for Park System of the year with a meeting in Salt Lake City in the fall. Kudos to everyone who works for the parks and has done so with fewer resources. The Estabrook Dam has been an issue lately with the outstanding question of whether or not the dam should be removed or restored. Ken Leinbach has a recent, persuasive essay about the issue who says that the dam must come down for the benefit of the community, but there are many people (about 250 homes) who will be affected by this. The dam was built in the 1930s and created a lake that people still use for recreation. The sediments that have built up behind the dam are of concern and need to be cleaned up whether or not the dam comes down. It would cost about \$2M to remove the dam and would help the downstream environment. It would cost \$9-12M to renovate and clean up the dam and restore it. It was voted at the County Board to spend \$5000 to temporarily fix the dam, but it could open the door to larger, more complex repairs. Funds have also been approved to explore the possibility of moving the dam upstream and creating a hydroelectric dam.

The dog park down by the old gun club is a go for now, and it will come up for public hearing. In order to use the park you have to purchase an annual permit. Each dog park has a self-pay kiosk. \$20 per year and \$5 for each additional dog. \$10 for seniors, \$10 for disabled dogs. Shorewood Dog Park will be in Estabrook Park and should be open by Memorial Day. There was discussion about providing the full time summer ranger and the dog bark kiosk with leashes. Using leashes will be enforced more as soon as the park is open.

4. Treasurer's Report – Brian DesPlaines highlighted the current financial files. There were a few one-time yearly expenses such as the website renewal. Nothing unexpected to date. Tom and Brian will meet soon with Chris and the finance committee. There has been no trouble with expense reimbursement, and Chris has been very timely with getting checks out.
5. Administrator's Report – Ann Wollmer will have the next newsletter out shortly and reports that the office is running smoothly.

Starting May 5 and every week during May Anne Booth and Ann Wollmer will open the "Lake Park Café" in the Marcia Coles Community Room from 8-10AM. Open to the public for coffee and conversation.

6. Old Business:

- a. Projects Update – Tom Cheney intends to create a form so that those responsible for projects can fill them out in advance of every meeting for a status update.
- b. Band Shelter Meeting – Tom Cheney reminded the board that Wednesday, April 29 is the open meeting to discuss the potential site for a band shelter in Lake Park. Tom is hoping for public input and discussion. The meeting is scheduled from 6:30-7:30PM and will probably go over that time slot. There is an informal steering committee in place of board members, but Tom is seeking for input from the community as well. There are five potential sites.
- c. Waterfall Ravine – Phil Schultz reported on the drawing by Dennis Buettner of the overlook for the Waterfall Ravine, and the are struggling with the County to get the elevations so that we can move forward in the spring to finish the bottom of the pool (to hold water), finish the creek bed, etc. Phil would like authorization from the board for \$30,000 in the next 60 days to continue with the project while they finish up the overlook design. The funds will go toward the mason and any materials. Further work depends on finishing the bridge so that we could build the overlook afterward (late September). Anne Booth made a motion to approve funds not to exceed \$30,000 over the next 60 days to finish the pool and stream bed masonry work up to the wall before the overlook. BG Hook seconded. The motion passed.

Anne Booth is looking for funds for a rain garden at the bottom of the Waterfall Ravine.

- d. Annual Meeting will be held Monday, May 18 from 7-8:30PM in the Marcia Coles Community Room. Tom Cheney has nominated Joann Barndt for the Conservator of the Year Award for her long term commitment to Lake Park. Sarah Slaughter made a motion to approve Joann's nomination. Dave O'Brien seconded, and the motion carried.

6. New Business:

- a. Motion to direct Cirque funds to Playground and Waterfall – Chris Buell needs a motion from the board to move funds from those raised at Cirque to the accounts for the Playground and Waterfall. BG Hook made a motion to take \$2000 from the fundraiser to put toward the playground with the remainder going toward the Waterfall project. Dave O'Brien seconded, and the motion carried.
- b. Park People Sunday Fun Day – Come to Lakefront Brewery on May 17 to learn about different community friends group from 1-5PM. Anne Booth will be staffing a LPF table there. Refreshments will be served, and there will be entertainment.
- c. Nominating committee recommendations – Sally Merrell, Jim Cope and Anne Booth have recommendations for next year. Sarah Zimmerman has agreed to take on the Secretary role, though Ann Wollmer will take the notes at the meetings. Sarah Zimmerman will also be the VP of Administration. Sally Merrell, Sarah Slaughter, and Donna Smith are all stepping down at the end of the year. Steve Duback has expressed interest in joining the board, as has Susanna Mortara. The search is on for the third position, and it is not yet confirmed. The nature committee could use additional support from the board.
- d. Board meeting change proposal/April meeting – Tom Cheney proposed a change in the frequency in the meetings to have 6 full board meetings and in the off months to have an executive committee meeting. Full board meetings would alternate with executive committee meeting monthly starting in January.  
Full Board – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in January, March, May, July, September, and November  
Executive Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in February, April, June, August, October and December  
Sarah Slaughter made a motion for the change in schedule that was seconded by Phil Schultz and was carried.

The executive committee will be defined at a later meeting.

- e. Ex-officio – Anne Booth noticed that another organization similar to LPF had Sue Black listed as ex-officio. She suggests that Sue be added to our board in this capacity. The bylaws define the ex-officio position now, and it might be time to discuss other positions as well that would need definition in the bylaws (honorary, emeritus, adjunct, at large etc.).
- f. Fourth of July Carriage & Committee – The committee would like to know if Lake Park Friends would like to provide the carriage again. LPF has had a table in the past. If Sally is in town she would be willing to be in charge of the carriage rides and staff a table. Oliver Plunkett has the contact for the carriage. Jim Cope will also be involved.
- g. Newberry Boulevard Planting – Dennis Buettner passed around historic photos of what LPF entrance used to look like and other photos of perennials that could be used for the plantings. Dennis also provided the board with the updated plan that includes a new sign for Lake Park Bistro and new trees and plantings. There is no water nearby now, but the new plantings will need to be watered carefully to make sure that they take initially. The cost for installation is between \$14-16K, with \$2000-\$3000 additional for watering. The maintenance for the bed should decrease over time. Historically the parks have paid for the planting, but funds at the County have dried up. Bartolotta's has thought it important to contribute to the plantings and should be approached for funding this project.

It may also make sense to explore adding a spigot in the planting bed instead of bringing in water on a truck.

Thursday night Dennis is talking about Frederick Law Olmsted at UWM Extension school.

A week ago Monday Dennis was invited to sit in with the Friends of Juneau Park. Jim Goulee is trying to set up a public meeting at Miller Park to move the group forward. Dennis presented to the group and noted that most of the trees are “trash trees” that need to be cleared out.

At 8:50PM Sarah Slaughter made a motion to close the meeting, Dave O'Brien seconded, and the motion carried.

Annual Meeting – Monday, May 18, 2009  
Next Board Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2009