

LAKE PARK FRIENDS
Minutes for 14th Annual Meeting
Lake Park Pavilion – Marcia Coles Community Room
May 25, 2010 • 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 for coming to the meeting.

Short order of business: Grand Staircase Revival

Tom said that Dennis Buettner, Landscape Architect and LPF Board Member, did a landscape design plan for the Grand Staircase and the County asked that LPF members consider the plan. Guy Smith, Chief of Operations for Milwaukee County Parks, was present to represent the Parks Dept. Money will be used from the Bartolotta fund to pay for the hiring of a landscaping contractor. Dennis showed his plan and described that because of the slope, primarily native shrubs will be used. Whereas annuals were used before, now long blooming perennials will be used, which require low maintenance and are tough and hardy. Kevin Haley, Landscape Architect for the Parks, and Chuck Ward, Chief of Operations, and Sue Black, Director, have all approved this plan. The work will take place as soon as possible. The contractor would use an herbicide to control the burdock. Dennis mentioned that whoever plants the Waterfall Ravine should mine the staircase plantings for any plant materials that could be used. Anne Booth made a motion to move ahead on this project, Steve Morse seconded and motion passed without opposition.

2. President's Report

Completed initiatives:

- Renovation of the Community Room
- Restoration of the Locust Street Ravine

Recent initiatives:

- A public meeting will be held soon with regard to the new performance structure
- Hiring of an Americorps staff person has levered a lot of man hours for Lake Park
- Playground renovation is on the county's replacement schedule. County already has a fund established toward this project.

Ongoing projects:

- Musical performances that continue to be an amazing draw. Katie West and Jim Cope have done a great job to move Musical Mondays and Wonderful Wednesdays forward.
- Waterfall Ravine completion is approaching.
- Lion Bridge phase 1 is done (completion of north bridge). Later this year the second phase will take place (south bridge and promenade).
- The bridge entering Lake Park Road will be repaired.

3. Minutes from 2009 Annual Meeting

Sarah Zimmerman, Secretary, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last year's annual meeting, which had been posted on the website and distributed at the meeting. Steve Duback made a motion, Brian DesPlaines seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Brian DesPlaines, Treasurer, passed around financial statements. Last year he mentioned not wanting to run a large surplus; however, there is again a surplus because of large donations for the waterfall ravine that remained to be spent. Membership rolls remain strong. Because of that support from our members, we were able to step up and fund the Americorps project, an unexpected and wonderful way to use our reserves. Brian thanked everyone for his or her financial support.

5. Acknowledgements: Outgoing Board Members

Tom Cheney acknowledged Virginia Schwartz and Dave O'Brien, outgoing board members. He presented Dave with a gift of two mugs with Lake Park postcard images. Dave thanked everyone. Virginia was not able to attend the meeting.

6. Presentation: Conservator of the Year Award

Conservator of the Year award was given to Gil Walter. Before Steve Morse presented Gil's award, he discussed the oak trees that were planted in conjunction with Living Lands & Waters and Argosy Foundation. He made a plea for adopting an oak tree and watering program.

Steve said that Gil is a go-to guy in the park. He knows about trees! He spends hours leading walks and weeding. Gil has co-chaired the LPF nature committee, published two booklets and has helped maintain the Butterfly Garden at the Warming House. Previously, he served on LPF Board. Gil remarked that he is honored to be on the plaque with Marcia Coles and Joanne Barndt. Gil made a plea for volunteers to donate their time to Lake Park.

7. Election of Board of Directors and Officers

Secretary Sarah Zimmerman listed the slate of directors and officers:

New directors who have accepted nominations to serve a first two-year term (eligible to serve three successive two-year terms):

Alice Wilson
Jennifer Grasse

Continuing director nominated to serve a first full two-year term (eligible to serve three successive two-year terms):

Katie West

Continuing directors nominated to serve a second full two-year term:

Phil Schultz

Sarah Zimmerman

(Directors continuing: Anne Booth, Dennis Buettner, Tom Cheney, Jim Cope, Brian Desplaines, Steve Duback, Brian Hansen, BG Hook, Steve Morse, Susanna Mortara, Mary Ritchie, Supervisor Gerry Broderick (ex officio), Alderman Nik Kovac (ex officio), Parks Director Sue Black (ex officio).)

The following slate of Officers was proposed for 2010-2011:

President — Phil Schultz (1st year of two-year term)

Secretary— Sarah Zimmerman

Treasurer — Brian DesPlaines

V.P. Development — Katie West

V.P. Improvements — Mary Ritchie

V.P. Recreation — James Cope

V.P. Education — Steve Morse

V.P. Administration— Sarah Zimmerman

Anne Booth made a motion to approve the slate of directors and officers, Dennis Buettner seconded, and the motion carried without opposition.

8. Remarks by new LPF President

Phil Schultz made some announcements. He presented a gift to Tom Cheney for the work he has done as president. Phil said he was proud to be nominated/elected and he praised the organization and the volunteers and members present. He mentioned that the work still continues and he made a plea for weeders. He mentioned that plantings, renovations, birding...all must continue to make this a world-class park. Within the county budget (\$1.5 billion), only 2.9% is spent on county parks. Relative to the park system, we represent only 1.4% of that land. We face that challenge, but we need to work together so others realize how important Lake Park is. We need to continue collaborations with other friends groups and other groups so we have a larger voice. Lastly, we should look to the future and do long term strategic planning to maintain the park and come out of the recession with a vibrant organization with increased membership. He encouraged everyone to visit the waterfall. The Dedication ceremony will be June 26 from 3-5 p.m.

9. Announcements

Tom Cheney announced there would be dessert and conversation, followed by a tour of the Waterfall Ravine led by Phil Schultz.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.