

Lake Park Friends Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 • 7:00 p.m. • Location: **Marcia Coles Community Room**

Excused: Jim Cope, Brian Hansen, Susanna Mortara, BG Hook

Not Present:

Present: Phil Schultz, Steve Duback, Anne Booth, Steve Morse, Brian DesPlaines, Dave O'Brien, Tom Cheney, Mary Ritchie, Dennis Buettner, Sarah Zimmerman, Virginia Schwartz, Ann Wollmer (Administrator), Gerry Broderick (ex officio)

Guests: Bill Lynch, Jim Goulee

1. Tom Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. Dave O'Brien made a motion to approve the September minutes with two corrections. Brian Desplaines seconded, and the motion passed with no opposition.
3. Staff Annual Review – Ann Wollmer has done a terrific job in her second year as Administrator, and a salary raise is appropriate even in a year when most organizations are not offering cost of living adjustments. Phil Schultz made a motion to approve a 4.8% raise. Anne Booth seconded, and the motion passed with no opposition.
4. Government report - The County budget is currently being negotiated. County Executive Walker wants parking meters at the lakefront and has put \$450,000 in the budget as meter revenue; UWM has opposed it; the impact on traffic congestion would be a problem. People should contact the County Executive's office to communicate their opinions. Gerry believes that charging access to park system runs against the grain of longstanding traditions. Gerry proposed an amendment to restore many of the Parks positions that are being cut. Our Parks system recently won a gold medal for management. Gerry also proposed a \$2 million capital expenditure for a vehicular urban campground at Bender Park in St. Francis, which would generate revenue. Shorewood will work with the Parks on a new bridge for the bike path at Capitol. The dog park program could get expanded to 15-16 sites. People pay fees to use it and must also license their dogs to use it. The South Lion bridge is close to having full funding secured. Gerry Broderick was excused from the meeting.
5. Public Parks Alliance presentation – Bill Lynch and Jim Goulee described the PPA's efforts and asked for LPF's support. PPA was formed by people from Preserve our Parks and the Park People, because a separate organization was needed that could lobby at County and State level. Inadequacy of Parks funding is its main focus. There have been two proposals: (1) Sales tax increase would generate much more revenue and would be dedicated to the parks, instead of property tax funding which is NOT dedicated to parks. Would not include a governance change. (2) Create a Parks commission with elected citizen board. Funding source would be property tax levy for County. Would not be a funding increase mechanism, but a governance change, which could reduce expenses. One percent sales tax increase for parks, culture AND transit passed in November 2008, but the governor vetoed legislature's package of .5% for transit and .15% for public safety. The governor favors a Parks Commission solution. PPA sees a strategy for getting the dedicated .5% sales tax increase for parks through the legislature in the next 5-6 months. PPA is working with legislators, and County Supervisors are supportive of it (although not the County Executive). PPA is also working with Martin Schreiber and Michael D'Amato on lobbying. The organization is looking to us for support for its overall effort, including fundraising.

Jim Goulee handed out a presentation with charts showing decline in Parks budget compared to County. For 2010, property tax levy for Parks is reduced from \$24 million to \$16 million.

They'd like us to contribute to PPA individually, and/or as LPF, and would like to use our mailing lists if possible. We could talk to other friends groups to get them on board, especially in key districts. Consider an event where PPA speaks, or a profile in the newsletter. Consider nominating a board member to PPA board.

PPA's contact information is:

1845 N. Farwell Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53211

ppa@publicparksalliance.org

www.publicparksalliance.org/index.html

Bill Lynch and Jim Goulee left the meeting.

Discussion was had about ways to assist PPA while avoiding sending e-mail or mail that will offend members' views or will exceed what a 501(c)(3) is permitted to do. Should we send out the e-mail ourselves, or give them our mailing list? Possible newsletter articles were also suggested. We should also find out whether LPF signed a 501(h) election, which allows spending up to 20% on lobbying.

Dave O'Brien made a motion to authorize Tom Cheney and Steve Duback to formulate a strategy to work with PPA to promote their support for legislation to increase funding for the Parks system. Virginia Schwartz seconded, and the motion passed with no opposition.

6. Treasurer's report – Brian Desplaines will e-mail everyone the latest financials. Next year's budget is not quite done because of two outstanding questions:
 1. Playground: When will we spend the playground money? Answer: we don't know, but not this year.
 2. Timing of decision on the Schoenleber grant? We could find out in December. Asked for \$36,000 for a two-year period. Ann will call them to get a time frame.
7. Administrator's Report – The Fall newsletter deadline is coming up soon; Directors should send new article ideas. Ann is investigating new e-mail managers which would make e-mailing members easier. Membership renewals are being sent out monthly, which is working better.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Bylaws revisions – Steve Morse proposed the following four amendments to the bylaws, which had been distributed to the Board more than a week before the meeting:
 1. To be added to Article III, Section 1, a new subsection reading:

To be qualified to serve as President, a candidate must have served at least one term of two years on the Board of Lake Park Friends, said term to have finished by the time the candidate

would assume office. The two years on the Board may have been completed at any time in the past and need not be immediately preceding taking office.

2. To be changed in Article IV, Section 4 (“Other Committees”):

The sentence reading “Committee members need not be members of Lake Park Friends” would be changed to read “Committee members must be members of Lake Park Friends.”

3. To be added to Article IV, Section 3 (“Executive Committee”), a new subsection reading:

The names of the members of the Executive Committee shall be published immediately after their selection both online on the Lake Park Friends website and in the next Lake Park Lion.

4. To be added to Article IV, Section 4, (“Other Committees”), a new subsection C reading:

The names of the members of the Nominating Committee and the Financial Planning Committee shall be published immediately after their selection both online on the Lake Park Friends website and in the next Lake Park Lion.

Discussion was had on each proposed amendment. A vote was conducted by a show of hands. The first proposed amendment was defeated 9 to 2. The second proposed amendment was defeated 7 to 4. The third and fourth proposed amendments each passed 10 to 1. The Secretary will be responsible for updating the bylaws.

b. Projects update – The topic was pushed to a later meeting.

c. Board Insurance – Steve Duback was prepared to talk about insurance, but the topic was pushed to a later meeting.

9. New Business:

- a. Retiring Board member replacement–The Nominating Committee nominated Katie West to fill the Director slot vacated by Karen Fox. Katie has run Wonderful Wednesdays for two years. She has been an East sider for 20 years, loves the park, and has 3 kids. Katie has chaired 3 large fundraising events, used to practice law, and is pursuing a certificate in nonprofit management. She is also a member of LPF. Dave O’Brien made a motion to elect Katie to the vacant Director position, Sarah Zimmerman seconded, and the motion passed without opposition.
- b. Virginia Schwartz made a motion to approve the purchase of a camera for LPF use for approximately \$400. Anne Booth seconded, and the motion passed with no opposition.

Next board meeting **Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**