Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council  
Thursday, 12 February 2009  
7:00p.m.  
Parkview Hills Clubhouse  
3707 Greenleaf Circle

The recorded comments below are expressions of council members and are not approved policy until voted on. The statements were not recorded verbatim and cannot be used as quotes.

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m.

II. Roll Call  
a. Sign-In Roster  
Council Members Present: Paul MacNellis, Duane Hampton, Bob Nagler, Chuck Ide, Bill Steinmann, Mark Hoffman, Steve Kohler, Tim Holysz, Bob Jorth  
Guests Present: Cari DeLong (Council Coordinator), Charles Emerson, Philip Micklin, Joshua Shultz, Remy Long, Benjamin Ayers, Cal Mastin (Alt. for Mark Hoffman), Amy DeShon  

b. Introduction of New Members  
- Paul introduced Bob Jorth as the representative for Parkview Hills.  
- Paul asked that each Council member provide him with background information.

III. Adoption of 12 February 2009 Agenda  
Bob Nagler moved to approve the 12 February 2009 meeting agenda. Tim Holysz seconded.

IV. Approval of 09 October 2008 Meeting Minutes  
Duane Hampton moved to approve the 09 October 2008 meeting minutes. Bill Steinmann seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business  
a. Granting Opportunities through USDA  
Amy DeShon  
(see public comments section)

b. Kalamazoo Community Foundation Report  
Cari DeLong  
Cari handed out copies of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation 2008 annual report and went over the details with the Council.
VII. Project/Special Committee Reports
   a. Research/Education Committee
      Cari DeLong
      Cari reported that there have been no applications submitted for research and education at Asylum Lake since the last meeting.

   b. Operations Committee
      No report.

   c. PR Subcommittee
      No report.

   d. Trails Subcommittee
      Comprehensive Trail System Project
      Tom Edmonds
      Phil reported that the trails subcommittee reviewed the RFP responses and picked Larry Harris & Assoc. to proceed with designing a comprehensive trail system at Asylum Lake.

   e. Construction Subcommittee
      • Paul reported that S&T has not started the construction on the Winchell entrance because of the winter weather that hit early this year. There is a sign at the entrance explaining the project.
      • Paul gave an update on the spillway project. It has been designed by Larry Harris & Assoc. but Paul would like to ask Larry’s project engineer to inspect the condition of the culvert.
      • Paul gave an update on the Parkview entrance project. Larry Harris & Assoc. have almost completed the design.
      • Bob asked if there was still a chance to review the final design of the Winchell entrance before proceeding with construction. He recently presented the design to the Parkwyn Association. The feedback he received at the meeting was that the design was too elaborate and cost too much money. There was concern that it would cause parking issues.
      • Paul responded that the Council has already reviewed and approved the project. The price came in at $39,000 plus money for plantings, which was lower than the design estimate price. He stated that Bob brings up good points but should have gone to his constituency sooner.
      • Bob commented that he was passing along the information and if the Council hasn’t proceeded too far then maybe some changes could be made. There will be global warming issues coming up in the near future that we will need money to address. Important to keep an emergency fund.
      • Paul asked the Council if anyone felt the project should be stopped and re-evaluated.
      • Duane commented that the neighborhood is concerned about excess traffic but there are a limited amount of parking spots so not a valid concern.
      • Mark commented that the construction project was brought up at the August meeting. There was no quorum but the council members present voted to continue. The rest were poled through e-mail. Limestone and porous paving were more expensive but chosen for their utility. Prices seemed reasonable.
      • Paul and Tim commented that the entrance was designed to look presentable and be easy to maintain. Some materials were expensive because they were good quality and would last a long time.
Paul reminded Council members to please react for your constituency and get information to them. The Council can always table items until the next meeting.

VIII. Public Comments

- Amy DeShon introduced herself and explained that she was a past president of ALPA when citizens were lobbying to preserve the property and has experience working with organizations on federal grants. Here to talk about the USDA Dec 2008 Agriculture & Food Research Initiative Grants Program through the Farm Bill supporting $191 million of research. Would like to ask the Council to allow Asylum Lake Preserve to become a research site under the grants and also to solicit professors to become involved in the grants.

- A list of the grants viable to Kalamazoo was passed out.

- Amy has developed a list of interested partners. Some grants would have to identify other partners. Projects are more successful when more collaborative. Her interest is to bring in economic development to SW Michigan

- Amy has spoken to Dr. Greene, WMU’s provost. WMU is willing to be the fiduciary if she can find professors interested. Apply to as many as possible. Group of about 15 grants that apply.

- Chuck Ide asked if each RFP was a separate grant or are they submitted as a package?

- Amy responded that the grants are either integrated or not. Even if a grant is stand alone considering them in conjunction with other grants can be beneficial.

- USDA wants projects that can be emulated in other places. Have to say we accomplished our goals and learned things that can be done elsewhere.

- Charles Emerson asked if a land grant institution had to be involved in the grants?

- Amy responded that they require major university involvement but does not have to be a land grant institution. Individuals could apply for these grants.

- Duane asked if these grants were annual or one time opportunities?

- Amy responded that the NRI has been around for 30 years. This specific collection of grants is different and new to this year.

- Duane commented that the Council might be well positioned for matching funds. Maybe these grants should be developed on a longer term basis by a subcommittee.

- Amy pointed out that she is not asking council to be the author.

- Duane commented that the Council should integrate the management plan into the grant. The management plan is funded by foundation money but we could expand that money with granting. Duane questioned whether the Council could meet the deadline and do it in a way that is meaningful to ALP?

- Amy responded that professors would work with her as she writes the grants. Asking if the Council would be willing to allow the lead professor on the grant to do research at ALP?

- Paul responded that yes they would be allowed to do research at ALP as long as the research protocol is filled out and accepted by the research committee and it does not conflict with the Management Plan or Conservation Agreement. Something of this magnitude would come before the Council.

- There was general agreement of this from the Council.
IX. Council/Staff Comments

- Chuck Ide reported that he attended a meeting in which the VP for Research presented on an EPA RFP that seemed appropriate for Asylum Lake. There is money available to design a plan that provides better access to recreational areas for the use of retired individuals and involve them in the process. This may fit well with city’s plans since there are designs for a walk along Parkview Ave.

- Paul explained that the city designed an access along the south end of ALP that involved a boardwalk along Little Asylum Lake. WMU administration has been meeting with the city to make this project happen. It went out to bid and came back 50% higher. Then the money for the project was pulled from the city so the project never happened.

- Paul also explained that a sidewalk along Parkview would allow safer pedestrian access to neighborhoods like Parkview Hills. If the Council can come up with granting money it might be incentive for the city to begin the project.

- Ide commented that this grant seems to be a good match for this group. There are retired people on the Council. If interested anyone can attend the next grant meeting.

- Cari passed out cd copies of the management plan that was approved at the October council meeting.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06p.m.