AGENDA:

I. Call to Order
   Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call
   a. Sign-In Roster
      Council Members Present: David Nessius (alt. for Helen Davis), Frank Wolf, Duane Hampton, Tyler Bassett, Mark Hoffman, Chuck Ide, Tim Holysz, Cari DeLong (alt. for Paul MacNellis)
      Guests Present: Phil Micklin, Kay Chase

III. Adoption of 14 April 2011 Agenda
      Duane Hampton motioned to approve the 14 April 2011 agenda. Frank Wolf seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. Approval of 11 November 2010 Meeting Minutes
      Frank Wolf motioned to approve the 11 November 2010 meeting minutes. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business
   a. Ecological Management
      Tyler Bassett
      Motion: Duane Hampton motioned to approve the allocation of $60,000 for ecological restoration work by Wildtype. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

      - Tyler reported that there was a walk-through at Asylum Lake for the consulting companies to discuss the RFP released in March. Proposals from seven companies were received. The management committee met and discussed each proposal at length. The preferred proposal was from Wildtype. They had a strong, detailed proposal and good references. Their cost was within the expected range.
      - Wildtype will begin invasive species control during September and October of 2011 in the specified high quality areas on the north and south side of Asylum Lake totaling 16 acres. Once the invasive species control has been completed in the spring of 2012 this will open up opportunities for restoration. Wildtype will develop a proposal to complete a restoration plan. If there is still a satisfactory relationship at the end of the contract, the management committee would like to continue with Wildtype to perform the restoration.
      - Chuck brought up concern for the use of herbicides within the plan.
      - Cari responded that the management committee was intentionally vague in its RFP in order to get a sense of each company’s knowledge base and experience. There were no requirements for herbicide use given in the RFP. Wildtype’s suggestions for herbicide use will be reviewed and discussed.
Duane asked where this project falls on our priority list. Frank explained that this project falls high on the priority list because we have yet to complete any ecological restoration projects at the property. It comes down to a cost of $1,000-2,000 per acre for restoration. Once we begin invasive control then we are locked into restoration for that area. Kay added that these areas are priority because they are high quality areas containing remnant, conservative species. The Council requested details on Wildtype’s plan for equipment and herbicide use. The management committee will meet with Wildtype to talk over the details of the project. Duane Hampton motioned to approve the allocation of $60,000 for ecological restoration work by Wildtype. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

b. Drake Road Parking Lot
Tim Holysz

- Tim gave an update on the Drake Road entrance project. On May 9th the parking lot will be temporarily closed and the final coat of asphalt will be completed. The northern Drake Road parking lot will be temporarily re-opened. The project should be completed by May 21.

c. Dogs off Leashes/Animal Control
Tom Edmonds

- Tim reported that Landscape Services has not received any bills from animal control. There is no evidence they have been patrolling the property.
- Cari reported that Tom will be pursuing this issue with animal control and potentially WMU DPS.
- Mark read an email he received from Carol Smith, a regular user of the property, on the topic of dogs at Asylum Lake Preserve. She requested that the Council consider adding a designated area for dogs without leashes.
- There was general agreement that a designated area for dogs was not within the purposes of the Preserve and would unnecessarily add liability to WMU.

VI. New Business
a. KCF Annual Statement
Cari DeLong

- Cari went over the details of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation Annual report with the Council.

b. Americorps
Cari DeLong

Motion: Duane Hampton motioned to approve $3,000 to fund a supervisor for an AmeriCorps crew to work at Asylum Lake Preserve. Charles Ide seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

- Cari explained that she was approved to receive an AmeriCorps crew to work in her Natural Areas Program at Asylum Lake and Kleinstuck Preserves. They will be arriving on May 19th and leaving on June 30th. VP Rinker has funded their on-campus housing and meals. The tasks they will be working on at Asylum Lake may include the development of educational signage, removal of invasive species, and development of educational tours.
Cari requested that the Council fund the hiring of a WMU student to supervise the AmeriCorps crew while they work at Asylum Lake for three days out of the week. She will fund the supervisor for the other two days while they work at Kleinstuck Preserve.

Duane Hampton motioned to approve $3,000 to fund a supervisor for an AmeriCorps crew to work at Asylum Lake Preserve. Charles Ide seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Tyler announced that his wife is head of the Michigan Earth Corps and will be working with Cari to complete a project with high school students at Asylum Lake Preserve in late May. Likely it will be an invasive removal project.

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports

a. Research/Education Committee
   Cari DeLong
   
   Cari reported on five new applications submitted and approved by the research and education committee since our last Council meeting.

   Dr. Bondarchuk, WMU Dept. of Art requested that one of her students be able to display an art project that would hang from the trees along Little Asylum Lake on Dec 9, 2010.

   Dr. Malcolm, WMU Dept. of Biology applied to host four of his 3010 Ecology labs at Asylum Lake on Nov 18, 2010.

   Dr. Gill, WMU Dept. of Biology, applied to set up mist nets for bird banding from April to August of this year. She is testing the hypothesis that animals living in urban environments display altered behaviors.

   Cari submitted an application to host around 150 volunteers from the Michigan Church of God to pull garlic mustard throughout the forested areas of Asylum Lake Preserve on May 21.

   Cari submitted an application to dig a hole next to the paved drive in order to dispose of the garlic mustard that is pulled during the season.

b. PR Subcommittee
   Cari DeLong
   
   No updates.

c. Trails Subcommittee
   Tom Edmonds
   
   Frank reported for Tom. The trails committee has a list of priority projects with the east trail and spillway projects at the top of the list. The spillway project plan is complete and ready to be bid.

   Duane requested that the plan for the east trail and the spillway be presented at our next Council meeting.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Council/Staff Comments

Tim announced that the City will begin construction this spring on the walkway to connect the sidewalks along the south side of Asylum Lake Preserve on Parkview Avenue.

Cari announced that she will be hosting a garlic mustard pull with the Michigan Church of God for Asylum Lake and Kleinstuck Preserves on May 21. She will also be hosting an event
in collaboration with the Kalamazoo Nature Center to have 150 3rd graders from different schools in Kalamazoo visit Asylum Lake. She is looking for volunteers for both events.

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.