Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council  
Thursday, 11 August 2011  
7 pm  
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 7:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call  
a. Sign-In Roster  
Council Members Present: David Nessius (alt. for Michele Richards), Mark Hoffman, Chuck Ide, Tim Holysz, Cari DeLong, Steve Kohler, Jay Emerson, Frank Wolf, Tyler Bassett  
Guests Present: Phil Micklin, Paul MacNellis, Kay Chase

b. New Member Introductions  
Paul announced that there are currently two vacancies on the Council. One with the Campus Planning and Finance Council and another with the Parkview Neighborhood Association. He stated that Cari is now the representative for the WMU Vice President of Business and Finance and Michele Richards replaced Bill Steinman as the representative for the ECC.

III. Adoption of 11 August 2011 Agenda  
Steve Kohler motioned to approve the 11 August 2011 agenda. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. Approval of 14 April 2011 Meeting Minutes  
Mark Hoffman motioned to approve the 14 April 2011 meeting minutes. Tim Holysz seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

V. Old Business  
a. Drake Road Parking Lot Update  
Paul MacNellis  
- Paul stated that the parking lot construction is finished and the infrastructure is in place at the new entrance off of Drake Road. There were some problems with the storm water flow into the rain garden. Those problems were corrected with the addition of riprap and an extra check dam. The rain garden will be planted with native vegetation this fall.
- Tim added that student volunteers will be planting the rain garden.

b. Animal Control Update  
Tim Holysz  
- Tim stated that he received a bill for $2,300 from the county animal control. The bill included an itemized list of the times and dates Animal Control had patrolled the property. They issued 3 warnings and 14 citations from March through April. There were no citations in May.
• It was noted by a few Council members that more people now have their dogs on leashes when they visit the property.

c. **AmeriCorps Update**  
*Cari DeLong*  
Cari reported on the AmeriCorps group that worked in WMU natural areas during their 6 weeks of stay at Western. She passed around a summary of the projects they completed at Asylum Lake and other WMU natural areas.

d. **Ecological Restoration Project Update**  
*Cari DeLong*  
Cari reported that a team from Wildtype Inc. has been working at Asylum Lake Preserve for 4-5 days within the past month. They have been cutting invasives and treating the vegetation with herbicide. They have also been broadcast spraying invasives under 1 inch diameter with herbicide. The cut invasives have been piled near the trails and in the winter will be ground by a brush hog or burned. Wildtype is done working for the summer and will resume in the fall.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Council Seat Elections**  
*Paul MacNellis*  
• Paul stated that the Council needs to have elections for Chair and Co Chair.  
• Kay nominated Cari DeLong for the position of Chair. Seconded by Mark. All in favor. None opposed.  
• Tim nominated Mark Hoffman as Co Chair. Jay seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

b. **KCF Quarterly Report**  
*Cari DeLong*  
Cari went over the details of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation quarterly report with the Council.

c. **Winchell Entrance**  
*Cari DeLong*  
Cari reported that Larry Harris was consulted on how to improve the entrance off of Winchell Drive. He recommended that the railing be raised to a height consistent with building codes. S&T Landscaping will be completing this project within the next few weeks. These improvements will be paid for with money left over from the construction of this entrance.

d. **DEQ Clean MI Initiatives Grant**  
*Cari DeLong*  
*Motion:* Mark Hoffman motioned to endorse the proposed actions within the DEQ Clean MI Initiatives Grant grant due to its benefits to Asylum Lake. Steve Kohler seconded. All in favor. None opposed.
  
• Cari announced that WMU received a Clean MI Initiatives grant from the DEQ to divert storm water that currently flows directly into Asylum Lake. The storm water will be diverted to the property across Drake Road that is owned by WMU Foundation.  
• The grant award is $400,000 and WMU contributed $154,000 in in-kind matching funds from new storm water improvements planned for Sangren Hall.
• This grant will reduce 119 lbs per year of phosphorus and 15.8 tons of total suspended solids input per year to Asylum Lake.
• Cari – reduce the nutrient and sediment load to Asylum Lake and in turn to Little Asylum Lake. We will then be able to deal with the issues on the west side of the lake such as the invasive phragmites once the nutrient load is no longer a problem.
• The plans for the storm water treatment on the Foundation property are conceptual at this point. WMU will be working with the Foundation, Kieser & Assoc., Oshtemo Township and MDOT to create final construction documents during the granting period.
• There was general consensus that this grant will be a benefit to the ecology of the lakes.
• Mark Hoffman motioned to endorse the proposed actions within the DEQ Clean MI Initiatives grant due to its benefits to Asylum Lake. Steve Kohler seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

VII. Project/Special Committee Reports
   a. Research/Education Committee
      Cari DeLong
      • Cari reported on four new applications submitted and approved by the research and education committee since our last Council meeting.
      • The WMU Geosciences Field course was approved for June through August. It will be the same as in previous years, with testing of wells in the prairie and along the paved driveway. These areas were mowed by Landscape Services. There will be no drilling of new wells.
      • A WMU Geoscience Wetland Hydrology course was approved. The class performed an analysis of Little Asylum Lake using plant identification and soil sampling. They drilled 10 ft deep pvc wells with a hand auger and properly abandoned them after the study was completed.
      • A field day with 150 3rd graders from 4 different Kalamazoo schools was approved. It was part of a collaboration between WMU and the Kalamazoo Nature Center as part of their No Child Left Inside program. The students rotated through four different educational stations set up around the preserve with the help of around 25 volunteers.
      • A WMU Environment Field Geochemistry course was approved for the fall 2011 semester. There will be 10-15 students in the class who will design an experiment and test using water column sampling with canoes and sediment sampling near the shoreline. They will be storing a canoe on-site. At the end of the course the students report their findings at a community forum.

   b. PR Subcommittee
      Cari DeLong
      Cari reported that she has finished revamping the Asylum Lake website. She asked that Council members look over the new website and send her feedback.

   c. Trails Subcommittee
      Tom Edmonds
      • Frank recommended that the Council develop a budget since now the Council has an idea of what is needed for maintenance and restoration. He estimated that it costs around $4,000 per acre for removal of invasives and $2,000 per acre for reforestation. He proposed that the Council develop a 5 year budget that should be reviewed every year.
      • Cari asked that Frank develop a rough budget to send out to the Council for review before the next meeting. Frank and Tim will work on a budget.
Mark asked about informational signage for the lookout at the new walkway along Parkview Ave. Cari suggested the management committee put together the information. Tim suggested that Cari check with the city.

VIII. Public Comments
- David reported that the parking lot off of Parkview Avenue has a dense overgrowth of brush near the entrance which prevents visitors from seeing the parking lot from the road.
- Tim will look into this issue.

IX. Council/Staff Comments
- Tim reported that there is still $14,000 left in the maintenance fund.

X. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.