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## **LPF board meeting, 6-28-11**

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Lake Park Friends Board of Directors Meeting, June 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Marcia Coles Community Room

Present: Nik Kovac, Dave Burch, Jayne Pink, Alice Wilson, Susanna Mortara, Steve Duback, Jim Cope, Jennifer Grasse, Katie West, Steve Morse, Judy Van Till, Phil Schultz, Sarah Zimmerman, Sandy Wiegand (joined at 8:15), Ann Wollmer

Excused: Ann Vermut, Brian Desplaines

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Jayne Pink was welcomed to the board. The continuing board members all introduced themselves.

Approval of April 26 minutes: On a motion by Sarah Zimmerman (Alice Wilson second), the minutes of the April 26, 2011 board meeting were approved without opposition.

Government report: Alderman Nik Kovac. A new Lakefront Development Committee is being chaired by Sue Black. The pre-existing Lakefront Development Advisory Committee affects the entire lakefront. The new one is more informal but active, spurred by recent proposals to tear down O'Donnell parking structure. How can we improve the hub of the lakefront near Discovery World and the Art Museum? The State, County and City have overlapping jurisdiction and are all represented on the committee. There is a feeling that the bus barn doesn't belong there, and it has been determined the region would not have to give back a federal grant if we move it. Mr. Kovac thinks we should have a scenic walkway on the Hoan Bridge, which would also allow bikes. Would require giving up a car lane, but wouldn't cost any more. Mr. Kovac would also like to get rid of the ramps or at least change their curve to create another development opportunity. There are minutes kept of these public meetings, which we could view.

Mr. Kovac discussed three efforts to address sewage backup problem on the east side: fix laterals, more storm water retention onsite, and fix leaky 100-year-old pipes.

Judy Van Till commented about weeds in the landscaping around O'Donnell. Dave Burch said crews are being assigned to those area to do weeding and put in more flowers.

Katie West commented that the boulevards look great under the new system.

Dave Burch remarked that the Parks Department submitted a "wish list" of infrastructure projects for 2012 for approval. The capital planning process for 2013-2016 has also started.

Development report: Alice Wilson. Newberry Boulevard planting: A donor wants to fund planting of the entrance, including funding it in perpetuity. The committee is being newly staffed. Judy Van Till will take over the Olmsted Poet's Walk project (benches). Susanna and Ann Vermut will co-chair the Cirque de Lake Park. Jennifer Grasse and Steve Duback will help create a running list of possible enhancements to the park with an estimate of the price tag. Ann Vermut will work to incorporate social media into our efforts. Alice would like for the end of year appeal to include a personal salutation to past donors. She noted that we have done very efficient fundraising and have very sophisticated donors. We're also working on LPF t-shirts, mugs, picnic baskets, a plate, etc. We might be able to initiate a web store.

County report: Dave Burch. Status of roadway project: the road is scheduled to be done next week. The Lake Park Road bridge is a WISDOT-driven project; it will not make the original deadline of late June. Traffic will be allowed but the bridge will not be completed. South Lion bridge June 30 completion date has been extended to July 29. Ravine project: two FEMA applications were related to the waterfall ravine. The goal is to get repair work done

quickly because there has been additional damage. The County does have the money, and work can occur with continued good weather. LPF should be involved in a meeting which should be set up within the next week. There is no money available for the other ravines. Dave would like to use T&M contractors rather than go through a slow competitive bidding process. Phil Schultz noted that we have donations to the Ravine, and donors are concerned about the lack of progress following the washout.

Playground: Playground project: the Department is ready to choose a final design, and the goal is to complete it by the end of August. Poured-in-place rubber concrete requires good nighttime temperatures. Dave showed three draft plans for the new play area. Exact equipment would be determined with the vendor. Phil asked Dave to get us a copy of the plan when it's made.

Benches: Sarah Toomsen is the Department's new landscape architect. Sarah will meet with Judy and Sarah Zimmerman to approve new bench locations.

Sue Forlenza has worked on a proposal to rent the MCCR. The County gets requests to rent the space. Paul Kuglitsch, the Parks' contract officer, is good at negotiating creative agreements and could work on this issue.

There was no Treasurer's report, but Phil reported he had looked at the May financials and saw nothing unusual. The organization is in good shape financially.

Administrator's Report: Ann Wollmer. Ann sent out an email with membership numbers earlier. Board members appreciated having that report. Newsletter went out earlier this week. Board members praised the excellent newsletter. Mead & Hunt was retained to do a historic survey of all the Parks, so they were in the park taking photos.

Executive Committee report: The Executive Committee met earlier in the month and discussed work on the Waterfall Ravine, the

Performance Structure (including authorizing \$3000 for an engineer), renting the MCCR, and questions about reserving tennis courts.

Waterfall Ravine Update: Prior to the meeting, Phil sent out an email and responded to several questions from Steve Morse. Two years in a row of washouts at the top are one issue; the other issue is the rain garden at the bottom. There is a bid from Marek for \$22,000 to repair the top, but it was uncertain whether the money was available. Now Dave Burch tells us the money is available. (see handout -- we have \$13,000 on hand. Handout lists expenses. Estimate to dig a pond is \$20,000, plus Joe Suszek plus contingency. Total additional funds needed are \$20,368.) Pond would be deep enough to support aquatic life, up to 8 feet deep. We can improve storm water management too. Phil requested an increase in budget of just under \$20,000. A question was raised about liability with a deep pond, but Phil reported it is not expected to be a problem. Jenkins Survey (civil engineer) is doing a pro bono topographic survey of the ravine and design structure so we can manage the storm water. Dave Burch acknowledged the drains around the top are plugged, exacerbating the problem. The parking lot drains to the ravine, which is a problem that can't be solved without spending a great deal of money.

Based on Phil's proposal, Steve Duback moved that LPF allocate \$21,000 of our unrestricted funds to the waterfall ravine repair and pond project, and Sarah Zimmerman seconded. Discussion was had. The motion passed without opposition.

Sandy Wiegand joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Performance structure update: Sandy Wiegand. Committee members responded to a question regarding how the budget got up to \$125,000: it was determined we couldn't build a pavilion for \$75,000, and there was a desire to include \$15,000 for maintenance (which is included in the \$125,000). The total includes grading, landscaping, running in electricity, building the platform, etc. The committee also picked the most expensive timber frame, to make sure the quality is good. Prices are preliminary. Our donors have said all along that a high-quality

project is important to them, but at this time they do not seem to want to give more than \$100,000. The donor was asked to review the architectural plan and was asked for a \$10,000 advance and also a letter of intent to eventually give the entire \$100,000, but has not released any money for drawings yet. We are submitting an application to the historic preservation committee on July 7. Katie West asked that the board get an email when we get a response from the donor. Joel from Kubala Washatko is spending a lot of time at very low rates. Phil suggested a capital campaign, with the recognition that we might have to make up some of the money out of our reserves. It was suggested this could be a cause for the Cirque.

Phil proposed that the board commit up to \$25,000 for the performance structure, conditional on the \$100,000 being committed in writing from the donor and that we urge the donor to consider funding the entire cost, including a \$15,000 replacement reserve (which would become a restricted fund). Steve Duback made a motion to that effect, and Jim Cope seconded. Discussion was had. The motion passed unopposed.

Fourth of July: Jim Cope. This year we will have two carriages, at a cost of an extra \$400. They will be in the parade and give free rides until 1:00. The parade begins at 9:00.

Changing the day of the board meeting: Phil Schultz. Based on agreement from the present board members, board meetings will henceforth be the second Tuesday of every other month. August 9 will be the next board meeting, either here or at the Warming House.

Ravine cleanup: Sandy Wiegand. The cleanup was fantastic. We had 9 volunteers on Friday and one really strong man on Saturday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.