

## Lake Park Friends Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 • 7:00 p.m. • Location: **Marcia Coles Community Room**

Present: Steve Duback, Jennifer Grasse, Katie West, Alice Wilson, Anne Booth, BG Hook, Mary Ritchie, Jim Cope, Phil Schultz, Dennis Buettner, Susanna Mortara, Sarah Zimmerman, Ann Wollmer (Administrator)

Excused: Steve Morse, Brian Hansen

Absent: Tom Cheney, Brian Desplaines

1. Phil Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Steve Duback made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2010 board meeting, Anne Booth seconded. Jim Cope pointed out that LPF, not the Fourth of July committee, spent \$550 on the horse-drawn carriage. The directors agreed the minutes should be changed to reflect that and approved the revised minutes without opposition.
3. Government report -- Sue Forlenza, Deputy Regional Operations Manager: Sue Black asked Sue Forlenza to attend the meeting. Sue noted that FEMA-funded work is under way; the bridge project is under way; and waterfall ravine work is underway with Joe Suszek. South Lion bridge work should finish by June. LPF was encouraged us to contact Sue if we have questions in the future. The County budget is still in progress. This time of year, the Parks Department is losing more staff due to last year's budget funding one position only part of the year. Twelve positions go over to the highway department because the positions are split. A five percent budget cut for the upcoming year for Parks has been discussed.

There are 26 furlough days for represented employees; non-represented employees got 12 this year. Staffing of some projects is uncertain, such as the ice rink, but the Lake Unit is well represented and is expected to have good staffing. John, who has experience with the rink, is still around although Nate will be off on medical leave; an additional forestry worker will start November 1. Sue Gillman will also be helping with the process. Sue said the rink is a priority and should be considered a go for this year, but it is a complicated process and requires some knowledge and training.

The playground remodel is set for next year as part of a larger playground replacement project (Susanna has spoken with Mike Rapp and learned that includes Lincoln and Washington Parks).

4. Treasurer's Report: Because Brian Desplaines was absent, there was no report.
5. Administrator's Report: The North Point Lighthouse is having annual wine-tasting and auction on December 3, 2010, from 6 to 10 p.m. December 4 will be the children's ornament decorating event with Santa. The first email version of the Lake Park Lion went out today. There are 440 memberships as of today. Ann circulated a list of memberships that are getting ready to lapse; we should try to get personal letters to as many of them as possible. Please let Ann know if you know anyone on the list. The mailing should include a reply device. Eleven people whose memberships had lapsed came to the Cirque.

Calendars by the Park People are ready and feature Lake Park for the month of July. We will keep \$3 for each \$12 calendar sold.

6. Old Business:

- a. Waterfall Ravine Update – Phil Schultz. Work is in progress; the top and bottom are on separate circuits and we could have one working when the other is not. The pumps have been reinforced to protect them from vandalism. FEMA is funding some restoration work. Kevin would like to use FEMA money to build the rain garden; that work might be pushed to spring if not completed this fall. The falls used to have a stairway down the hill; a problem is that people are now walking up and down the falls themselves and there is a risk of people falling into the four-foot-deep water. We should consider providing a way for people to walk down on a stairway. Signage could be tried first.
- b. Cirque Update – Susanna Mortara. \$13,283.00 was our gross income. Expenses were \$1000-2000. The Cirque's total profit: \$12,238.69 or possibly closer to \$11,000 after all expenses. About 123 people came. For next year we're considering a summer kids-oriented event in conjunction with the Lighthouse, possibly bringing in the Milwaukee Kickers and Little League.
- c. Performance Structure Update – Mary Ritchie. Mary circulated Dennis Buettner's design for the performance stage and Dennis described it. It would have a translucent roof. Some community members have joined the committee. Some directors would prefer to see steps across the length of the front of the stage, but they were left out of the design in part because of concerns about expense. A concern was raised that this design is not traditional enough. Steve Duback favors a stage with nothing covering it. There is an upcoming committee meeting Friday, November 5 at 8 a.m. People may still decide to participate, but only if they are willing to commit to being very involved. The location of the performance stage is being discussed; Dennis proposes moving it toward the playground, just South of the existing path and the small childrens' playground. We should consider selling food and drink and turning it into a "mini-Ravinia."
- d. Bridge Update – Mary Ritchie. The brick arch bridge will be reopened December 18 for the ice rink and closed again December 28. They are putting pins in the bridge to hold it together. They will also clear trees and brush alongside the bridge so the bridge will be more visible.

7. New Business:

- a. Lake Park Strategic Planning – Phil Schultz. We will probably work with an outside consultant. Everyone should suggest names to Phil. Strategic questions include how the park should be used; how we should use the reserves we have; how do we want to relate to other parks and their friends groups; and can we clarify our goals and make them more likely to be achieved.
- b. Review of Milwaukee County Parks Budget – Phil Schultz. Sue can help us understand and track the County budget.
- c. Park Signage – Signage should be consistent throughout the park, and much of it is aging and needs replacing. We will work with the County; committees should not make decisions about signage on their own. Full discussion deferred to a future meeting.
- d. Wikipedia Saves Public Art-Milwaukee – Sarah Zimmerman. LPF was approached to research and write Wikipedia articles about the art in Lake Park. Sarah asked for ideas for volunteers who could do the work. Anne Booth suggested Diane Buck might be approached; Anne will ask her (Diane gave an address to the Antiquarian Society and is an expert on

- public sculpture). She would probably be able to do the Wolcott statue. Sarah Zimmerman agreed to ask Virginia Schwartz. The bridges and the buildings might be considered public art. It was suggested the project would be a good way to get recognition in the community.
- e. Donor Plaque – Anne Booth. The donor plaque was installed in the Marcia Coles room and looks terrific. We have 41 leaves and not that many donors, so there is room for additional donors on the wall.
  - f. Determine date for next board meeting – Phil Schultz. Next board meeting will be Tuesday, December 7, 2010. It was suggested we should endeavor to keep board meetings to big-picture governance issues and not get bogged down in minutiae.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.