

Lake Park Friends Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 • 7:00 p.m. • Location: **Marcia Coles Community Room**

Present: Ann Wollmer, Tom Cheney, Anne Booth, Katie West, Susanna Mortara, Jennifer Grasse, Steve Duback, Brian Hansen, Jim Cope, Brian Desplaines, Phil Schultz, Sarah Zimmerman, Chris Buell (Bookkeeper), Sue Gillman (Lake Unit Manager)

Excused: Mary Ritchie, BG Hook, Steve Duback, Alice Wilson

- Phil Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
- Approval of minutes.
- Jim Cope made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting of the board of directors, Anne Booth seconded, and the motion passed without opposition.
- There was discussion of the draft minutes of the June 29, 2010 special meeting. It was requested that a sentence be added concerning the board's decision to explore other design options. Anne Booth made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Tom Cheney seconded, and the motion passed without opposition.
- Introduction of Lake Unit Manager Sue Gillman. Sue and the board introduced themselves. Sue has been with the County for 1.5 years and was responsible for Jackson Unit, which includes 7 parks and more acreage than Lake Unit (but included less activity). Sue has landscape and health care experience. She views staffing as the Unit's biggest challenge, especially this time of year when seasonal workers are leaving and with a recent surprise retirement (a position which may not be filled anytime soon). Sue is working with a much smaller staff than in the past. In addition to Lake Park, she also is responsible for Gordon Park, Grant Park, and the bike path.
Sue noted that Lake Park is slated for a new class one playground, but there are no details on date/which budget cycle. Sue had not heard about a tennis court rehab, which we were told would occur as early as this year. The stone arch bridge work will begin in September. The road will be closed for some period of time.
Phil Schultz asked if Sue could provide an updated organizational chart so we can better understand staffing. Sue reports directly to Sue Forlenza, who reports to Guy Smith (chief of operations). In the Unit, there is currently Sue, John, and Nate.
It was asked how we can expect to put the rink together without several prior staff members. Sue thinks John has the necessary experience and Sue is eager to help as well.
During the flood, several trees came down; cleanup is ongoing. There was some damage to waterfall ravine, but Locust Street ravine had the most significant problems. Steve Morse noted that recent work on Locust Street ravine saved it from worse damage. The ravine is in pretty good shape considering the severity of the storm and flooding. The Nature Committee had bought and installed coir logs to prevent damage. Sue Gillman can be reached at susan.gillman@milwcnty.com.
Sue Gillman left the meeting.
- Treasurer's report: Brian Desplaines asked all committee chairs to submit budgets to him by email, or call with questions. Our accounting has been on the same system for the last year, so budgeting should be easier this year because we can compare to the past year's actuals.

The US Bancorp grant to Milwaukee County Parks, which we help administer with Chuck Ward, is the source of certain miscellaneous budget items like busing students. Lake Park Friends spent \$550 on the horse-drawn carriage. Fourth of July committee is not part of LPF.

Chris Buell asked that if anyone has questions, please let Chris know soon so she can make a change before the new budget year. The chart of accounts is the way it is to make it easier for Chris to fill out the form 990. Phil is now a signer and Tom is not. Chris asked if LPF could change our annual meeting to be closer to the start of the fiscal year. Chris moved La Dallman bills to unrestricted instead of restricted, since the grant money hasn't actually come in. A US Bank CD is coming due in September (\$104,000). About \$40,000 is restricted and about \$60,000 is restricted. The finance committee will consider what should be the maturity date of the next CD or other investment with those funds. Typically we've done 7 months but we might want to consider something shorter in case we might need the money; however, we have about \$55,000 of unrestricted funds elsewhere.

Please send invoices directly to Chris instead of sending them to Ann first.

Chris Buell left the meeting.

- Administrator's Report: Ann will begin new hours: T, W, and Th 9:30 to 3:00, starting the week after next.

The Park People are putting together a friends group calendar. Ann sent information to them; we are supposed to get 25% proceeds from its sale. Underwritten by a grant, all proceeds will benefit friends' groups. We can get the calendars and sell them. LPF is featured in July.

We received an invitation from Parks Department for award to Mead & Hunt for historic restoration work on North Lion Bridge. Thursday 10 a.m. in Marcia Coles room. Michael Stevens from Historical Society will present the award.

Membership: we have 31 new members since June 8 board meeting; we now have 428 memberships. Lapsed member list: Steve Duback sent out 15-20 hand-signed letters and Ann got 10 renewals. It was suggested that Ann should print out letters for all lapsed members and bring to board meetings, where people who know the lapsed members can sign the letters personally. We received 13 new members from the door-to-door marketing (leaving brochures). Volunteers are still needed to walk the last three segments of streets.

- Executive Committee report: Sarah Zimmerman noted that at its August 17, 2010 meeting, the Executive Committee had decided on the following steps with respect to the performance structure: We will see whether La Dallman can propose an alternative, less expensive design; we will meet with the donor to discuss status and the payment of grant money to cover architect bills; we will consider expanding the committee; and we will consider erecting a performance stage without a roof, which might later be able to have a roof added. Sarah also reported that the new policy with respect to park benches will be to put up benches around the park and then ask donors to sponsor those benches. To that end, more benches will be ordered soon. Dennis has the bench map on autocad and can update it if provided the information on recent benches.

- Old Business:
- Waterfall Ravine update: Phil Schultz: Sue Black said don't do any repair work until application for FEMA money is processed. FEMA money was approved. Proposal was prepared by Joe Suszek but we're just waiting now to find out what happens next. At the bottom where the rain garden is, we need a new inlet structure to get water into the storm water system. Phil hopes this will happen this fall, but lack of staff at the office and in the park make it hard. Broken drain tile at golf course causes water to back up, so water from the parking lot flows overland toward the waterfall, and inlet structure gets covered by debris so water can't get into the system. County plans to repair the drain tile, and possibly put domes over inlets. This fall we need to look at what to plant along the sides.

b. Cirque update: October 10, in collaboration with the Bistro to celebrate their 15th anniversary. They will list us in their newsletter. Last year the event was to raise money for the playground, but this year will be a general fundraiser. There will be a tent out front; LPB will do food and staffing; there will be an 88Nine deejay and we will get some radio publicity. Last year was 5-8. Downer Wine & Spirits will do 5 tasting tables and there will be an auction. Timing is tricky because there's a Packer game. Lawn bowlers will give a little clinic. Each board member should provide/secure one auction item. Susanna will email around ideas from last year's program. Committee needs people; Jennifer agreed to join.

c. Performance Structure Update: Tom Cheney: Tom has been exploring options on his own, which he can discuss with the committee and later with the board. One option is just getting a foundation but upgrading the surface. Then a range of options could be considered to go on top of it. La Dallman will propose other options to fit the budget, but they won't do it for free. Steve Morse suggested that adding a little height might improve visibility of the performers. People who want to be on the committee should volunteer: Dennis is willing to spend some time working with the committee. Dennis mentioned that we could consider use of the stage for theater, not just music. The current design would not work as a multi-purpose structure. We've been billed over \$16,000 through June 29. We have already paid \$11,000. \$5,700 bill is outstanding. La Dallman is giving us substantial discounts. The \$154,000 budget includes \$27,000 design fees and he thinks he can hit that. La Dallman has been told not to do any more work. Tom moved we pay \$5,716 in fees to La Dallman. Brian Desplaines seconded. The motion carried with two board members opposed. Anne Booth moved that we not pay La Dallman another cent after this bill. until the full board agrees on a plan for the stage. Steve D. seconded. Seven in favor, three opposed, one abstention. Brian Hansen is interested in serving on the committee but concerned about time, so is Steve Morse and Dennis Buettner. Brian D. is interested too.

Concert season update: Jim: It was a great season with a good reaction.
Planning and County Parks Budget deferred.

September 11 Indian Mound 100th Marking Commemoration: Steve Morse. Celebration starting at 10 a.m. with representatives of Lake Park. Phil will speak at it. Someone suggested

we revise our materials on the website; Ann made the changes.
Antiquarian Society \$700 grant received: Steve Morse.