



PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Farr Center – Onekama - 7:30 – 9:00 - Tuesday, March 27, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Blackmore, Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Alice Hendricks, Herb Lenon, DeeDee Miller (by phone), Tim Morley, Jon Phillips, Mary Reed, Al Taylor

The meeting was brass hammered to order at 7:20 PM by Chair Mary Reed.

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. Al Taylor asked that the minutes be amended to reflect where Beckett & Raeder's "Onekama Community Parks Access Plan" (a.k.a "Explore the Shores") should be posted. After a brief discussion, it was decided to put on the Watershed website.

Howard Hughes asked that Mary Fairgrieve's "Fracking" letter be added to the agenda.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Frank's absence, Mary reported that the Annual Fund balance remained the same as in February (\$26,126.79), as did the Endowment Fund (\$93,116.76). She reported that she and Kathy attended the Manistee County Community Foundation's (MCCF) *Fund Holder's Forum* and came away confident that our monies were being handled responsibly. She also said that the analyst predicted no major change in the economy during the next year so we are not likely to realize any substantial gains.

Al said that the Portage Lake Association is likely to donate between \$5,000 - \$10,000 to the "Explore the Shores" project. He wondered how contributors could claim their gifts as a charitable donation. Mary said that she would contact Laura Heintzelman (MCCF) to get guidance.

DeeDee Miller called in.

Frank arrived.

EXPLORE THE SHORES

Mary made a motion that the Watershed donate \$5,000 from its Annual Fund to serve as a match for a grant application. Howard supported; Kathy seconded. Discussion ensued. Herb wondered how this relates to the watershed. Mary responded by calling attention to Goal #4 (*See Attachment A, P. 97 of the Watershed Plan*). Kathy further mentioned that it is in keeping with our objectives to educate, encourage stewardship, and to provide universal access. Further points made:

- Mary – The Village Park and Langland Park are those that experience the greatest use
- Frank – . . . and they give people greatest access to the lakes
- Al – The two parks reflect what can be accomplished in a reasonable amount of time

- DeeDee - Asked that we send her the plans and said she was confident that what was done was in the best interest of everyone.
- Mary – Added that park signs will describe natural attributes of the site, etc.
- DeeDee – Mentioned that there needed to be more information/attention drawn to the work accomplished through the watershed plan
- Al – Suggested that we do some branding as this would help raise additional funds
- Al – Asked if there was enough money in the Annual Fund to accomplish this year’s goals. Answer: Yes. (*See Attachment B – PLWF 2012 budget*)
- Howard – We must keep in mind the purpose of the watershed plan. Also said that he supported improvements to the Village Park because it has a “miserable beach”.
- Alice – Described plans for the Village Park

The question was called. Vote was unanimous.

LAKE PROGRESS REPORT

No report.

RIPARIAN ZONING OVERLAY – Moved to the end of the agenda

2012 ANNUAL FUND EVENT

Mary confirmed the July 29th date and that the event would be held on the Acton property on Lake Michigan. Tim Morley said that electricity would not be a problem as he was certain the adjacent homeowner would lend us an outlet. (Mike Acton previously checked with the homeowner who had no problem having the fundraiser at this location.) DeeDee said that she would get information/details about previous parties to whoever chairs the event. Al offered that the school kids were willing to design posters, invites, etc. We decided to let the as-yet-to-be-named chair make the call.

FALL EVENT

Mary reported that we are still planning to be involved in the fall community event. We need to find a volunteer to help in plan this event and oversee our participation. Kathy said the watershed should be a full partner in the event and should be prepared to pay its fair share.

BY-LAWS REVISION

Revised by-laws are not yet available. DeeDee proposed that at least one seasonal resident should be included in the make-up of the executive committee and offered to fill that position until another person ‘comes along’.

Howard asked if a decision had been made about charging dues. AL offered that the PLA charges \$25/annually. Further discussion:

- DeeDee – Are we working at cross purposes?

- Frank – Not competing; we have different mission and goals
- Mary – Other watersheds charge dues
- Alice – By-laws should be completed as soon as possible
- Howard – We need the money. How about \$10?
- Al – We are trying to differentiate. Sometimes PLA will lead; sometimes PLWF will lead. Goal is to work together.
- Alice – Our focus is the *watershed*

If anyone has any further comments about the by-laws (which have been “tweaked” already) they should be e-mailed to Jim Mrozinski at (jimm@onekamamarine.com). Alice was hopeful that we approve the final by-laws at our next meeting.

WATERSHED FESTIVAL

Mary reminded everyone that Frankfort is holding a 2-day Watershed Festival April 14-15 and that she will e-mail us the brochure which has further information.

ONEKAMA SCHOOL EDUCATION EVENT

Sally Cantonese, 3rd Grade Teacher in the Onekama School, contacted Mary about doing a presentation on the watershed. Mary reported that the children asked lots of questions and were very engaged. She said that leftover totes, water bottles, pins, stickers, and pledge cards were passed out amid shrieks of delight.

ZONING ORDINANCE

A wide ranging discussion took place as the Council wrestled with the draft of a proposed Riparian Zone Overlay ordinance. Al, a member of the commission dealing with revising the ordinances, pointed out that the Watershed Plan included all elements in the draft. However, and in brief, the feeling of the group was that, as written, the ordinance was too proscriptive; that it went beyond what is practical and, in Herb’s view, would destroy the Watershed. Mike Acton asked that his e-mailed comments be distributed to the council for consideration. (*See Attachment C*).

In the midst of this topic:

- DeeDee – wondered at the state of tracking all the wells in Manistee County
- Mary – We will ask Mary Fairgrieve to attend a meeting to explain her position on Fracking and that we will arrange to have pro/con represented
- Frank – A lot is for sale at the end of the lake for \$40,000 (2.36 acres/wetlands)
 - DeeDee – We should buy it to protect the lake
 - Al – conservancy has working models to help raise funds
 - DeeDee – She could probably raise the money. Feels some sense of urgency lest someone else buy it

- Frank – He could lock the property in for 30 days. Will send DeeDee details
- DeeDee – Will be purchased by the Watershed and given to the (Township? Village?) Needs to be protected.
- Al – will set up a meeting with Conservancy next week to get details.

We are encouraged to make comments about the Ordinance and send them to Al.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26.

Next meeting is May 29, 2012 at 7:00 the Farr Center. Council meetings will be held the last Tuesday of alternate months or at the call of the chair.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Ervin, Secretary
3/27/2012

Attachments:

A – Goal #4 – Watershed Plan
B – PLWF 2012 Budget
C – Acton E-mail