



PLWF Council Meeting

Farr Center – Onekama - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Members present:

Mary Reed, Margaret Punches, Dave VanEerden, Jim Mrozinski, Mike Acton, Alice Hendricks, Jim Simons, Howard Hughes, Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Dan Behring, Al Taylor

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Kathy Ervin.

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved with a minor correction. Jim Mrozinski moved minutes be approved as clarified, seconded by Herb Lenon; minutes approved

TREASURER’S REPORT

Frank English reported the Endowment Fund balance at \$86,184.68. Investment activity resulted in a loss of \$7,983.91 for the year to date.

The Annual Fund balance as of 11/19/2011 is \$25,251.55. Breakdown of expenses follow:

<i>Onekama Consolidate Schools</i>	<i>"Salmon in the Classroom"</i>	<i>1,065.00</i>
<i>Alliance for Economic Success</i>	<i>AES Annual Fee</i>	<i>114.62*</i>
<i>Alliance for Economic Success</i>	<i>MCCF Transfer for PLWF expenses</i>	<i>4,500.00</i>
<i>Alliance for Economic Success</i>	<i>MCCF Transfer for PLWF expenses</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Alliance for Economic Success</i>	<i>MCCF Transfer for PLWF expenses</i>	<i>3,500.00</i>
<i>Alliance for Economic Success</i>	<i>MCCF Transfer for PLWF expenses</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>Alliance for Economic Success</i>	<i>Admin Fees</i>	<i>562.50</i>
<i>* Based on contract of 1.5% of deposits made in 2010</i>		<i>12,627.50</i>

Frank explained that funds were transferred from the PLWF Annual Fund account to the Alliance for Economic Success to pay PLWF expenses and grants. (The Community Foundation invests PLWF funds; AES serves as the organization’s fiscal agent.)

George Punches requested that MCCF reports be shared with the Council. Frank English will post all such reports on the PLWF website.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Mike Acton reported on his activities related to growing the Endowment Fund. Through his efforts, the PLWF Endowment Fund received a \$10,000 contribution from a generous donor. Mike remains confident that further donations will be forthcoming.

LAKE PROGRESS REPORT

Mary Reed said that tests of the Eurasian water milfoil (*ewm*) found in Portage Lake has formed four additional hybrids that are below depths permitted for treatment. Currently, the lake manager is awaiting approval from DEQ for an Evaluation Permit to conduct a study that will use special equipment to 'pin point' treatment below 20' in a small section of the lake. Data resulting from this will help determine the minimal effective concentration of chemical needed.

Phragmites stands have been reduced from 83 acres when treatment was begun three years ago to about 6.5 acres currently. Mary went on to say that other emergent invasives along the shoreline (for example, purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed) will have to be dealt with.

Mary also said that the contract with Lakeshore Environmental Inc. has been signed for the coming year and that it increased by \$5,000. She assured the Council that the amount is reasonable. In answer to questions about where the funds to pay for these services come from, Mary reminded the group about the Special Assessment approved by the entire township and said that it would be up for renewal in two years time.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY PARKS PROJECT

Kathy Ervin reported that the final report from Beckett & Raeder will be released soon and that the task of applying for grants will get underway thereafter.

In conjunction with the parks project, Margaret Panches gave a presentation about "Safe Routes to Schools". This initiative has identified roadways in the Village that might be improved to provide safe, well-marked, and attractive sidewalks, street crossings, and bike paths for students to use going and coming from school. Discussion followed. Alice Hendricks expressed concern that the Village would not have money to pay for these improvements. Kathy Ervin remarked that the community has worked to create a 'critical mass' of successful ventures which, packaged effectively, and could generate grants. Jim Mrozinski pointed out that the focus should be on safety, economic growth, and handicap access.

ONEKAMA DAYS EVENT

Kathy Ervin reported that the first year of H2O ExPo went well and that there were over 250 people who signed up for the Kayak drawing and signed pledges. The presentations were well received although attendance was not overwhelming. Frank English pointed out that as there were many activities going on during Onekama Days, we might consider holding this event at another time in the summer. Council Members concurred.

BY-LAW REVISION

The By-Law Revision Committee (Jim Mrozinski, Alice Hendricks and George Panches) will meet soon to review our current document. *Among* issues for consideration are: what constitutes membership? Should dues be charged? Meeting attendance requirements? August annual meeting?

NEW BUSINESS:

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Mary Reed and Kathy Ervin reported that they met with MS Creative staff to begin long-delayed work on redesigning the PLWF website. A *very* preliminary diagram of the site was shared with the Council with assurances that many changes would be forthcoming. Margaret Panches said that PLA's experience with their website revamp required many meetings but that it is relatively easy to maintain as she sends documents to MS Creative and they handle the rest. Mary pointed out that we can send information to MS Creative to be put on our current site.

PLWF RETREAT

Kathy Ervin brought up the idea of a facilitated PLWF Retreat, saying that it would be timely to review, refocus and possibly revitalize the Council. Discussion was generally favorable. PLA members present said the group had been having annual retreats for the past several years and benefited from them. Margaret Panches suggested the Portage Lake Bible Camp as a possible site. Tim Ervin and Dan Behring were suggested as facilitators.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mary Reed and Mike Acton were elected as co-Chairs. George Panches remarked that co-chairs rarely work unless there are clearly defined areas of responsibility. On that basis, he and Dan Behring voted 'no' but were assured that Mary and Mike have different interests and 'skill sets' and will work together successfully. Honest.

Herb Lenon was selected as Vice Chair (with the understanding that he will *not* ascend to the Chair position when his term is up. Frank English agreed to continue as Treasurer; Kathy Ervin will serve as Secretary until a replacement can be found. All were elected unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Taylor and Dan Behring mentioned that Jamie Meister told them about a Readers Digest project that gives communities money based on the number of "votes" garnered. Onekama is one of the communities on the website; both Al and Dan encouraged us to vote early and often.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49-ish.

Next meeting is January 31, 2012. Council meetings hereafter will be held the last Tuesday of alternate months or at the call of the chair.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Ervin
Secretary
11/30/2011