

Minutes

Friends of Cherokee Marsh Board of Directors

February 18, 2009, 5:30 pm- 7:45 pm

Lakeview Branch , Madison Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.

Present: Steve Ackerman, Jan Axelson, Jon Becker, Nan Cheney, Don Hammes, Justin Sargent, Muriel Simms, Aaron Stephenson,

Excused Absence: Dick Walker, Dorothy Wheeler

Unexcused Absence: Sheri Harperr

Guests: Dave Clutter (Natural Resources Foundation of WI), Adam Ingwell (Ec3 environmental consultants), Matt Zine (DNR)

Secretary Report

Nan moved to approve the minutes of the January 14 and January 17 board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan won't be present for the March meeting so we will need a volunteer to take the minutes.

Treasurer Report

1) Review/approve January 2009 Main and Program Account Summaries

Muriel moved to approve the January 2009 Main and Program Account Summaries as emailed. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Approve the following reimbursements (by account):

- Main: Jon (auction print prep), \$10.55 (recycled St Vincent de Paul frame) + \$23.21(U-Frame-It mat)=\$33.76
- Program: Jon, \$14.97 (Vumber; 3 mos@\$4.99/mo) + \$21 (stamps) + \$116.68 (NHLT workshop copies) =\$152.65

Jan moved to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

On receipt of final installment of grant from WDNR, we will reimburse the main account.

3) Review/approve forthcoming expenditures, by account:

- Main: Insurance renewal (up to \$450); membership dues: NPC (\$10?), RAW (\$100 or more brings access to \$250 board dev program (\$150 w/rebate), which brings access to \$30,000 grant program), WWA (\$30), NHLT (\$5-\$1,000), other?

None approved at this time except for River Alliance as described below. The insurance will likely come due in June.

- Program: additional brochure copies (using all funds that will remain in this account after completion of previously contracted activities, est. maximum \$672; goal of 2000 copies; exact quantity tbc, pending provision by printer of inkind)

Jan move to transfer \$1808 from the main account to the program account. The motion passed unanimously.

Muriel moved to spend up the amount remaining in our grant with a maximum of \$650 on brochure printing. The motion passed unanimously.

Information / Discussion Items

1) WI Adopt A State Natural Area program

Presentation by Matt, Dave, and Adam.

Matt - The state natural areas (SNA) program works to preserve representations of native plant communities. Preservation is the focus over recreation. Not all SNAs are state-owned. The Cherokee Marsh SNA is owned by the State of WI, Dane County, and City of Madison.

Preserving the natural plant communities requires management.

Prescribed burning limits shrub encroachment. They had a good burn last fall and hope to burn again this fall.

Invasive reed canary grass is growing along the ditches and is tough to get rid of. They spray a grass-specific herbicide that doesn't harm sedges.

The wetland mitigation funding from the airport runway expansion expires this December. Some grant applications are in the works but more funding would be useful.

Approximate costs of SNA work:

burn \$3,000 / yr

reed canary grass control \$5,000-\$8,000 / yr

brushing (shrub removal) \$5,000

Dave - The Stewardship Property Development Grant will match up to \$20,000/yr for 3 yrs. The Natural Resources Foundation is interested in finding donors to provide the funds to match.

2) Board planning workshop with the River Alliance

Justin moved to spend \$100 to join the River Alliance. The motion passed unanimously.

A decision on signing up for a workshop was deferred to March.

3) Ramsar international "wetland of import" program (possibly in collaboration with WWA) – Jon

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association is working on nominations. We might be able to submit one for Cherokee Marsh.

4) WWA Wetland Gems – Jon - no news.

5) Swamp metalmark butterfly –

Jon has talked to Sue Borkin, butterfly researcher at the Milwaukee Public Museum, about surveying for the butterfly in the marsh.

Action Items (Ongoing)

1) Authorize ad hoc WDNR 2009 Grant Report Committee

Steve moved to form an ad hoc committee (Jan, Jon, Steve, and Don) to prepare the report. The motion passed unanimously. We will aim for the end of April.

2) Art of the Marsh (Viewing Cherokee Marsh) Approve extension of NSAG/FOCM partnership/juried art exhibition - Jon

- UW Arboretum (ca. -early/mid APR09); JRake, NSAG curator march 4
- Lt Gov Lawton's Capital Offices (for 10-12 weeks; opening reception late APR, tbc); C Gantner, curator – jon possible other reception during wetlands conference.

Steve moved to approve. The motion passed unanimously. Steve will coordinate as needed with NSAG.

Action Items (New)

1) Approve letters of support for grant applications to fund Beach Bacteria studies, YLLP project manage.

Aaron moved to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Approve FOCM letter to WDNR in support of CRANES letter (advocating for CARPC commission decision).

Justin moved to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Approve additional advisor, “Dane Erlandsen, Atty.”

Aaron moved to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

.4) Approve feedback to NPC on Northside neighborhood plan (natural resources, green collar jobs, etc.) - Muriel.

Deferred.

5) Approve Committees - Jon

Standing: Executive; Committee on Committees (to draft recommendations on future committees)

Ad Hoc 2009:

Events & Calendar 2009;

Membership Development 2009;

Cultural 2009 (including subcommittee Cherokee Marsh Photography Group 2009);

Friend/Fundraiser 2009; Communications 2009;

Annual Meetings 2010;

Jan moved to approve two ad hoc committees: photography (initial members Jon and Aaron) and events (initial members Justin and Jan). The photography committee will continue to work with Julie Rake, Mario Quintana, and others as discussed last month. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Spring hikes with Madison Parks

Nan moved to approve co-sponsoring two spring hikes with Madison Parks as proposed by Russ Hefty. The events committee will handle the details.

Updates (new information not covered in email reports sent prior to the meeting)

- 1) Ad Hoc 2009 Annual Meetings Planning Committee (debrief) – Jon, all
- 2) 2008 member renewal – Jan
- 3) NPC 2009 – Muriel
- 4) Tabling 2009 - Sheri
- 5) Outreach (CPI, YLLP, YCMOU, CARPC, DCSGEC, WDNR, YES, etc.) – Jon, Jan

All deferred.

6) Land acquisition opportunities - Jon and Muriel met with Dane County staff, and a meeting with City staff is in the works.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Axelson